Lumber Liquidators Holdings, Inc. Form 10-Q April 24, 2013 Table of Contents

# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549** 

# **FORM 10-Q**

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

For the quarterly period ended March 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: 001-33767

# **Lumber Liquidators Holdings, Inc.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of

incorporation or organization)	Identification No.)
meorpotation of organization)	itelianeaton (100)
3000 John Deere Road	
Toano, Virginia	23168
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)	(Zip Code)
(757) 259	0-4280
(Registrant s telephone nur	nber, including area code)
Not Appl	licable
(Former name, former address and former	fiscal year, if changed since last report)
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant: (1) has filed all reports requor 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. x Yes "No"	•

27-1310817

(I.R.S. Employer

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

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

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 definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check

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

for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). x Yes "No

one):

As of April 22, 2013, there were 27,468,928 shares of the registrant s common stock, par value of \$0.001 per share, outstanding.

# LUMBER LIQUIDATORS HOLDINGS, INC.

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q

For the quarter ended March 31, 2013

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#### PART I

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements.

Lumber Liquidators Holdings, Inc.

# **Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets**

(in thousands, except share data)

	March 31, 2013 (unaudited)	De	cember 31, 2012
Assets			
Current Assets:			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 72,728	\$	64,167
Merchandise Inventories	210,087		206,704
Prepaid Expenses	6,785		5,168
Other Current Assets	8,639		12,106
Total Current Assets	298,239		288,145
Property and Equipment, net	47,490		47,764
Goodwill	9,693		9,693
Other Assets	1,782		1,785
Total Assets	357,204	\$	347,387
Liabilities and Stockholders Equity Current Liabilities:	ф. 20.002	Φ.	55.110
Accounts Payable	\$ 39,003	\$	55,110
Customer Deposits and Store Credits	28,613		25,747
Accrued Compensation	6,424		7,969
Sales and Income Tax Liabilities	8,655		4,314
Other Current Liabilities	11,201		7,887
Total Current Liabilities	93,896		101,027
Deferred Rent	3,719		3,653
Deferred Tax Liability	8,178		8,166
Stockholders Equity:			
Common Stock (\$0.001 par value; 35,000,000 authorized; 27,315,147 and 27,214,144 outstanding, respectively)	29		29
Treasury Stock, at cost (1,797,044 and 1,719,706 shares, respectively)	(54,828)		(50,552)
Additional Capital	137,411		131,724
Retained Earnings	169.047		151,724
Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Loss) Income	(248)		73
Accumulated Other Comptenensive (Loss) Income	(240)		13
Total Stockholders Equity	251,411		234,541
Total Liabilities and Stockholders Equity	357,204	\$	347,387

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements

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#### Lumber Liquidators Holdings, Inc.

#### **Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income**

(in thousands, except share data and per share amounts)

# (unaudited)

		Three Mont		
		2013		2012
Net Sales	\$	230,419	\$	188,034
Cost of Sales		137,422		117,897
Gross Profit		92,997		70,137
Selling, General and Administrative Expenses		67,589		56,819
Operating Income		25,408		13,318
Other (Income) Expense		(210)		(42)
Income Before Income Taxes		25,618		13,360
Provision for Income Taxes		9,837		5,163
Net Income	\$	15,781	\$	8,197
Net Income per Common Share Basic	\$	0.58	\$	0.29
Net Income per Common Share Diluted	\$	0.57	\$	0.29
Weighted Average Common Shares Outstanding:				
Basic	2	7,211,506	2	7,926,544
Diluted	2	7,783,611	2	8,509,475

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements

# Lumber Liquidators Holdings, Inc.

# **Condensed Consolidated Statements of Other Comprehensive Income**

(in thousands)

(unaudited)

	Three Mon	ths Ended
	March	ı 31,
	2013	2012
Net Income	\$ 15,781	\$ 8,197
Foreign Currency Translation Adjustments	(321)	104
Comprehensive Income	\$ 15,460	\$ 8,301

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements

#### Lumber Liquidators Holdings, Inc.

#### **Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows**

(in thousands)

(unaudited)

