

LIFETIME BRANDS, INC  
Form 10-K  
March 17, 2014  
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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 10-K**

x **ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 or 15 (d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013**

**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: 0-19254**

**LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.**

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

**Delaware** **11-2682486**  
**(State or other jurisdiction of** **(I.R.S. Employer**  
**incorporation or organization)** **Identification No.)**  
**1000 Stewart Avenue, Garden City, New York 11530**

**(Address of principal executive offices, including Zip Code)**

**(516) 683-6000**

**(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)**

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

**Common Stock, \$.01 par value** **The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC**  
**(Title of each class)** **(Name of each exchange on which registered)**  
**Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None**

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 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 if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer   
Non-accelerated filer  (do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company   
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the  
Act). Yes  No

The aggregate market value of 9,767,007 shares of the voting common equity held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of June 30, 2013 was approximately \$131,756,924. Directors, executive officers, and trusts controlled by said individuals are considered affiliates for the purpose of this calculation and should not necessarily be considered affiliates for any other purpose.

The number of shares of common stock, par value \$.01 per share, outstanding as of March 14, 2014 was 13,361,610.

### **DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Parts of the registrant's definitive proxy statement for the 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 are incorporated by reference in Part III of this Annual Report.

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**DISCLOSURE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This Annual Report on Form 10-K of Lifetime Brands, Inc. (the Company and, unless the context otherwise requires, references to the Company shall include its consolidated subsidiaries) contains forward-looking statements as defined by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements include information concerning the Company's and its subsidiaries' plans, objectives, goals, strategies, future events, future revenues, performance, capital expenditures, financing needs and other information that is not historical information. Many of these statements appear, in particular, under the headings *Business* and *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations* included in Item 1 of Part I and Item 7 of Part II, respectively. When used in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, the words estimates, expects, anticipates, projects, plans, intends, may, should, seeks, potential and variations of such words or similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements, including, without limitation, the Company's examination of historical operating trends, are based upon the Company's current expectations and various assumptions. The Company believes there is a reasonable basis for its expectations and assumptions, but there can be no assurance that the Company will realize its expectations or that the Company's assumptions will prove correct.

There are a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause the Company's actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements contained in this Annual Report. Important factors that could cause the Company's actual results to differ materially from those expressed as forward-looking statements are set forth in this Annual Report, including the risk factors discussed in Part I, Item 1A under the heading *Risk Factors*.

Except as may be required by law, the Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise forward-looking statements which may be made to reflect events or circumstances after the date made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND OTHER INFORMATION**

The Company is required to file its annual reports on Forms 10-K and quarterly reports on Forms 10-Q, and other reports and documents as required from time to time with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). The Company also maintains a website at <http://www.lifetimebrands.com>. Information contained on this website is not a part of or incorporated by reference into this report. The Company makes available on its website the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to these reports as soon as reasonably practicable after these reports are filed with or furnished to the SEC. Users can access these reports free of charge on the Company's website. The public may read and copy any materials that the Company files with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549. Information may be obtained with respect to the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC also maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding the Company's electronic filings with the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>.

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### **PART I**

#### **Item 1. Business**

##### **OVERVIEW**

The Company designs, sources and sells branded kitchenware, tableware and other products used in the home and markets its products under a number of widely-recognized brand names and trademarks, which are either owned or licensed by the Company, or through retailers' private labels. The Company sells its products to retailers and distributors and sells a limited selection of its products directly to consumers through its Internet websites. The Company primarily targets moderate price points through every major level of trade and generally markets several lines within each of its product categories under more than one brand. At the heart of the Company is a culture of innovation. The Company brought over 3,500 new or redesigned products to market in 2013 and expects to bring to market over 4,000 new or redesigned products in 2014.

The Company's product categories include two categories of products that people use to prepare, serve and consume foods, Kitchenware (kitchen tools and gadgets, cutlery, cutting boards, cookware, bakeware and novelty housewares) and Tableware (dinnerware, flatware and glassware); and one category, Home Solutions, which comprises other products used in the home (pantryware, spices, food storage and home décor).

The Company sources almost all of its products from suppliers located outside the United States, primarily in the People's Republic of China. The Company manufactures its sterling silver products at a leased facility in San Germán, Puerto Rico and fills containers with spices and assembles spice racks at its owned Winchendon, Massachusetts distribution facility.

The Company has expanded its presence in international markets through investments in various companies that operate outside of the United States. In 2007, the Company acquired a 30% equity interest in Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B. ( Vasconia ), an aluminum manufacturer and housewares company based in Mexico. In January 2008, the Company entered into a strategic alliance to distribute products in Canada. In November 2011, the Company acquired 100% of the share capital of each of Creative Tops Holdings Limited and Creative Tops Far East Limited (collectively, Creative Tops ). Creative Tops is a UK-based supplier of private label and branded tableware and kitchenware products. In December 2011, the Company acquired a 40% equity interest in GS Internacional S/A ( GSI ). GSI is a wholesale distributor of branded housewares products in Brazil. GSI markets dinnerware, glassware, home décor, kitchenware and barware to customers, including major department stores, housewares retailers and independent shops throughout Brazil. In January 2011, the Company, together with Vasconia and unaffiliated partners, formed a joint venture based in Hong Kong that supplies imported kitchenware products to retailers in North, Central and South America. The Company also has a joint venture, since February 2012 with a Chinese corporation, to distribute Mikasa® products in China.

In December 2012, the Company acquired Fred® and Friends, a business which designs and markets novelty housewares and other products under the Fred® brand. The acquisition resulted in an expansion of the Company's Kitchenware product category to include innovative kitchen tools, tableware accessories, party goods, personal accessories and other products.

In January 2014, the Company acquired Thomas Plant (Birmingham) Limited ( Thomas Plant or Kitchen Craft ). Kitchen Craft is a leading supplier of kitchenware products and accessories in the United Kingdom. The acquisition will allow the Company to complement its existing global presence and expand the global resources of its retail partners.

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In February 2014, the Company acquired the business and certain assets of Built NY, a designer and distributor of brightly colored, uniquely patterned Neoprene products, including bags, totes, cases and sleeves.

In March 2014, the Company acquired the business and certain assets of La Cafetière, including exclusive distribution rights. La Cafetière designs and distributes products to brew and serve coffee and tea. Its products are marketed worldwide under the La Cafetière® and Randwyck® brands.

The Company continually evaluates opportunities to expand the reach of its brands and to invest in other companies that operate principally outside the United States. These opportunities involve risks as the industry and foreign markets may not evolve as anticipated and the Company's objectives may not be achieved.

The Company is a Delaware corporation, incorporated on December 22, 1983.

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The Company's top brands and their respective product categories are:

| <b>Brand</b>          | <b>Licensed/Owned</b> | <b>Product Category</b>      |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| KitchenAid®           | Licensed              | Kitchenware                  |
| Farberware®           | Licensed*             | Kitchenware                  |
| Mikasa®               | Owned                 | Tableware and Home Solutions |
| Pfaltzgraff®          | Owned                 | Tableware and Home Solutions |
| Kamenstein®           | Owned                 | Home Solutions               |
| Fred®                 | Owned                 | Kitchenware                  |
| Towle®                | Owned                 | Tableware                    |
| Melannco®             | Owned                 | Home Solutions               |
| Elements®             | Owned                 | Home Solutions               |
| Wallace Silversmiths® | Owned                 | Tableware and Home Solutions |

\* The Company has a 183 year royalty free license to utilize the Farberware® brand for kitchenware and tableware products.

The Company's wholesale customers include mass merchants, specialty stores, national chains, department stores, warehouse clubs, supermarkets, off-price retailers and Internet retailers.

**BUSINESS SEGMENTS**

The Company operates in two business segments: the Wholesale segment, which is the Company's primary business that designs, markets and distributes its products to retailers and distributors, and the Retail Direct segment in which the Company markets and sells a limited selection of its products through its Pfaltzgraff®, Mikasa®, Lifetime Sterling® and The English Table Internet websites. The Company has segmented its operations to reflect the manner in which management reviews and evaluates the results of its operations.

Additional information regarding the Company's reportable segments is included in Note J of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 15.

**CUSTOMERS**

The Company's products are sold globally to a diverse customer base including mass merchants (such as Wal-Mart and Target), specialty stores (such as Bed Bath & Beyond and Dunelm), national chains (such as Kohl's), department stores (such as Macy's and Bon-Ton), warehouse clubs (such as Costco and Sam's Club), supermarkets (such as Stop & Shop, Kroger, Tesco and Sainsbury's), off-price retailers (such as TJX Companies, Ross Stores and Big Lots) and Internet retailers (such as Amazon.com).

The Company also operates its own Internet sites that provide information about the Company's products and offer consumers the opportunity to purchase a limited selection of the Company's products directly from the Company.



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During the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (including Sam's Club and Asda Superstore) accounted for 15%, 16% and 15% of consolidated net sales, respectively. No other customer accounted for 10% or more of the Company's net sales during these periods.

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The Company operates distribution centers at the following locations:

| <b>Location</b>           | <b>Size</b><br>(square feet) |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Fontana, California       | 753,000                      |
| Robbinsville, New Jersey  | 700,000                      |
| Winchendon, Massachusetts | 175,000                      |
| Corby, England            | 130,000                      |
| Medford, Massachusetts    | 5,590                        |

**SALES AND MARKETING**

The Company's sales and marketing staff coordinates directly with its wholesale customers to devise marketing strategies and merchandising concepts and to furnish advice on advertising and product promotion. The Company has developed many promotional programs for use in the ordinary course of business to promote sales throughout the year.

The Company's sales and marketing efforts are supported from its principal offices and showroom in Garden City, New York; as well as showrooms in New York, New York; Medford, Massachusetts; Atlanta, Georgia; Bentonville, Arkansas; Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin; and Corby, England.

The Company generally collaborates with its largest wholesale customers and in many instances produces specific versions of the Company's product lines with exclusive designs and/or packaging for their stores.

**DESIGN AND INNOVATION**

At the heart of the Company is a culture of innovation and new product development. The Company's in-house design and development teams currently consist of 103 professional designers, artists and engineers. Utilizing the latest available design tools, technology and materials, these teams create new products, redesign existing products and create packaging and merchandising concepts.

**SOURCES OF SUPPLY**

The Company sources its products from over 400 suppliers. Most of the Company's suppliers are located in the People's Republic of China. The Company also sources products from suppliers in Hong Kong, the United States, Japan, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Slovakia, Korea, India, the Czech Republic, Portugal, Thailand, Slovenia, Poland, Germany, United Kingdom, Italy, Netherlands, France, Turkey and Israel. The Company orders products substantially in advance of the anticipated time of their sale by the Company. The Company does not have any formal long-term arrangements with any of its suppliers and its arrangements with most manufacturers allow for flexibility in modifying the quantity, composition and delivery dates of orders.

**MANUFACTURING**

The Company manufactures its sterling silver products at its leased manufacturing facility in San Germán, Puerto Rico and fills containers with spices and assembles spice racks at its owned Winchendon, Massachusetts distribution

facility.

## **COMPETITION**

The markets for kitchenware, tableware and other products used in the home including home décor products are highly competitive and include numerous domestic and foreign competitors, some of which are larger than the Company. The primary competitive factors in selling such products to retailers are innovative products, brand, quality, aesthetic appeal to consumers, packaging, breadth of product line, distribution capability, prompt delivery and selling price.

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### **PATENTS**

The Company owns approximately 105 design and utility patents. The Company believes that the expiration of any of its patents would not have a material adverse effect on the Company's business.

### **BACKLOG**

Backlog is not material to the Company's business, because actual confirmed orders from the Company's customers are typically received within close proximity to the required shipment dates.

### **EMPLOYEES**

At December 31, 2013, the Company had a total of 1,247 full-time employees, of whom 210 are located in Asia and 128 in Europe. In addition, the Company employed 48 people on a part-time basis, predominately in Corporate Marketing/Sales Support. The Company also hires seasonal workers at its distribution centers through temporary staffing agencies. None of the Company's employees are represented by a labor union. The Company considers its employee relations to be good.

### **REGULATORY MATTERS**

The Company, its subsidiaries and affiliates are subject to significant regulation by various governmental, regulatory and other administrative authorities.

As a manufacturer and distributor of consumer products, the Company is subject to the Consumer Products Safety Act in the United States and the Consumer Protection Act in the United Kingdom. Additionally, laws regulating certain consumer products exist in some cities and states, as well as in other countries in which the Company or its subsidiaries and affiliates sell products.

The Company's spice container filling operation is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration.

The Company's operations also are subject to national, state and local environmental and health and safety laws and regulations, including those that impose workplace standards and regulate the discharge of pollutants into the environment and establish standards for the handling, generation, emission, release, discharge, treatment, storage and disposal of materials and substances including solid and hazardous wastes.

The Company is subject to risks and uncertainties associated with economic and political conditions in foreign countries, including but not limited to, foreign government regulations, taxes including value-added taxes, import and export duties and quotas, anti-dumping regulations and related tariffs associated with certain types of products, incidents and fears involving security, terrorism and wars, political unrest and other restrictions on trade and travel.

### **SEASONALITY**

The Company's business and working capital needs are highly seasonal, with a majority of sales occurring in the third and fourth quarters. In anticipation of the pre-holiday shipping season, inventory levels increase primarily in the June through October time period.

### **GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

Geographic information concerning the Company's revenues and long-lived assets is contained in Note J of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 15 of this report.

**Item 1A. Risk Factors**

The Company's businesses, operations and financial condition are subject to various risks. The Company's business, financial condition or results of operation could be significantly affected by the risk below or additional risks not presently known to the Company or by risks that the Company presently deems immaterial such as changes in the economy, disruptions due to terrorist activity or manmade or natural disasters, or changes in law or accounting standards. The risks and uncertainties described below are those that the Company considers material.

***The Company has substantial indebtedness and is highly seasonal.***

The Company has substantial indebtedness and depends upon its bank loan facilities to finance its liquidity needs. In addition the Company's business is seasonal and therefore, its borrowing needs fluctuate. The Company's loan agreements have financial maintenance covenants which, if not maintained, could result in default and the

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acceleration of the Company's indebtedness. The Company's loan agreements also contain other restrictions, including limitations on acquisitions and indebtedness, that could restrict the Company in operating its business, including execution of its strategic plan. In January 2014, the Company entered into a Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement which provides for, among other things, an extension of the maturity of the \$175.0 million Revolving Credit Facility (defined below) to January 11, 2019 and a new Term Loan of \$50.0 million. The new Term Loan has mandatory amortization and an excess cash flow requirement, as defined.

***The Company's business may be materially affected by market conditions and by global and economic conditions and other factors beyond its control.***

The Company's performance is affected by general economic factors, the strength of retail economies and political conditions that are beyond its control. Retail economies are impacted by factors such as consumer demand and the condition of the retail industry, which in turn, is effected by general economic factors. These general economic factors include, among other factors:

Recession, inflation, deflation, unemployment and other factors adversely affecting consumer spending patterns generally;

Conditions affecting the retail environment for the home and other matters that influence consumer spending in the home retail industry specifically;

Housing markets;

Consumer credit availability and consumer debt levels;

Material input costs, including fuel and energy costs and labor cost inflation;

Foreign currency translation;

Interest rates;

Government policies including tax policies relating to value-added taxes, import and export duties and quotas, anti-dumping regulations and related tariffs and social compliance standards;

The impact of natural disasters and terrorist activities;

Unfavorable economic conditions in the United States, the United Kingdom and elsewhere; and

Unstable economic and political conditions, civil unrest and political activism, particularly in Asia.

***The Company's international operations present special challenges that it may not be able to meet, and this could adversely affect the Company's financial results.***

The Company conducts business outside of the United States through subsidiaries, affiliates and joint ventures. These entities have operations in the United Kingdom, Mexico, Canada, Brazil, Hong Kong and China; therefore, the Company is subject to increases and decreases in its investments resulting from the impact of fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates. These entities also bear risks similar to those risks of the Company; however, there are specific additional risks related to these organizations such as the failure of the Company's partners or other investors to meet their obligations and higher credit and liquidity risks related to thinly capitalized entities. Failure of these entities or the Company's vendors to adhere to required regulatory or other standards, including social compliance standards, could impact the Company's reputation and adversely impact the Company's business.

***The Company's growth has, to a material extent, depended upon acquisitions and its strategy is likely to continue to involve acquisitions. If it is unable to manage its acquisitions effectively, the business may be materially harmed.***

The Company has achieved growth through investments and acquisitions. There can be no assurance that the Company will continue to be able to successfully integrate these businesses or identify and integrate future acquisitions into its existing business without substantial costs, delays or other operational or financial difficulties. Additionally, the Company makes certain assumptions based on the information provided by potential acquisition candidates and also conducts due diligence to ensure the information provided is accurate and based on reasonable assumptions. However, the Company may be unable to realize the anticipated benefits from an acquisition or predict accurately how an acquisition will ultimately affect the business, financial condition or results of

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operations. Failure of these businesses to achieve expected results, the diversion of the Company's management's attention and the failure to retain key personnel at these businesses could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, results of operations and financial condition.

***The Company's borrowings are subject to interest rate fluctuations and an increase in interest rates could adversely affect the Company's financial results.***

The Company's borrowings bear interest at floating rates. An increase in interest rates would adversely affect the Company's profitability. The Company has entered into interest rate swap agreements to manage interest rate exposure in connection with a portion of its variable interest rate borrowings. To the extent that the Company's access to credit may be restricted because of its own performance, its bank lenders' performances or conditions in the capital markets generally, the Company would not be able to operate normally.

***The Company faces intense competition from other companies worldwide.***

The markets for the Company's products are intensely competitive. The Company competes with many other suppliers, some of which are larger than the Company, have greater financial and other resources or employ brands that are more established, have greater consumer recognition or are more favorably perceived by consumers or retailers than the Company's brands.

***Changes in the Company's customer purchasing practices could adversely affect the Company's operating results.***

The Company's wholesale customers include mass merchants, specialty stores, national chains, department stores, warehouse clubs, supermarkets, off-price retailers and Internet retailers. Unanticipated changes in purchasing and other practices by the Company's customers, including a customer's pricing and payment terms, inventory destocking, limitations on shelf space, more extensive packaging requirements, changes in order quantities, use of private label brands and other practices, could adversely affect the Company's profitability. In addition, as a result of the desire of retailers to more closely manage inventory levels, there is a growing trend among retailers to make purchases on a just-in-time basis. This requires the Company to shorten its lead time for production in certain cases and more closely anticipate demand, which could in the future require the Company to carry additional inventories. The Company's annual earnings and cash flows also depend to a great extent on the results of operations in the latter half of the year due to the seasonality of its sales. The Company's success and sales growth is also dependent on its evaluation of consumer preferences and changing trends. The Company also sells a limited quantity of the Company's products to individual consumers and smaller retailers through its own Internet sites.

Many of the Company's wholesale customers are significantly larger than the Company, have greater financial and other resources and also purchase goods directly from vendors in Asia and elsewhere. Decisions by large customers to increase their purchases directly from overseas vendors could have a materially adverse effect on the Company. Significant changes or financial difficulties, including consolidations of ownership, restructurings, bankruptcies, liquidations or other events that affect retailers, could result in fewer stores selling the Company's products, the Company having to rely on a smaller group of customers, an increase in the risk of extending credit to these customers or limitations on the Company's ability to collect amounts due from these customers. Although the Company has long-established relationships with many of its customers, the Company does not have any long-term supply or binding contracts or guarantees of minimum purchases. Purchases by the Company's customers are generally made using individual purchase orders. Customers may cancel their orders, change purchase quantities from forecast volumes, delay purchases for a number of reasons beyond the Company's control or change other terms of their business relationship with the Company. Significant or numerous cancellations, reductions, delays in purchases or



changes in business practices by customers could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business.

Retailers place great emphasis on timely delivery of products for specific selling seasons, especially during our third fiscal quarter, and on the fulfillment of consumer demand throughout the year. The Company cannot control all of the various factors that might affect product delivery to retailers. Failure to deliver products to the Company's retailers in a timely and effective manner, often under special vendor requirements to use specific carriers and delivery schedules, could damage the Company's reputation and brands and result in loss of customers or reduced orders.

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In 2013, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (including Sam's Club and Asda Superstore) accounted for 15% of the Company's net sales. A material reduction in purchases by Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. could have a significant adverse effect on the Company's business and operating results. In addition, pressures by Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. that would cause the Company to materially reduce the price of the Company's products could result in reductions of the Company's operating margin. Reduced sales by Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. for reasons, affecting it or the retail industry generally, may also result in reduced demand by Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. for the Company's products. The concentration of the Company's business with Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. extends to its international businesses, including Vasconia in Mexico and its strategic alliance in Canada, due to the market presence of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. in these foreign countries. The Company has other significant customers, which account for less than 10% of sales, but the loss of which could have a significant effect on the Company's business and operating results. Changes in purchasing practice of or decline in the financial condition of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. or these other companies may have an adverse impact on the Company's business, revenue and operating results. Further, with the continuing trend of consolidation in the retail industry, the ability of the Company's largest customers to continue to purchase from the Company is always subject to risk. Consolidation also has the effect of increasing the bargaining power of retailers, as the existing retailers become fewer and larger.

***International suppliers subject the Company to regional regulatory, political, economic and foreign currency exchange risk which could adversely affect the Company's operating results.***

The Company sources its products from suppliers located in Asia, Europe and the United States. The Company's Asia vendors are located primarily in the People's Republic of China, which subjects the Company to various risks within the region including regulatory, political, economic and foreign currency changes. The Company's ability to select and retain reliable vendors and suppliers who provide timely deliveries of quality parts and products efficiently will impact its success in meeting customer demand for timely delivery of quality products. The Company's sourcing operations and its vendors are impacted by labor costs in China. Labor historically has been readily available at low cost relative to labor costs in North America. However, as China is experiencing rapid social, political and economic changes, labor costs have risen in some regions and there can be no assurance that labor will continue to be available to the Company in China at costs consistent with historical levels or that changes in labor or other laws will not be enacted which would have a material adverse effect on the Company's operations in China. Interruption of supplies from any of the Company's vendors, or the loss of one or more key vendors, could have a negative effect on the Company's business and operating results.

Changes in currency exchange rates might negatively affect the profitability and business prospects of the Company and its overseas vendors. The Company does not have access to its vendors' financial information and is unable to assess its vendors' financial conditions including their liquidity.

***The Company's international trade subjects it to transportation risks.***

The Company imports its products for delivery to its distribution centers, as well as arranges for its customers to import goods to which title has passed overseas or at port of entry. For purchases that are to be delivered to its distribution centers, the Company arranges for transportation, primarily by sea, from ports in Asia and Europe to ports in the United States, principally New York/Newark/Elizabeth and Los Angeles/Long Beach, and the United Kingdom, principally Felixstowe. Accordingly, the Company is subject to risks incidental to such transportation. These risks include, but are not limited to, increases in fuel costs, fuel shortages, the availability of ships, increased security restrictions, work stoppages and carriers' ability to provide delivery services to meet the Company's shipping needs. Transportation disruptions and increased transportation costs could adversely affect the Company's business.

The Company delivers its products to its customers or makes such products available for customer pickup from its distribution centers. Prolonged domestic transportation disruptions, as well as workforce or systems issues related to the Company's distribution centers, could have a negative effect on the Company's ability to deliver goods to its customers.

