

AIRGAS INC
 Form 10-Q
 August 08, 2012
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UNITED STATES
 SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

ý QUARTERLY REPORT UNDER SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended: June 30, 2012
 Commission file number: 1-9344

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

| | |
|--|--|
| Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) | 56-0732648 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.) |
|--|--|

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 259 North Radnor-Chester Road, Suite 100 Radnor, PA (Address of principal executive offices) (610) 687-5253 (Registrant's telephone number, including area code) | 19087-5283 (ZIP code) |
|--|--------------------------|

| | |
|---|---|
| Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act: | |
| Title of Each Class | Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered |
| Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share | New York Stock Exchange |
| Preferred Stock Purchase Rights | New York Stock Exchange |

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None.

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

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

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|----|
| Large accelerated filer | ý | Accelerated filer | .. |
| Non-accelerated filer | o | Smaller reporting company | .. |

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

The number of shares of common stock outstanding as of August 6, 2012 was 77,042,163.

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AIRGAS, INC.

FORM 10-Q

June 30, 2012

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PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements

AIRGAS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EARNINGS
(Unaudited)

| | Three Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|--------------|
| | June 30, 2012 | 2011 |
| (In thousands, except per share amounts) | | |
| Net Sales | \$ 1,257,256 | \$ 1,164,300 |
| Costs and Expenses: | | |
| Cost of products sold (excluding depreciation) | 568,738 | 530,539 |
| Selling, distribution and administrative expenses | 460,131 | 423,446 |
| Restructuring and other special charges (Note 15) | 5,712 | 13,330 |
| Costs (benefits) related to unsolicited takeover attempt (Note 16) | — | (6,700) |
| Depreciation | 64,367 | 60,267 |
| Amortization | 6,618 | 6,149 |
| Total costs and expenses | 1,105,566 | 1,027,031 |
| Operating Income | 151,690 | 137,269 |
| Interest expense, net | (15,750) | (16,650) |
| Other income, net (Note 2) | 8,363 | 730 |
| Earnings before income taxes | 144,303 | 121,349 |
| Income taxes | (53,505) | (46,355) |
| Net Earnings | \$90,798 | \$74,994 |
| Net Earnings Per Common Share: | | |
| Basic earnings per share | \$ 1.18 | \$0.96 |
| Diluted earnings per share | \$ 1.15 | \$0.94 |
| Weighted Average Shares Outstanding: | | |
| Basic | 76,833 | 78,346 |
| Diluted | 78,799 | 80,097 |

Note: Prior year amounts have been adjusted for the change in accounting for LIFO inventories.

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

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AIRGAS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
 (Unaudited)

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | | |
|---|--------------------|----------|---|
| | June 30, | | |
| | 2012 | 2011 | |
| Net earnings | \$90,798 | \$74,994 | |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), before tax: | | | |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | (2,165 |) 855 | |
| Reclassification of hedging loss included in net earnings | 129 | 129 | |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), before tax | (2,036 |) 984 | |
| Net tax expense of other comprehensive income items | (48 |) (48 |) |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax | (2,084 |) 936 | |
| Comprehensive income | \$88,714 | \$75,930 | |

Note: Prior year amounts have been adjusted for the change in accounting for LIFO inventories.

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of ContentsAIRGAS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

| | (Unaudited) | |
|--|------------------|-------------------|
| (In thousands, except per share amounts) | June 30, 2012 | March 31, 2012 |
| ASSETS | | |
| Current Assets | | |
| Cash | \$54,895 | \$44,663 |
| Trade receivables, less allowances for doubtful accounts of \$34,604 and \$31,845 at June 30, 2012 and March 31, 2012, respectively | 678,672 | 652,439 |
| Inventories, net | 432,216 | 408,438 |
| Deferred income tax asset, net | 53,597 | 49,617 |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | 112,415 | 119,049 |
| Total current assets | 1,331,795 | 1,274,206 |
| Plant and equipment at cost | 4,361,585 | 4,306,420 |
| Less accumulated depreciation | (1,736,488) | (1,690,361) |
| Plant and equipment, net | 2,625,097 | 2,616,059 |
| Goodwill | 1,159,746 | 1,163,803 |
| Other intangible assets, net | 205,047 | 214,204 |
| Other non-current assets | 51,721 | 52,313 |
| Total assets | \$5,373,406 | \$5,320,585 |
| LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY | | |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Accounts payable, trade | \$174,130 | \$174,868 |
| Accrued expenses and other current liabilities | 369,126 | 356,344 |
| Short-term debt | 346,341 | —388,452 |
| Current portion of long-term debt | 8,886 | 10,385 |
| Total current liabilities | 898,483 | 930,049 |
| Long-term debt, excluding current portion | 1,751,155 | 1,761,902 |
| Deferred income tax liability, net | 803,617 | 793,957 |
| Other non-current liabilities | 84,081 | 84,419 |
| Commitments and contingencies | | |
| Stockholders' Equity | | |
| Preferred stock, 20,030 shares authorized, no shares issued or outstanding at June 30, 2012 and March 31, 2012 | — | — |
| Common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, 200,000 shares authorized, 86,953 and 86,874 shares issued at June 30, 2012 and March 31, 2012 | 870 | 869 |
| Capital in excess of par value | 669,570 | 649,551 |
| Retained earnings | 1,756,975 | 1,701,478 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income | 3,302 | 5,386 |
| Treasury stock, 9,999 and 10,207 shares at cost at June 30, 2012 and March 31, 2012, respectively | (594,647) | (607,026) |
| Total stockholders' equity | 1,836,070 | 1,750,258 |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$5,373,406 | \$5,320,585 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