	Three Mon Marc 2013	
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:		
Net Income	\$ 15,781	\$ 8,197
Adjustments to Reconcile Net Income to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities:		
Depreciation and Amortization	2,716	2,366
Stock-Based Compensation Expense	1,107	1,133
Changes in Operating Assets and Liabilities:		
Merchandise Inventories	(3,522)	(27,737)
Accounts Payable	(15,966)	13,295
Customer Deposits and Store Credits	2,874	8,087
Prepaid Expenses and Other Current Assets	1,952	(3,063)
Other Assets and Liabilities	6,122	8,059
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	11,064	10,337
Cash Flows from Investing Activities:		
Purchases of Property and Equipment	(2,589)	(3,180)
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities	(2,589)	(3,180)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities:		
Payments for Stock Repurchases	(4,276)	(9,077)
Proceeds from the Exercise of Stock Options	1,278	1,234
Excess Tax Benefit from Stock-Based Compensation	3,367	337
·	ĺ	
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Financing Activities	369	(7,506)
Effect of Exchange Rates on Cash and Cash Equivalents	(283)	110
- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	8,561	(239)
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Period	64,167	61,675
1,		,
Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Period	\$ 72,728	\$ 61,436

 $See\ accompanying\ notes\ to\ condensed\ consolidated\ financial\ statements$ 

#### Lumber Liquidators Holdings, Inc.

#### **Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements**

(amounts in thousands, except share data and per share amounts)

(unaudited)

#### Note 1. Basis of Presentation

Lumber Liquidators Holdings, Inc. (the Company) is a multi-channel specialty retailer of hardwood flooring, and hardwood flooring enhancements and accessories, operating as a single business segment. The Company offers an extensive assortment of exotic and domestic hardwood species, engineered hardwoods and laminates direct to the consumer. The Company also features the renewable flooring products, bamboo and cork, and provides a wide selection of flooring enhancements and accessories, including moldings, noise-reducing underlay, adhesives and flooring tools. These products are primarily sold under the Company s private label brands, including the premium Bellawood brand floors. The Company sells primarily to homeowners or to contractors on behalf of homeowners through a network of 284 store locations in primary or secondary metropolitan areas in 46 states and nine store locations in Canada at March 31, 2013. In addition to the store locations, the Company s products may be ordered, and customer questions/concerns addressed, through both the call center in Toano, Virginia, and the website, www.lumberliquidators.com. The Company finishes the majority of the Bellawood products on its finishing line in Toano, Virginia, which along with the call center, corporate offices, and a distribution center, represent the Corporate Headquarters.

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the instructions to Form 10-Q for interim financial reporting pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). While these statements reflect all normal recurring adjustments which are, in the opinion of management, necessary for a fair presentation of the results of the interim period, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by U.S. generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. Therefore, the interim condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and notes included in the Company s annual report filed on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012.

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

Results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2013 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full year.

#### Note 2. Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The carrying amounts of financial instruments such as cash and cash equivalents, accounts payable and other liabilities approximate fair value because of the short-term nature of these items. Of these financial instruments, the cash equivalents are classified as Level 1 as defined in the Financial Accounting Standards Board ASC 820 fair value hierarchy. The Company had cash equivalents of \$170 at both March 31, 2013 and December 31, 2012.

#### Note 3. Stock Repurchase Program

In 2012, the Company s Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$100,000 of the Company s common stock, and at March 31, 2013, the Company had \$47,096 remaining under this authorization. Purchases under this program were as follows:

	Three Months En	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2013	2012	
Shares Repurchased	70,600	386,969	
Average Price per Share	\$ 54.34	\$ 23.03	

Total Aggregate Costs \$ 3,836 \$ 8,920

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#### Note 4. Net Income per Common Share

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

		hree Months E 2013		ch 31, 012
Net Income	\$	15,781	\$	8,197
Weighted Average Common Shares Outstanding Basic	27	,211,506	27,9	926,544
Effect of Dilutive Securities:				
Common Stock Equivalents		572,105		582,931
Weighted Average Common Shares Outstanding Diluted	27	,783,611	28,	509,475
Net Income per Common Share Basic	\$	0.58	\$	0.29
•				
Net Income per Common Share Diluted	\$	0.57	\$	0.29

The following have been excluded from the computation of Weighted Average Common Shares Outstanding Diluted because the effect would be anti-dilutive:

	Three Months End	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2013	2012	
Stock Options	210,747	961,960	
Restricted Stock Awards		36,133	