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***The loss of certain licenses or material changes in royalty rates could adversely affect the Company's operating margin.***

Significant portions of the Company's business are dependent on trade names, trademarks and patents, some of which are licensed from third parties. Several of these license agreements are subject to termination by the licensor. The loss of certain licenses or a material increase in the royalty rates the Company pays under such licenses upon renewal could result in a reduction of the Company's operating margin.

***The Company operates in a regulated environment that imposes significant compliance requirements. Non-compliance with these requirements could subject the Company to sanctions and adversely affect the Company's business.***

The Company is subject in the ordinary course of its business, in the United States and elsewhere, to many statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations that if violated by the Company or its affiliates, partners or vendors could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business. The Company is required to comply with the United States Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, the U.K. Bribery Act and similar anti-bribery laws prohibiting the Company from engaging in bribery or making other prohibited payments to foreign officials for the purpose of obtaining or retaining business. The Company's employees and other agents could engage in such conduct for which the Company might be held responsible. If the Company's employees or other agents are found to have engaged in such practices, the Company could suffer substantial penalties.

The Company is subject to general business laws and regulations, as well as regulations and laws specifically governing the Internet and e-commerce. Such existing and future laws and regulations may impede the growth of the Internet or other online services. These laws and regulations may cover taxation, user privacy, data protection, pricing, content, copyrights, distribution, electronic contracts and other communications, consumer protection, the provision of online payment services, broadband residential Internet access and the characteristics and quality of products and services. It is not clear how existing laws and regulations governing issues such as property ownership, sales and other taxes and personal privacy apply to the Internet and e-commerce. Unfavorable resolutions of these issues would harm the Company's business. This could, in turn, diminish the demand for the Company's products on the Internet and increase the Company's cost of doing business.

***The Company sells consumer products which involve an inherent risk of product liability claims.***

The marketing of certain of the Company's consumer products involve an inherent risk of product liability claims or recalls or other regulatory or enforcement actions initiated by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Office of Fair Trading in the U.K., by other regulatory authorities or through private causes of action. Any defects in products the Company markets could harm the Company's reputation, adversely affect its relationship with its customers and decrease market acceptance of the Company's products and the strength of the brand names under which the Company markets such products. Potential product liability claims may exceed the amount of the Company's insurance coverage and could materially damage the Company's business and its financial condition. The Company's product standards could be impacted by new or revised environmental rules and regulations or other social initiatives.

***A failure in the Company's operating systems or infrastructure or those of third parties, could disrupt the Company's business, result in the disclosure of confidential information and cause losses.***

The Company relies on many information technology systems for the operation of its principal business functions, including the Company's enterprise, warehouse management, inventory forecast and re-ordering and call center

systems. In the case of the Company's inventory forecast and re-ordering system, most of the Company's orders are received directly through electronic connections with the Company's largest customers. The failure of any of these systems could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business and results of operations. To keep pace within a competitive retail environment, the Company uses and will continue to evaluate new technologies to improve the efficiency of designing new innovative products. The success of certain product categories in a competitive marketplace can be dependent upon the creation and launch of new innovative products.

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***The Company's brands are subject to reputational risks.***

The consumer goods industry is by its nature more prone to reputational risks than other industries. This has been compounded in recent years by the free flow of unverified information on the Internet and, in particular, on social media websites. Actual or perceived negative commentary on the Company's products could subject the Company to reputational risks related to its brands.

***The Company is subject to cyber security risks and may incur increasing costs in an effort to minimize those risks.***

The Company employs systems and websites that allow for the secure storage and transmission of proprietary or confidential information regarding the Company's customers, employees and others, including credit card information and personal identification information. The Company has made significant efforts to secure its computer network to mitigate the risk of possible cyber-attacks. However, the Company's computer network could be compromised which could impact operations and confidential information could be misappropriated. This could lead to adverse publicity, loss of sales and profits or cause the Company to incur significant costs to reimburse third-parties for damages which could adversely impact profits.

In addition, although the Company's systems and procedures comply with Payment Card Industry (PCI) data security standards, failure by the Company to maintain compliance with the PCI requirements or rectify a security issue could result in fines and the imposition of restrictions on the Company's ability to accept credit cards.

***If the Company is unable to attract and maintain its highly skilled personnel the Company's business could be adversely affected.***

The Company's success depends on its ability to identify, hire and retain skilled personnel. The Company's industry is characterized by a high level of employee mobility and aggressive recruiting among competitors for personnel with successful track records. The Company may not be able to attract and retain skilled personnel or may incur significant costs in order to do so.

***Increases in the cost of employee benefits could impact the Company's financial results and cash flows.***

The Company self-insures a substantial portion of the costs of employee healthcare and workers compensation. This could result in higher volatility in the Company's earnings and exposes the Company to higher financial risks. The U.S. federal healthcare legislation, which came into effect in 2013, contains provisions which could materially impact the Company's future healthcare costs. Changes in the law for 2014, including the imposition of a penalty on individuals who do not obtain healthcare coverage, may result in employees who are currently eligible but elect not to participate in the Company's healthcare plans now finding it more advantageous to do so, which may increase the Company's healthcare costs. It is also possible that making changes or failing to make changes in the healthcare plans the Company offers will make the Company less attractive to its current or potential employees. Implementing the requirements of the Affordable Care Act is also likely to impose some additional administrative costs on the Company.

***Interruptions in the Company's operations caused by outside forces could cause material losses.***

The Company's worldwide operations could be subject to natural and man-made disasters, telecommunications failures, water shortages, tsunamis, floods, hurricanes, typhoons, fires, extreme weather conditions, conflicts, acts of terrorism, health epidemics and other business interruptions. The occurrence of any of these business disruptions could seriously harm the Company's business, revenue and financial condition and increase the Company's costs and

expenses. If the Company's or its manufacturers' warehousing facilities or transportation facilities are damaged or destroyed, the Company would be unable to distribute products on a timely basis, which could harm the Company's business. The Company's back-up operations may be inadequate, and the Company's business interruption insurance may not be enough to compensate for any losses that may occur.

***Demand for new products and the inability to develop and introduce new competitive products at favorable profit margins could adversely affect the Company's performance and prospects for future growth.***

The uncertainties associated with developing and introducing new products, such as the market demands and the costs of development and production, may impede the successful development and introduction of new products. Acceptance of the new products may not meet sales expectations due to several factors, such as the Company's failure to accurately predict market demand or its inability to resolve technical issues in a timely and cost-effective manner. Additionally, the inability to develop new products on a timely basis could result in the loss of business to competitors.

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### ***The Company's product costs are subject to a high degree of price fluctuation.***

Various commodities comprise the raw materials used to manufacture of the Company's products. The prices of these commodities have historically fluctuated on a cyclical basis and have often depended on a variety of factors over which the Company has no control. The cost of producing the Company's products is also sensitive to labor costs. The selling prices of the Company's products have not always increased in response to raw material, labor or other cost increases, and the Company is unable to determine to what extent, if any, it will be able to pass future cost increases through to its customers. The Company's inability to pass increased costs through to its customers could materially and adversely affect its financial condition or results of operations.

### ***The Company's projections of product demand, sales and net income are highly subjective in nature and the Company's future sales and net income could vary in a material amount from the Company's projections.***

From time to time, the Company may provide projections to our shareholders, lenders, investment community, and other stakeholders of our future sales and net income. Since the Company does not have long-term purchase commitments from customers and the customer order and ship process is very short, it is difficult for us to accurately predict the demand for many of the Company's products, or the amount and timing of our future sales and related net income. The Company's projections are based on management's best estimate of sales using historical sales data and other information deemed relevant. These projections are highly subjective since sales can fluctuate substantially based on the demands of their retail customers and due to other risks described in this report. Additionally, changes in retailer inventory management strategies could make the Company's inventory management more difficult. Because the Company's ability to forecast product demand and the timing of related sales includes significant subjective input, future sales and net income could vary materially from the Company's projections.

### ***Large sophisticated customers may take actions that adversely affect the Company's gross profit and results of operations.***

In recent years, there is a consumer trend away from traditional grocery and drugstore channels and toward mass merchandisers, which includes super centers and warehouse club stores. This trend has resulted in the increased size and influence of these mass merchandisers. Additionally, these mass merchandisers source and sell products under their own private label brands that compete with the Company's products. As mass merchandisers grow larger and become more sophisticated, they may continue to demand lower pricing, special packaging, shorter lead times for the delivery of products, or impose other requirements on product suppliers. These business demands may relate to inventory practices, logistics or other aspects of the customer-supplier relationship. If the Company does not effectively respond to the demands of these mass merchandisers, they could decrease their purchases from the Company. A reduction in the demand for our products by these mass merchandisers and the costs of complying with customer business demands could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, financial condition and results of operations.

### ***The Company may not be able to adequately address the additional review and disclosure required in respect of Conflict Minerals.***

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act contains regulations concerning the supply of conflict minerals originating from the Democratic Republic of Congo and adjoining countries. As a result, in August 2012 the SEC adopted annual disclosure and reporting requirements for those companies who use such conflict minerals. These new requirements will require due diligence efforts, with initial disclosure requirements beginning in May 2014. There will be costs associated with complying with these disclosure requirements, including the costs of investigations to determine the sources of raw materials used in the Company's products and the costs of any changes



to products, processes or sources of supply as a consequence of the results of such investigations. The implementation of these rules could adversely affect the sourcing, supply and pricing of materials used in the Company's products. As there may be only a limited number of suppliers offering these materials conflict free, the Company cannot ensure that it will be able to obtain necessary materials from such suppliers in sufficient quantities or at competitive prices. Also, the Company may face reputational challenges if it determines that certain of its products contain minerals not determined to be conflict free or if it is unable to sufficiently verify the origins for all conflict minerals used in its products through the procedures it may implement.

**Table of Contents****Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments**

None

**Item 2. Properties**

The following table lists the principal properties at which the Company operates its business at December 31, 2013:

| <b>Location</b>            | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Size<br/>(square feet)</b> | <b>Owned/<br/>Leased</b> |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Fontana, California        | Principal West Coast warehouse and distribution facility    | 753,000                       | Leased                   |
| Robbinsville, New Jersey   | Principal East Coast warehouse and distribution facility    | 700,000                       | Leased                   |
| Winchendon, Massachusetts  | Warehouse and distribution facility, and spice packing line | 175,000                       | Owned                    |
| Garden City, New York      | Corporate headquarters/main showroom                        | 146,000                       | Leased                   |
| Corby, England             | Offices, showroom, warehouse and distribution facility      | 145,000                       | Leased                   |
| Medford, Massachusetts     | Offices, showroom, warehouse and distribution facility      | 69,000                        | Leased                   |
| San Germán, Puerto Rico    | Sterling silver manufacturing facility                      | 55,000                        | Leased                   |
| Cumberland, Rhode Island   | Offices   | 34,000                        | Leased                   |
| Shanghai, China            | Offices   | 22,000                        | Leased                   |
| Guangzhou, China           | Offices   | 18,000                        | Leased                   |
| New York, New York         | Showrooms   | 17,000                        | Leased                   |
| York, Pennsylvania         | Offices   | 14,000                        | Leased                   |
| Atlanta, Georgia           | Showrooms   | 11,000                        | Leased                   |
| Kowloon, Hong Kong         | Offices and showrooms                                       | 9,000                         | Leased                   |
| Bentonville, Arkansas      | Offices and showroom  | 7,000                         | Leased                   |
| Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin | Showroom  | 4,000                         | Leased                   |

**Item 3. Legal Proceedings**

Wallace Silversmiths de Puerto Rico, Ltd. ( Wallace de Puerto Rico ), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, operates a manufacturing facility in San Germán, Puerto Rico that is leased from the Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company ( PRIDCO ). In March 2008, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (the EPA ) announced that the San Germán Ground Water Contamination site in Puerto Rico (the Site ) had been added to the Superfund National Priorities List due to contamination present in the local drinking water supply.

In May 2008, Wallace de Puerto Rico received from the EPA a Notice of Potential Liability and Request for Information Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Sections 9607(a) and 9604(e) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, Liability Act. The Company responded to the EPA's Request for Information on behalf of Wallace de Puerto Rico. In July 2011, Wallace de Puerto Rico received a letter from the EPA requesting access to the property that it leases from PRIDCO, and the Company granted such access. In February 2013, the EPA requested access to conduct further environmental investigation at the property. The Company granted such access and further EPA investigation is pending.

The Company is not aware of any determination by the EPA that any remedial action is required for the Site and, accordingly, is not able to estimate the extent of any possible liability.

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The Company is, from time to time, involved in other legal proceedings. The Company believes that such other current litigation is routine in nature and incidental to the conduct of the Company's business and that none of this litigation, individually or collectively, would have a material adverse effect on the Company's consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

**Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosure**

Not applicable

**PART II****Item 5. Market For Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities**

(a) The Company's common stock is traded under the symbol "LCUT" on the NASDAQ Global Select Market (NASDAQ).

The following table sets forth the quarterly high and low sales prices for the common stock of the Company for the fiscal periods indicated as reported by NASDAQ.

|                | 2013     |          | 2012     |          |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                | High     | Low      | High     | Low      |
| First quarter  | \$ 13.00 | \$ 10.28 | \$ 12.95 | \$ 10.30 |
| Second quarter | 13.75    | 11.11    | 12.77    | 10.11    |
| Third quarter  | 16.35    | 13.50    | 13.31    | 10.72    |
| Fourth quarter | 16.35    | 13.80    | 12.58    | 9.00     |

At December 31, 2013, the Company estimates that there were approximately 2,021 beneficial holders of the Company's common stock.

The Company is authorized to issue 100 shares of Series A Preferred stock and 2,000,000 shares of Series B Preferred stock, none of which were issued or outstanding at December 31, 2013.

In March 2011, the Company determined that it would resume paying cash dividends on its outstanding shares of common stock, which was suspended in February 2009. In the last two fiscal years, the Board of Directors declared a dividend of \$0.025 per share payable on February 15, 2012, May 15, 2012, August 15, 2012, November 15, 2012, February 15, 2013, a dividend of \$0.03125 per share payable on May 15, 2013, August 15, 2013 and November 15, 2013 and a dividend of \$0.0375 per share payable on February 14, 2014. The Board of Directors currently intends to continue paying cash dividends for the foreseeable future, although the Board of Directors may in its discretion determine to modify or eliminate such dividends at any time.

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The following table summarizes the Company's equity compensation plan as of December 31, 2013:

| <b>Plan category</b>                                      | <b>Number of shares of common stock to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options</b> | <b>Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options</b> | <b>Number of shares of common stock remaining available for future issuance</b> |
|---|---|---|---|
| Equity compensation plan approved by security holders     | 2,371,650   | \$ 12.75  | 643,073   |
| Equity compensation plan not approved by security holders |   |   |   |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>2,371,650</b>  | <b>\$ 12.75</b>   | <b>643,073</b>  |

**Table of Contents****PERFORMANCE GRAPH**

The following chart compares the cumulative total return on the Company's common stock with the NASDAQ Market Index and the Hemscott Group Index for Housewares & Accessories. The comparisons in this chart are required by the SEC and are not intended to forecast or be indicative of the possible future performance of the Company's common stock.

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Lifetime<br/>Brands, Inc.</b> | <b>Hemscott<br/>Group Index</b> | <b>NASDAQ<br/>Market<br/>Index</b> |
|-------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 12/31/2008  | \$ 100.00                        | \$ 100.00                       | \$ 100.00                          |
| 12/31/2009  | 201.98                           | 178.53                          | 145.34                             |
| 12/31/2010  | 396.61                           | 212.44                          | 171.70                             |
| 12/31/2011  | 345.41                           | 196.43                          | 170.34                             |
| 12/31/2012  | 305.70                           | 290.18                          | 200.57                             |
| 12/31/2013  | 457.29                           | 445.84                          | 281.14                             |

Note:

- (1) The chart assumes \$100 was invested on January 1, 2009 and dividends were reinvested. Measurement points are at the last trading day of each of the fiscal years ended December 31, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. The material in this chart is not soliciting material, is not deemed filed with the SEC and is not incorporated by reference in any filing of the Company under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, whether or not the chart is prepared before or after the date of this Annual Report on Form 10-K and irrespective of any general incorporation language in such filing. A list of the companies included in the Hemscott Group Index will be furnished by the Company to any stockholder upon written request to the Chief Financial Officer of the Company.

**Table of Contents****Item 6. Selected Financial Data**

The selected consolidated statement of operations data for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011 and the selected consolidated balance sheet data as of December 31, 2013 and 2012 has been derived from the Company's audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. The selected consolidated statement of operations data for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009 and the selected consolidated balance sheet data at December 31, 2011, 2010 and 2009 have been derived from the Company's audited consolidated financial statements included in the Company's Annual Reports on Form 10-K for those respective years, which are not included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

This information should be read together with the discussion in *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations* and the Company's consolidated financial statements and notes to those statements included elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

|   | <b>Year ended December 31,</b>        |             |             |                           |             |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|
|   | <b>2013</b>                           | <b>2012</b> | <b>2011</b> | <b>2010<sup>(2)</sup></b> | <b>2009</b> |
|   | (in thousands, except per share data) |             |             |                           |             |
| <b>STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS DATA<sup>(1)</sup></b>                     |                                       |             |             |                           |             |
| Net sales   | \$ 502,721                            | \$ 486,842  | \$ 444,418  | \$ 443,171                | \$ 415,040  |
| Cost of sales   | 315,459                               | 310,054     | 282,058     | 273,774                   | 257,839     |
| Distribution expenses   | 44,364                                | 44,046      | 43,882      | 44,570                    | 43,329      |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses                          | 114,345                               | 104,338     | 93,894      | 95,044                    | 95,647      |
| Intangible asset impairment   |                                       | 1,069       |             |                           |             |
| Restructuring expenses  | 367                                   |             |             |                           | 2,616       |
| Income from operations  | 28,186                                | 27,335      | 24,584      | 29,783                    | 15,609      |
| Interest expense  | (4,847)                               | (5,898)     | (7,758)     | (9,351)                   | (13,185)    |
| Loss on early retirement of debt                                      | (102)                                 | (1,363)     |             | (764)                     |             |
| Income before income taxes, equity in earnings and extraordinary item | 23,237                                | 20,074      | 16,826      | 19,668                    | 2,424       |
| Income tax provision  | (9,175)                               | (5,208)     | (6,122)     | (4,602)                   | (1,880)     |
| Equity in (losses) earnings, net of taxes <sup>(3)</sup>              | (4,781)                               | 6,081       | 3,362       | 2,718                     | 2,171       |
| Income before extraordinary item                                      | 9,281                                 | 20,947      | 14,066      | 17,784                    | 2,715       |
| Extraordinary item, net of taxes                                      |                                       |             |             | 2,477                     |             |
| Net income  | \$ 9,281                              | \$ 20,947   | \$ 14,066   | \$ 20,261                 | \$ 2,715    |
| Basic income per common share before extraordinary item               | \$ 0.73                               | \$ 1.67     | \$ 1.16     | \$ 1.48                   | \$ 0.23     |
| Basic income per common share of extraordinary item                   |                                       |             |             | 0.20                      |             |
| Basic income per common share   | \$ 0.73                               | \$ 1.67     | \$ 1.16     | \$ 1.68                   | \$ 0.23     |
| Weighted-average shares outstanding basic                             | 12,757                                | 12,511      | 12,128      | 12,036                    | 12,009      |

|   |           |          |          |         |         |
|---|-----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| Diluted income per common share before extraordinary item | \$ 0.71   | \$ 1.64  | \$ 1.12  | \$ 1.44 | \$ 0.22 |
| Diluted income per common share of extraordinary item     |           |          |          | 0.20    |         |
| Diluted income per common share                           | \$ 0.71   | \$ 1.64  | \$ 1.12  | \$ 1.64 | \$ 0.22 |
| Weighted-average shares outstanding diluted               | 13,043    | 12,810   | 12,529   | 12,376  | 12,075  |
| Cash dividends declared per common share                  | \$0.13125 | \$ 0.125 | \$ 0.075 | \$      | \$      |



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|   | 2013       | 2012       | December 31,<br>2011 | 2010       | 2009       |
|---|------------|------------|----------------------|------------|------------|
|   |            |            | (in thousands)       |            |            |
| <b>BALANCE SHEET DATA<sup>(1)</sup></b> |            |            |                      |            |            |
| Current assets                          | \$ 214,676 | \$ 212,759 | \$ 198,797           | \$ 182,253 | \$ 173,850 |
| Current liabilities                     | 69,494     | 66,899     | 69,962               | 60,512     | 77,210     |
| Working capital                         | 145,182    | 145,860    | 128,835              | 121,741    | 96,640     |
| Total assets                            | 336,739    | 348,797    | 318,745              | 277,586    | 276,723    |
| Short-term borrowings                   | 3,937      | 11,375     | 15,000               | 4,100      | 24,601     |
| Long-term debt                          | 65,919     | 84,593     | 82,625               | 50,000     |            |
| Convertible senior notes                |            |            |                      | 23,557     | 70,527     |
| Stockholders' equity                    | 180,905    | 172,230    | 146,175              | 127,606    | 104,012    |

Notes:

- (1) Investments and acquisitions of the following, in the respective years noted, affect the comparability of the periods: the acquisition of Creative Tops in November 2011, a 40% equity investment in GS Internacional S/A (GSI) in December 2011 and the acquisition of Fred & Friends in December 2012.
- (2) In 2010, the Company recorded an extraordinary gain of \$2.5 million as a result of the elimination of the negative goodwill recorded in conjunction with the purchase of the business and certain assets of Mikasa®, Inc.
- (3) In 2012, the Company recorded a gain of \$4.1 million within equity in earnings related to Vasconia's purchase of Almexa and in 2013, the Company recorded a charge of \$5.0 million, net of tax for the reduction of the fair value of the Company's investment in Vasconia.

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

*The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements for the Company and notes thereto set forth in Item 15. This discussion contains forward-looking statements relating to future events and the future performance of the Company based on the Company's current expectations, assumptions, estimates and projections about it and the Company's industry. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. The Company's actual results and timing of various events could differ materially from those anticipated in such forward-looking statements as a result of a variety of factors, as more fully described in this section and elsewhere in this Annual Report including those discussed on pages 2-3 of this Annual Report under Disclosures regarding Forward-Looking Statements and under Item 1A Risk Factors and Item 7A Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures Regarding Market Risk. The Company undertakes no obligation to update publicly any forward-looking statements for any reason, even if new information becomes available or other events occur in the future.*

**ABOUT THE COMPANY**

The Company designs, sources and sells branded kitchenware, tableware and other products used in the home. The Company's product categories include two categories of products that people use to prepare, serve and consume foods, Kitchenware (kitchen tools and gadgets, cutlery, cutting boards, cookware, bakeware and novelty housewares) and Tableware (dinnerware, flatware and glassware); and one category, Home Solutions, which comprises other products used in the home (pantryware, spices, food storage and home décor). In 2013, Kitchenware products and Tableware products accounted for approximately 89% of the Company's wholesale net sales and 86% of its consolidated net sales, as compared with 80% and 76%, respectively, in 2012.

The Company markets several product lines within each of its product categories and under most of the Company's brands, primarily targeting moderate to premium price points through every major level of trade. The Company believes it possesses certain competitive advantages based on its brands, its emphasis on innovation and new product development and its sourcing capabilities. The Company owns or licenses a number of the leading brands in its industry including KitchenAid®, Farberware®, Mikasa®, Pfaltzgraff®, Kamenstein®, Fred®, Towle®, Melannco®, Elements® and Wallace Silversmiths®. Historically, the Company's sales growth has come from expanding product offerings within its product categories, by developing existing brands, acquiring new brands and establishing new product categories. Key factors in the Company's growth strategy have been the selective use and management of the Company's brands and the Company's ability to provide a stream of new products and designs. A significant element of this strategy is the Company's in-house design and development teams that create new products, packaging and merchandising concepts.