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AIRGAS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(Unaudited)

| | Three Months Ended | |
|---|--------------------|-------------|
| | June 30, | 2011 |
| (In thousands) | 2012 | 2011 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Net earnings | \$90,798 | \$74,994 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation | 64,367 | 60,267 |
| Amortization | 6,618 | 6,149 |
| Impairment | 1,729 | — |
| Deferred income taxes | 6,464 | 9,883 |
| Gain on sales of plant and equipment | (398) |) (172) |
| Gain on sale of businesses | (6,822) |) — |
| Stock-based compensation expense | 12,749 | 11,577 |
| Changes in assets and liabilities, excluding effects of business acquisitions and divestitures: | | |
| Trade receivables, net | (27,250) |) (32,660) |
| Inventories, net | (24,123) |) (15,061) |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | 7,251 | 19,733 |
| Accounts payable, trade | 2,673 | (2,062) |
| Accrued expenses and other current liabilities | 14,082 | (32,793) |
| Other non-current assets | 1,646 | 1,484 |
| Other non-current liabilities | (2,161) |) 8,966 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 147,623 | 110,305 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Capital expenditures | (82,143) |) (78,451) |
| Proceeds from sales of plant, equipment and businesses | 17,721 | 6,676 |
| Business acquisitions and holdback settlements | (2,817) |) (93,159) |
| Other, net | (774) |) (1,445) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (68,013) |) (166,379) |
| CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Net decrease in short-term debt | (42,219) |) — |
| Proceeds from borrowings of long-term debt | 6,500 | 823,515 |
| Repayment of long-term debt | (16,360) |) (448,630) |
| Financing costs | — | (1,751) |
| Purchase of treasury stock | — | (300,000) |
| Proceeds from the exercise of stock options | 7,857 | 8,624 |
| Stock issued for the Employee Stock Purchase Plan | 4,211 | 3,527 |
| Tax benefit realized from the exercise of stock options | 3,060 | 4,012 |
| Dividends paid to stockholders | (30,779) |) (22,270) |
| Change in cash overdraft | (1,648) |) (7,636) |
| Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities | (69,378) |) 59,391 |
| Change in cash | \$10,232 | \$3,317 |
| Cash – Beginning of period | 44,663 | 57,218 |
| Cash – End of period | \$54,895 | \$60,535 |

Note: Prior year amounts have been adjusted for the change in accounting for LIFO inventories.
See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

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AIRGAS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(UNAUDITED)

(1) BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Airgas, Inc. and its subsidiaries (“Airgas” or the “Company”). Intercompany accounts and transactions are eliminated in consolidation. The accompanying consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”). These consolidated financial statements do not include all disclosures required for annual financial statements. These consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the complete disclosures contained in the Company’s audited consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2012.

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires the use of estimates. The consolidated financial statements reflect, in the opinion of management, reasonable estimates and all adjustments necessary to present fairly the Company’s results of operations, financial position and cash flows for the periods presented. The interim operating results are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the entire year.

Effective January 1, 2012, the Company changed its method of accounting for the portion of its hardgoods inventory valued using the last-in, first-out (“LIFO”) method to the average-cost method. The Company applied this change in accounting principle through retrospective application to the prior year’s consolidated financial statements. The impact of the change was immaterial.

(2) ACQUISITIONS AND DIVESTITURES

Acquisitions

Acquisitions have been recorded using the acquisition method of accounting and accordingly, results of their operations have been included in the Company’s consolidated financial statements since the effective date of each respective acquisition.

During the three months ended June 30, 2012, the Company purchased two businesses with historical annual sales of approximately \$2 million. Transaction and other integration costs incurred during the quarter ended June 30, 2012 were \$0.4 million and were included in selling, distribution and administrative expenses in the Company’s Consolidated Statement of Earnings.

In connection with acquisitions completed prior to the April 1, 2009 adoption of the revised guidance on business combinations, the Company is a party to contingent consideration agreements that provide for additional purchase price to be paid to the sellers if the future earnings of the acquired businesses exceed predetermined amounts. Amounts payable under these contingent payment agreements continue through fiscal 2019 and are limited to \$2.1 million. Such amounts, if paid, will be capitalized as additional costs of the acquisitions.

Divestitures

On June 1, 2012, the Company divested the assets and operations of five branch locations in western Canada. The Company realized a gain on the sale of \$6.8 million (\$5.5 million after tax) recorded in “Other income, net” in its Consolidated Statement of Earnings. The operations were included in the Distribution business segment and contributed net sales that were not material to the Company’s consolidated earnings. Proceeds from the sale were used primarily to pay down outstanding debt under the Company’s multi-currency revolving credit line.

(3) INVENTORIES, NET

Inventories, net, consist of:

| (In thousands) | June 30, 2012 | March 31, 2012 |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Hardgoods | \$314,462 | \$307,242 |
| Gases | 117,754 | 101,196 |
| | \$432,216 | \$408,438 |

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AIRGAS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)

(4) GOODWILL AND OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Goodwill

Goodwill represents the excess of the purchase price of an acquired entity over the amounts assigned to the assets acquired and liabilities assumed in a business combination. The valuations of assets acquired and liabilities assumed from certain recent acquisitions are based on preliminary estimates of fair value and are subject to revision as the Company finalizes appraisals and other analyses. Changes in the carrying amount of goodwill by business segment for the three months ended June 30, 2012 were as follows:

| (In thousands) | Distribution Business Segment | All Other Operations Business Segment | Total |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|-------------|
| Balance at March 31, 2012 | \$969,394 | \$194,409 | \$1,163,803 |
| Acquisitions ^(a) | (1,534 |) — | (1,534 |
| Other adjustments, including divestitures and foreign currency translation | (2,500 |) (23 |) (2,523 |
| Balance at June 30, 2012 | \$965,360 | \$194,386 | \$1,159,746 |

^(a) Includes acquisitions completed during the current year and adjustments made to prior year acquisitions.