#### Note 5. Related Party Transactions

As of March 31, 2013, the Company leased 29 of its locations, representing 9.9% of the total number of store leases in operation, and the Corporate Headquarters, which includes a store location, from entities controlled by the Company s founder and current chairman of the Board (Controlled Companies). Rental expense related to Controlled Companies was as follows:

	Three Months En	ded March 31,
	2013	2012
Rental expense related to Controlled Companies	\$ 707	\$ 641

#### Note 6. Commitments and Contingencies

On May 21, 2012, Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc. and Central Purchasing, LLC (together, the Plaintiffs ) filed an action, which was subsequently amended, in the Superior Court for the County of Los Angeles, California against the Company and certain purported Company employees (the State Court Action ). In the State Court Action, the Plaintiffs contended that they previously employed several individuals now working for the Company, and alleged, among other claims, the improper use and possession by the Company and/or its employees of trade secrets belonging to the Plaintiffs and unfair business practices. The Plaintiffs sought unspecified monetary damages, punitive damages, injunctive, equitable and other relief.

On December 18, 2012, the Plaintiffs filed suit against the Company in the United States District Court for the Central District of California. In that suit, in addition to the claims raised as in the State Court Action, the Plaintiffs alleged that the Company violated certain of the Plaintiffs copyrights. The Plaintiffs sought, among other things, a preliminary injunction precluding the Company from using the Plaintiffs purported confidential information and selling seven specific tool products. The Plaintiffs dismissed the State Court Action as it pertained to the Company but it remained pending as to the individual employees.

Though the Company strongly disputed the Plaintiffs contentions, the parties engaged in settlement processes, reaching a tentative understanding on certain matters in February 2013. As a result, the Company recorded an accrual of approximately \$500 in the fourth quarter of 2012.

In April 2013, the parties reached a final agreement to settle these cases. Pursuant to that agreement, these matters will be dismissed with prejudice. No adjustment to the accrual was required.

On August 30, 2012, Jaroslaw Prusak, a purported customer ( Prusak ), filed a putative class action lawsuit, which was subsequently amended, against the Company in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Prusak alleges that the Company

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willfully violated the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act (FACTA) amendment to the Fair Credit Reporting Act in connection with printed credit card receipts provided to its customers. Prusak, for himself and the putative class, seeks statutory damages of no less than \$100 and no more than \$1,000 per violation, punitive damages, attorney s fees and costs, and other relief. The Company intends to defend this matter vigorously. Given the uncertainty of litigation, the early stage of the case and the legal standards that must be met for, among other things, class certification and success on the merits, no outcome can be predicted at this time. Based upon the current status of the matter and information available, the Company does not, at this time, expect the outcome of this proceeding to have a material adverse effect on its results of operations, financial position or cash flows.

The Company is, from time to time, subject to claims and disputes arising in the normal course of business. In the opinion of management, while the outcome of any such claims and disputes cannot be predicted with certainty, the ultimate liability of the Company in connection with these matters is not expected to have a material adverse effect on the Company s results of operations, financial position or cash flows.

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

#### **Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements**

This report includes statements of our expectations, intentions, plans and beliefs that constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and are intended to come within the safe harbor protection provided by those sections. These statements, which involve risks and uncertainties, relate to matters such as sales growth, comparable store net sales, impact of cannibalization, price changes, earnings performance, stock-based compensation expense, margins, return on invested capital, strategic direction, the demand for our products, and store openings. We have used words such as may, projects, potential and other similar terms and anticipates, believes, thinks, estimates, seeks, predicts, could. references to assumptions, in this report to identify forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are made based on expectations and beliefs concerning future events affecting us and are subject to uncertainties, risks and factors relating to our operations and business environments, all of which are difficult to predict and many of which are beyond our control, that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those matters expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. These risks and other factors include those listed in this report and in our other reports filed with the SEC including the Item 1A, Risk Factors, section of the Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012.

When considering these forward-looking statements, you should keep in mind the cautionary statements in this report and the documents incorporated by reference. New risks and uncertainties arise from time to time, and we cannot predict those events or how they may affect us. There may also be other factors that we cannot anticipate or that are not described in this report that could cause results to differ materially from our expectations. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made and we assume no obligation to update them after the date of this report as a result of new information, future events or subsequent developments, except as required by the federal securities laws.

This management discussion should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes included in Part I, Item 1. Financial Statements of this quarterly report and the audited financial statements and notes and management discussion included in our annual report filed on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012.