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**Table of Contents****BUSINESS SEGMENTS**

The Company operates in two reportable business segments: the Wholesale segment, which is the Company's primary business that designs, markets and distributes its products to retailers and distributors, and the Retail Direct segment, in which the Company markets and sells a limited selection of its products to consumers through its Pfaltzgraff®, Mikasa®, Lifetime Sterling® and The English Table Internet websites. The operating results of Fred® & Friends are included in the Wholesale segment from December 20, 2012, the date it was acquired by the Company.

**EQUITY INVESTMENTS**

The Company owns approximately 30% of the outstanding capital stock of Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B. (Vasconia), a leading Mexican housewares company and aluminum manufacturer. The Company accounts for its investment in Vasconia using the equity method of accounting and has recorded its proportionate share of Vasconia's net income, net of taxes, as equity in earnings in the Company's consolidated statements of operations. Pursuant to a Shares Subscription Agreement (the Agreement), the Company may designate four persons to be nominated as members of Vasconia's Board of Directors. Shares of Vasconia's capital stock are traded on the Bolsa Mexicana de Valores, the Mexican Stock Exchange ([www.bmv.com.mx](http://www.bmv.com.mx)). The Quotation Key is VASCONI.

The Company recorded equity in (losses) earnings of Vasconia, net of taxes, of \$(4.0) million, \$6.9 million and \$2.9 million for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively. Equity in losses in 2013 includes a charge of \$5.0 million, net of tax, for the reduction in its fair value, as discussed in the following paragraph. Equity in earnings of Vasconia in 2012 includes \$4.1 million related to the Company's portion of a bargain purchase gain recognized by Vasconia on its purchase of Almexa, an aluminum mill and manufacturer of aluminum foil, a \$1.1 million tax benefit realized in the period and the reduction of the investment to fair value of \$1.3 million, net of tax.

In 2013, as a result of a decline in the quoted stock price and the 2013 quarterly decline in the operating results of Vasconia, the carrying amount of the Company's investment in Vasconia exceeded its fair value and, therefore, the Company reduced its investment value by \$5.0 million during the year ended December 31, 2013, net of tax, to its fair value.

In January 2011, the Company, together with Vasconia and unaffiliated partners, formed Housewares Corporation of Asia Limited (HCA), a Hong Kong-based company that supplies imported kitchenware products to retailers in North, Central and South America. The Company accounts for its 40% investment in HCA using the equity method of accounting and has recorded its proportionate share of HCA's net income as equity in earnings in the Company's consolidated statements of operations.

In December 2011, the Company acquired a 40% equity interest in GS Internacional S/A (GSI). GSI is a leading wholesale distributor of branded housewares products in Brazil. The company markets dinnerware, glassware, home décor, kitchenware and barware to customers throughout Brazil including major department stores, housewares retailers and independent shops. The Company accounts for its investment in GSI using the equity method of accounting and has recorded its proportionate share of GSI's net income, net of taxes, as equity in earnings in the Company's consolidated statements of operations. Pursuant to a Shareholders' Agreement, the Company has the right to designate three persons (including one independent person, as defined) to be nominated as members of GSI's Board of Directors.

In February 2012, the Company entered into Grand Venture Holdings Limited (Grand Venture), a joint venture with Manweal Development Limited (Manweal), a Chinese corporation, to distribute Mikasa® products in China, which included an initial investment by the Company of \$500,000. The Company and Manweal each own 50% of Grand

Venture and have rights and obligations proportionate to their ownership percentage. The Company accounts for its investment in Grand Venture using the equity method of accounting and has recorded its proportionate share of Grand Venture's net loss in equity in earnings in the Company's consolidated statements of operations.

**Table of Contents****SEASONALITY**

The Company's business and working capital needs are highly seasonal, with a majority of sales occurring in the third and fourth quarters. In 2013, 2012 and 2011, net sales for the third and fourth quarters accounted for 61%, 58% and 59%, of total annual net sales, respectively. In anticipation of the pre-holiday shipping season, inventory levels increase primarily in the June through October time period.

**IMPACT OF INFLATION**

Inflation rates in the United States and in major foreign countries where the Company operations have not had a significant impact on its results of operations or financial position during 2013, 2012, or 2011. The Company will continue its practice of monitoring costs and adjusting prices, accordingly.

**EFFECT OF ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLE**

In July 2012, the FASB issued ASU No. 2012-02, *Intangibles - Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Testing Indefinite-Lived Intangible Assets for Impairment*, which permits an entity to first assess qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount as a basis for determining whether it is necessary to perform the quantitative impairment test described in ASC Topic No. 350, *Intangibles - Goodwill and Other*. The amendments in this update are effective for annual and interim impairment tests performed for fiscal years beginning after September 15, 2012. The Company's adoption of this guidance did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Effective January 2013, the Company adopted ASU No. 2013-02, *Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): Reporting of Amounts Reclassified Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income*, which requires an entity to provide information about the amounts reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive income by component. In addition, an entity is required to present, either on the face of the statement where net income is presented or in the notes, significant amounts reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive income by the respective line items of net income but only if the amount reclassified is required under GAAP to be reclassified to net income in its entirety in the same reporting period. For other amounts that are not required under GAAP to be reclassified in their entirety to net income (e.g., net periodic pension benefit cost), an entity is required to cross-reference to other disclosures required under GAAP that provide additional detail about those amounts. In connection with the adoption of this standard, the Company added additional disclosure about the Company's accumulated other comprehensive income to Note M of its financial statements.

**RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The following table sets forth statement of operations data of the Company as a percentage of net sales for the periods indicated below.

|               | <b>Year Ended December 31,</b> |             |             |
|---------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|               | <b>2013</b>                    | <b>2012</b> | <b>2011</b> |
| Net sales     | 100.0%                         | 100.0%      | 100.0%      |
| Cost of sales | 62.8                           | 63.7        | 63.5        |

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|   |       |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| Gross margin                                      | 37.2  | 36.3  | 36.5  |
| Distribution expenses                             | 8.8   | 9.0   | 9.9   |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses      | 22.7  | 21.4  | 21.1  |
| Restructuring                                     | 0.1   |       |       |
| Intangible asset impairment                       |       | 0.2   |       |
| Income from operations                            | 5.6   | 5.7   | 5.5   |
| Interest expense                                  | (1.0) | (1.2) | (1.7) |
| Loss on early retirement of debt                  |       | (0.3) |       |
| Income before income taxes and equity in earnings | 4.6   | 4.2   | 3.8   |
| Income tax provision                              | (1.8) | (1.1) | (1.4) |
| Equity in (losses) earnings, net of taxes         | (1.0) | 1.2   | 0.8   |
| Net income  | 1.8%  | 4.3%  | 3.2%  |

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**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

**2013 COMPARED TO 2012**

**Net Sales**

Net sales for the year 2013 were \$502.7 million, an increase of 3.3%, compared to net sales of \$486.8 million in 2012. The increase was primarily the result of the inclusion of the net sales of Fred® & Friends, which was acquired in December 2012.

Net sales for the Wholesale segment in 2013 were \$483.1 million, an increase of \$18.3 million, or 3.9%, as compared to net sales of \$464.8 million in 2012. Net sales for the Company's Kitchenware product category in 2013 were \$281.2 million, an increase of \$25.1 million, or 9.8%, as compared to net sales of \$256.1 million in 2012. Net sales for the Company's Kitchenware product category included \$19.5 million of net sales for the year ended December 31, 2013 from Fred® & Friends as compared to \$0.2 million from Fred® & Friends in 2012. The increase in the Company's Kitchenware product category was primarily attributable to successful new cutlery programs and new kitchen tools and gadgets programs throughout the year. Net sales for the Company's Tableware product category in 2013 were \$149.0 million, a decrease of \$7.5 million, or 4.8%, as compared to net sales of \$156.5 million for 2012. The Tableware product category sales decrease reflects a decline in luxury tableware sales and a \$3.7 million decrease in net sales at Creative Tops due to the impact of higher duties imposed by the European Union. Sales at Creative Tops increased in the fourth quarter of 2013 as customers in the European Union adjusted to the increased pricing resulting from duty rates. Net sales for the Company's Home Solutions products category in 2013 were \$52.9 million, an increase of \$0.7 million, or 1.3%, as compared to net sales of \$52.2 million in 2012. The increase in sales for the Company's Home Solutions product category was primarily due to new pantryware programs, larger seasonal programs related to wall décor and lighting products in the second half of 2013, which offset reduced sales in the first half of the year resulting from a decline in close out activity and lower volume at a major warehouse club in the first quarter.

Net sales for the Retail Direct segment in 2013 were \$20.7 million, a decrease of \$1.3 million, or 5.9%, as compared to \$22.0 million for 2013. The decrease was primarily attributable to a reduction in promotional activities in 2013.

In 2013, the Company recorded a non-operating adjustment of \$1.1 million to reduce accounts receivable for previously issued credits within the Retail Direct business which related to 2010 and earlier periods.

**Gross margin**

Gross margin for 2013 was \$187.3 million, or 37.2%, as compared to \$176.8 million, or 36.3%, for the corresponding period in 2012.

Gross margin for the Wholesale segment was 36.0% for 2013 as compared to 34.8% for 2012. Gross margin may be expected to fluctuate from period to period based on a number of factors, including product mix and customer mix. The increase in gross margin was the result of the inclusion of Fred® & Friends which was acquired in December 2012.

Gross margin for the Retail Direct segment was 68.8% for 2013 as compared to 68.6% for 2012. The increase in gross margin reflects reduced discounting of dinnerware in 2013 principally from the elimination of the use of multiple coupons for one transaction.

**Distribution expenses**

Distribution expenses for 2013 were \$44.4 million as compared to \$44.0 million for 2012. Distribution expenses as a percentage of net sales were 8.8% in 2013 and 9.0% in 2012.

Distribution expenses as a percentage of sales shipped from the Company's warehouses located in the United States for the Wholesale segment were 8.8% for 2013 as compared to 8.9% for 2012. The decrease primarily reflects labor efficiencies and improved labor management which reduced headcount in the distribution facilities in 2013. Additionally, the closure of the Fred® & Friends distribution center reduced the related distribution expenses.



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Distribution expenses as a percentage of net sales for the Retail Direct segment were 29.6% for 2013 compared to 28.9% for 2012. The increase was due to declining sales relative to fixed expenses.

### **Selling, general and administrative expenses**

Selling, general and administrative expenses ( SG&A ) for 2013 were \$114.3 million, an increase of \$10.0 million, or 9.6%, as compared to \$104.3 million for 2012.

SG&A expenses for 2013 for the Wholesale segment were \$91.3 million, an increase of \$8.9 million, or 10.8%, as compared to \$82.4 million in 2012. As a percentage of net sales, SG&A expenses were 18.9% for 2013 compared to 17.7% for 2012. The increase was due to the inclusion of Fred® & Friends and an increase in selling expenses, such as trade show expenses and employee related expenses.

SG&A expenses for 2013 for the Retail Direct segment were \$8.2 million compared to \$8.3 million for 2012.

Unallocated corporate expenses for 2013 and 2012 were \$14.9 and \$13.6 million, respectively, due to an increase in professional fees.

### **Restructuring expenses**

Restructuring expenses for 2013 were \$0.4 million. The expenses resulted from the planned closure of the Fred® & Friends distribution center which included the elimination of certain employee positions in the third quarter of 2013.

### **Intangible asset impairment**

During the year ended December 31, 2012, the Company's home décor products category experienced a significant decline in sales. The Company believes the most significant factor was the reduction in retail space allocated to the category which has also contributed to pricing pressure. While the Company believed this market condition was not permanent, following a strategic review of the business, it decided to re-brand a portion of the home décor products under the Mikasa® and Pfaltzgraff® trade names. As a result of these factors, the Company recorded an impairment charge of \$1.1 million in its statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2012, which reduced the book value of its Elements® trade name.

### **Interest expense**

Interest expense for 2013 was \$4.8 million as compared to \$5.9 million for 2012. The decrease in interest expense was attributable to lower average interest rates and lower average borrowings in 2013 as compared to 2012.

### **Loss on early retirement of debt**

In December 2013, the Company repaid a portion of its senior secured credit agreement. In connection with the payoff, the Company wrote off debt issuance costs of \$0.1 million. In June and July 2012, the Company repaid its second lien credit agreement. In connection with the payoff, the Company wrote off debt issuance costs of \$1.4 million.

### **Income tax provision**

The income tax provision was \$9.2 million in 2013 and \$5.2 million in 2012. The Company's effective tax rate for 2013 was 39.5% as compared to 25.9% for 2012. The effective tax rate in 2013 reflects a reduced tax rate in the United Kingdom and an increased tax rate in Puerto Rico. The effective tax rate for 2012 reflects an income tax benefit for a non-cash adjustment to a deferred tax liability of \$2.3 million related to an earlier period.

**Table of Contents****Equity in earnings**

The Company's equity in earnings for 2013 and 2012 are as follows:

|   | <b>Year Ended December 31,</b> |                 |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------|
|   | <b>2013</b>                    | <b>2012</b>     |
|   | (in thousands)                 |                 |
| <b>Equity in earnings of Grupo Vasconia:</b>  |                                |                 |
| Equity earnings before bargain purchase gain, tax benefit and reduction in investment to fair value, net of tax | \$ 1,000                       | \$ 3,015        |
| Bargain purchase gain in equity in earnings, net of tax   |                                | 4,112           |
| Tax benefit recorded in equity in earnings <sup>(1)</sup>   |                                | 1,116           |
| Reduction in investment to fair value, net of tax   | (5,040)                        | (1,336)         |
| <br>  |                                |                 |
| Equity in (losses) earnings of Grupo Vasconia   | (4,040)                        | 6,907           |
| Equity in losses of GSI   | (656)                          | (727)           |
| Equity in losses of other investments   | (85)                           | (99)            |
|   | <b>\$ (4,781)</b>              | <b>\$ 6,081</b> |

Note:

(1) Income tax benefit related to the valuation allowance reversal for deferred taxes associated with cumulative foreign currency translation adjustments.

Equity in losses of Vasconia, net of taxes, was \$4.0 million for 2013 as compared to equity in earnings of \$6.9 million for 2012. Equity in losses in 2013 includes a charge of \$5.0 million, net of tax, for the reduction in Vasconia's fair value. Vasconia reported income from operations for 2013 of \$5.4 million compared to \$14.6 million for 2012 and net income of \$4.3 million in 2013 compared to \$34.2 million in 2012. The decrease in net income was due to a decline in kitchenware and aluminum sales and reduced margins on aluminum sales in 2013 and a \$22.9 million bargain purchase gain recognized by Vasconia on its purchase of Almexa, an aluminum mill and manufacturer of aluminum foil in 2012.

Equity in earnings for 2013 also includes a loss of \$0.7 million from the Company's 40% equity interest in GSI and losses of \$85,000 related to other investments. Equity in earnings for 2012 also includes a loss of \$0.7 million from the Company's 40% equity interest in GSI and losses of \$0.1 million related to other investments.

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**2012 COMPARED TO 2011**

**Net Sales**

Net sales for the year were \$486.8 million, an increase of 9.5%, compared to net sales of \$444.4 million in 2011. The increase was primarily the result of the inclusion of the net sales of Creative Tops, which was acquired in November 2011.

Net sales for the Wholesale segment in 2012 were \$464.8 million, an increase of \$43.7 million, or 10.4%, as compared to net sales of \$421.1 million in 2011. Net sales included \$42.6 million from Creative Tops in 2012 compared to \$6.7 million from Creative Tops in 2011. Net sales for the Company's Kitchenware product category in 2012 were \$256.1 million, an increase of \$40.4 million, or 18.7%, as compared to net sales of \$215.7 million in 2011. The increase in the Company's Kitchenware product category was primarily attributable to the strength and expansion of certain brands and the introduction of new innovative styles and designs including the new Guy Fieri® line. The Kitchenware category also included \$0.2 million of sales from the Fred® & Friends business acquired on December 20, 2012. Net sales for the Company's Tableware product category in 2012 were \$113.9 million, a decrease of \$20.7 million, or 15.4%, as compared to net sales of \$134.6 million for 2011. The Tableware product category sales decrease was partially attributable to the absence, in the 2012 period, of sales of excess sterling silver finished goods inventory and a major rollout of dinnerware each of which occurred in the 2011 period. In addition, the category experienced weakness at the retail level. Net sales for the Company's Home Solutions products category in 2012 were \$52.2 million, a decrease of \$11.9 million, or 18.6%, as compared to net sales of \$64.1 million in 2011. The decrease in sales for the Company's Home Solutions product category was due to weak consumer demand for this category.

Net sales for the Retail Direct segment in 2012 were \$22.0 million, a decrease of \$1.3 million, or 5.6%, as compared to \$23.3 million for 2011. The decrease was primarily attributable to a reduction in promotional activities in 2012.

**Gross margin**

Gross margin for 2012 was \$176.8 million, or 36.3%, as compared to \$162.4 million, or 36.5%, for the corresponding period in 2011.

Gross margin for the Wholesale segment was 34.8% for 2012 as compared to 34.9% for 2011.

Gross margin for the Retail Direct segment was 68.6% for 2012 as compared to 66.9% for 2011. The increase in gross margin reflects the mix in product sales, less promotional activities, a revised pricing strategy and more effective web design which favorably affected margins during the 2012 period.

**Distribution expenses**

Distribution expenses for 2012 were \$44.0 million as compared to \$43.9 million for 2011. Distribution expenses as a percentage of net sales were 9.0% in 2012 and 9.9% for 2011.

Distribution expenses as a percentage of sales shipped from the Company's warehouses located in the United States for the Wholesale segment were 8.9% for 2012 as compared to 9.4% for 2011. The percentage decrease resulted from significant improvements in labor management and other operating expense savings.

Distribution expenses as a percentage of net sales for the Retail Direct segment were 28.9% for 2012 compared to 29.8% for 2011. Retail Direct also benefitted from improved labor management and other operating expense savings.

**Selling, general and administrative expenses**

SG&A expenses for 2012 were \$104.3 million, an increase of \$10.4 million, or 11.1%, as compared to \$93.9 million for 2011. Excluding the expenses of Creative Tops, SG&A expenses for 2012 were \$94.7 million, an increase of \$1.9 million as compared to \$92.8 million for 2011.

SG&A expenses for 2012 for the Wholesale segment were \$82.4 million, an increase of \$11.0 million, or 15.4%, as compared to \$71.4 million in 2011. As a percentage of net sales, SG&A expenses were 17.7% for 2012 compared to 17.0% for 2011. The increase principally reflects higher expenses for Creative Tops to support its business expansion plan and an increase in employee related expenses.

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SG&A expenses for 2012 for the Retail Direct segment were \$8.3 million compared to \$9.2 million for 2011. The decrease was primarily attributable to improved expense management.

Unallocated corporate expenses for 2012 and 2011 were \$13.6 million and \$13.3 million, respectively, due to an increase in compensation offset by a reduction in acquisition related expenses.

## **Intangible asset impairment**

During the year ended December 31, 2012, the Company's home décor products category experienced a significant decline in sales. The Company believes the most significant factor was the reduction in retail space allocated to the category which also contributed to pricing pressure. While the Company believes this market condition is not permanent, following a strategic review of the business, it decided to re-brand a portion of the home décor products under the Mikasa® and Pfaltzgraff® trade names. As a result of these factors, the Company recorded an impairment charge of \$1.1 million in its statement of operations which reduced the book value of its Elements® trade name.

## **Interest expense**

Interest expense for 2012 was \$5.9 million as compared to \$7.8 million for 2011. The decrease in interest expense was primarily attributable to lower average interest rates and lower average borrowings. The most significant factor in the rate reduction related to the retirement of the Company's 4.75% convertible senior notes.

## **Loss on early retirement of debt**

As previously discussed, in June and July 2012, the Company repaid its second lien credit agreement and wrote off debt issuance costs of \$1.4 million.

## **Income tax provision**

The income tax provision was \$5.2 million in 2012 and \$6.1 million in 2011. The Company's effective tax rate for 2012 was 25.9% as compared to 36.4% for 2011. The effective tax rate in 2012 reflects an income tax benefit for a non-cash adjustment to a deferred tax liability of \$2.3 million related to the prior year. The effective tax rate for 2011 included a valuation allowance reversal related to various deferred tax assets, including net operating losses, for which a tax benefit was not previously recognized.

## **Equity in earnings**

Equity in earnings of Vasconia, net of taxes, was \$6.9 million for 2012 and \$2.9 million for 2011. Vasconia reported income from operations for 2012 of \$14.6 million compared to \$17.3 million for 2011 and net income of \$34.2 million in 2012 compared to \$11.4 million in 2011. The increase in net income was primarily due to a \$22.9 million bargain purchase gain recognized by Vasconia on its purchase of Almexa, an aluminum mill and manufacturer of aluminum foil.

Equity in earnings for 2012 also includes a loss of \$0.7 million from the Company's 40% equity interest in GSI and losses of \$0.1 million related to other investments. Equity in earnings for 2011 includes income of \$0.5 million derived from the Company's 50% joint venture investment in World Alliance Enterprises Limited which was dissolved in 2012.



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**Table of Contents****CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES**

*Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations* discusses the Company's consolidated financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and with the instructions to Form 10-K and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. On an on-going basis, management evaluates its estimates and judgments based on historical experience and on various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The Company evaluates these estimates including those related to revenue recognition, allowances for doubtful accounts, reserves for sales returns and allowances and customer chargebacks, inventory mark-down provisions, health insurance reserves, impairment of goodwill, tangible and intangible assets, stock option expense, accruals related to the Company's tax positions and tax valuation allowances. Actual results may differ from these estimates using different assumptions and under different conditions. The Company's significant accounting policies are more fully described in Note A of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 15. The Company believes that the following discussion addresses its most critical accounting policies, which are those that are most important to the portrayal of the Company's consolidated financial condition and results of operations and require management's most difficult, subjective and complex judgments.

**Inventory**

Inventory consists principally of finished goods sourced from third-party suppliers. Inventory also includes finished goods, work in process and raw materials related to the Company's manufacture of sterling silver products. Inventory is priced using the lower of cost (first-in, first-out basis) or market method. The Company estimates the selling price of its inventory on a product by product basis based on the current selling environment. If the estimated selling price is lower than the inventory's cost, the Company reduces the value of the inventory to its net realizable value.

**Accounts Receivable**

The Company periodically reviews the collectability of its accounts receivable and establishes allowances for estimated losses that could result from the inability of its customers to make required payments. A considerable amount of judgment is required to assess the ultimate realization of these receivables including assessing the initial and on-going creditworthiness of the Company's customers. The Company also maintains an allowance for anticipated customer deductions. The allowances for deductions are primarily based on contracts with customers. However, in certain cases the Company does not have a formal contract and, therefore, customer deductions are non-contractual. To evaluate the reasonableness of non-contractual customer deductions, the Company analyzes currently available information and historical trends of deductions. If the financial conditions of the Company's customers or general economic conditions were to deteriorate, resulting in an impairment of their ability to make payments or sell the Company's products at reasonable sales prices, or the Company's estimate of non-contractual deductions varied from actual deductions, revisions to allowances would be required, which could adversely affect the Company's financial condition. Historically, the Company's allowances have been appropriate and have not resulted in material unexpected charges.