Other Intangible Assets

Other intangible assets by major class are as follows:

| (In thousands) | June 30, 2012 | | | | March 31, 2012 | | | |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Weighted Average Amortization Period (Years) | Gross Carrying Amount | Accumulated Amortization | Net Carrying Amount | Weighted Average Amortization Period (Years) | Gross Carrying Amount | Accumulated Amortization | Net Carrying Amount |
| Customer relationships | 15 | \$268,844 | \$(80,764 |) \$188,080 | 15 | \$270,096 | \$(74,253 |) \$195,843 |
| Non-competition agreements | 8 | 38,385 | (21,730 |) 16,655 | 8 | 38,378 | (20,427 |) 17,951 |
| Other | | 1,234 | (922 |) 312 | | 1,240 | (830 |) 410 |
| | | \$308,463 | \$(103,416 |) \$205,047 | | \$309,714 | \$(95,510 |) \$214,204 |

Other intangible assets primarily consist of customer relationships, which are amortized over the estimated benefit periods which range from seven to 17 years, and non-competition agreements, which are amortized over the terms of the agreements. The determination of the estimated benefit periods associated with customer relationships is based on an analysis of historical customer sales attrition information and other customer-related factors at the date of acquisition. There are no expected residual values related to these intangible assets. The Company evaluates the estimated benefit periods and recoverability of its intangible assets when facts and circumstances indicate that the lives may not be appropriate and/or the carrying values of the assets may not be recoverable. If the carrying value is not recoverable, impairment is measured as the amount by which the carrying value exceeds its estimated fair value. Fair value is generally estimated based on appraised value or other techniques. Estimated future amortization expense by fiscal year is as follows: remainder of fiscal 2013 - \$18.3 million; 2014 - \$22.5 million; 2015 - \$20.9 million; 2016 - \$19.4 million; 2017 - \$17.5 million; and \$106.4 million thereafter.

Impairment Evaluation

In June 2012, the Company re-evaluated the economic viability of a small hospital piping construction business. The business constitutes a reporting unit within the Company's All Other Operations business segment. In accordance with relevant accounting guidance, if events or circumstances exist indicating that it is more likely than not that goodwill may be impaired, the Company is required to perform an interim assessment of the carrying value of goodwill.

However, prior to performing the test for goodwill impairment, the Company is required to perform an assessment of the recoverability of the long-lived assets (including amortizing intangible assets) of the business. Long-lived assets are not considered recoverable when the carrying

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AIRGAS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)

amount of the long-lived asset or asset group exceeds the undiscounted expected future cash flows. If long-lived assets are not recoverable, an impairment loss is recognized to the extent that the carrying amount exceeds fair value.

As a result of the impairment analysis performed on the long-lived assets at this reporting unit, the Company recorded a charge of \$1.7 million related to certain of the intangible assets associated with this business in the three months ended June 30, 2012. The charge was reflected in the “Restructuring and other special charges” line item of the Company’s Consolidated Statement of Earnings and was not allocated to the Company’s business segments (see Note 13).

Subsequent to the intangible asset write-down, the Company performed an assessment of the carrying value of goodwill associated with the reporting unit. The assessment did not indicate that the reporting unit’s goodwill was potentially impaired. However, the fair value of the reporting unit was not substantially in excess of its carrying amount, consistent with the Company’s most recent annual goodwill impairment test. The Company will continue to monitor this business and consider additional interim analyses of goodwill as appropriate; however, the amount of goodwill associated with this reporting unit is not material to the Company’s consolidated financial statements. The Company performs its annual impairment assessment of the carrying value of goodwill associated with each of its reporting units as of October 31 of each year.

(5) ACCRUED EXPENSES AND OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accrued expenses and other current liabilities include:

| (In thousands) | June 30, 2012 | March 31, 2012 |
|--|---------------|----------------|
| Accrued payroll and employee benefits | \$72,433 | \$99,474 |
| Business insurance reserves ^(a) | 52,473 | 51,435 |
| Income taxes ^(b) | 41,387 | — |
| Taxes other than income taxes | 23,521 | 20,273 |
| Cash overdraft | 70,797 | 72,445 |
| Deferred rental revenue | 31,056 | 29,720 |
| Other accrued expenses and current liabilities | 77,459 | 82,997 |
| | \$369,126 | \$356,344 |

^(a) With respect to the business insurance reserves above, the Company had corresponding insurance receivables of \$13.8 million at both June 30, 2012 and March 31, 2012, which are included within the “Prepaid expenses and other current assets” line item on the Company’s Consolidated Balance Sheets. The insurance receivables represent the balance of probable claim losses in excess of the Company’s deductible for which the Company is fully insured.

^(b) At March 31, 2012, the Company was in a net U.S. federal income tax refund position which was reflected as a current asset.

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AIRGAS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)

(6) INDEBTEDNESS

Total debt consists of:

| (In thousands) | June 30, 2012 | March 31, 2012 |
|--|---------------|----------------|
| Short-term | | |
| Money market loans | \$— | \$— |
| Commercial paper | 346,341 | 388,452 |
| Short-term debt | \$346,341 | \$388,452 |
| Long-term | | |
| Trade receivables securitization | \$295,000 | \$295,000 |
| Revolving credit borrowings - U.S. | — | — |
| Revolving credit borrowings - Multi-currency | 34,283 | 43,472 |
| Revolving credit borrowings - France | 6,396 | 6,338 |
| Senior notes, net | 1,204,940 | 1,205,881 |
| Senior subordinated notes | 215,446 | 215,446 |
| Other long-term debt | 3,976 | 6,150 |
| Total long-term debt | 1,760,041 | 1,772,287 |
| Less current portion of long-term debt | (8,886 |) (10,385) |
| Long-term debt, excluding current portion | \$1,751,155 | \$1,761,902 |
| Total debt | \$2,106,382 | \$2,160,739 |

Money Market Loans

The Company has an agreement with a financial institution which provides access to short-term advances not to exceed \$35 million that expires on September 30, 2012, but may be extended subject to renewal provisions contained in the agreement. The advances are generally overnight or for up to seven days. The amount, term and interest rate of an advance are established through mutual agreement with the financial institution when the Company requests such an advance. At June 30, 2012, there were no advances outstanding under the agreement.