#### **Overview and Trends**

Lumber Liquidators is the largest specialty retailer of hardwood flooring in North America. We believe we have achieved a reputation for offering great value, superior service and a broad selection of high-quality hardwood flooring products. We offer an extensive selection of premium hardwood flooring products under multiple proprietary brands at low prices designed to appeal to a diverse customer base. We believe that our vertically integrated business model enables us to offer a broad assortment of high-quality products to our customers at a lower cost than our competitors. At March 31, 2013, we sold our products through 293 Lumber Liquidators stores in 46 states in the U.S. and in Canada, a call center, websites and catalogs.

In 2013, we intend to aggressively pursue share in a wood flooring market we believe is poised for recovery after years of contraction. We expect to grow revenue and expand operating margin as we continue to implement our key strategic initiatives and strengthen our value proposition. We plan to continue to invest a portion of the benefits from these initiatives back into our business to yield long-term growth. These key strategic initiatives, which we began implementing in 2011 and 2012, include:

Broadening the reach and frequency of our advertising to increase recognition of our value proposition and ultimately the number of customers served.

Expanding gross margin through continued execution of our sourcing initiatives and optimization of our supply chain.

Focusing on continuous improvement in our operations, with a foundation of developing the best people to serve our customers or to serve those that do.

The wood flooring market in which we operate is highly fragmented, and dependent on home-related, large-ticket discretionary spending, itself influenced by a number of complex economic and demographic factors that may vary locally, regionally and nationally. In 2012, a number of these factors generally improved, though they remain at historically lower levels. In 2013, we expect continued overall improvement for the

year, though marked by periodic volatility. We believe our customer is likely to remain cautious and price-sensitive.

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In 2012, we completed the initial design of an expanded store showroom to enhance the shopping experience for our customers. We refer to this showroom, coupled with an improved store warehouse design, as our store of the future. We expect all of our new stores in 2013 to feature the expanded showroom. In addition to the new stores, in 2013, we expect to remodel 20 to 25 existing stores, either in their current location or relocated within the primary trade area. In the first quarter of 2013, we opened five new store locations and remodeled six existing stores, all in the store of the future format.

#### **Results of Operations**

#### **Net Sales**

	Three Months En 2013 (dollars in th	2012
Net sales	\$ 230,419	\$ 188,034
Percentage increase	22.5%	17.8%
Number of stores open at end of period	293	267
Number of stores opened in period	5	4
	percentage incre	ase (decrease)
Average sale <sup>1</sup>	7.3%	(0.4%)
Average retail price per unit sold <sup>2</sup>	6.5%	(1.8%)
Comparable Stores <sup>3</sup> :		
Net sales	15.2%	7.5%
Customers invoiced <sup>4</sup>	7.3%	8.0%
Net sales of stores operating for 13 to 36 months	18.4%	20.0%
Net sales of stores operating for more than 36 months	14.9%	4.0%
Net sales in markets with all stores comparable (no cannibalization)	17.7%	9.3%
Net sales in cannibalized markets <sup>5</sup>	40.9%	32.6%

Average sale, calculated on a total company basis, is defined as the average invoiced sale per customer, measured on a monthly basis and excluding transactions of less than \$250 (which are generally sample orders, or add-ons or fill-ins to previous orders) and of more than \$30,000 (which are usually contractor orders)

Net sales for the first quarter of 2013 increased \$42.4 million, or 22.5%, over the first quarter of 2012 as net sales in comparable stores increased \$28.5 million and net sales in non-comparable stores increased \$13.9 million. Net sales increased primarily due to the following factors:

Net sales in comparable stores increased 15.2% in comparing the first quarter of 2013 to 2012 driven by a combination of a greater number of customers invoiced and a higher average sale.

We believe the number of customers invoiced in comparable stores increased primarily as a result of greater recognition of our value proposition through our efforts to expand our advertising reach and frequency.

®

Average retail price per unit sold is calculated on a total company basis and excludes certain service revenue, which consists primarily of freight charges for in-home delivery

A store is generally considered comparable on the first day of the thirteenth full calendar month after opening

Approximated by applying our average sale to total net sales at comparable stores

A cannibalized market has at least one comparable store and one non-comparable store

The average sale in the first quarter of 2013 benefited from an increase in the average retail price per unit sold primarily as a result of changes in the sales mix of flooring products, including continued customer preference for premium products, and increases in the sales mix of moldings and accessories to 17.6% of total net sales in the three months ended March 31, 2013, from 15.0% in the comparable prior year period.