**Goodwill, intangible assets and long-lived assets**



Goodwill and intangible assets deemed to have indefinite lives are not amortized but, instead, are subject to an annual impairment assessment. Additionally, if events or conditions were to indicate the carrying value of a reporting unit may not be recoverable, the company would evaluate goodwill and other intangible assets for impairment at that time. As it relates to the goodwill assessment, the Company first assesses qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount as a basis for determining whether it is necessary to perform the two-step goodwill impairment testing described in ASU Topic No. 350, *Intangibles Goodwill and Other*. The second step is a quantitative test to measures the amount of impairment if there is an indication from the first step that one exists. The Company also evaluates qualitative factors to determine whether or not its indefinite lived intangibles have been impaired and then performs quantitative tests if required. These tests can include the royalty savings model or other valuation models.

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Long-lived assets, including intangible assets deemed to have finite lives, are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that such assets may have been impaired. Impairment indicators include, among other conditions, cash flow deficits, historic or anticipated declines in revenue or operating profit or material adverse changes in the business climate that indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may be impaired. When impairment indicators are present, the Company compares the carrying value of the assets to the estimated discounted future cash flows expected to be generated by the assets. If the assets are considered to be impaired, the impairment to be recognized is measured by the amount by which the carrying amount of the assets exceeds the fair value of the assets. The Company considered indicators of impairment of its long-lived assets and determined that no such indicators were present at December 31, 2013.

In 2012, the Company recorded an impairment charge of \$1.1 million related to a decline in value of Elements, a brand trade name used for home décor products. The impairment was triggered by a period of decline in the sales and gross margin of the brand. Currently, the appraised value of Elements approximates its book value of \$3.3 million. If in the future, the sales and/or gross margin for Elements products were to further decline an additional impairment charge will be recorded.

## **Revenue recognition**

The Company sells products:

Wholesale, to retailers and distributors, and

Retail, directly to consumers.

Wholesale sales and retail sales are recognized when title passes to the customer, which is primarily at the shipping point for wholesale sales and upon delivery to the customer for retail sales. Shipping and handling fees that are billed to customers in sales transactions are included in net sales. Net sales exclude taxes that are collected from customers and remitted to the taxing authorities.

The Company offers various sales incentives and promotional programs to its customers from time to time in the normal course of business. These incentives and promotions typically include arrangements such as cooperative advertising, buydowns, volume rebates and discounts. These arrangements and an estimate of sales returns are reflected as reductions in net sales in the Company's condensed consolidated statements of operations.

## **Employee stock options**

The Company accounts for its stock options through measurement of compensation expense for all share-based compensation granted to employees and non-employee directors at fair value on the date of grant and recognition of compensation expense over the related service period for awards expected to vest. The Company uses the Black-Scholes option valuation model to estimate the fair value of its stock options. The Black-Scholes option valuation model requires the input of highly subjective assumptions including the expected stock price volatility of the Company's common stock and the risk-free interest rate. Changes in these subjective input assumptions can materially affect the fair value estimate of the Company's stock options on the date of the option grant. The Company historically has not issued options which would be variable awards.

## **Employee healthcare**

The Company self-insures certain portions of its health insurance plan. The Company maintains an accrual for unpaid claims and estimated claims incurred but not yet reported ( IBNR ). Although management believes that it uses the best information available to estimate IBNR claims, actual claims may vary significantly from estimated claims.

### **Income taxes**

The Company applies the required provisions for financial statement recognition, measurement and disclosure of uncertain tax positions recognized in the Company s financial statements. Tax positions must meet a more-likely-than-not recognition threshold and measurement attribute for financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken. The valuation allowance is also calculated, established or maintained when it is more likely than not that all or a portion of deferred tax assets will not be realized.

### **Derivatives**

The Company accounts for all derivative instruments on the balance sheet at fair value as either an asset or a liability. Changes in the fair value of derivatives that qualify as hedges and have been designated as part of a hedging relationship for accounting purposes have no net impact on earnings to the extent the derivative is considered highly effective in achieving offsetting changes in fair value or cash flows attributable to the risk being

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hedged, until the hedged item is recognized in earnings. If the derivative which is designated as part of a hedging relationship is considered ineffective in achieving offsetting changes in fair value or cash flows attributable to the risk being hedged, the changes in fair value are recorded in operations. For derivatives that do not qualify or are not designated as hedging instruments for accounting purposes, changes in fair value are recorded in operations.

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**LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES**

The Company's principal sources of cash to fund liquidity needs are: (i) cash provided by operating activities and (ii) borrowings available under its Revolving Credit Facility. The Company's primary uses of funds consist of working capital requirements, capital expenditures, acquisitions and investments and payments of principal and interest on its debt.

At December 31, 2013, the Company had cash and cash equivalents of \$4.9 million compared to \$1.9 million at December 31, 2012, working capital was \$145.2 million at December 31, 2013 as compared to \$145.9 million at December 31, 2012 and the current ratio was 3.09 to 1 at December 31, 2013 compared to 3.18 to 1 at December 31, 2012.

Borrowings under the Company's Revolving Credit Facility decreased to \$49.2 million at December 31, 2013 compared to \$61.0 million at December 31, 2012. The decrease in borrowings was primarily attributable to a decrease in the working capital needs.

The Company believes that availability under the Revolving Credit Facility and cash flows from operations are sufficient to fund the Company's operations for the next twelve months. However, if circumstances were to adversely change, the Company may seek alternative sources of liquidity including debt and/or equity financing. However, there can be no assurance that any such alternative sources would be available or sufficient. The Company closely monitors the creditworthiness of its customers. Based upon its evaluation of changes in customers' creditworthiness, the Company may modify credit limits and/or terms of sale. However, notwithstanding the Company's efforts to monitor its customers' financial condition, the Company could be materially affected in the future.

**Revolving Credit Facility and Term Loan**

The Company has a \$175.0 million secured credit agreement (the "Revolving Credit Facility"), maturing on July 27, 2017, with a bank group led by JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. and an expansion option which permits the Company, subject to certain conditions including the consent of the Senior Secured Term Loan (defined below) lenders, to increase the maximum borrowing commitment from \$175.0 million to \$225.0 million.

At December 31, 2013, borrowings outstanding under the Revolving Credit Facility were \$49.2 million and open letters of credit were \$1.3 million.

Borrowings under the Revolving Credit Facility bear interest, at the Company's option, at one of the following rates: (i) the Alternate Base Rate, defined as the greater of the Prime Rate, Federal Funds Rate plus 0.5% or the Adjusted LIBO Rate plus 1.0%, plus a margin of 1.0% to 1.75%, or (ii) the Eurodollar Rate, defined as the Adjusted LIBO Rate plus a margin of 2.0% to 2.75%. The respective margins are based upon availability. Interest rates on outstanding borrowings at December 31, 2013 ranged from 2.125% to 4.25%. In addition, the Company pays a commitment fee of 0.375% to 0.50% on the unused portion of the Revolving Credit Facility. Availability under the Revolving Credit Facility was approximately \$87.8 million, or 50%, of the total loan commitment at December 31, 2013.

The Company classifies a portion of the Revolving Credit Facility as a current liability if the Company's intent and ability is to repay the loan from cash flows from operations which are expected to occur within the year. Repayments and borrowings under the facility can vary significantly from planned levels based on cash flow needs and general economic conditions.

At December 31, 2013, the Company had \$20.6 million outstanding under its senior secured credit agreement with JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. (the Senior Secured Term Loan ), which was set to mature on July 27, 2018.

The Senior Secured Term Loan bore interest, at the Company's option, at the Alternate Base Rate (as defined) plus 4.00%, or the Adjusted LIBOR Rate (as defined) plus 5.00%.

The Senior Secured Term Loan provided that for any four consecutive fiscal quarters ending after July 27, 2012, (x) if at any time EBITDA (as defined) was less than \$34.0 million but equal to or greater than \$30.0 million, the ratio of Indebtedness (as defined) to EBITDA could not exceed 3.0 to 1.0 and (y) EBITDA could not be less than \$30.0 million at any time. Capital expenditures were limited and for the year ended December 31, 2013, such limit was \$9.0 million. The Senior Secured Term Loan provided for other customary restrictions and events of

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default. Restrictions included limitations on additional indebtedness, acquisitions, investments and payment of dividends, among others. Further, the Senior Secured Term Loan provided that the Company maintain a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio of 1.10 to 1.00 for any four consecutive fiscal quarters ending after July 27, 2012. The Company was in compliance with the financial covenants of the Senior Secured Term Loan and the Revolving Credit Facility at December 31, 2013.

In January 2014, the Company entered into a Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. The Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement provides for, among other things, (i) an extension of the maturity of the \$175.0 million Revolving Credit Facility to January 11, 2019 and (ii) a new Term Loan facility of \$50.0 million.

The Company utilized the proceeds of the Term Loan provided for in the Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement and additional borrowings under its Revolving Credit Facility to: (i) repay the existing borrowings under the Company's Senior Secured Term Loan, and (ii) finance the acquisition by the Company of 100% of the share capital of Thomas Plant (Birmingham) Limited.

The Company expects that it will continue to borrow and repay funds, subject to availability, under the facility based on working capital and other corporate needs.

**Derivatives**

The Company is a party to interest rate swap agreements with an aggregate notional amount of \$29.8 million to manage interest rate exposure in connection with its variable interest rate borrowings. The hedge period in the agreements commenced in March 2013 and expires in June 2018, and the notional amounts amortize over this period. The hedge provides for a fixed payment of interest at an annual rate of 1.05% in exchange for the Adjusted LIBOR Rate. In March 2013, based on the interest rate swap agreements, the Company commenced the payment of interest at a fixed annual rate of 6.05%.

**Capital expenditures**

Capital expenditures for the year ended December 31, 2013 were \$3.8 million.

**Consolidated EBITDA**

The Company's Consolidated EBITDA for the four quarters ended December 31, 2013 was \$43.5 million, as follows:

**Consolidated EBITDA for the four quarters ended**

| <b>December 31, 2013</b>              |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| (in thousands)                        |                 |
| Three months ended December 31, 2013  | 21,011          |
| Three months ended September 30, 2013 | 15,067          |
| Three months ended June 30, 2013      | 4,321           |
| Three months ended March 31, 2013     | 3,079           |
| <b>Total for the four quarters</b>    | <b>\$43,478</b> |





**Table of Contents***Non-GAAP financial measure*

Consolidated EBITDA is a non-GAAP financial measure within the meaning of Regulation G promulgated by the SEC. This measure is provided because management of the Company uses this financial measure in evaluating the Company's on-going financial results and trends. Management also uses this non-GAAP information as an indicator of business performance. The following is a reconciliation of net income as reported to Consolidated EBITDA for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012 and each fiscal quarter of 2013 and 2012:

|   | Three Months Ended |               |                    |                   | Year Ended        |
|---|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|   | March 31, 2013     | June 30, 2013 | September 30, 2013 | December 31, 2013 | December 31, 2013 |
|   | (in thousands)     |               |                    |                   |                   |
| Net income as reported                      | \$ (632)           | \$ (568)      | \$ 1,093           | \$ 9,388          | \$ 9,281          |
| Subtract out:                               |                    |               |                    |                   |                   |
| Undistributed equity (earnings) losses, net | (246)              | 480           | 5,452              | (332)             | 5,354             |
| Add back:                                   |                    |               |                    |                   |                   |
| Income tax provision (benefit)              | (399)              | (477)         | 3,869              | 6,182             | 9,175             |
| Interest expense                            | 1,162              | 1,149         | 1,280              | 1,256             | 4,847             |
| Depreciation and amortization               | 2,523              | 2,667         | 2,517              | 2,708             | 10,415            |
| Stock compensation expense                  | 671                | 722           | 738                | 750               | 2,881             |
| Loss on early retirement of debt            |                    |               |                    | 102               | 102               |
| Restructuring expenses                      |                    | 288           | 79                 |                   | 367               |
| Permitted acquisition related expenses      |                    | 60            | 39                 | 957               | 1,056             |
| Consolidated EBITDA                         | \$ 3,079           | \$ 4,321      | \$ 15,067          | \$ 21,011         | \$ 43,478         |

|  | Three Months Ended |               |                    |                   | Year Ended        |
|--|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|  | March 31, 2012     | June 30, 2012 | September 30, 2012 | December 31, 2012 | December 31, 2012 |
|  | (in thousands)     |               |                    |                   |                   |
| Net income as reported                 | \$ 1,344           | \$ 559        | \$ 3,890           | \$ 15,154         | \$ 20,947         |
| Subtract out:                          |                    |               |                    |                   |                   |
| Undistributed equity earnings, net     | (398)              | (108)         | (695)              | (4,464)           | (5,665)           |
| Add back:                              |                    |               |                    |                   |                   |
| Income tax provision                   | 588                | 94            | 1,930              | 2,596             | 5,208             |
| Interest expense                       | 1,698              | 1,675         | 1,271              | 1,254             | 5,898             |
| Depreciation and amortization          | 2,207              | 2,262         | 2,409              | 2,446             | 9,324             |
| Stock compensation expense             | 698                | 754           | 679                | 662               | 2,793             |
| Loss on early retirement of debt       |                    | 348           | 1,015              |                   | 1,363             |
| Intangible asset impairment            |                    |               | 1,069              |                   | 1,069             |
| Permitted acquisition related expenses | 85                 |               |                    | 220               | 305               |
| Consolidated EBITDA                    | \$ 6,222           | \$ 5,584      | \$ 11,568          | \$ 17,868         | \$ 41,242         |

**Dividends**

The Board of Directors declared a dividend of \$0.025 per share payable on May 15, 2012, August 15, 2012, November 15, 2012 and February 15, 2013, a dividend of \$0.03125 per share payable on May 15, 2013, August 15, 2013 and November 15, 2013 and a dividend of \$0.0375 payable on February 14, 2014.

**Operating activities**

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$35.8 million in 2013 as compared to \$22.7 million in 2012 and \$12.2 million in 2011. The increase was primarily attributable to a decrease in accounts receivable, a decrease in payments of accounts payable, accrued expenses and other liabilities offset by an increase in inventory and increase in the payments of income taxes.

**Investing activities**

Net cash used in investing activities was \$3.8 million in 2013 as compared to \$22.2 million in 2012 and \$30.6 million in 2011. In 2012 investing activities principally related to cash consideration of \$14.5 million for the acquisition of Fred® and Friends and cash consideration of \$2.6 million for the investment in GSI. In 2011, cash consideration of \$20.6 was paid for the acquisition of Creative Tops and cash consideration of \$5.0 million was paid for the investment in GSI. No such investing activities occurred in 2013.

**Table of Contents****Financing activities**

Net cash used in financing activities was \$29.0 million in 2013 as compared to \$2.2 million in 2012 and \$17.9 million in 2011. The Company had net repayments of \$11.7 million to its Revolving Credit Facility in 2013 as compared to net borrowings of \$3.3 million in 2012 and net borrowings of \$43.5 million in 2011. The proceeds from the 2012 borrowings were principally used to finance a portion of the Fred® & Friends acquisition. The proceeds from the 2011 borrowings were principally used to finance the Creative Tops acquisition, finance the Company's investment in GSI, retire Notes and pay the acquisition related costs of \$2.0 million. Additionally, the Company's 2013 borrowings were used to repurchased 245,575 shares under the 2013 stock repurchase program for a total cost of \$3.2 million.

**CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS**

As of December 31, 2013, the Company's contractual obligations were as follows (in thousands):

|                          | <b>Total</b>      | <b>Payment due by period</b> |                      |                      |                              |
|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
|                          |                   | <b>Less than<br/>1 year</b>  | <b>1-3<br/>years</b> | <b>3-5<br/>years</b> | <b>More than<br/>5 years</b> |
| Operating leases         | \$ 78,421         | \$ 15,162                    | \$ 28,780            | \$ 17,860            | \$ 16,619                    |
| Short-term debt          | 3,937             | 3,937                        |                      |                      |                              |
| Long-term debt           | 65,919            |                              | 35,431               | 30,488               |                              |
| Interest on debt         | 9,946             | 3,081                        | 4,833                | 2,032                |                              |
| Minimum royalty payments | 15,975            | 6,424                        | 7,689                | 827                  | 1,035                        |
| Post retirement benefits | 5,360             | 143                          | 254                  | 627                  | 4,336                        |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>\$ 179,558</b> | <b>\$ 28,747</b>             | <b>\$ 76,987</b>     | <b>\$ 51,834</b>     | <b>\$ 21,990</b>             |

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

Market risk represents the risk of loss that may impact the consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows of the Company. The Company is exposed to market risk associated with changes in interest rates and foreign currency exchange rates. The Company believes it has moderate exposure to these risks. The Company assesses market risk based on changes in interest rates utilizing a sensitivity analysis that measures the potential loss in earnings and cash flows based on a hypothetical 10% change in these rates.

The Company's functional currency is the U.S. Dollar. The Company has foreign operations through its acquisitions, investments and strategic alliances which have operations in the United Kingdom, Mexico, Canada, Brazil, Hong Kong and China; therefore, the Company is subject to increases and decreases in its investments resulting from the impact of fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates. Additional transactions exposing the company to exchange rate risk include sales, certain inventory purchases and operating expenses. Through its subsidiaries, portions of the Company's cash, trade accounts receivable and trade accounts payable are denominated in foreign currencies. For the year ended December 31, 2013, approximately 10% of the Company's net sales revenue was in foreign currencies. These sales were primarily denominated in British Pounds and Canadian Dollars. The Company makes most of its inventory purchases from the Far East and uses the U.S. Dollar for such purchases. In the Company's consolidated statements of income foreign exchange gains and losses are recognized in Selling, general and administrative expense. A hypothetical 10% change in exchange rates, with U.S. Dollar as the functional and reporting currency would result in less than \$0.1 million change in Selling, general and administrative expense.

The Company's Revolving Credit Facility and Senior Secured Term Loan bore interest at variable rates; and, therefore, the Company is subject to increases and decreases in interest expense resulting from fluctuations in interest rates. The Company entered into an interest rate swap agreement in August 2012 to manage interest rate exposure in connection with its variable interest rate borrowings. As of December 31, 2013, approximately \$40.1 million of the Company's debt carries a variable rate of interest. The remainder of the debt (approximately \$29.8 million) carries a fixed rate of interest either by nature or through the use of interest rate swaps. A hypothetical and instantaneous 10% increase in the Company's variable interest rates increase interest expense by less than \$0.1 million over a twelve month period.

Interest rate swaps expose the Company to counterparty credit risk for nonperformance. The Company manages its exposure to counterparty credit risk by dealing with counterparties who are international financial institutions with investment grade credit ratings. Although the Company's credit risk is the replacement cost at the estimated fair value of these instruments, the Company believes that the risk of incurring credit risk losses is remote.

The Company does not enter into derivative financial instruments for trading purposes.

**Table of Contents****Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data**

The Company's Consolidated Financial Statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2013 in Item 15 commencing on page F-1 are incorporated herein by reference.

The following tables set forth certain unaudited consolidated quarterly statement of operations data for the eight quarters ended December 31, 2013. This information is unaudited, but in the opinion of management, it has been prepared substantially on the same basis as the audited consolidated financial statements appearing elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K and all necessary adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring adjustments, have been included in the amounts stated below to present fairly the unaudited consolidated quarterly results of operations. The consolidated quarterly data should be read in conjunction with the Company's audited consolidated financial statements and the notes to such statements appearing elsewhere in this Annual Report. The results of operations for any quarter are not necessarily indicative of the results of operations for any future period:

|  | <b>Year ended December 31, 2013</b>          |                |                |                              |
|--|--|----------------|----------------|------------------------------|
|  | <b>First</b>                                 | <b>Second</b>  | <b>Third</b>   | <b>Fourth</b>                |
|  | <b>quarter</b>                               | <b>quarter</b> | <b>quarter</b> | <b>quarter<sup>(2)</sup></b> |
|  | <b>(in thousands, except per share data)</b> |                |                |                              |
| Net sales                              | \$ 98,657                                    | \$ 96,976      | \$ 142,229     | \$ 164,859                   |
| Gross profit                           | 36,312                                       | 36,356         | 51,277         | 63,317                       |
| Income (loss) from operations          | (115)  | 12             | 11,693         | 16,596                       |
| Net income (loss)                      | (632)  | (568)          | 1,093          | 9,388                        |
| Basic income (loss) per common share   | (0.05)                                       | (0.04)         | 0.09           | 0.73                         |
| Diluted income (loss) per common share | (0.05)                                       | (0.04)         | 0.08           | 0.72                         |

|                                 | <b>Year ended December 31, 2012</b>          |                |                |                              |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------|----------------|------------------------------|
|                                 | <b>First</b>                                 | <b>Second</b>  | <b>Third</b>   | <b>Fourth</b>                |
|                                 | <b>quarter</b>                               | <b>quarter</b> | <b>quarter</b> | <b>quarter<sup>(1)</sup></b> |
|                                 | <b>(in thousands, except per share data)</b> |                |                |                              |
| Net sales                       | \$ 109,041                                   | \$ 94,939      | \$ 128,050     | \$ 154,812                   |
| Gross profit                    | 40,460                                       | 35,374         | 44,909         | 56,045                       |
| Income from operations          | 3,232  | 2,153          | 7,411          | 14,539                       |
| Net income                      | 1,344  | 559            | 3,890          | 15,154                       |
| Basic income per common share   | 0.11   | 0.04           | 0.31           | 1.21                         |
| Diluted income per common share | 0.11   | 0.04           | 0.30           | 1.19                         |

Note:

- (1) The fourth quarter ended December 31, 2012 reflects an income tax benefit for a non-cash adjustment of \$2.3 million to a deferred tax liability related to the prior year fourth quarter.
- (2) The fourth quarter December 31, 2013 reflects a non-operating adjustment of \$1,053 to reduce accounts receivable for previously issued credits with respect to the Retail Direct business which related to 2010 and earlier periods.

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

None

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### **Item 9A. Controls and Procedures**

#### **Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

The Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer of the Company (its principal executive officer and principal financial officer, respectively) have concluded, based on their evaluation as of December 31, 2013, that the Company's controls and procedures are effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in the reports filed by it under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms, and include controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in such reports is accumulated and communicated to the Company's management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the Company, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

#### **Changes in Internal Controls**

There were no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the Company's most recent fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

#### **Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

Management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for performing an assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2013. Internal control over financial reporting is defined in Rule 13a-15(f) or 15d-15(f) promulgated under the Exchange Act as a process designed by, or under the supervision of, the Company's principle executive and principal financial officers and effected by the Company's Board of Directors, management and other personnel, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that:

Pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the Company;

Provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and that receipts and expenditures of the Company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the Company; and

Provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of the Company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

All internal control systems, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations. Because of the inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of

changes in conditions or the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate. Accordingly, even those systems determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation.

Management performed an assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2013 using the criteria set forth in the Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (1992 framework). Based on this assessment, management has determined that the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2013 is effective.

The effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2013 has been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report.



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**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of Lifetime Brands, Inc.

We have audited Lifetime Brands, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2013, based on criteria established in Internal Control – Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (1992 framework) (the COSO criteria). Lifetime Brands, Inc.'s management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, Lifetime Brands, Inc. maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2013 based on the COSO criteria.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of Lifetime Brands, Inc. as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, and the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2013 of Lifetime Brands, Inc. and our report dated March 14, 2014 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ ERNST & YOUNG LLP

Jericho, New York

March 14, 2014

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**Item 9B. Other Information**

Not applicable.