The Company also has an agreement with another financial institution to provide access to additional short-term advances not to exceed \$35 million. The agreement expires on January 2, 2013, but may be extended subject to renewal provisions contained in the agreement. The advances may be for one to six months with rates at a fixed spread over the corresponding London Interbank Offering Rate (“LIBOR”). At June 30, 2012, there were no advances outstanding under the agreement.

Commercial Paper

The Company participates in a \$750 million commercial paper program supported by its \$750 million revolving credit facility (see below). This program allows the Company to obtain favorable short-term borrowing rates with maturities that may vary, but will generally not exceed 90 days from the date of issue. The Company has used proceeds from the commercial paper program to pay down amounts outstanding under its revolving credit facility and for general corporate purposes. At June 30, 2012, \$346.3 million was outstanding under the commercial paper program and the average effective interest rate on these borrowings was 0.55%.

Trade Receivables Securitization

The Company participates in a securitization agreement with three commercial banks to which it sells qualifying trade receivables on a revolving basis (the “Securitization Agreement”). The Company’s sale of qualified trade receivables is accounted for as a secured borrowing under which qualified trade receivables collateralize amounts borrowed from the

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AIRGAS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)

commercial banks. Trade receivables that collateralize the Securitization Agreement are held in a bankruptcy-remote special purpose entity, which is consolidated for financial reporting purposes and represents the Company's only variable interest entity. Qualified trade receivables in the amount of the outstanding borrowing under the Securitization Agreement are not available to the general creditors of the Company. The maximum amount of the Securitization Agreement is \$295 million and it bears interest at approximately LIBOR plus 70 basis points. At June 30, 2012, the amount of outstanding borrowing under the Securitization Agreement was \$295 million, and it was classified as long-term debt on the Consolidated Balance Sheet. Amounts borrowed under the Securitization Agreement could fluctuate monthly based on the Company's funding requirements and the level of qualified trade receivables available to collateralize the Securitization Agreement. The Securitization Agreement expires in December 2013 and contains customary events of termination, including standard cross-default provisions with respect to outstanding debt.

Senior Credit Facility

The Company participates in a \$750 million Amended and Restated Credit Facility (the "Credit Facility"). The Credit Facility consists of a \$650 million U.S. dollar revolving credit line and a \$100 million (U.S. dollar equivalent) multi-currency revolving credit line. The maturity date of the Credit Facility is July 19, 2016. Under circumstances described in the Credit Facility, the revolving credit line may be increased by an additional \$325 million, provided that the multi-currency revolving credit line may not be increased by more than an additional \$50 million.

As of June 30, 2012, the Company had \$34 million of borrowings under the Credit Facility, all of which were under the multi-currency revolver. There were no borrowings under the U.S. dollar revolver at June 30, 2012. The Company also had outstanding U.S. letters of credit of \$44 million issued under the Credit Facility. U.S. dollar revolver borrowings bear interest at LIBOR plus 125 basis points. The multi-currency revolver bears interest based on a rate of 125 basis points over the Euro currency rate applicable to each foreign currency borrowing. As of June 30, 2012, the average effective interest rate on the multi-currency revolver was 1.84%. In addition to the borrowing spread of 125 basis points for U.S. dollar and multi-currency revolver borrowings, the Company pays a commitment (or unused) fee on the undrawn portion of the Credit Facility equal to 20 basis points per annum.

At June 30, 2012, the financial covenant of the Credit Facility did not restrict the Company's ability to borrow on the unused portion of the Credit Facility. The Credit Facility contains customary events of default, including, without limitation, failure to make payments, a cross-default to certain other debt, breaches of covenants, breaches of representations and warranties, certain monetary judgments and bankruptcy and ERISA events. In the event of default, repayment of borrowings under the Credit Facility may be accelerated. As of June 30, 2012, \$325 million remained available under the Company's Credit Facility, after giving effect to the borrowings under the commercial paper program backstopped by the Credit Facility, the outstanding U.S. letters of credit and the borrowings under the multi-currency revolver.

The Company also maintains a committed revolving line of credit of up to €8.0 million (U.S. \$10.1 million) to fund its operations in France. These revolving credit borrowings are outside of the Company's Credit Facility. At June 30, 2012, these revolving credit borrowings were €5.0 million (U.S. \$6.4 million). The variable interest rates on the French revolving credit borrowings are based on the Euro currency rate plus 125 basis points. As of June 30, 2012, the effective interest rate on the French revolving credit borrowings was 1.58%. This line of credit matures on December 31, 2012.

Senior Notes

At June 30, 2012, the Company had \$300 million outstanding of 2.85% senior notes maturing on October 1, 2013 (the "2013 Notes"). The 2013 Notes were issued at a discount with a yield of 2.871%. Interest on the 2013 Notes is payable semi-annually on April 1 and October 1 of each year.

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At June 30, 2012, the Company had \$400 million outstanding of 4.5% senior notes maturing on September 15, 2014 (the "2014 Notes"). The 2014 Notes were issued at a discount with a yield of 4.527%. Interest on the 2014 Notes is payable semi-annually on March 15 and September 15 of each year.

At June 30, 2012, the Company had \$250 million outstanding of 3.25% senior notes maturing on October 1, 2015 (the "2015 Notes"). The 2015 Notes were issued at a discount with a yield of 3.283%. Interest on the 2015 Notes is payable semi-annually on April 1 and October 1 of each year.