We believe net sales at comparable stores were positively impacted by seven store locations serving communities recovering from the effects of Hurricane Sandy, and as a result, experiencing significant increases in net sales. We estimate the incremental contribution from these store locations raised total comparable store net sales by 125 basis points to 150 basis points in the first quarter of 2013.

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New store locations continue to positively impact our net sales growth. We have opened 30 new locations since January 1, 2012, of which 22 were in existing markets. Increases in net sales are generally greater when a new store is opened in an existing market as compared to a new market primarily due to greater brand awareness in the market.

#### **Gross Profit and Gross Margin**

	Three Month	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2013 (dollars	2012 in thousands)	
Net Sales	\$ 230,419	\$ 188,034	
Cost of Sales	137,422	117,897	
Gross Profit	\$ 92,997	\$ 70,137	
Gross Margin	40.4%	6 37.3%	

We believe that the significant drivers of gross margin expansion and their estimated impact compared to the prior year are as follows:

Driver	Description		Three Months Ended March 31, 2013 2012 <sup>1</sup> expansion (contraction) in basis points	
Product	Cost of acquiring the products we sell from our suppliers, including the impact of our sourcing initiatives; Changes in the mix of products sold; Changes in the average retail price per unit sold.	350	90	
Transportation	International and domestic transportation costs, including the impact of international container rates; Customs and duty charges; Fuel and fuel surcharges; Impact of mill shipments received directly by our stores; Transportation charges from our distribution centers to our stores; Transportation charges between stores and the cost of delivery to our customers.		40	
All Other	Investments in our quality control procedures; Warranty costs; Changes in finishing costs to produce a unit of our proprietary brands; Inventory shrink; Net costs of producing samples.	(40)	(20)	
Total Change in Gross Mar	gin from the prior year	310	110	

*Product:* Gross margin benefited from shifts in our sales mix, lower net costs from our suppliers and a higher average retail price per unit sold.

- ® Shifts in our sales mix included increases in certain premium products and increases in moldings and accessories.
- ® Sourcing initiatives lowered net costs from our suppliers.

<sup>1</sup> Certain amounts have been reclassified to conform to current year presentation.

® Average retail price per unit sold generally benefited from greater discipline at the point of sale.

Transportation: Gross margin was not impacted on a net basis, as the following factors offset:

- ® Generally higher international container costs capitalized into the unit cost of our products;
- ® An increase in the average cost per domestic mile due to generally higher fuel costs;
- B Higher costs due to an increase in the number of units shipped from our distribution centers to our stores;

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- ® Initiatives to enhance the efficiency of distribution center to store deliveries; and
- A significant reduction in the units transferred between stores and a net reduction in delivery rates from third party carriers.

All Other Costs: Gross margin was adversely impacted by certain other costs, including higher sample costs due to a significant increase in sample requests, higher quality control costs and a higher inventory reserve for obsolescence due primarily to the introduction of new products and certain supplier transitions following line reviews. These costs were partially offset by lower costs of inventory shrink.

#### **Operating Income and Operating Margin**

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2013 2012 (dollars in thousands)			
Gross Profit Selling, General and Administrative ( SG&A ) Expenses	\$ 92,997 67,589	\$ 70,137 56,819		
Operating Income Operating Margin	\$ 25,408 11.0%	\$ 13,318 7.1%		

The following table sets forth components of our SG&A expenses for the periods indicated, as a percentage of net sales.

	I nree Months Ended March 3		
	2013	2012	
Total SG&A Expenses	29.3%	30.2%	
Salaries, Commissions and Benefits	12.4%	13.1%	
Advertising	8.0%	7.6%	
Occupancy	3.7%	4.0%	
Depreciation and Amortization	1.1%	1.2%	
Stock-based Compensation	0.5%	0.6%	
Other SG&A Expenses	3.6%	3.7%	

Operating income for the first quarter ended March 31, 2013 increased \$12.1 million, or 90.8%, over the first quarter of 2012 as operating margin expanded 390 basis points to 11.0%. The increase in operating income was driven by an increase in gross profit of \$22.9 million, partially offset by an increase in SG&A expenses of \$10.8 million. SG&A expenses were impacted by the following:

Salaries, commissions and benefits decreased as a percentage of net sales primarily due to higher net sales, partially offset by greater expenses due to store base growth, higher commission rates earned by our store management, an increase in certain benefit costs and higher accruals related to our management bonus plan.