**PART III**

**Items 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14**

The information required under these items is contained in the Company's 2014 Proxy Statement, which will be filed with the SEC within 120 days after the close of the Company's fiscal year covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K and is herein incorporated by reference.

**Table of Contents****PART IV****Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules**

(a) See Financial Statements and Financial Statement Schedule on page F-1.

(b) Exhibits\*:

**Exhibit**

| <b>No.</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|------------|--|
| 3.1        | Second Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005)   |
| 3.2        | Amended and Restated By-Laws of the Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 18, 2013)   |
| 4.1        | Indenture dated as of June 27, 2006, Lifetime Brands, Inc. as issuer, and HSBC Bank USA, National Association as trustee, \$75,000,000 4.75% Convertible Senior Notes due 2011 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to Amendment No. 1 to the Registrant's registration statement No. 333-137575 on Form S-3) |
| 10.1       | License agreement dated December 14, 1989 between the Company and Farberware, Inc. (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's registration statement No. 33-40154 on Form S-1)   |
| 10.2       | Evan Miller employment agreement dated July 1, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.41 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2003)  |
| 10.3       | Evan Miller Amendment of Employment Agreement dated June 29, 2007 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed July 3, 2007)*   |
| 10.4       | Employment agreement dated May 2, 2006 between Lifetime Brands, Inc. and Jeffrey Siegel (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed May 8, 2006)*  |
| 10.5       | Amendment of Employment Agreement, dated August 10, 2009 by and between Lifetime Brands, Inc. and Jeffrey Siegel (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed August 12, 2009)*   |
| 10.6       | Second Amendment of Employment Agreement, dated November 9, 2010, by and between Lifetime Brands, Inc. and Jeffrey Siegel (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.32 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010)*  |
| 10.7       | Employment Agreement, dated March 4, 2011, by and between Lifetime Brands, Inc. and Jeffrey Siegel (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed March 8, 2011)*   |
| 10.8       | First Amendment to Employment Agreement, dated April 30, 2012, between Lifetime Brands, Inc. and Jeffrey Siegel (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K  |

filed April 30, 2012)\*

- 10.9 Lease agreement dated as of May 10, 2006 between AG Metropolitan Endo, L.L.C and Lifetime Brands, Inc. for the property located at 1000 Stewart Avenue in Garden City, New York (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Current Reports on Form 8-K filed May 15, 2006)\*
- 10.10 First Amendment to the Lease Agreement dated as of May 10, 2006 between AG Metropolitan Endo, L.L.C and Lifetime Brands, Inc. for the property located at 1000 Stewart Avenue in Garden City, New York (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2006)

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- 10.11 Amended 2000 Long-Term Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed June 9, 2006)\*
- 10.12 Amendment to the Lifetime Brands, Inc. 2000 Long-Term Incentive Plan dated November 1, 2007 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed November 5, 2007)\*
- 10.13 Amendment of the Lifetime Brands, Inc. 2000 Long-Term Incentive Plan dated June 11, 2009 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed June 12, 2009)\*
- 10.14 Amended 2000 Incentive Bonus Compensation Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed June 9, 2006)\*
- 10.15 Employment agreement dated June 28, 2007 between Lifetime Brands, Inc. and Laurence Winoker (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed July 3, 2007)\*
- 10.16 Amendment to Employment Agreement, dated March 8, 2010, between Lifetime Brands, Inc. and Laurence Winoker (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed March 10, 2010)\*
- 10.17 Amendment of Employment Agreement, dated April 12, 2012, between Lifetime Brands, Inc. and Laurence Winoker (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed April 16, 2012)\*
- 10.18 Shares Subscription Agreement by and among Lifetime Brands, Inc., Ekco, S.A.B. and Mr. José Ramón Elizondo Anaya and Mr. Miguel Ángel Huerta Pando, dated as of June 8, 2007 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed June 11, 2007)
- 10.19 Amendment No.1 dated September 5, 2007 to the Shares Subscription Agreement by and among Lifetime Brands, Inc., Ekco, S.A.B. and Mr. José Ramón Elizondo Anaya and Mr. Miguel Ángel Huerta Pando, dated as of June 8, 2007 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.17 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008)
- 10.20 Amendment No. 2 dated September 25, 2008 to the Shares Subscription Agreement by and among Lifetime Brands, Inc., Ekco, S.A.B. and Mr. José Ramón Elizondo Anaya and Mr. Miguel Ángel Huerta Pando, dated as of June 8, 2007 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.21 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008)
- 10.21 Lease Agreement between Granite Sierra Park LP and Lifetime Brands, Inc. dated June 29, 2007 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed July 6, 2007)
- 10.22 Amendment No. 2 to Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement by and among Lifetime Brands, Inc., Lenders party hereto, Citibank, N.A. and Wachovia Bank, National Association, as Co-Documentation Agents, JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Syndication Agent, and HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Administrative Agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K/A dated April 22, 2008)
- 10.23 Amendment No. 3 to the Company's Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, September 29, 2008 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed September 30, 2008)

- 10.24 Forbearance Agreement and Amendment No. 4, dated as of February 12, 2009, by and among Lifetime Brands, Inc., the several financial institutions parties thereto and HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Administrative Agent for the Lenders (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed February 19, 2009)

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- 10.25 Amendment to Forbearance Agreement and Amendment No. 4, dated as of March 6, 2009, by and among Lifetime Brands, Inc., the several financial institutions parties thereto and HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Administrative Agent for the Lenders (incorporated by reference to the Exhibit 99.1 to Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed March 10, 2009)
- 10.26 Waiver and Amendment No. 5 to Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of March 31, 2009, by and among Lifetime Brands, Inc., the several financial institutions parties thereto and HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Administrative Agent for the Lenders (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.25 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008)
- 10.27 Amendment No. 6 to Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of October 30, 2009, by and among Lifetime Brands, Inc., the several financial institutions parties thereto and HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Administrative Agent for the Lenders (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed November 2, 2009)
- 10.28 Amendment No. 7 to Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement by and among Lifetime Brands, Inc., Lenders party hereto, Citibank, N.A. and Wachovia Bank, National Association, as Co-Documentation Agents, JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Syndication Agent, and HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Administrative Agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed February 12, 2010)
- 10.29 Waiver to the Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of October 13, 2009, by and among Lifetime Brands, Inc., the several financial institutions parties thereto and HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Administrative Agent and Co-Collateral Agent for the Lenders (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed October 16, 2009)
- 10.30 Asset Purchase Agreement between Mikasa, Inc. and Lifetime Brands, Inc. dated June, 6 2008 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Form 10-Q dated June 30, 2008)
- 10.31 Amended and Restated Employment Agreement, dated August 10, 2009 by and between Lifetime Brands, Inc. and Ronald Shiftan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed August 12, 2009)\*
- 10.32 Amendment of Amended and Restated Employment Agreement, dated November 9, 2010, by and between Lifetime Brands, Inc. and Ronald Shiftan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.33 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010)\*
- 10.33 Second Amended and Restated Employment Agreement, dated as of December 20, 2012, by and between Lifetime Brands, Inc. and Ronald Shiftan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed December 21, 2012)\*
- 10.34 Termination of Lease and Sublease Agreement dated December 1, 2009 by and between Crispus Attucks Association of York, Pennsylvania, Inc. and Lifetime Brands, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed December 2, 2009)
- 10.35 Amended and Restated Executive Employment Agreement, dated March 8, 2010, between Lifetime Brands, Inc. and Craig Phillips (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 10, 2010)\*
- 10.36 Credit Agreement, dated as of June 9, 2010, among Lifetime Brands, Inc., JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as administrative agent and a co-collateral agent, and HSBC Business Credit (USA) Inc., as syndication agent and a co-collateral agent, with exhibits (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's



Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2013)

- 10.37 Second Lien Credit Agreement, dated as of June 9, 2010, among Lifetime Brands, Inc. and Citibank, N.A., as administrative agent and collateral agent, with exhibits (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed June 15, 2010)

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- 10.38 Amendment No. 1 to the Second Lien Credit Agreement, dated as of March 9, 2011, among Lifetime Brands, Inc. and Citibank, N.A., as administrative agent and collateral agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.34 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010)
- 10.39 Amendment No. 2 of the Second Lien Credit Agreement, dated as of October 28, 2011, by and among Lifetime Brands, Inc. and Citibank, N.A., as administrative agent and collateral agent, with exhibits (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed November 3, 2011)
- 10.40 Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of October 28, 2011, by and among Lifetime Brands, Inc., the Foreign Subsidiary Borrowers parties thereto, the Other Loan Parties hereto, the Lenders party hereto JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent and a Co-Collateral Agent, and HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Syndication Agent and a Co-Collateral Agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2013)
- 10.41 Share Purchase Agreement, dated November 4, 2011, by and among Lifetime Brands, Inc. and Creative Tops Holding Limited and Creative Tops Far East Limited (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed November 8, 2011)
- 10.42 Senior Secured Credit Agreement, dated as of July 27, 2012, among Lifetime Brands, Inc., the Subsidiary Guarantors, the Lenders and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent and Collateral Agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2013)
- 10.43 Amendment No. 1 to the Senior Secured Credit Agreement, dated as of November 13, 2012, among Lifetime Brands, Inc., the Subsidiary Guarantors party thereto, the Swap Agreement Counterparty, the financial institutions party thereto and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.3 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed June 27, 2013)
- 10.44 Amendment No. 2 to the Senior Secured Credit Agreement, dated as of June 21, 2013, among Lifetime Brands, Inc., the Subsidiary Guarantors party thereto, the financial institutions party thereto and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed June 27, 2013)
- 10.45 Share Purchase Agreement, dated January 15, 2014, relating to Thomas Plant (Birmingham) Limited (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed January 17, 2014)
- 10.46 Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of January 13, 2014, among Lifetime Brands, Inc., as Borrower, The Subsidiary Guarantors Party Thereto, as Subsidiary Guarantors, The Lenders Party Thereto and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent and a Co-Collateral Agent, and HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Syndication Agent and a Co-Collateral Agent, with exhibits. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.3 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed January 17, 2014)
- 14.1 Code of Ethics dated February 28, 2013 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 14.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed March 6, 2013)
- 18.1 Letter from Ernst & Young LLP stating an acceptable change in accounting method for the impairment of goodwill dated October 28, 2008 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 18 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September, 30 2008)

- 21.1 Subsidiaries of the registrant
- 23.1 Consent of Ernst & Young LLP
- 23.2 Consent of Castillo Miranda Y Compañía, S.C.

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|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 31.1    | Certification by Jeffrey Siegel, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors, pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002  |
| 31.2    | Certification by Laurence Winoker, Senior Vice President Finance, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002                                |
| 32.1    | Certification by Jeffrey Siegel, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors, and Laurence Winoker, Senior Vice President Finance, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 99.1    | Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B. (formerly Ekco, S.A.B.), Report of Independent Registered Accounting Firm  |
| 99.2    | Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B. (formerly Ekco, S.A.B.), separate financial statements and Report of Independent Registered Accounting Firm (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2012)                                  |
| 101.INS | XBRL Instance Document  |
| 101.SCH | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document   |
| 101.DEF | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document  |
| 101.CAL | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document   |
| 101.LAB | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Labels Linkbase Document  |
| 101.PRE | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document  |

Notes to exhibits:

The Company will furnish a copy of any of the exhibits listed above upon payment of \$5.00 per exhibit to cover the cost of the Company furnishing the exhibit.

\* Compensatory plans in which the directors and executive officers of the Company participate.

(c) Financial Statement Schedules the response to this portion of Item 15 is submitted as a separate section of this report.

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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.

Lifetime Brands, Inc.

/s/ Jeffrey Siegel  
 Jeffrey Siegel  
 Chairman of the Board of Directors,  
 Chief Executive Officer and Director  
 Date: March 14, 2014

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

| <b>Signature</b>     | <b>Title</b>  | <b>Date</b>    |
|----------------------|---|----------------|
| /s/ Jeffrey Siegel   | Chairman of the Board of Directors,   | March 14, 2014 |
| Jeffrey Siegel       | Chief Executive Officer and Director<br>(Principal Executive Officer)                 |                |
| /s/ Ronald Shiftan   | Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors,  | March 14, 2014 |
| Ronald Shiftan       | Chief Operating Officer and Director  |                |
| /s/ Laurence Winoker | Senior Vice President Finance,  | March 14, 2014 |
| Laurence Winoker     | Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer<br>(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer) |                |
| /s/ Craig Phillips   | Senior Vice-President Distribution and Director                                       | March 14, 2014 |
| Craig Phillips       |   |                |
| /s/ David Dangoor    | Director  | March 14, 2014 |
| David Dangoor        |   |                |
| /s/ Michael Jeary    | Director  | March 14, 2014 |
| Michael Jeary        |   |                |

|                         |          |                |
|-------------------------|----------|----------------|
| /s/ John Koegel         | Director | March 14, 2014 |
| John Koegel             |          |                |
| /s/ Cherrie Nanninga    | Director | March 14, 2014 |
| Cherrie Nanninga        |          |                |
| /s/ Dennis Reaves       | Director | March 14, 2014 |
| Dennis Reaves           |          |                |
| /s/ Michael Regan       | Director | March 14, 2014 |
| Michael Regan           |          |                |
| /s/ William Westerfield | Director | March 14, 2014 |
| William Westerfield     |          |                |

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**Item 15**

**LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.**

**LIST OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULE**

The following consolidated financial statements of Lifetime Brands, Inc. are filed as part of this report under Item 8 *Financial Statements and Supplementary Data*.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>   | F-2 |
| <u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2013 and 2012</u>  | F-3 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Operations for the Years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011</u>           | F-4 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the Years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011</u>  | F-5 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for the Years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011</u> | F-6 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Years ended December 31, 2013, 2012, and 2011</u>           | F-7 |
| <u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>  | F-8 |

The following consolidated financial statement schedule of Lifetime Brands, Inc. required pursuant to Item 15(a) is submitted herewith:

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <u>Schedule II Valuation and Qualifying Accounts</u> | S-1 |
|--|-----|

All other financial schedules are not required under the related instructions or are inapplicable, and therefore have been omitted.

The unaudited supplementary data regarding quarterly results of operations are incorporated by reference to the information set forth in Item 8 *Financial Statements and Supplementary Data*.

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**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of Lifetime Brands, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Lifetime Brands, Inc. (the Company) as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, and the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2013. Our audits also included the financial statement schedule listed in the Index at Item 15(a). These financial statements and schedule are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and schedule based on our audits. We did not audit the consolidated financial statements of Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B. and Subsidiaries (a corporation in which the Company has a 30% interest), which statements have been audited by other auditors whose report has been furnished to us, and our opinion on the consolidated financial statements, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B. and Subsidiaries, is based solely on the report of the other auditors. In the consolidated financial statements, the Company's investment in Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B. and Subsidiaries is stated at \$30.5 million and \$36.4 million at December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively, and the Company's equity in the net income (loss) of Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B. and Subsidiaries is stated at (\$4.0) million for the year ended December 31, 2013, \$6.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2012 and \$2.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2011.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits and the report of other auditors provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, based on our audits and the report of other auditors, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Lifetime Brands, Inc. at December 31, 2013 and 2012, and the consolidated results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2013, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Also, in our opinion, the related financial statement schedule, when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole, presents fairly in all material respects the information set forth therein.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), Lifetime Brands, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2013, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (1992 framework) and our report dated March 14, 2014 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ ERNST & YOUNG LLP

Jericho, New York

March 14, 2014





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**LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.**  
**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

(in thousands-except share data)

|  | <b>December 31,</b> |                   |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|
|  | <b>2013</b>         | <b>2012</b>       |
| <b>ASSETS</b>  |                     |                   |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>  |                     |                   |
| Cash and cash equivalents  | \$ 4,947            | \$ 1,871          |
| Accounts receivable, less allowances of \$5,209 at December 31, 2013 and \$3,996 at December 31, 2012  | 87,217              | 97,369            |
| Inventory (Note M)   | 112,791             | 104,584           |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets  | 5,781               | 5,393             |
| Deferred income taxes (Note I)   | 3,940               | 3,542             |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>  | <b>214,676</b>      | <b>212,759</b>    |
| <b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, net (Note M)</b>  | <b>27,698</b>       | <b>31,646</b>     |
| <b>INVESTMENTS (Note C)</b>  | <b>36,948</b>       | <b>43,685</b>     |
| <b>INTANGIBLE ASSETS, net (Note D)</b>   | <b>55,149</b>       | <b>57,842</b>     |
| <b>OTHER ASSETS</b>  | <b>2,268</b>        | <b>2,865</b>      |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>  | <b>\$ 336,739</b>   | <b>\$ 348,797</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY</b>   |                     |                   |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>   |                     |                   |
| Revolving Credit Facility (Note E)   | \$                  | \$ 7,000          |
| Current maturity of Senior Secured Term Loan (Note E)  | 3,937               | 4,375             |
| Accounts payable   | 21,426              | 18,555            |
| Accrued expenses (Note M)  | 41,095              | 33,354            |
| Income taxes payable (Note I)  | 3,036               | 3,615             |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>   | <b>69,494</b>       | <b>66,899</b>     |
| <b>DEFERRED RENT &amp; OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES (Note M)</b>  | <b>18,644</b>       | <b>21,565</b>     |
| <b>DEFERRED INCOME TAXES (Note I)</b>  | <b>1,777</b>        | <b>3,510</b>      |
| <b>REVOLVING CREDIT FACILITY (Note E)</b>  | <b>49,231</b>       | <b>53,968</b>     |
| <b>SENIOR SECURED TERM LOAN (Note E)</b>   | <b>16,688</b>       | <b>30,625</b>     |
| <b>STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY</b>   |                     |                   |
| Preferred stock, \$.01 par value, shares authorized: 100 shares of Series A and 2,000,000 shares of Series B; none issued and outstanding                        |                     |                   |
| Common stock, \$.01 par value, shares authorized: 25,000,000; shares issued and outstanding: 12,777,407 at December 31, 2013 and 12,754,467 at December 31, 2012 | 128                 | 128               |
| Paid-in capital  | 146,273             | 142,489           |
| Retained earnings  | 38,224              | 33,849            |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss (Note M)  | (3,720)             | (4,236)           |

|  |                   |                   |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY                        | 180,905           | 172,230           |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY</b> | <b>\$ 336,739</b> | <b>\$ 348,797</b> |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

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**Table of Contents****LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS**

(in thousands except per share data)

|  | <b>Year Ended December 31,</b> |                  |                  |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|  | <b>2013</b>                    | <b>2012</b>      | <b>2011</b>      |
| Net sales  | \$ 502,721                     | \$ 486,842       | \$ 444,418       |
| Cost of sales                                      | 315,459                        | 310,054          | 282,058          |
| Gross margin                                       | 187,262                        | 176,788          | 162,360          |
| Distribution expenses                              | 44,364                         | 44,046           | 43,882           |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses       | 114,345                        | 104,338          | 93,894           |
| Restructuring expenses                             | 367                            |                  |                  |
| Intangible asset impairment (Note D)               |                                | 1,069            |                  |
| Income from operations                             | 28,186                         | 27,335           | 24,584           |
| Interest expense (Note E)                          | (4,847)                        | (5,898)          | (7,758)          |
| Loss on early retirement of debt (Note E)          | (102)                          | (1,363)          |                  |
| Income before income taxes and equity in earnings  | 23,237                         | 20,074           | 16,826           |
| Income tax provision (Note I)                      | (9,175)                        | (5,208)          | (6,122)          |
| Equity in (losses) earnings, net of taxes (Note C) | (4,781)                        | 6,081            | 3,362            |
| <b>NET INCOME</b>                                  | <b>\$ 9,281</b>                | <b>\$ 20,947</b> | <b>\$ 14,066</b> |
| <b>BASIC INCOME PER COMMON SHARE (NOTE H)</b>      | <b>\$ 0.73</b>                 | <b>\$ 1.67</b>   | <b>\$ 1.16</b>   |
| <b>DILUTED INCOME PER COMMON SHARE (NOTE H)</b>    | <b>\$ 0.71</b>                 | <b>\$ 1.64</b>   | <b>\$ 1.12</b>   |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

(in thousands)

|   | <b>Year ended December 31,</b> |             |             |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|   | <b>2013</b>                    | <b>2012</b> | <b>2011</b> |
| Net income  | \$ 9,281                       | \$ 20,947   | \$ 14,066   |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax:  |                                |             |             |
| Translation adjustment (Note M)   | (140)                          | 3,077       | (704)       |
| Deferred gains (losses) on cash flow hedges (Notes F & M):  |                                |             |             |
| Fair value adjustment, net of tax of \$160 in 2013 and tax benefit of \$182 in 2012   | 241                            | (272)       |             |
| Total deferred gains (losses) on cash flow hedges   | 241                            | (272)       |             |
| Effect of retirement benefit obligations (Note M):  |                                |             |             |
| Net income (loss) arising from retirement benefit obligations, net of tax benefit of \$241 in 2013 and tax of \$791 in 2012 | 361                            | (1,187)     |             |
| Less: amortization of loss included in net income, net of tax of \$36 in 2013 and \$18 in 2012                              | 54                             | 27          |             |
| Total effects of retirement benefit obligations   | 415                            | (1,160)     |             |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax   | 516                            | 1,645       | (704)       |
| Comprehensive income  | \$ 9,797                       | \$ 22,592   | \$ 13,362   |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY**

(in thousands)

|  | Common stock<br>Shares | Common stock<br>Amount | Paid-in<br>capital | Retained<br>earnings | Accumulated<br>other<br>comprehensive<br>loss | Total         |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---|---------------|
| <b>BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2010</b>  | 12,065                 | \$ 121                 | \$ 131,350         | \$ 1,312             | \$ (5,177)                                    | \$ 127,606    |
| Comprehensive income:  |                        |                        |                    |                      |   |               |
| Net income   |                        |                        |                    | 14,066               |   | 14,066        |
| Translation adjustment   |                        |                        |                    |                      | (704)   | (704)         |
| <b>Total comprehensive income</b>  |                        |                        |                    |                      |   | <b>13,362</b> |
| Shares issued to directors (Note G)  | 21                     |                        | 183                |                      |   | 183           |
| Stock compensation expense (Note G)  |                        |                        | 2,612              |                      |   | 2,612         |
| Issuance of 255,908 shares of common stock for acquisition of Creative Tops            | 256                    | 3                      | 3,097              |                      |   | 3,100         |
| Exercise of stock options  | 89                     |                        | 225                |                      |   | 225           |
| Dividends (Note G)   |                        |                        |                    | (913)                |   | (913)         |
| <b>BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2011</b>  | 12,431                 | 124                    | 137,467            | 14,465               | (5,881)                                       | 146,175       |
| Comprehensive income:  |                        |                        |                    |                      |   |               |
| Net income   |                        |                        |                    | 20,947               |   | 20,947        |
| Translation adjustment   |                        |                        |                    |                      | 3,077   | 3,077         |
| Derivative fair value adjustment (Note F)  |                        |                        |                    |                      | (272)   | (272)         |
| Effect of retirement benefit obligations   |                        |                        |                    |                      | (1,160)                                       | (1,160)       |
| <b>Total comprehensive income</b>  |                        |                        |                    |                      |   | <b>22,592</b> |
| Shares issued to directors (Note G)  | 23                     |                        | 267                |                      |   | 267           |
| Stock compensation expense (Note G)  |                        |                        | 2,526              |                      |   | 2,526         |
| Issuance of 143,568 shares of common stock for acquisition of Fred® & Friends (Note B) | 144                    | 1                      | 1,506              |                      |   | 1,507         |
| Tax benefit on exercise of stock options   |                        |                        | 150                |                      |   | 150           |
| Exercise of stock options  | 156                    | 3                      | 573                |                      |   | 576           |
| Dividends (Note G)   |                        |                        |                    | (1,563)              |   | (1,563)       |
| <b>BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2012</b>  | 12,754                 | 128                    | 142,489            | 33,849               | (4,236)                                       | 172,230       |
| Comprehensive income:  |                        |                        |                    |                      |   |               |
| Net income   |                        |                        |                    | 9,281                |   | 9,281         |
| Translation adjustment   |                        |                        |                    |                      | (140)   | (140)         |