At June 30, 2012, the Company had \$250 million outstanding of 2.95% senior notes maturing on June 15, 2016 (the "2016 Notes"). The 2016 Notes were issued at a discount with a yield of 2.980%. Interest on the 2016 Notes is payable semi-

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AIRGAS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)

annually on June 15 and December 15 of each year.

The 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 Notes (collectively, the “Senior Notes”) contain covenants that could restrict the incurrence of liens and limit sale and leaseback transactions. Additionally, the Company has the option to redeem the Senior Notes prior to their maturity, in whole or in part, at 100% of the principal plus any accrued but unpaid interest and applicable make-whole payments.

Senior Subordinated Notes

At June 30, 2012, the Company had \$215 million outstanding of 7.125% senior subordinated notes maturing on October 1, 2018 (the “2018 Notes”). Interest on the 2018 Notes is payable semi-annually on April 1 and October 1 of each year. The 2018 Notes have a redemption provision which permits the Company, at its option, to call the 2018 Notes at scheduled dates and prices. The first scheduled optional redemption date is October 1, 2013 at a price of 103.563% of the principal amount.

Other Long-term Debt

The Company’s other long-term debt primarily consists of vendor financing of rental welders, capitalized lease obligations and notes issued to sellers of businesses acquired, which are repayable in periodic installments. At June 30, 2012, other long-term debt totaled \$4.0 million with an average interest rate of approximately 6% and an average maturity of approximately one year.

Aggregate Long-term Debt Maturities

The aggregate maturities of long-term debt at June 30, 2012 are as follows:

| (In thousands) | Debt Maturities ^(a) |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| June 30, 2013 | \$8,886 |
| March 31, 2014 | 595,607 |
| March 31, 2015 | 400,521 |
| March 31, 2016 | 250,232 |
| March 31, 2017 | 284,410 |
| Thereafter | 215,446 |
| | \$1,755,102 |

^(a) Outstanding borrowings under the Securitization Agreement at June 30, 2012 are reflected as maturing at the agreement’s expiration in December 2013.

The Senior Notes are reflected in the debt maturity schedule at their maturity values rather than their carrying values, which are net of aggregate discounts of \$0.8 million at June 30, 2012. The 2013 Notes also include additional carrying value of \$5.8 million at June 30, 2012 related to the Company’s fair value hedges — see Note 7 for additional disclosure.

(7) DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS AND HEDGING ACTIVITIES

The Company manages its exposure to changes in market interest rates. The Company’s involvement with derivative instruments is limited to highly effective interest rate swap agreements used to manage well-defined interest rate risk exposures and treasury rate lock agreements used to fix the interest rate related to forecasted debt issuances. The Company monitors its positions and credit ratings of its counterparties and does not anticipate non-performance by the counterparties. Interest rate swap and treasury rate lock agreements are not entered into for trading purposes. The Company recognizes derivative instruments as either assets or liabilities at fair value on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. At June 30, 2012, the Company was party to a total of five interest rate swap agreements with an aggregate notional amount of \$300 million.

Cash Flow Hedges

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AIRGAS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)

In anticipation of the issuance of the 2015 Notes, the Company entered into a treasury rate lock agreement in July 2010 with a notional amount of \$100 million that matured in September 2010. The treasury rate lock agreement was designated as a cash flow hedge of the semi-annual interest payments associated with the forecasted issuance of the 2015 Notes. When the treasury rate lock agreement matured, the Company realized a loss of \$2.6 million (\$1.6 million after tax) which was reported as a component within Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (“AOCI”) and is being reclassified into earnings over the term of the 2015 Notes. For the three months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011, \$129 thousand of the loss on the treasury rate lock was reclassified to interest expense. At June 30, 2012, the estimated loss recorded in AOCI on the treasury rate lock agreement that is expected to be reclassified into earnings within the next twelve months is \$517 thousand (\$326 thousand after tax).

Fair Value Hedges

The Company also has variable interest rate swap agreements, which are designated as fair value hedges. For derivative instruments designated as fair value hedges, the gain or loss on the derivative as well as the offsetting gain or loss on the hedged item attributable to the hedged risk are recognized in current earnings.

At June 30, 2012, the Company had five variable interest rate swaps outstanding with a notional amount of \$300 million. These variable interest rates swaps effectively convert the Company’s \$300 million of fixed rate 2013 Notes to variable rate debt. At June 30, 2012, these swap agreements required the Company to make variable interest payments based on a weighted average forward rate of 1.33% and receive fixed interest payments from the counterparties based on a fixed rate of 2.85%. The maturity of these fair value swaps coincides with the maturity date of the Company’s 2013 Notes in October 2013. During the three months ended June 30, 2012, the fair value of the variable interest rate swaps decreased by \$1.0 million to an asset of \$5.7 million and was recorded in other non-current assets. The corresponding decrease in the carrying value of the 2013 Notes caused by the hedged risk was \$1.0 million and was recorded in long-term debt. The Company records the gain or loss on the hedged item (i.e., the 2013 Notes) and the gain or loss on the variable interest rate swaps in interest expense. The net gain or loss recorded in earnings as a result of hedge ineffectiveness related to the designated fair value hedges was immaterial for the three months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011.

Tabular Disclosure

The following tables reflect the fair values of derivative instruments on the Company’s Consolidated Balance Sheets as well as the effect of derivative instruments on the Company’s earnings and stockholders’ equity.