Advertising expenses increased as a percentage of net sales as we continued to broaden our reach and frequency, partially offset by leverage of our national advertising campaigns over a larger store base.

Occupancy costs primarily decreased as a percentage of net sales as higher costs due to store base expansion were more than offset by increases in net sales.

Stock-based compensation decreased as a percentage of net sales primarily due to higher net sales, the benefit of which was partially offset by a special restricted stock grant to certain employees in March 2013 which will be fully vested in March 2014. In addition, our chief executive officer was awarded stock options and restricted stock in March 2013 that will be fully vested in March 2019.

Other SG&A expenses decreased as a percentage of net sales primarily due to higher net sales and lower legal and professional fees.

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#### **Provision for Income Taxes**

	Three Months En	Three Months Ended March 31,		
	2013	2012		
	(dollars in th	ousands)		
Provision for Income Taxes	\$ 9,837	\$ 5,163		
Effective Tax Rate	38.4%	38.6%		

The effective tax rate was 38.4% and 38.6% in the first quarter of 2013 and 2012, respectively.

#### **Net Income**

	Three Months E	Three Months Ended March 31,		
	2013	2012		
	(dollars in t	thousands)		
Net Income	\$ 15,781	\$ 8,197		
As a percentage of net sales	6.8%	4.4%		

Net income increased \$7.6 million, or 92.5%, comparing the first quarter of 2013 to 2012.

#### Seasonality

Our net sales fluctuate slightly as a result of seasonal factors, and we adjust merchandise inventories in anticipation of those factors, causing variations in our build of merchandise inventories. Generally, we experience higher than average net sales in the spring and fall, when more home remodeling activities are taking place, and lower than average net sales in the winter months and during the hottest summer months. These seasonal fluctuations, however, are minimized to some extent by our national presence, as markets experience different seasonal characteristics.

#### **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

Our principal liquidity and capital requirements are for capital expenditures to maintain and grow our business, working capital and general corporate purposes. In addition, we periodically use available funds to repurchase shares of our common stock under our stock repurchase program. Our principal sources of liquidity are \$72.7 million of cash and cash equivalents at March 31, 2013, our cash flow from operations, and our \$50.0 million of availability under our revolving credit facility. We believe that our cash flow from operations, together with our existing liquidity sources, will be sufficient to fund our operations and anticipated capital expenditures for the foreseeable future.

In 2013, we now expect capital expenditures to total between \$17 million and \$19 million. In addition to general capital requirements, we have or intend to:

open between 25 and 35 new store locations;

remodel or relocate 20 to 25 existing stores;

continue to invest in integrated information technology systems;

invest in our supply chain initiatives; and

continue to improve the effectiveness of our marketing programs.

#### Cash and Cash Equivalents

During the three months ended March 31, 2013, cash and cash equivalents increased \$8.6 million to \$72.7 million. The increase of cash and cash equivalents was primarily due to \$11.1 million of net cash provided by operating activities and \$4.6 million of proceeds received from stock option exercises, which were partially offset by the use of \$4.3 million to repurchase common stock and \$2.6 million for capital expenditures.

During the three months ended March 31, 2012, cash and cash equivalents decreased \$0.2 million to \$61.4 million. The decrease of cash and cash equivalents was primarily due to the use of \$9.1 million to repurchase common stock and \$3.2 million for capital expenditures which was partially offset by \$10.3 million of net cash provided by operating activities and \$1.6 million of proceeds received from stock option exercises.

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#### Merchandise Inventories

Merchandise inventories at March 31, 2013 increased \$3.4 million from December 31, 2012, due to an increase in available for sale inventory of \$11.8 million which was partially offset by a reduction in inbound in-transit inventory of \$8.4 million. We consider merchandise inventories either available for sale or inbound in-transit, based on whether we have physically received and inspected the products at an individual store location, in our distribution centers or in another facility where we control and monitor inspection.