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|  |               |               |                   |                  |                   |                   |
|--|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Derivative fair value adjustment (Note F)        |               |               |                   | 241              |                   | 241               |
| Effect of retirement benefit obligations         |               |               |                   | 415              |                   | 415               |
| Total comprehensive income                       |               |               |                   |                  |                   | 9,797             |
| Shares issued to directors (Note G)              | 21            |               |                   | 277              |                   | 277               |
| Stock compensation expense (Note G)              |               |               |                   | 2,604            |                   | 2,604             |
| Reduction of tax benefit from stock options, net |               |               |                   | (310)            |                   | (310)             |
| Exercise of stock options                        | 248           | 2             |                   | 1,213            |                   | 1,215             |
| Treasury Stock Repurchase                        | (246)         | (2)           |                   | (3,227)          |                   | (3,229)           |
| Dividends (Note G)                               |               |               |                   | (1,679)          |                   | (1,679)           |
| <b>BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2013</b>              | <b>12,777</b> | <b>\$ 128</b> | <b>\$ 146,273</b> | <b>\$ 38,224</b> | <b>\$ (3,720)</b> | <b>\$ 180,905</b> |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

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Table of Contents**LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS****(in thousands)**

|  | <b>Year ended December 31,</b> |                 |                 |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|  | <b>2013</b>                    | <b>2012</b>     | <b>2011</b>     |
| <b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>  |                                |                 |                 |
| Net income   | \$ 9,281                       | \$ 20,947       | \$ 14,066       |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:            |                                |                 |                 |
| Provision for doubtful accounts  | 139                            | 123             | (24)            |
| Depreciation and amortization  | 10,415                         | 9,324           | 8,397           |
| Amortization of debt discount  |                                |                 | 543             |
| Amortization of financing costs  | 528                            | 649             | 802             |
| Deferred rent  | (962)                          | (668)           | (133)           |
| Deferred income taxes  | (2,275)                        | (3,011)         | (1,218)         |
| Stock compensation expense   | 2,881                          | 2,793           | 2,795           |
| Undistributed equity earnings  | 5,354                          | (5,665)         | (2,896)         |
| Intangible asset impairment (Note D)   |                                | 1,069           |                 |
| Loss on early retirement of debt (Note E)  | 102                            | 1,363           |                 |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities (excluding the effects of business acquisitions) |                                |                 |                 |
| Accounts receivable  | 10,099                         | (14,741)        | 3,297           |
| Inventory  | (8,207)                        | 9,694           | (5,365)         |
| Prepaid expenses, other current assets and other assets                                      | (449)                          | (529)           | 318             |
| Accounts payable, accrued expenses and other liabilities                                     | 9,437                          | (166)           | (4,673)         |
| Income taxes payable   | (579)                          | 1,515           | (3,722)         |
| <b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>   | <b>35,764</b>                  | <b>22,697</b>   | <b>12,187</b>   |
| <b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>  |                                |                 |                 |
| Purchases of property and equipment  | (3,842)                        | (4,955)         | (4,959)         |
| Equity investments   |                                | (2,765)         | (5,123)         |
| Business acquisition, net of cash acquired   |                                | (14,500)        | (20,584)        |
| Net proceeds from sale of property   | 11                             | 27              | 31              |
| <b>NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>   | <b>(3,831)</b>                 | <b>(22,193)</b> | <b>(30,635)</b> |
| <b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>  |                                |                 |                 |
| Proceeds from Revolving Credit Facility (Note E)   | 220,222                        | 183,600         |                 |
| Repayments from Revolving Credit Facility (Note E)   | (231,959)                      | (180,257)       |                 |
| Proceeds from Revolving Credit Facility, net (Note E)  |                                |                 | 43,525          |
| Proceeds from Senior Secured Term Loan (Note E)  |                                | 35,000          |                 |
| Repayments from Senior Secured Term Loan (Note E)  | (14,375)                       |                 |                 |



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|  |                 |                 |                 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Repayments of Term Loan (Note E)                           | (40,000)        |                 |                 |
| Repurchase of 4.75% convertible senior notes               |                 | (24,100)        |                 |
| Payments for stock repurchase                              | (3,229)         |                 |                 |
| Financing Costs  |                 |                 | (761)           |
| Cash dividends paid (Note G)                               | (1,515)         | (1,249)         | (913)           |
| Payment of capital lease obligations                       |                 |                 | (78)            |
| Proceeds from the exercise of stock options                | 1,215           | 577             | 225             |
| Excess tax benefit from stock options                      | 613             | 150             |                 |
| <b>NET CASH (USED IN) PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b> | <b>(29,028)</b> | <b>(2,179)</b>  | <b>17,898</b>   |
| Effect of foreign exchange on cash                         | 171             | 574             | 171             |
| <b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>    | <b>3,076</b>    | <b>(1,101)</b>  | <b>(379)</b>    |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year             | 1,871           | 2,972           | 3,351           |
| <b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR</b>            | <b>\$ 4,947</b> | <b>\$ 1,871</b> | <b>\$ 2,972</b> |

See notes to consolidated financial statements

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**LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2013**

**NOTE A SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Organization and business**

Lifetime Brands, Inc. (the Company) designs, sources and sells branded kitchenware, tableware and other products used in the home and markets its products under a number of brand names and trademarks, which are either owned or licensed by the Company or through retailers private labels. The Company markets and sells its products principally on a wholesale basis to retailers. The Company also markets and sells a limited selection of its products directly to consumers through its Pfaltzgraff®, Mikasa®, Lifetime Sterling® and The English Table Internet websites.

**Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ( U.S. GAAP ) for financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-K.

The accompanying consolidated financial statements include estimates and assumptions relating to the reporting of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities to prepare these financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP. The most significant of these estimates and assumptions relate to revenue recognition, allowances for doubtful accounts, reserves for sales returns and allowances and customer chargebacks, inventory mark-down provisions, impairment of tangible and intangible assets, stock option expense, estimates for unpaid healthcare claims, derivative valuations, accruals related to the Company's tax positions and tax valuation allowances. Although these and other estimates and assumptions are based on the best available information, actual results could be materially different from these estimates.

**Principles of consolidation**

The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its subsidiaries. All intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

**Foreign Currency**

All foreign subsidiaries use the local currency of their respective countries as their functional currency. Assets and liabilities are translated into U.S. dollars at exchange rates prevailing at the balance sheet dates. Revenues, costs and expenses are translated into U.S. dollars at average exchange rates for the relevant period. Gains and losses resulting from translation are recorded as a component of accumulated other comprehensive gain (loss). Gains and losses from foreign currency transactions are recognized in selling, general and administrative expenses in the consolidated statements of operations. Foreign currency gain/loss was a \$258,000 loss in 2013, \$415,000 loss in 2012 and a \$28,000 gain in 2011.

**Revenue recognition**

The Company sells products wholesale, to retailers and distributors, and retail, directly to consumers. Wholesale sales and retail direct sales are recognized when title passes to the customer, which is primarily at the shipping point for Wholesale sales and upon delivery to the customer for retail direct sales. Shipping and handling fees that are billed to customers in sales transactions are included in net sales and amounted to \$1.4 million for each of the three years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011. Net sales exclude taxes that are collected from customers and remitted to the taxing authorities.

The Company offers various sales incentives and promotional programs to its customers from time to time in the normal course of business. These incentives and promotions typically include arrangements such as cooperative advertising, buydowns, volume rebates and discounts. These arrangements and an estimate of sales returns are reflected as reductions in net sales in the Company's consolidated statements of operations.

#### **Cost of sales**

Cost of sales consist primarily of costs associated with the production and procurement of product, inbound freight costs, purchasing costs, royalties and other product procurement related charges.

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**LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2013**

**Distribution expenses**

Distribution expenses consist primarily of warehousing expenses and freight-out expenses. Freight-out expenses were \$9.0 million, \$8.5 million and \$7.5 million for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively. Handling costs of products sold are included in cost of sales.

**Advertising expenses**

Advertising expenses are expensed as incurred and are included in selling, general and administrative expenses. Advertising expenses were \$757,000, \$775,000 and \$702,000 for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

**Accounts receivable**

The Company periodically reviews the collectability of its accounts receivable and establishes allowances for estimated losses that could result from the inability of its customers to make required payments. A considerable amount of judgment is required to assess the ultimate realization of these receivables including assessing the initial and on-going creditworthiness of the Company's customers. The Company also maintains an allowance for anticipated customer deductions. The allowances for deductions are primarily based on contracts with customers.

However, in certain cases the Company does not have a formal contract and, therefore, customer deductions are non-contractual. To evaluate the reasonableness of non-contractual customer deductions, the Company analyzes currently available information and historical trends of deductions.

**Inventory**

Inventory consists principally of finished goods sourced from third-party suppliers. Inventory also includes finished goods, work in process and raw materials related to the Company's manufacture of sterling silver products. Inventory is priced using the lower of cost (first-in, first-out basis) or market method. The Company estimates the selling price of its inventory on a product by product basis based on the current selling environment. If the estimated selling price is lower than the inventory's cost, the Company reduces the value of the inventory to its net realizable value.

**Property and equipment**

Property and equipment is stated at cost. Property and equipment, other than leasehold improvements, is depreciated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Building and improvements are being depreciated over 30 years and machinery, furniture and equipment over periods ranging from 3 to 10 years. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the term of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements, whichever is shorter. Advances paid towards the acquisition of property and equipment and the cost of property and equipment not ready for use before the end of the period are classified as construction in progress.

### **Cash equivalents**

The Company considers all highly liquid instruments with a maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents.

### **Concentration of credit risk**

The Company's cash and cash equivalents are potentially subject to concentration of credit risk. The Company maintains cash with several financial institutions that, in some cases, is in excess of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation insurance limits.

Concentrations of credit risk with respect to trade accounts receivable are limited due to the large number of entities comprising the Company's customer base.

During the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (including Sam's Club and Asda Superstore, in the United Kingdom) accounted for 15%, 16% and 15% of net sales, respectively. Sales to Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. are included in the Company's Wholesale segment. No other customer accounted for 10% or more of the Company's sales during these periods.

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**LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2013**

**Fair value measurements**

Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) Accounting Standards Codification ( ASC ) Topic No. 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, provides enhanced guidance for using fair value to measure assets and liabilities and establishes a common definition of fair value, provides a framework for measuring fair value under U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and expands disclosure requirements about fair value measurements. Fair value measurements included in the Company's consolidated financial statements relate to the Company's annual goodwill and other intangible asset impairment tests and derivatives, described in Notes D and F, respectively.

**Fair value of financial instruments**

The Company determined the carrying amounts of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable and accounts payable are reasonable estimates of their fair values because of their short-term nature. The Company determined that the carrying amounts of borrowings outstanding under its Revolving Credit Facility and Senior Secured Term Loan approximate fair value since such borrowings bear interest at variable market rates.

**Derivatives**

The Company accounts for derivative instruments in accordance with ASC Topic No. 815, *Derivatives and Hedging*. ASC Topic No. 815 requires that all derivative instruments be recognized on the balance sheet at fair value as either an asset or liability. Changes in the fair value of derivatives that qualify as hedges and have been designated as part of a hedging relationship for accounting purposes have no net impact on earnings to the extent the derivative is considered highly effective in achieving offsetting changes in fair value or cash flows attributable to the risk being hedged, until the hedge item is recognized in earnings. If the derivative which is designated as part of a hedging relationship is considered ineffective in achieving offsetting changes in fair value or cash flows attributable to the risk being hedged, the changes in fair value are recorded in operations. For derivatives that do not qualify or are not designated as hedging instruments for accounting purposes, changes in fair value are recorded in operations.

The Company is a party to interest rate swap agreements with an aggregate notional amount of \$29.8 million to manage interest rate exposure in connection with its variable interest rate borrowings. The hedge period in the agreements commenced in March 2013 and expires in June 2018 and the notional amount amortizes over this period. The interest rate swap agreements were designated as cash flow hedges under ASC Topic No. 815. The effective portion of the fair value gain or loss on these agreements are recorded as a component of accumulated other comprehensive loss. The effect of recording these derivatives at fair value resulted in an unrealized gain of \$241,000 and an unrealized loss of \$272,000, net of taxes, for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively. No amounts recorded in accumulated other comprehensive loss are expected to be reclassified to interest expense in the next twelve months.

**Goodwill, intangible assets and long-lived assets**

Goodwill and intangible assets deemed to have indefinite lives are not amortized but, instead, are subject to an annual impairment assessment. Additionally, if events or conditions were to indicate the carrying value of a reporting unit may not be recoverable, the company would evaluate goodwill and other intangible assets for impairment at that time. As it relates to the goodwill assessment, the Company first assesses qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount as a basis for determining whether it is necessary to perform the two-step goodwill impairment testing described in ASU Topic No. 350, *Intangibles Goodwill and Other*. The second step is a quantitative test to measures the amount of impairment if there is an indication from the first step that one exists. The Company also evaluates qualitative factors to determine whether or not its indefinite lived intangibles have been impaired and then performs quantitative tests if required. These tests can include the royalty savings model or other valuation models.

Long-lived assets, including intangible assets deemed to have finite lives, are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that such assets may have been impaired. Impairment indicators include, among other conditions, cash flow deficits, historic or anticipated declines in revenue or operating profit or material adverse changes in the business climate that indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may be impaired. When impairment indicators are present, the Company compares the carrying value of the assets to the estimated discounted future cash flows expected to be generated by the assets. If the assets are considered to be impaired, the impairment to be recognized is measured by the amount by which the carrying amount of the assets exceeds the fair value of the assets. The Company considered indicators of impairment of its long-lived assets and determined that no such indicators were present at December 31, 2013.

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**LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2013**

**Income taxes**

The Company accounts for income taxes using the asset and liability method. Under this method, deferred tax assets and liabilities are determined based on differences between financial reporting and tax bases of assets and liabilities and are measured using the enacted tax rates and laws that are expected to be in effect when the differences are expected to reverse. The Company accounts for foreign income taxes based upon anticipated reinvestment of profits into respective foreign tax jurisdictions.

The Company applies the authoritative guidance for the financial statement recognition, measurement and disclosure of uncertain tax positions recognized in the Company's financial statements. In accordance with this guidance, tax positions must meet a more-likely-than-not recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position. A valuation allowance is required to be established or maintained when it is more likely than not that all or a portion of deferred tax assets will not be realized.

**Stock options**

The Company measures compensation expense for all share-based compensation granted to employees and non-employee directors at fair value on the date of grant and recognizes compensation expense over the related service period for awards expected to vest. The Company uses the Black-Scholes option valuation model to estimate the fair value of its stock options. The Black-Scholes option valuation model requires the input of highly subjective assumptions including the expected stock price volatility of the Company's common stock and the risk free interest rate.

**Employee Healthcare**

The Company self-insures certain portions of its health insurance plan. The Company maintains an accrual for estimated unpaid claims and claims incurred but not yet reported ( IBNR ). Although management believes that it uses the best information available to estimate IBNR claims, actual claims may vary significantly from estimated claims.

**Restructuring Expenses**

Costs associated with restructuring activities are recorded at fair value when a liability has been incurred. A liability has been incurred at the point of closure for any remaining operating lease obligations and at the communication date for severance.

In April 2013, the Company commenced a plan to close the Fred® & Friends distribution center and eliminate certain employee positions in conjunction with the closure. The Company recorded \$367,000 of restructuring expenses during the year ended December 31, 2013 related to the execution of this plan. The Company does not anticipate that it will incur any further restructuring expenses related to this closure.



## **New Accounting Pronouncements**

In July 2012, the FASB issued ASU No. 2012-02, *Intangibles - Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Testing Indefinite-Lived Intangible Assets for Impairment*, which permits an entity to first assess qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount as a basis for determining whether it is necessary to perform the quantitative impairment test described in ASC Topic No. 350, *Intangibles - Goodwill and Other*. The amendments in this update are effective for annual and interim impairment tests performed for fiscal years beginning after September 15, 2012. The Company's adoption of this guidance did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Effective January 2013, the Company adopted ASU No. 2013-02, *Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): Reporting of Amounts Reclassified Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income*, which requires an entity to provide information about the amounts reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive income by component. In addition, an entity is required to present, either on the face of the statement where net income is presented or in the notes, significant amounts reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive income by the respective line items of net income but only if the amount reclassified is required under GAAP to be reclassified to net income in its entirety in the same reporting period. For other amounts that are not required under GAAP to be reclassified in their entirety to net income (e.g., net periodic pension benefit cost), an entity is required to cross-reference to other disclosures required under GAAP that provide additional detail about those amounts. In connection with the adoption of this standard, the Company added additional disclosure about the Company's accumulated other comprehensive income to Note M of its financial statements.

Table of Contents**LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****DECEMBER 31, 2013****NOTE B ACQUISITIONS****Fred® & Friends**

On December 20, 2012, the Company acquired the Fred® & Friends ( F&F ). F&F designs and distributes novelty housewares under the Fred® brand directly to retailers throughout the United States and Canada. The assets, liabilities and operating results of F&F have been reflected in the Company's consolidated financial statements in accordance with ASC Topic No. 805, *Business Combinations*, commencing from the acquisition date and did not significantly impact the Company's consolidated financial results for the year ended December 31, 2012.

The purchase price was comprised of the following (in thousands):

|                                   |               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Cash paid                         | \$ 14,500     |
| Common stock issued               | 1,507         |
| Value of contingent consideration | 5,370         |
| <br>Total purchase price          | <br>\$ 21,377 |

The cash portion of the purchase price was funded by borrowings under the Company's credit facility ( Revolving Credit Facility ). The value of contingent consideration represents the present value of estimated contingent payments of \$4.0 million related to the attainment of certain gross contribution targets for the years 2013 through 2016 and the present value of the contractual holdback amount of \$1.4 million, which serves as security for payments in satisfaction of any claim. The maximum undiscounted deferred and contingent consideration to be paid under the agreement is \$7.7 million. See Note M for amounts accrued as of December 31, 2013 related to contingent consideration.

The purchase price has been allocated based on management's estimate of the fair value of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed, as follows (in thousands):

|                                    | Purchase<br>Price<br>Allocation |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Accounts receivable <sup>(1)</sup> | \$ 5,003                        |
| Inventory                          | 3,941                           |
| Other assets                       | 360                             |
| Other liabilities                  | (1,519)                         |
| Goodwill and other intangibles     | 13,592                          |

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Total allocated value | \$ 21,377 |
|-----------------------|-----------|

Note:

(1) The fair value of accounts receivable approximated the gross contractual amounts receivable. On the basis of estimated fair values, the excess of the purchase price over the net assets acquired of \$13.6 million has been allocated as follows: \$7.2 million for customer relationships, \$3.9 million for trade names and \$2.5 million for goodwill. The goodwill recognized results from such factors as an assembled workforce and the value of other synergies expected from combining operations with the Company. The total amount of goodwill is expected to be deductible for tax purposes. All of the goodwill and other intangibles are included in the Wholesale segment. Customer relationships and trade names are amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives (see Note D).

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**Table of Contents****LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****DECEMBER 31, 2013****Creative Tops**

On November 4, 2011, the Company acquired 100% of the share capital of each of Creative Tops Holdings Limited and Creative Tops Far East Limited (collectively, Creative Tops) for £14.8 million (\$23.7 million) of consideration, comprised of cash in the amount of £12.9 million (\$20.6 million) and 255,908 shares of common stock with a value of £1.9 million (\$3.1 million). Creative Tops is a leading UK-based supplier of private label and branded tableware and kitchenware products. The purpose of this acquisition was to expand the Company's sale of products into Europe including growth in the sales of the traditional products of Creative Tops and new branded product offerings. The assets, liabilities and operating results of Creative Tops are reflected in the Company's consolidated financial statements in accordance with ASC Topic No. 805, *Business Combinations*, commencing from the acquisition date.

**NOTE C EQUITY INVESTMENTS**

The Company owns approximately 30% of the outstanding capital stock of Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B. (Vasconia) an integrated manufacturer of aluminum products and one of Mexico's largest housewares companies. Shares of Vasconia's capital stock are traded on the Bolsa Mexicana de Valores, the Mexican Stock Exchange ([www.bmv.com.mx](http://www.bmv.com.mx)). The Quotation Key is VASCONI. The Company accounts for its investment in Vasconia using the equity method of accounting and records its proportionate share of Vasconia's net income in the Company's statement of operations. Accordingly, the Company has recorded its proportionate share of Vasconia's net income (reduced for amortization expense related to the customer relationships acquired) for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011 in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations. The value of the Company's investment balance has been translated from Mexican Pesos (MXN) to U.S. Dollars (USD) using the spot rate of MXN 13.06 and MXN 12.97 at December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively. The Company's proportionate share of Vasconia's net income has been translated from MXN to USD using the average exchange rates of MXN 12.46 to 13.01, MXN 12.94 to 13.51 and MXN 11.74 to 13.62 during the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively. The effect of the translation of the Company's investment resulted in a (decrease) increase of the investment of \$(0.3) million, \$2.7 million and \$(0.5) million during the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively. These translation effects are recorded in accumulated other comprehensive loss. The Company received cash dividends of \$571,000, \$416,000 and \$466,000 from Vasconia during the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively. Included in prepaid expenses and other current assets at December 31, 2012 are amounts due from Vasconia of \$71,000. Included within accrued expenses at December 31, 2013 are amounts due to Vasconia of \$152,000.

Summarized income statement information for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011, as well as summarized balance sheet information as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, for Vasconia in USD and MXN is as follows:

**Year Ended December 31,**

| <b>Income Statement</b> | <b>2013</b> |              | <b>2012</b>    |              | <b>2011</b> |              |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|                         |             |              | (in thousands) |              |             |              |
|                         | USD         | MXN          | USD            | MXN          | USD         | MXN          |
| Net Sales               | \$ 159,574  | \$ 2,038,200 | \$ 168,712     | \$ 2,224,256 | \$ 132,310  | \$ 1,647,479 |
| Gross Profit            | 28,775      | 367,944      | 38,134         | 497,413      | 38,143      | 476,501      |
| Income from operations  | 5,438       | 70,430       | 14,614         | 192,182      | 17,254      | 216,715      |
| Net Income              | 4,315       | 55,077       | 34,172         | 443,630      | 11,395      | 142,698      |

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Table of Contents**LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****DECEMBER 31, 2013**

| <b>Balance Sheet</b>    | <b>December 31,</b>   |              |             |              |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|                         | <b>2013</b>           |              | <b>2012</b> |              |
|                         | <b>(in thousands)</b> |              |             |              |
|                         | <b>USD</b>            | <b>MXN</b>   | <b>USD</b>  | <b>MXN</b>   |
| Current assets          | \$ 100,227            | \$ 1,309,210 | \$ 106,953  | \$ 1,386,731 |
| Non-current assets      | 75,659                | 988,289      | 75,511      | 979,059      |
| Current liabilities     | 26,187                | 342,060      | 29,282      | 379,663      |
| Non-current liabilities | 39,033                | 509,868      | 44,405      | 575,746      |

The Company recorded equity in (losses) earnings of Vasconia, net of taxes, of \$(4.0) million, \$6.9 million and \$2.9 million for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively. Equity in losses in 2013 includes a charge of \$5.0 million, net of tax, for the reduction in Vasconia's fair value, as discussed in the following paragraph. Equity in earnings of Vasconia in 2012 includes \$4.1 million related to the Company's portion of a bargain purchase gain recognized by Vasconia on its purchase of Almexa, an aluminum mill and manufacturer of aluminum foil, a \$1.1 million tax benefit realized in the period and the reduction of the Company's investment to fair value of \$1.3 million, net of tax.