Fair Value of Derivatives Designated as Hedging Instruments

| (In thousands) | June 30, 2012 | Fair Value | March 31, 2012 | Fair Value |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|
| | Balance Sheet Location | | Balance Sheet Location | |
| Interest rate swaps: | | | | |
| Variable interest rate swaps | Other non-current assets | \$5,714 | Other non-current assets | \$6,734 |

Effect of Derivative Instruments on Earnings and Stockholders’ Equity

| (In thousands) | Amount of Gain Recognized in OCI on Derivatives | |
|--|---|-------|
| | Three Months Ended June 30, 2012 | 2011 |
| Derivatives in Cash Flow Hedging Relationships | \$129 | \$129 |
| Interest rate contracts | (48 |) (48 |
| Tax effect | |) |
| Net effect | \$81 | \$81 |

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AIRGAS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)

| (In thousands) | Amount of Loss Reclassified from AOCI into Pre-tax Income ^(a) | |
|---|---|--------|
| | Three Months Ended June 30, 2012 | |
| Location of Loss Reclassified from AOCI into Pre-tax Income for Derivatives in Cash Flow Hedging Relationships | 2012 | 2011 |
| Interest expense, net | \$ 129 | \$ 129 |

(a) The tax effects of the reclassification adjustments were \$48 thousand for the three months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011.

| (In thousands) | Location of Gain (Loss) Recognized in Pre-tax Income | Amount of Gain (Loss) Recognized in Pre-Tax Income | |
|---|--|---|-------------|
| | | Three Months Ended June 30, | |
| Derivatives in Fair Value Hedging Relationships | | 2012 | 2011 |
| Change in fair value of variable interest rate swaps | Interest expense, net | \$ (1,020 |) \$ 2,534 |
| Change in carrying value of 2013 Notes | Interest expense, net | 1,017 | (2,673) |
| Net effect | Interest expense, net | \$ (3 |) \$ (139) |

(8) FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Assets and liabilities recorded at fair value are classified based upon the level of judgment associated with the inputs used to measure their fair value. The hierarchical levels related to the subjectivity of the valuation inputs are defined as follows:

• Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities at the measurement date.

• Level 2 inputs are inputs, other than quoted prices included within Level 1, that are observable, directly or indirectly through corroboration with observable market data at the measurement date.

• Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs that reflect management's best estimate of the assumptions (including assumptions about risk) that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability at the measurement date. The carrying value of cash, trade receivables, other current receivables, trade payables and other current liabilities (e.g., deposit liabilities, cash overdrafts, etc.) approximates fair value.

Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis

Assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis at June 30, 2012 and March 31, 2012 are categorized in the tables below based on the lowest level of significant input to the valuation. During the periods presented, there were no transfers between fair value hierarchical levels.

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AIRGAS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)

| (In thousands) | Balance at June 30, 2012 | Quoted prices in active markets Level 1 | Significant other observable inputs Level 2 | Significant unobservable inputs Level 3 |
|--|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Assets: | | | | |
| Deferred compensation plan assets | \$ 11,872 | \$ 11,872 | \$— | \$— |
| Derivative assets - variable interest rate swap agreements | 5,714 | — | 5,714 | — |
| Total assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis | \$ 17,586 | \$ 11,872 | \$ 5,714 | \$— |
| Liabilities: | | | | |
| Deferred compensation plan liabilities | \$ 11,872 | \$ 11,872 | \$— | \$— |
| Contingent consideration liability | 2,433 | — | — | 2,433 |
| Total liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis | \$ 14,305 | \$ 11,872 | \$— | \$ 2,433 |
| | | | | |
| (In thousands) | Balance at March 31, 2012 | Quoted prices in active markets Level 1 | Significant other observable inputs Level 2 | Significant unobservable inputs Level 3 |
| Assets: | | | | |
| Deferred compensation plan assets | \$ 11,126 | \$ 11,126 | \$— | \$— |
| Derivative assets - variable interest rate swap agreements | 6,734 | — | 6,734 | — |
| Total assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis | \$ 17,860 | \$ 11,126 | \$ 6,734 | \$— |
| Liabilities: | | | | |
| Deferred compensation plan liabilities | \$ 11,126 | \$ 11,126 | \$— | \$— |
| Contingent consideration liability | 2,512 | — | — | 2,512 |
| Total liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis | \$ 13,638 | \$ 11,126 | \$— | \$ 2,512 |

The following is a general description of the valuation methodologies used for financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value:

Deferred compensation plan assets and corresponding liabilities — The Company's deferred compensation plan assets consist of open-ended mutual funds (Level 1) and are included within other non-current assets on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. The Company's deferred compensation plan liabilities are equal to the plan's assets and are included within other non-current liabilities on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. Gains or losses on the deferred compensation plan assets are recognized as other income (expense), net, while gains or losses on the deferred compensation plan liabilities are recognized as compensation expense in the Consolidated Statements of Earnings.

Derivative assets — interest rate swap agreements — The Company's variable interest rate swap agreements are with highly rated counterparties, are designated as fair value hedges and effectively convert the Company's fixed rate 2013 Notes to variable rate debt. The swap agreements are valued using an income approach that relies on observable market inputs such as interest rate yield curves and treasury spreads (Level 2). Expected future cash flows are converted to a present value amount based upon market expectations of the changes in these interest rate yield curves. The fair values

of the Company's interest rate swap agreements are included within other non-current assets on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. See Note 7 for additional derivatives disclosures.

Contingent consideration liability — As part of the consideration for a fiscal 2011 acquisition, the Company has an arrangement in place whereby future consideration in the form of cash may be transferred to the seller contingent upon the achievement of certain earnings targets. The fair value of the contingent consideration arrangement was estimated using the income approach with inputs that are not observable in the market. Key assumptions include a discount rate commensurate with the level of risk of achievement, time horizon and other risk factors, and probability adjusted earnings growth, all of which the

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AIRGAS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)

Company believes are appropriate and representative of market participant assumptions. Of the total liability for the contingent consideration arrangement at June 30, 2012, \$1.7 million is included within other non-current liabilities while the remainder is included within accrued expenses and other current liabilities on the Consolidated Balance Sheet. The impact on the Company's earnings as a result of the contingent consideration arrangement for the three months ended June 30, 2012 was immaterial.