Merchandise inventories and available inventory per store in operation were as follows:

	As of March 31, 2013	As of December 31, 2012 (in thousands)		As o	As of March 31, 2012	
Inventory Available for Sale	\$ 180,199	\$	168,409	\$	154,361	
Inventory Inbound In-Transit	29,888		38,295		37,390	
<b>Total Merchandise Inventories</b>	\$ 210,087	\$	206,704	\$	191,751	
Available Inventory Per Store	\$ 615	\$	585	\$	578	

Available inventory per store at March 31, 2013 was higher than both December 31, 2012 and March 31, 2012 as we continued to build inventory to meet increased spring demand. We now expect available inventory per store at the end of the year between \$605,000 and \$625,000.

Inbound in-transit inventory was lower at March 31, 2013 than both December 31, 2012 and March 31, 2012 due primarily to the timing of certain international shipments.

#### Stock Repurchase Program

In 2012, our Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$100.0 million of our common stock. This stock repurchase program represents our commitment to return value to our shareholders, and expresses confidence in our proven store model. During the first quarter of 2013, we repurchased 70,600 shares of our common stock through open market purchases, using approximately \$3.8 million in cash.

#### Cash Flows

**Operating Activities.** Net cash provided by operating activities was \$11.1 million and \$10.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively. Net cash provided by operating activities increased primarily due to more profitable operations, partially offset by the impact of an earlier seasonal build in merchandise inventories, significantly impacting accounts payable.

**Investing Activities.** Net cash used in investing activities was \$2.6 million and \$3.2 million for the three months ended March 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively. First quarter 2012 capital expenditures included approximately \$0.8 million for improved technology at the point of sale and upgrades to distribution center forklifts that were not required in 2013.

**Financing Activities.** Net cash provided by financing activities was \$0.4 million for the three months ended March 31, 2013 and net cash used in financing activities was \$7.5 million for the three months ended March 31, 2012, primarily due to repurchases of common stock. Net cash provided by financing activities in both 2013 and 2012 also included proceeds received from stock option exercises.

### **Certain External Factors Impacting Our Business**

Antidumping and Countervailing Duties Investigation. In October 2010, a conglomeration of domestic manufacturers of multilayered wood flooring filed a petition seeking the imposition of antidumping (AD) and countervailing duties (CVD) with the United States Department of Commerce (DOC) and the United States International Trade Commission (ITC) against imports of multilayered wood flooring from China. The DOC then made preliminary determinations regarding CVD and AD rates in March 2011 and May 2011, respectively.

On October 12, 2011, the DOC announced its final determinations regarding the applicable rates in both the CVD and AD investigations. On November 9, 2011, the ITC made its final determination and concluded that imports of multilayered wood flooring from China materially injure, or threaten material injury to, the domestic industry. Thereafter, AD and CVD orders were issued at the final rates determined by the DOC.

A number of appeals have been filed by several parties challenging various aspects of the determinations made by both the ITC and DOC, including certain appeals that may impact the validity of the AD and CVD orders and the applicable rates. In one such appeal, on March 20, 2013, the Court of International Trade issued a remand order instructing the ITC to, among other things, reconsider its injury determination and further evaluate several economic factors used in its determinations. Additionally, the DOC is currently conducting annual reviews of the AD and CVD rates. As part of that review process, which is scheduled to be completed in 2014, such rates may be changed and applied retroactively to the DOC s preliminary determinations in the original investigation. At this time, we are unable to determine the positive or negative impact, if any, that the various appeals and rate reviews may have on our business.

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

Critical accounting policies are those that we believe are both significant and that require us to make difficult, subjective or complex judgments, often because we need to estimate the effect of inherently uncertain matters. We base our estimates and judgments on historical experiences and various other factors that we believe to be appropriate under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates, and we might obtain different estimates if we used different assumptions or conditions. We have had no significant changes in our critical accounting policies and estimates since our last annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012.

#### Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

#### Interest Rate Risk.

We are exposed to interest rate risk through the investment of our cash and cash equivalents. We invest our cash in short-term investments with maturities of three months or less. Changes in interest rates affect the interest income we earn, and therefore impact our cash flows and results of operations. In addition, any future borrowings under our revolving credit agreement would be exposed to interest rate risk due to the variable rate of the facility.