In 2013, as a result of a decline in the quoted stock price and the 2013 quarterly decline in the operating results of Vasconia, the carrying amount of the Company's investment in Vasconia exceeded its fair value and, therefore, the Company reduced its investment value by \$5.0 million during the year ended December 31, 2013, net of tax, to its fair value.

In 2012, as a result of recording the bargain purchase gain and a corresponding increase in the investment, the Company determined it was necessary to perform an impairment test on its investment in Vasconia as of December 31, 2012. The test involved the assessment of the fair value of the Company's investment in Vasconia based on Level 1 quoted prices in active markets. The result of the assessment of the Company's investment in Vasconia indicated that the carrying amount of the investment exceeded its quoted fair value and, therefore, was required to be reduced by \$1.3 million, net of tax.

As of December 31, 2013, the fair value (based upon the quoted stock price) of the Company's investment in Vasconia was \$35.2 million. The carrying value of the Company's investment in Vasconia was \$30.5 million.

The Company owns a 40% equity interest in GS Internacional S/A (GSI), a leading wholesale distributor of branded housewares products in Brazil, which the Company acquired in December 2011. The Company recorded equity in losses of GSI, net of taxes, of \$656,000 and \$727,000 for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively. The operating results of GSI were not significant during the period of December 9, 2011 through December 31, 2011. As of December 31, 2013, the carrying value of the Company's investment in GSI was \$6.0 million.

The Company, together with Vasconia and unaffiliated partners, formed Housewares Corporation of Asia Limited (HCA), a Hong Kong-based company, to supply direct import kitchenware products to retailers in North, Central and South America. The Company initially invested \$105,000 for a 40% equity interest in this entity during 2011.

The operating results of HCA were not significant through December 31, 2013. As of December 31, 2013, the carrying value of the Company's investment in HCA was \$144,000.

In February 2012, the Company entered into Grand Venture Holdings Limited ( Grand Venture ), a joint venture with Manweal Development Limited ( Manweal ), a Chinese corporation, to distribute Mikas products in China, which included an initial investment of \$500,000. The Company and Manweal each own 50% of Grand Venture and have rights and obligations proportionate to their ownership percentage. The Company accounts for its investment in Grand Venture using the equity method of accounting and has recorded its proportionate share of Grand Venture's net loss as equity in earnings in the Company's consolidated statements of operations. The Company recorded equity in losses of the joint venture of \$83,000 and \$125,000 for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively. As of December 31, 2013, the carrying value of the Company's investment in Grand Venture was \$0.3 million.

Table of Contents**LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****DECEMBER 31, 2013**

The Company evaluated the disclosure requirements of ASC Topic No. 860, *Transfers and Servicing*, and determined that at December 31, 2013, the Company did not have a controlling voting interest or variable interest in any of its investments and therefore continued accounting for the investments using the equity method of accounting.

**NOTE D GOODWILL AND INTANGIBLE ASSETS**

The Company's intangible assets, all of which are included in the Wholesale segment, consist of the following (in thousands):

|  | Year Ended December 31, |                             |                  |                  |                             |                  |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
|  | 2013                    |                             |                  | 2012             |                             |                  |
|  | Gross                   | Accumulated<br>Amortization | Net              | Gross            | Accumulated<br>Amortization | Net              |
| <b>Goodwill</b>                            | \$ 5,085                | \$                          | \$ 5,085         | \$ 5,085         | \$                          | \$ 5,085         |
| <b>Indefinite-lived intangible assets:</b> |                         |                             |                  |                  |                             |                  |
| Trade names                                | 18,364                  |                             | 18,364           | 18,364           |                             | 18,364           |
| <b>Finite-lived intangible assets:</b>     |                         |                             |                  |                  |                             |                  |
| Licenses                                   | 15,847                  | (7,551)                     | 8,296            | 15,847           | (7,096)                     | 8,751            |
| Trade names                                | 10,056                  | (2,677)                     | 7,379            | 10,056           | (1,800)                     | 8,256            |
| Customer relationships                     | 18,406                  | (2,736)                     | 15,670           | 18,406           | (1,409)                     | 16,997           |
| Patents                                    | 584                     | (229)                       | 355              | 584              | (195)                       | 389              |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>\$ 68,342</b>        | <b>\$ (13,193)</b>          | <b>\$ 55,149</b> | <b>\$ 68,342</b> | <b>\$ (10,500)</b>          | <b>\$ 57,842</b> |

The Company performed its 2013 annual impairment tests for its indefinite-lived intangible assets as of October 1, 2013. The test, which is required to be performed annually, involved the assessment of the fair market value of the Company's indefinite-lived intangible assets based on Level 2 observable inputs, using a discounted cash flow approach, assuming a discount rate of 12.5%-14.0% and an average annual growth rate of 2.0%-3.5%. The result of the assessment of the Company's indefinite-lived intangibles indicated that the fair values exceeded the carrying values as of October 1, 2013. In addition, as of October 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013, the Company assessed the carrying value of its goodwill and determined based on qualitative factors that no impairment existed.

During 2012, the Company's home décor products line experienced a significant decline in sales. The Company believes the most significant factor was the reduction in retail space allocated to the category which has also contributed to pricing pressure. While the Company believes this market condition is not permanent, following a strategic review of the business, it has decided to re-brand a portion of the home décor products under the Mikasa® and Pfaltzgraff® trade names. As a result of these factors, the Company recorded an impairment charge of \$1.1 million in its statement of operations in the third quarter of 2012 which reduced the book value of its Elements® trade name.





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## LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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A summary of the activities related to the Company's intangible assets for the year ended December 31, 2013 consists of the following (in thousands):

|  | Intangible<br>Assets | Goodwill | Total<br>Intangible<br>Assets and<br>Goodwill |
|--|----------------------|----------|---|
| <b>Goodwill and Intangible Assets, December 31,<br/>2011</b> | \$ 44,264            | \$ 2,673 | \$ 46,937                                     |
| Acquisition of trade names                                   | 3,940                |          | 3,940   |
| Acquisition of customer relationships                        | 7,240                |          | 7,240   |
| Goodwill from F&F acquisition                                |                      | 2,412    | 2,412   |
| Impairment of Elements® trade name                           | (1,069)              |          | (1,069)                                       |
| Amortization   | (1,618)              |          | (1,618)                                       |
| <b>Goodwill and Intangible Assets, December 31,<br/>2012</b> | 52,757               | 5,085    | 57,842  |
| Amortization   | (2,693)              |          | (2,693)                                       |
| <b>Goodwill and Intangible Assets, December 31,<br/>2013</b> | \$ 50,064            | \$ 5,085 | \$ 55,149                                     |

The weighted-average amortization periods for the Company's finite-lived intangible assets as of December 31, 2013 are as follows:

|                        | Years |
|------------------------|-------|
| Trade names            | 15    |
| Licenses               | 33    |
| Customer relationships | 14    |
| Patents                | 17    |

Estimated amortization expense for each of the five succeeding fiscal years is as follows (in thousands):

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| <b>Year ending December 31,<br/>2014</b> | 2,692 |
|--|-------|

|      |       |
|------|-------|
| 2015 | 2,688 |
| 2016 | 2,685 |
| 2017 | 2,552 |
| 2018 | 2,552 |

Amortization expense for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011 was \$2.7 million, \$1.6 million and \$0.8 million, respectively.

## NOTE E DEBT

### *Revolving Credit Facility*

At December 31, 2013, the Company had a \$175.0 million secured credit agreement (the *Revolving Credit Facility*), maturing on July 27, 2017, with a bank group led by JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

Borrowings under the *Revolving Credit Facility* are secured by a first lien priority security interest in all of the assets of the Company and its domestic subsidiaries, including a pledge of the Company's outstanding shares of stock in its subsidiaries (limited, in the case of its foreign subsidiaries, to 65.0% of the Company's equity interests), except regarding the Company's shares in its wholly-owned subsidiary LTB de Mexico, S.A. de C.V. (*LTB de Mexico*), which in turn holds the Company's interest in Vasconia. Availability under the *Revolving Credit Facility* is subject to a borrowing base calculation equal to the sum of (i) 85.0% of eligible domestic accounts receivable, (ii) 85.0% of the net orderly liquidation value of eligible domestic inventory and (iii) the lesser of 50.0% of the orderly liquidation value of eligible trademarks and \$25.0 million less reserves. The borrowing base is also subject to reserves that may be established by the administrative agent in its permitted discretion.

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Borrowings under the Revolving Credit Facility bear interest, at the Company's option, at one of the following rates: (i) the Alternate Base Rate, defined as the greater of the Prime Rate, Federal Funds Rate plus 0.5% or the Adjusted LIBO Rate plus 1.0%, plus a margin of 1.0% to 1.75%, or (ii) the Eurodollar Rate, defined as the Adjusted LIBO Rate plus a margin of 2.0% to 2.75%. The respective margins are based upon availability. Interest rates on outstanding borrowings at December 31, 2013 ranged from 2.125% to 4.25%. In addition, the Company pays a commitment fee of 0.375% to 0.50% on the unused portion of the Revolving Credit Facility.

The Revolving Credit Facility provides for customary restrictions and events of default. Restrictions include limitations on additional indebtedness, acquisitions, investments and payment of dividends, among others. Furthermore, if availability under the Revolving Credit Facility is less than \$20.0 million, the Company will be required to maintain a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio of 1.10 to 1.00, which covenant would remain effective until availability is at least \$23.5 million for a period of three consecutive months.

At December 31, 2013, borrowings outstanding under the Revolving Credit Facility were \$49.2 million and open letters of credit were \$1.3 million. Availability under the Revolving Credit Facility was approximately \$87.8 million, or 50% of the total loan commitment at December 31, 2013.

The Company classifies a portion of the Revolving Credit Facility as a current liability if the Company's intent and ability is to repay the loan from cash flows from operations which are expected to occur within the next 12 months. Repayments and borrowings under the facility can vary significantly from planned levels based on cash flow needs and general economic conditions. The Company expects that it will continue to borrow and repay funds, subject to availability, under the facility based on working capital and other corporate needs.

At December 31, 2013, the Company had \$20.6 million outstanding under its senior secured credit agreement (the Senior Secured Term Loan), which was set to expire on July 27, 2018, with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. The Senior Secured Term Loan bears interest, at the Company's option, at the Alternate Base Rate (as defined) plus 4.00%, or the Adjusted LIBOR Rate (as defined) plus 5.00%.

The Senior Secured Term Loan provides that for any four consecutive fiscal quarters, (x) if EBITDA (as defined) is less than \$34.0 million but equal to or greater than \$30.0 million, the ratio of Indebtedness (as defined) to EBITDA shall not exceed 3.0 to 1.0 and (y) EBITDA shall not be less than \$30.0 million. Capital expenditures are limited and for the year ended December 31, 2013, such limit is \$9.0 million.

The Revolving Credit Facility and Senior Secured Term Loan provide for other customary restrictions and events of default. Restrictions include limitations on additional indebtedness, acquisitions, investments and payment of dividends, among others. The Company was in compliance with the financial covenants of the Senior Secured Term Loan and Revolving Credit Facility at December 31, 2013.

**NOTE F DERIVATIVES**

The Company is a party to interest rate swap agreements with a notional amount of \$29.8 million to manage interest rate exposure in connection with its variable interest rate borrowings. The hedge period in the agreements commences in March 2013 and expires in June 2018 and the notional amount amortizes over this period. The hedge provides for a fixed payment of interest at an annual rate of 1.05% in exchange for the Adjusted LIBOR Rate. In March 2013, based on the interest rate swap agreements, the Company commenced the payment of interest at a fixed annual rate of 6.05% related to its LIBOR borrowings.

The interest rate swap agreements were designated as a cash flow hedges under ASC Topic No. 815. The effective portion of the fair value gain or loss on these agreements is recorded as a component of accumulated other comprehensive loss. The effect of recording these derivatives at fair value resulted in an unrealized gain of \$241,000 and an unrealized loss of \$272,000, net of taxes, for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively. No amounts recorded in accumulated other comprehensive loss are expected to be reclassified to interest expense in the next twelve months.

The fair value of the derivatives has been obtained from the counterparties to the agreements and was based on Level 2 observable inputs using proprietary models and estimates about relevant future market conditions. The aggregate fair value of the Company's derivative instruments was a liability of \$54,000 and \$454,000 at December 31, 2013 and 2012, of which \$48,000 and \$454,000 is included in other long-term liabilities at December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

**Table of Contents****LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****DECEMBER 31, 2013****NOTE G CAPITAL STOCK****Long-term incentive plan**

In June 2012, the shareholders of the Company approved an amendment to the Company's 2000 Long-Term Incentive Plan (the "Plan") to increase the shares available for grant by 700,000 shares to 4,200,000 shares. These shares of the Company's common stock are available for grants to directors, officers, employees, consultants and service providers and affiliates in the form of stock options or other equity-based awards. The Plan authorizes the Board of Directors of the Company, or a duly appointed committee thereof, to issue incentive stock options, non-qualified options and other stock-based awards. Options that have been granted under the Plan expire over a range of five to ten years from the date of grant and vest over a range of up to five years from the date of grant. As of December 31, 2013, there were 643,073 shares available for the grant of awards.

**Cash dividends**

In March 2011, the Company resumed the declaration of cash dividends on its outstanding shares of common stock.

Dividends declared in 2013 and 2012 are as follows:

| <b>Dividend per share</b> | <b>Date declared</b> | <b>Date of record</b> | <b>Payment date</b> |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| \$0.025                   | March 6, 2012        | May 1, 2012           | May 15, 2012        |
| \$0.025                   | June 13, 2012        | August 1, 2012        | August 15, 2012     |
| \$0.025                   | July 31, 2012        | November 1, 2012      | November 15, 2012   |
| \$0.025                   | November 2, 2012     | February 1, 2013      | February 15, 2013   |
| \$0.03125                 | March 12, 2013       | May 1, 2013           | May 15, 2013        |
| \$0.03125                 | June 13, 2013        | August 1, 2013        | August 15, 2013     |
| \$0.03125                 | August 2, 2013       | November 1, 2013      | November 15, 2013   |
| \$0.0375                  | October 31, 2013     | January 31, 2014      | February 14, 2014   |

On March 11, 2014, the Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.0375 per share payable on May 15, 2014 to shareholders of record on May 1, 2014.

**Stock repurchase program**

On April 30, 2013, Lifetime's Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$10.0 million of the Company's common stock. The repurchase authorization permits the Company to effect repurchases from time to time through open market purchases and privately negotiated transactions. During the year ended December 31, 2013, the Company repurchased 245,575 shares for a total cost of \$3.2 million and thereafter retired the shares.

**Preferred stock**

The Company is authorized to issue 100 shares of Series A Preferred Stock and 2,000,000 shares of Series B Preferred Stock, none of which is issued or outstanding at December 31, 2013.

**Restricted stock**

In 2013, 2012 and 2011, the Company granted an aggregate of 22,459, 23,394 and 21,400 restricted shares, respectively, of the Company's common stock to its non-employee directors representing payment of a portion of their annual retainer. The total fair value of the restricted shares, based on the number of shares granted and the quoted market prices of the Company's common stock on the dates of grant was \$298,000 in 2013, \$270,000 in 2012 and \$230,000 in 2011. For all restricted stock grants, the restriction lapses one year from the date of grant and the stock is expensed over the one year period.

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## LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2013

**Stock options**

A summary of the Company's stock option activity and related information for the three years ended December 31, 2013, is as follows:

|   | Options   | Weighted-<br>average<br>exercise<br>price | Weighted-<br>average<br>remaining<br>contractual<br>life<br>(years) | Aggregate<br>intrinsic<br>value |
|---|-----------|---|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>Options outstanding at December 31, 2010</b> | 2,219,200 | \$ 12.46                                  |   |                                 |
| Grants  | 391,500   | 11.20                                     |   |                                 |
| Exercises                                       | (123,500) | 5.19                                      |   |                                 |
| Cancellations                                   | (11,450)  | 13.29                                     |   |                                 |
| <b>Options outstanding at December 31, 2011</b> | 2,475,750 | 12.62                                     |   |                                 |
| Grants  | 305,000   | 11.64                                     |   |                                 |
| Exercises                                       | (199,823) | 5.47                                      |   |                                 |
| Cancellations                                   | (52,750)  | 12.82                                     |   |                                 |
| <b>Options outstanding at December 31, 2012</b> | 2,528,177 | 13.06                                     |   |                                 |
| Grants  | 390,800   | 12.26                                     |   |                                 |
| Exercises                                       | (247,827) | 4.91                                      |   |                                 |
| Cancellations                                   | (68,000)  | 16.89                                     |   |                                 |
| Expirations                                     | (231,500) | 22.46                                     |   |                                 |
| <b>Options outstanding at December 31, 2013</b> | 2,371,650 | 12.75                                     | 6.21  | \$ 10,968,922                   |
| <b>Options exercisable at December 31, 2013</b> | 1,508,350 | \$ 13.15                                  | 5.31  | \$ 7,800,990                    |

The aggregate intrinsic value in the table above represents the total pre-tax intrinsic value that would have been received by the option holders had all option holders exercised their stock options on December 31, 2013. The intrinsic value is calculated for each in-the-money stock option as the difference between the closing price of the Company's common stock on December 31, 2013 and the exercise price.

The total intrinsic values of stock options exercised for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011 were \$1,997,000, \$1,182,000 and \$830,400, respectively. The intrinsic value of a stock option that is exercised is calculated



at the date of exercise.

The Company recognized stock compensation expense of \$2.9 million, \$2.8 million and \$2.8 million for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively. The stock compensation expense recognized each year is equal to the grant date fair values of stock options vested during the year. Total unrecognized compensation cost related to unvested stock options at December 31, 2013, before the effect of income taxes, was \$3.7 million and is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 2.41 years.

The Company values stock options using the Black-Scholes option valuation model. The Black-Scholes option valuation model, as well as other available models, was developed for use in estimating the fair value of traded options, which have no vesting restrictions and are fully transferable. The Black-Scholes option valuation model requires the input of highly subjective assumptions including the expected stock price volatility and risk-free interest rate. Because the Company's stock options have characteristics significantly different from those of traded options, changes in the subjective input assumptions can materially affect the fair value estimates of the Company's stock options. The weighted-average per share grant date fair value of stock options granted during the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011 was \$6.12, \$6.05 and \$5.69, respectively.

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The fair values for these stock options were estimated at the dates of grant using the following weighted-average assumptions:

|                         | <b>2013</b> | <b>2012</b> | <b>2011</b> |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Historical volatility   | 61%         | 61%         | 60%         |
| Expected term (years)   | 5.6         | 6.0         | 5.6         |
| Risk-free interest rate | 0.88%       | 1.10%       | 1.96%       |
| Expected dividend yield | 0.97%       | 0.86%       | 0.89%       |

**NOTE H INCOME PER COMMON SHARE**

Basic income per common share has been computed by dividing net income by the weighted-average number of shares of the Company's common stock outstanding. Diluted income per common share adjusts net income and basic income per common share for the effect of all potentially dilutive shares of the Company's common stock. The calculations of basic and diluted income per common share for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011 are as follows:

|  | <b>2013</b>                             | <b>2012</b> | <b>2011</b> |
|--|---|-------------|-------------|
|  | (in thousands except per share amounts) |             |             |
| <b>Net income Basic and Diluted</b>                | \$ 9,281                                | \$ 20,947   | \$ 14,066   |
| <b>Weighted-average shares outstanding Basic</b>   | 12,757                                  | 12,511      | 12,128      |
| Effect of dilutive securities:                     |   |             |             |
| Stock options                                      | 286                                     | 299         | 401         |
| <b>Weighted-average shares outstanding Diluted</b> | 13,043                                  | 12,810      | 12,529      |
| <b>Basic income per common share</b>               | \$ 0.73                                 | \$ 1.67     | \$ 1.16     |
| <b>Diluted income per common share</b>             | \$ 0.71                                 | \$ 1.64     | \$ 1.12     |

The computations of diluted income per common share for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011 excludes options to purchase 1,417,145, 1,450,200 and 1,600,413 shares of the Company's common stock, respectively. The computation of diluted income per common share for the year ended December 31, 2011 also excludes options to purchase 462,192 shares of the Company's common stock that were issuable upon the conversion of the Company's 4.75% convertible senior notes and related interest expense, which were retired in July 2011. The above shares were excluded due to their antidilutive effect.

**NOTE I INCOME TAXES**

The components of income before income taxes, equity in earnings and extraordinary item are as follows:

|   | <b>Year Ended December 31,</b> |             |             |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|   | <b>2013</b>                    | <b>2012</b> | <b>2011</b> |
|   | (in thousands)                 |             |             |
| Domestic  | \$ 26,470                      | \$ 20,609   | \$ 16,178   |
| Foreign   | (3,233)                        | (535)       | 648         |
| Total income before income taxes and equity in earnings | \$ 23,237                      | \$ 20,074   | \$ 16,826   |

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**LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.**  
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The provision for income taxes (before equity in earnings) consists of:

|                          | <b>Year Ended December 31,</b> |              |              |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                          | <b>2013</b>                    | <b>2012</b>  | <b>2011</b>  |
|                          | (in thousands)                 |              |              |
| <b>Current:</b>          |                                |              |              |
| Federal                  | \$ 8,996                       | \$ 6,691     | \$ 4,657     |
| State and local          | 1,707                          | 761          | 2,063        |
| Foreign                  | 747                            | 503          | 618          |
| Deferred                 | (2,275)                        | (2,747)      | (1,216)      |
| <br>Income tax provision | <br>\$ 9,175                   | <br>\$ 5,208 | <br>\$ 6,122 |

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

|                                      | <b>December 31,</b> |               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
|                                      | <b>2013</b>         | <b>2012</b>   |
|                                      | (in thousands)      |               |
| <b>Deferred income tax assets:</b>   |                     |               |
| Deferred rent expense                | \$ 3,694            | \$ 4,407      |
| Stock options                        | 3,237               | 3,660         |
| Inventory                            | 1,317               | 1,381         |
| Operating loss carry-forward         | 2,140               | 1,797         |
| Accounts receivable allowances       | 192                 | 106           |
| Accrued compensation                 | 758                 | 669           |
| Other                                | 1,831               | 1,915         |
| <br>Total deferred income tax assets | <br>\$ 13,169       | <br>\$ 13,935 |

Significant components of the Company's net deferred income tax asset (liability) are as follows:

**December 31,**

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|   | <b>2013</b>    | <b>2012</b> |
|---|----------------|-------------|
|   | (in thousands) |             |
| <b>Deferred income tax liabilities:</b>   |                |             |
| Depreciation and amortization             | \$ (3,826)     | \$ (5,945)  |
| Intangibles                               | (5,162)        | (4,645)     |
| Equity in earnings                        | (805)          | (1,964)     |
| Other                                     |                | (167)       |
| <br>                                      |                |             |
| Total deferred income tax liabilities     | (9,793)        | (12,721)    |
| <br>                                      |                |             |
| Net deferred income tax asset             | 3,376          | 1,214       |
| Valuation allowance                       | (1,213)        | (1,182)     |
| <br>                                      |                |             |
| Net deferred income tax asset (liability) | \$ 2,163       | \$ 32       |

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The Company has generated various state net operating loss carryforwards of which \$14.3 million remains at December 31, 2013 that begin to expire in 2014. The Company has net operating losses in foreign jurisdictions of \$4.5 million at December 31, 2013 that begin to expire in 2016. In 2012, the Company recorded an income tax benefit for a non-cash adjustment to a deferred tax liability of \$2.3 million related to the prior year. Additionally, the Company recorded a reduction in its valuation allowance of \$1.9 million of which \$1.1 million related to a portion of the translation adjustment deferred tax asset in connection with the equity method investee, Vasconia. The valuation allowance which remains as of December 31, 2013 relates to certain state net operating losses.