Changes in the fair value of recurring fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) for the three months ended June 30, 2012 were as follows (in thousands):

| | | |
|---|---------|---|
| Balance at March 31, 2012 | \$2,512 | |
| Contingent consideration liability recorded | — | |
| Settlements made during the period | (140 |) |
| Adjustments to fair value measurement | 61 | |
| Balance at June 30, 2012 | \$2,433 | |

Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on a Nonrecurring Basis

Certain assets and liabilities are measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis in periods subsequent to initial recognition. Assets measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis at June 30, 2012 and March 31, 2012 are categorized in the table below based on the lowest level of significant input to the valuation. There were no liabilities measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis at June 30, 2012 or March 31, 2012.

| (In thousands) | Balance at June 30, 2012 | Quoted prices in active markets Level 1 | Significant other observable inputs Level 2 | Significant unobservable inputs Level 3 | Total Losses (three months ended June 30, 2012) |
|---|-----------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| Assets: | | | | | |
| Other intangible assets | \$ 535 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 535 | \$ 1,729 |
| Total assets measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis | \$ 535 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 535 | \$ 1,729 |

| (In thousands) | Balance at March 31, 2012 | Quoted prices in active markets Level 1 | Significant other observable inputs Level 2 | Significant unobservable inputs Level 3 | Total Losses (year ended March 31, 2012) |
|---|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Assets: | | | | | |
| Long-lived assets held and used | \$ 8,438 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 8,438 | \$ 4,250 |
| Total assets measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis | \$ 8,438 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 8,438 | \$ 4,250 |

In June 2012, the Company re-evaluated the economic viability of a small hospital piping construction business. As a result of an impairment analysis performed on the assets at this reporting unit, the Company recorded a charge of \$1.7 million related to certain of the intangible assets associated with this business for the three months ended June 30, 2012, which was reflected in the "Restructuring and other special charges" line item of the Company's Consolidated Statement of Earnings for the three months ended June 30, 2012. The Company used a variation of the income approach, namely the excess earnings method, to estimate the fair value of the intangible assets associated with the business. Under this approach, an intangible asset's fair value is estimated to be the present value of the incremental

after-tax cash flows attributable solely to the intangible asset over its remaining useful life. Key inputs in this model include the cash flow forecast, discount rate, contributory asset charges and tax amortization benefits. As of June 30, 2012, the remeasured other intangible assets related to this reporting unit totaled \$0.5 million.

In September 2011, the Company performed an evaluation of the recoverability of the fixed assets related to one of its liquid carbon dioxide plants. This evaluation was based upon the receipt of notice that a supplier's hydrogen plant, which generates carbon dioxide as a by-product that serves as the feedstock for the Company's co-located liquid carbon dioxide plant, will cease operations in calendar year 2013. In addition, in March 2012, the Company performed an evaluation of the

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)

recoverability of the fixed assets related to one of its smaller and less efficient air separation units. The evaluation was based on the re-evaluation of the plan for the operation of the air separation unit over the long-term.

As a result of the analyses, the Company remeasured the fixed assets of its liquid carbon dioxide plant and recognized an impairment charge of \$2.5 million, and remeasured the fixed assets related to the air separation unit and recognized an impairment charge of \$1.8 million, both of which were reflected in the “Restructuring and other special charges” line item of the Company’s Consolidated Statement of Earnings for the year ended March 31, 2012. The remeasured plant fixed assets totaled \$8.8 million and the remeasured fixed assets related to the air separation unit totaled \$0.4 million, at each respective date of evaluation. As of March 31, 2012, the remeasured plant fixed assets totaled \$8.0 million and the remeasured fixed assets related to the air separation unit totaled \$0.4 million, and were included within plant and equipment on the Company’s Consolidated Balance Sheet. The Company used an income approach to estimate the fair values of the plant and air separation unit fixed assets based on significant unobservable inputs (Level 3). Factors such as expected future revenues and margins, the likelihood of asset redeployment and the length of the remaining operating term were considered in determining the future cash flows of the fixed assets at both the plant and air separation unit. The asset groups will not be remeasured at fair value on a recurring basis; however, they are still subject to fair value measurements to test for recoverability of the carrying amounts should future conditions warrant an evaluation.

Fair Value of Debt

The carrying value of debt, which is reported on the Company’s Consolidated Balance Sheets, generally reflects the cash proceeds received upon its issuance, net of subsequent repayments, plus the impact of the Company’s fair value hedges. The fair value of the Company’s variable interest rate revolving credit borrowings disclosed in the table below was estimated based on observable forward yield curves and credit spreads management believes a market participant would assume for these facilities under market conditions as of the balance sheet date (Level 2). The fair values of the fixed rate notes disclosed below were determined based on quoted prices from the broker/dealer market, observable market inputs for similarly termed treasury notes adjusted for the Company’s credit spread and inputs management believes a market participant would use in determining imputed interest for obligations without a stated interest rate (Level 2). The fair values of the securitized receivables and the commercial paper approximate their carrying values.