We currently do not engage in any interest rate hedging activity and currently have no intention to do so in the foreseeable future. However, in the future, in an effort to mitigate losses associated with these risks, we may at times enter into derivative financial instruments, although we have not historically done so. We do not, and do not intend to, engage in the practice of trading derivative securities for profit.

#### Exchange Rate Risk.

The majority of our revenue, expense and capital purchasing activities are transacted in U.S. dollars. However, because a portion of our operations consists of activities outside of the U.S., we have transactions in or exposure to other currencies, including the Euro, Canadian dollar, Chinese yuan and Brazilian real.

We currently do not engage in any exchange rate hedging activity and currently have no intention to do so in the foreseeable future. However, in the future, in an effort to mitigate losses associated with these risks, we may at times engage in transactions involving various derivative instruments to hedge revenues, inventory purchases, assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies.

#### Item 4. Controls and Procedures.

Evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures. Our management evaluated, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer, the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this quarterly report on Form 10-Q. Based on this evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by this report.

Changes in internal control over financial reporting. There was no change in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the period covered by this quarterly report on Form 10-Q that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

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#### PART II

#### OTHER INFORMATION

#### Item 1. Legal Proceedings.

On May 21, 2012, Harbor Freight Tools USA, Inc. and Central Purchasing, LLC (together, the Plaintiffs ) filed an action, which was subsequently amended, in the Superior Court for the County of Los Angeles, California against us and certain purported employees of ours (the State Court Action ). In the State Court Action, the Plaintiffs contended that they previously employed several individuals now working for us, and alleged, among other claims, the improper use and possession by us and/or our employees of trade secrets belonging to the Plaintiffs and unfair business practices. The Plaintiffs sought unspecified monetary damages, punitive damages, injunctive, equitable and other relief.

On December 18, 2012, the Plaintiffs filed suit against us in the United States District Court for the Central District of California. In that suit, in addition to the claims raised as in the State Court Action, the Plaintiffs alleged that we violated certain of the Plaintiffs copyrights. The Plaintiffs sought, among other things, a preliminary injunction precluding us from using the Plaintiffs purported confidential information and selling seven specific tool products. The Plaintiffs dismissed the State Court Action as it pertained to us but it remained pending as to the individual employees.

Though we strongly disputed the Plaintiffs contentions, the parties engaged in settlement processes, reaching a tentative understanding on certain matters in February 2013. As a result, we recorded an accrual of approximately \$0.5 million in the fourth quarter of 2012.

In April 2013, the parties reached a final agreement to settle these cases. Pursuant to that agreement, these matters will be dismissed with prejudice. No adjustment to the accrual was required.

On August 30, 2012, Jaroslaw Prusak, a purported customer (Prusak), filed a putative class action lawsuit, which was subsequently amended, against us in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Prusak alleges that we willfully violated the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act (FACTA) amendment to the Fair Credit Reporting Act in connection with printed credit card receipts provided to our customers. Prusak, for himself and the putative class, seeks statutory damages of no less than \$100 and no more than \$1,000 per violation, punitive damages, attorney is fees and costs, and other relief. We intend to defend this matter vigorously. Given the uncertainty of litigation, the early stage of the case and the legal standards that must be met for, among other things, class certification and success on the merits, no outcome can be predicted at this time. Based upon the current status of the matter and information available, we do not, at this time, expect the outcome of this proceeding to have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial position or cash flows.

#### Item 1A. Risk Factors.

In addition to the other information set forth in this report, you should carefully consider the factors discussed in Part I, Item 1A, Risk Factors, in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, which could materially affect our business, financial condition or future results. There have been no material changes to those risk factors since we filed our fiscal 2012 annual report on Form 10-K. The risks described in our annual report on Form 10-K are not the only risks we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial also may materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and/or results of operations.

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

The following table presents our share repurchase activity for the quarter ended March 31, 2013 (dollars in thousands, except per share amounts):

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased <sup>(1)</sup>	Average Price Paid per Share <sup>(1)</sup>	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Maximum Dollar Value that May
			as Part of	Yet Be Purchased
			Publicly Announced	Under the Plans

			Plans or Programs <sup>(2)</sup>	or l	Programs (2)
January 1, 2013 to January 31, 2013	66,347	\$ 54.23	66,100	\$	47,348
February 1, 2013 to February 28, 2013	2,700	56.54	2,700		47,196
March 1, 2013 to March 31, 2013	8,291	63.43	1,800		