The provision for income taxes (before equity in earnings) differs from the amounts computed by applying the applicable federal statutory rates as follows:

|   | <b>Year Ended December 31,</b> |             |             |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|   | <b>2013</b>                    | <b>2012</b> | <b>2011</b> |
| Provision for federal income taxes at the statutory rate        | 35.0%                          | 35.0%       | 35.0%       |
| Increases (decreases):  |                                |             |             |
| State and local income taxes, net of Federal income tax benefit | 5.5                            | 3.2         | 6.4         |
| Foreign rate differences  | (1.1)                          | (1.8)       |             |
| Non-deductible stock options                                    |                                |             | 0.1         |
| Non-deductible expenses   | 2.8                            | 1.2         | 3.4         |
| Valuation allowance   |                                |             | (8.2)       |
| Reduction of deferred tax liabilities related to the prior year |                                | (11.6)      |             |
| Other   | (2.7)                          | (0.1)       | (0.3)       |
| Provision for income taxes                                      | 39.5%                          | 25.9%       | 36.4%       |

The estimated values of the Company's gross uncertain tax positions at December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011 are liabilities of \$351,000, \$301,000 and \$134,000, respectively, and consist of the following:

|  | <b>Year Ended December 31,</b> |             |             |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|  | <b>2013</b>                    | <b>2012</b> | <b>2011</b> |
|  | (in thousands)                 |             |             |
| Balance at January 1   | \$ (301)                       | \$ (134)    | \$ (356)    |
| Additions based on tax positions related to the current year | (31)                           |             |             |
| Additions for tax positions of prior years                   | (164)                          | (167)       | (76)        |
| Settlements  | 145                            |             | 298         |

|                        |          |          |          |
|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Balance at December 31 | \$ (351) | \$ (301) | \$ (134) |
|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|

The Company had approximately \$71,000 and \$39,000, net of federal and state tax benefit, accrued at December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively, for the payment of interest. The Company's policy for recording interest and penalties is to record such items as a component of income taxes.

If the Company's tax positions are ultimately sustained, the Company's liability, including interest, would be reduced by \$299,000, all of which would impact the Company's tax provision. On a quarterly basis, the Company evaluates its tax positions and revises its estimates accordingly. The Company believes that it is reasonably possible that \$143,000 of its tax positions will be resolved within the next twelve months.

During 2013, the Company concluded an IRS audit examination related to the 2010 tax year. The settlement payment that resulted had no impact on the company's effective tax rate as it related to the timing of a tax credit. The Company is no longer subject to U.S. Federal income tax examinations for the years prior to 2011. Also during 2013, the

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**DECEMBER 31, 2013**

Company concluded an audit examination in the UK related to 2012 which resulted in an immaterial assessment. The Company has identified the following jurisdictions as major tax jurisdictions: U.S. Federal, California, Massachusetts, Illinois, New York, New Jersey and the United Kingdom. At December 31, 2013, the periods subject to examination for the Company's major state jurisdictions are the years ended 2009 through 2012.

**NOTE J BUSINESS SEGMENTS**

**Segment information**

The Company operates in two reportable business segments: the Wholesale segment, the Company's primary business segment, in which the Company designs, markets and distributes products to retailers and distributors, and the Retail Direct segment, in which the Company markets and sells a limited selection of its products directly to consumers through its Pfaltzgraff®, Mikasa®, Lifetime Sterling® and The English Table Internet websites. The operating results of Creative Tops and Fred® & Friends since the dates of the acquisitions are included in the Wholesale segment.

The Company has segmented its operations to reflect the manner in which management reviews and evaluates the results of its operations. While both segments distribute similar products, the segments have been distinct due to the different methods the Company uses to sell, market and distribute the products. Management evaluated the performance of the Wholesale and Retail Direct segments based on net sales and income (loss) from operations through December 31, 2013. Such measures give recognition to specifically identifiable operating costs such as cost of sales, distribution expenses and selling, general and administrative expenses. Certain general and administrative expenses, such as senior executive salaries and benefits, stock compensation, director fees and accounting, legal and consulting fees, are not allocated to the specific segments and are reflected as unallocated corporate expenses. The Company excludes from segment results the effects of certain items that management does not consider in assessing segment performance, primarily because of their non-operational nature. Assets in each segment consist of assets used in its operations and acquired intangible assets. Assets in the unallocated corporate category consist of cash and tax related assets that are not allocated to the segments.



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|  | <b>Year Ended December 31,</b> |                   |                   |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|  | <b>2013</b>                    | <b>2012</b>       | <b>2011</b>       |
|  | (in thousands)                 |                   |                   |
| <b>Net sales:</b>                          |                                |                   |                   |
| Wholesale                                  | \$ 483,094                     | \$ 464,862        | \$ 421,119        |
| Retail Direct                              | 20,680                         | 21,980            | 23,299            |
| Non-operating adjustment <sup>(2)</sup>    | (1,053)                        |                   |                   |
| <b>Total net sales</b>                     | <b>\$ 502,721</b>              | <b>\$ 486,842</b> | <b>\$ 444,418</b> |
| <b>Income from operations:</b>             |                                |                   |                   |
| Wholesale <sup>(1)</sup>                   | \$ 44,152                      | \$ 40,530         | \$ 38,410         |
| Retail Direct                              | (62)                           | 463               | (524)             |
| Non-operating adjustment <sup>(2)</sup>    | (1,053)                        |                   |                   |
| Unallocated corporate expenses             | (14,851)                       | (13,658)          | (13,302)          |
| <b>Total income from operations</b>        | <b>\$ 28,186</b>               | <b>\$ 27,335</b>  | <b>\$ 24,584</b>  |
| <b>Depreciation and amortization:</b>      |                                |                   |                   |
| Wholesale                                  | \$ 10,150                      | \$ 9,074          | \$ 8,183          |
| Retail Direct                              | 265                            | 250               | 214               |
| <b>Total depreciation and amortization</b> | <b>\$ 10,415</b>               | <b>\$ 9,324</b>   | <b>\$ 8,397</b>   |
| <b>Assets:</b>                             |                                |                   |                   |
| Wholesale                                  | \$ 327,122                     | \$ 342,872        | \$ 317,435        |
| Retail Direct                              | 730                            | 512               | 813               |
| Unallocated/ corporate/ other              | 8,887                          | 5,413             | 497               |
| <b>Total assets</b>                        | <b>\$ 336,739</b>              | <b>\$ 348,797</b> | <b>\$ 318,745</b> |
| <b>Capital expenditures:</b>               |                                |                   |                   |
| Wholesale                                  | \$ 3,647                       | \$ 4,897          | \$ 4,730          |
| Retail Direct                              | 195                            | 58                | 229               |
| <b>Total capital expenditures</b>          | <b>\$ 3,842</b>                | <b>\$ 4,955</b>   | <b>\$ 4,959</b>   |

Note:

- (1) In 2012, income from operations for the Wholesale segment includes \$1.1 million of intangible asset impairment.
- (2) In 2013, the Company recorded a non-operating adjustment to reduce accounts receivable for previously issued credits within the Retail Direct business which related to 2010 and earlier periods.

Table of Contents**LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****DECEMBER 31, 2013****Geographical information**

The following table sets forth net sales and long-lived assets by the major geographic locations (in thousands):

|                   | <b>Year ended December 31,</b> |             |             |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                   | <b>2013</b>                    | <b>2012</b> | <b>2011</b> |
| <b>Net sales:</b> |                                |             |             |
| United States     | \$ 439,129                     | \$ 430,758  | \$ 426,405  |
| International     | 63,592                         | 56,084      | 18,013      |
| Total             | \$ 502,721                     | \$ 486,842  | \$ 444,418  |

|   | <b>December 31,</b> |             |
|---|---------------------|-------------|
|   | <b>2013</b>         | <b>2012</b> |
| <b>Long-lived assets at period-end:</b> |                     |             |
| United States                           | \$ 120,192          | \$ 133,841  |
| International                           | 1,871               | 2,197       |
| Total                                   | \$ 122,063          | \$ 136,038  |

**Product category information net sales**

The following table sets forth net sales by major product categories included within the Company's Wholesale operating segment:

|                          | <b>Year Ended December 31,</b> |             |             |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                          | <b>2013</b>                    | <b>2012</b> | <b>2011</b> |
| (in thousands)           |                                |             |             |
| <b>Category:</b>         |                                |             |             |
| Kitchenware              | \$ 281,211                     | \$ 256,154  | \$ 215,707  |
| Tableware <sup>(1)</sup> | 149,015                        | 156,532     | 141,313     |
| Home Solutions           | 52,868                         | 52,176      | 64,099      |
| Total                    | \$ 483,094                     | \$ 464,862  | \$ 421,119  |

- (1) The tableware product category includes Creative Tops revenue, which was previously presented separately. Revenue sources disclosed in 2012 have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation for comparative purposes.

**NOTE K COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**

**Operating leases**

The Company has lease agreements for its corporate headquarters, distribution centers, showrooms and sales offices that expire through 2025. These leases generally provide for, among other things, annual base rent escalations and additional rent for real estate taxes and other costs.

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**LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2013**

Future minimum payments under non-cancelable operating leases are as follows (in thousands):

| <b>Year Ending December 31,</b> |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 2014                            | \$ 15,162        |
| 2015                            | 14,877           |
| 2016                            | 13,903           |
| 2017                            | 10,576           |
| 2018                            | 7,284            |
| Thereafter                      | 16,619           |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>\$ 78,421</b> |

Rent and related expenses under operating leases were \$14.3 million, \$14.8 million and \$13.3 million for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively. There was no sublease rental income in 2013 and 2012. Sublease rental income was \$70,000 for the year ended December 31, 2011.

**Royalties**

The Company has license agreements that require the payment of royalties on sales of licensed products which expire through 2023. Future minimum royalties payable under these agreements are as follows (in thousands):

| <b>Year ending December 31,</b> |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 2014                            | \$ 6,424         |
| 2015                            | 6,882            |
| 2016                            | 807              |
| 2017                            | 411              |
| 2018                            | 416              |
| Thereafter                      | 1,035            |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>\$ 15,975</b> |

**Legal proceedings**

Wallace Silversmiths de Puerto Rico, Ltd. ( Wallace de Puerto Rico ), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, operates a manufacturing facility in San Germán, Puerto Rico that is leased from the Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company ( PRIDCO ). In March 2008, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (the EPA )

announced that the San Germán Ground Water Contamination site in Puerto Rico (the Site ) had been added to the Superfund National Priorities List due to contamination present in the local drinking water supply.

In May 2008, Wallace de Puerto Rico received from the EPA a Notice of Potential Liability and Request for Information Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Sections 9607(a) and 9604(e) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, Liability Act. The Company responded to the EPA's Request for Information on behalf of Wallace de Puerto Rico. In July 2011, Wallace de Puerto Rico received a letter from the EPA requesting access to the property that it leases from PRIDCO, and the Company granted such access. In February 2013, the EPA requested access to conduct further environmental investigation at the property. The Company granted such access and further EPA investigation is pending.

The Company is not aware of any determination by the EPA that any remedial action is required for the Site, and, accordingly, is not able to estimate the extent of any possible liability.

The Company is, from time to time, involved in other legal proceedings. The Company believes that other current litigation is routine in nature and incidental to the conduct of the Company's business and that none of this litigation, individually or collectively, would have a material adverse effect on the Company's consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

**Table of Contents****LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****DECEMBER 31, 2013****NOTE L RETIREMENT PLANS****401(k) plan**

The Company maintains a defined contribution retirement plan for eligible employees under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code. Participants can make voluntary contributions up to the Internal Revenue Service limit of \$17,500 (\$23,000 for employees 50 years or over) for 2013. Effective January 1, 2009, the Company suspended its matching contribution as an expense savings measure. The Company's U.K.-based subsidiary, Creative Tops, also maintains a defined contribution pension plan.

**Retirement benefit obligations**

The Company assumed retirement benefit obligations, which are paid to certain former executives of an acquired business. The obligations under these agreements are unfunded and amounted to \$5.4 million at December 31, 2013 and \$5.9 million at December 31, 2012.

The discount rate used to calculate the retirement benefit obligations was 4.50% at December 31, 2013 and 3.60% at December 31, 2012. The retirement benefit obligations are included in accrued expenses and deferred rent and other long-term liabilities.

The Company expects to recognize \$47,000 of the actuarial losses included in accumulated other comprehensive loss in net periodic benefit cost in 2014.

Future retirement benefit payments are as follows (in thousands):

| <b>Year ending December 31,</b> |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2014                            | \$ 143          |
| 2015                            | 132             |
| 2016                            | 121             |
| 2017                            | 265             |
| 2018                            | 362             |
| 2019-2023                       | 1,753           |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>\$ 2,776</b> |

**NOTE M OTHER****Inventory**

The components of inventory are as follows:

|                 | <b>December 31,</b> |                |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|
|                 | <b>2013</b>         | <b>2012</b>    |
|                 | (in thousands)      |                |
| Finished goods  | \$ 108,340          | \$ 101,021     |
| Work in process | 1,966               | 2,046          |
| Raw materials   | 2,485               | 1,517          |
| <br>Total       | <br>\$ 112,791      | <br>\$ 104,584 |

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Table of Contents**LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****DECEMBER 31, 2013****Property and equipment**

Property and equipment consist of:

|   | <b>December 31,</b> |             |
|---|---------------------|-------------|
|   | <b>2013</b>         | <b>2012</b> |
|   | (in thousands)      |             |
| Machinery, furniture and equipment              | \$ 79,132           | \$ 75,896   |
| Leasehold improvements                          | 26,959              | 26,334      |
| Building and improvements                       | 1,604               | 1,604       |
| Construction in progress                        | 104                 | 920         |
| Land  | 100                 | 100         |
|   | 107,899             | 104,854     |
| Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization | (80,201)            | (73,208)    |
| Total   | \$ 27,698           | \$ 31,646   |

Depreciation and amortization expense on property and equipment for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011 was \$7.7 million, \$7.8 million and \$7.5 million, respectively.

Included in machinery, furniture and equipment at each of December 31, 2013 and 2012 is \$2.1 million related to assets recorded under capital leases. Included in accumulated depreciation and amortization at each of December 31, 2013 and 2012 is \$1.9 million related to assets recorded under capital leases.

**Accrued expenses**

Accrued expenses consist of:

|                                 | <b>December 31,</b> |             |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
|                                 | <b>2013</b>         | <b>2012</b> |
|                                 | (in thousands)      |             |
| Customer allowances and rebates | \$ 11,756           | \$ 10,595   |
| Compensation and benefits       | 11,781              | 7,824       |
| Interest                        | 98                  | 401         |
| Vendor invoices                 | 5,135               | 5,355       |

|   |                  |                  |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Royalties   | 2,567            | 2,259            |
| Commissions   | 1,245            | 1,089            |
| Freight   | 1,419            | 1,122            |
| Contingent consideration related to F&F acquisition | 1,647            | 730              |
| Working capital excess related to F&F acquisition   | 254              | 845              |
| Other   | 5,193            | 3,134            |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$ 41,095</b> | <b>\$ 33,354</b> |

### Deferred rent & other long-term liabilities

Deferred rent & other long-term liabilities consist of:

|   | <b>December 31,</b> |                  |
|---|---------------------|------------------|
|   | <b>2013</b>         | <b>2012</b>      |
|   | (in thousands)      |                  |
| Deferred rent liability                             | \$ 9,737            | \$ 10,719        |
| Retirement benefit obligations                      | 5,212               | 5,752            |
| Contingent consideration related to F&F acquisition | 3,647               | 4,640            |
| Derivative liability                                | 48                  | 454              |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$ 18,644</b>    | <b>\$ 21,565</b> |

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## LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2013

## Supplemental cash flow information

|  | Year Ended December 31, |          |          |
|--|-------------------------|----------|----------|
|  | 2013                    | 2012     | 2011     |
|  | (in thousands)          |          |          |
| <b>Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:</b> |                         |          |          |
| Cash paid for interest                                   | \$ 4,115                | \$ 5,498 | \$ 6,877 |
| Cash paid for taxes                                      | 10,862                  | 6,067    | 10,331   |
| <b>Non-cash investing activities:</b>                    |                         |          |          |
| Translation adjustment                                   | \$ (140)                | \$ 3,077 | \$ (704) |

## Components of accumulated other comprehensive loss, net

|   | Year Ended December 31, |            |            |
|---|-------------------------|------------|------------|
|   | 2013                    | 2012       | 2011       |
|   | (in thousands)          |            |            |
| <i>Accumulated translation adjustment:</i>                              |                         |            |            |
| Balance at beginning of year  | \$ (2,804)              | \$ (5,881) | \$ (5,177) |
| Translation adjustment during period                                    | (140)                   | 3,077      | (704)      |
| Balance at end of year  | \$ (2,944)              | \$ (2,804) | \$ (5,881) |
| <i>Accumulated effect of retirement benefit obligations:</i>            |                         |            |            |
| Balance at beginning of year  | \$ (1,160)              | \$         | \$         |
| Net gain (loss) arising from retirement benefit obligations, net of tax | 361                     | (1,187)    |            |
| Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss:         |                         |            |            |
| Amortization of loss, net of tax <sup>(1)</sup>                         | 54                      | 27         |            |
| Balance at end of year  | \$ (745)                | \$ (1,160) | \$         |
| <i>Accumulated deferred gains (losses) on cash flow hedges:</i>         |                         |            |            |
| Balance at beginning of year  | \$ (272)                | \$         | \$         |
| Derivative fair value adjustment, net of tax                            | 241                     | (272)      |            |
| Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss:         |                         |            |            |

Hedge de-designation, net of tax<sup>(2)</sup>

|                        |    |      |    |       |    |
|------------------------|----|------|----|-------|----|
| Balance at end of year | \$ | (31) | \$ | (272) | \$ |
|------------------------|----|------|----|-------|----|

Notes:

(1) Amount is recorded in selling, general and administrative expenses on the consolidated statements of operations.

(2) Amount is recorded in interest expense on the consolidated statements of operations.

**NOTE N SUBSEQUENT EVENTS****Amended and Restated Credit Agreement**

On January 13, 2014, the Company entered into the Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. The Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement provides for, among other things, (i) an extension of the maturity of the \$175.0 million Revolving Credit Facility to January 11, 2019 and (ii) a new Term Loan facility of \$50.0 million.

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**LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2013**

**Acquisition of Thomas Plant (Birmingham) Limited**

On January 15, 2014, the Company acquired 100% of the share capital of Thomas Plant (Birmingham) Limited ( Thomas Plant or Kitchen Craft ) for cash in the amount of £37.4 million (\$61.5 million), which includes an estimated working capital adjustment and 581,432 shares of common stock of the Company with a value of £5.5 million (\$9.0 million). Contingent cash consideration of up to £5.5 million (\$9.0 million) will be payable in future years if Kitchen Craft achieves certain financial targets. Kitchen Craft is a leading supplier of kitchenware products and accessories in the United Kingdom.

As of the date of this Annual Report on Form 10-K, the information is not yet available to perform the preliminary purchase price allocation and prepare the supplemental pro forma disclosures. The disclosures and supplemental pro forma information required by *ASC 805 Business Combinations* will be made when the information becomes available.

**Acquisition of Built**

On February 24, 2014, the Company acquired the business and certain assets of Built NY, a designer and distributor of brightly colored, uniquely patterned Neoprene products, including bags, totes, cases and sleeves.

**Acquisition of La Cafetière**

In March 2014, the Company acquired the business and certain assets of La Cafetière, including exclusive distribution rights. La Cafetière designs and distributes products to brew and serve coffee and tea. Its products are marketed worldwide under the La Cafetière® and Randwyck® brands.

**Table of Contents****Item 15(a)****LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.****SCHEDULE II VALUATION AND QUALIFYING ACCOUNTS**

(in thousands)

| COL. A<br>Description                    | COL. B<br>Balance<br>at<br>beginning<br>of period | COL. C<br>Additions       |                                     | COL. D<br>Deductions    | COL. E<br>Balance<br>at end of<br>period |
|--|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
|  |   | Due<br>to<br>acquisitions | Charged to<br>costs and<br>expenses |                         |  |
| <b>Year ended December 31, 2013</b>      |   |                           |                                     |                         |  |
| Deducted from asset accounts:            |   |                           |                                     |                         |  |
| Allowance for doubtful accounts          | \$ 361  | \$                        | \$ 260                              | \$ (148) <sup>(a)</sup> | \$ 473                                   |
| Reserve for sales returns and allowances | 3,635   |                           | 6,004 <sup>(c)</sup>                | (4,903) <sup>(b)</sup>  | 4,736                                    |
|  | \$ 3,996  | \$                        | \$ 6,264                            | \$ (5,051)              | \$ 5,209                                 |
| <b>Year ended December 31, 2012</b>      |   |                           |                                     |                         |  |
| Deducted from asset accounts:            |   |                           |                                     |                         |  |
| Allowance for doubtful Accounts          | \$ 328  | \$ 67                     | \$ 181                              | \$ (215) <sup>(a)</sup> | \$ 361                                   |
| Reserve for sales returns and allowances | 4,274   | 179                       | 6,660 <sup>(c)</sup>                | (7,478) <sup>(b)</sup>  | 3,635                                    |
|  | \$ 4,602  | \$ 246                    | \$ 6,841                            | \$ (7,693)              | \$ 3,996                                 |
| <b>Year ended December 31, 2011</b>      |   |                           |                                     |                         |  |
| Deducted from asset accounts:            |   |                           |                                     |                         |  |
| Allowance for doubtful accounts          | \$ 1,057  | \$                        | \$ 63                               | \$ (792) <sup>(a)</sup> | \$ 328                                   |
| Reserve for sales returns and allowances | 11,554  |                           | 3,378 <sup>(c)</sup>                | (10,658) <sup>(b)</sup> | 4,274                                    |
|  | \$ 12,611   | \$                        | \$ 3,441                            | \$ (11,450)             | \$ 4,602                                 |

(a) Uncollectible accounts written off, net of recoveries.

(b) Allowances granted.

(c) Charged to net sales.