| (In thousands) | Carrying Value at June 30, 2012 | Fair Value at June 30, 2012 | Carrying Value at March 31, 2012 | Fair Value at March 31, 2012 |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Commercial paper | \$ 346,341 | \$ 346,341 | \$ 388,452 | \$ 388,452 |
| Trade receivables securitization | 295,000 | 295,000 | 295,000 | 295,000 |
| Revolving credit borrowings | 40,679 | 40,679 | 49,810 | 49,810 |
| 2013 Notes | 305,676 | 312,654 | 306,677 | 314,881 |
| 2014 Notes | 399,784 | 429,260 | 399,760 | 429,530 |
| 2015 Notes | 249,755 | 259,453 | 249,736 | 260,325 |
| 2016 Notes | 249,725 | 259,013 | 249,708 | 257,821 |
| 2018 Notes | 215,446 | 233,364 | 215,446 | 234,836 |
| Other long-term debt | 3,976 | 4,153 | 6,150 | 6,410 |
| Total debt | \$ 2,106,382 | \$ 2,179,917 | \$ 2,160,739 | \$ 2,237,065 |

(9) STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Changes in stockholders' equity were as follows:

| (In thousands of shares) | Shares of Common Stock \$0.01 | Shares of Treasury Stock |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|

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| | Par Value | |
|---|-----------|--------|
| Balance at March 31, 2012 | 86,874 | 10,207 |
| Common stock issuance ^(a) | 79 | |
| Reissuance of treasury stock for stock option exercises | | (208) |
| Balance at June 30, 2012 | 86,953 | 9,999 |

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AIRGAS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)

| (In thousands) | Common Stock | Capital in Excess of Par Value | Retained Earnings | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income | Treasury Stock | Total Stockholders' Equity |
|--|-----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Balance at March 31, 2012 | \$ 869 | \$ 649,551 | \$ 1,701,478 | \$ 5,386 | \$ (607,026) | \$ 1,750,258 |
| Net earnings | | | 90,798 | | | 90,798 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | | | | (2,165) |) | (2,165) |
| Reclassification of hedging loss included in net earnings | | | | 129 | | 129 |
| Tax effect of other comprehensive income items | | | | (48) |) | (48) |
| Common stock issuances and reissuances from treasury stock - employee benefit plans ^(b) | 1 | 4,210 | (4,522) |) | 12,379 | 12,068 |
| Tax benefit from stock option exercises | | 3,060 | | | | 3,060 |
| Dividends paid on common stock (\$0.40 per share) | | | (30,779) |) | | (30,779) |
| Stock-based compensation ^(c) | | 12,749 | | | | 12,749 |
| Balance at June 30, 2012 | \$ 870 | \$ 669,570 | \$ 1,756,975 | \$ 3,302 | \$ (594,647) | \$ 1,836,070 |

(a) Issuance of common stock for purchases through the Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

(b) Issuance of common stock for purchases through the Employee Stock Purchase Plan and reissuance of treasury stock for stock option exercises.

(c) The Company recognized compensation expense with a corresponding amount recorded to capital in excess of par value.

The table below presents the gross and net changes in the balances within each component of AOCI for the three months ended June 30, 2012.

| (In thousands) | Foreign Currency Translation Adjustments | Treasury Rate Lock Agreement | Total Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) |
|--|--|---------------------------------|---|
| Balance at March 31, 2012 | \$6,527 | \$(1,141) |) \$5,386 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | (2,165) |) | (2,165) |
| Derivative instruments: | | | |
| Reclassification of hedging loss included in net earnings | | 129 | 129 |
| Net tax effect of other comprehensive income items | | (48) |) (48) |
| Net change after tax of other comprehensive income items | (2,165) |) 81 | (2,084) |
| Balance at June 30, 2012 | \$4,362 | \$(1,060) |) \$3,302 |

(10) STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION

The Company recognizes stock-based compensation expense for its Equity Incentive Plan and Employee Stock Purchase Plan. The following table summarizes stock-based compensation expense recognized by the Company for

the three months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011.

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AIRGAS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended June 30, | |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Stock-based compensation expense related to: | | |
| Equity Incentive Plan | \$ 11,423 | \$ 10,488 |
| Employee Stock Purchase Plan - options to purchase stock | 1,326 | 1,089 |
| | 12,749 | 11,577 |
| Tax benefit | (4,521 |) (4,165 |
| Stock-based compensation expense, net of tax | \$ 8,228 | \$ 7,412 |

Fair Value

The Company utilizes the Black-Scholes option pricing model to determine the fair value of stock options. The weighted-average grant date fair value of stock options granted during the three months ended June 30, 2012, and 2011 was \$29.54 and \$22.89, respectively.

Summary of Stock Option Activity

The following table summarizes the stock option activity during the three months ended June 30, 2012:

| | Number of Stock Options | Weighted-Average Exercise Price |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Outstanding at March 31, 2012 | 6,584 | \$47.08 |
| Granted | 925 | \$91.91 |
| Exercised | (210 |) \$38.14 |
| Forfeited | (22 |) \$70.41 |
| Outstanding at June 30, 2012 | 7,277 | \$52.96 |
| Vested or expected to vest at June 30, 2012 | 7,245 | \$52.83 |
| Exercisable at June 30, 2012 | 4,840 | \$43.39 |

A total of 962 thousand shares of common stock were available for issuance under the Amended and Restated 2006 Equity Incentive Plan as of June 30, 2012.

As of June 30, 2012, \$55.1 million of unrecognized non-cash compensation expense related to non-vested stock options is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average vesting period of 2 years.

Employee Stock Purchase Plan

The Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the "ESPP") encourages and assists employees in acquiring an equity interest in the Company. As of June 30, 2012, the ESPP had 1.7 million shares of Company common stock available for issuance.

Compensation expense is measured based on the fair value of the employees' option to purchase shares of common stock at the grant date and is recognized over the future periods in which the related employee service is rendered. The fair value per share of employee options to purchase shares under the ESPP was \$17.26 and \$13.16 for the three months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively. The fair value of the employees' option to purchase shares of common stock was estimated using the Black-Scholes model.

ESPP - Purchase Option Activity

The following table summarizes the activity of the ESPP during the three months ended June 30, 2012:

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AIRGAS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)

| | Number of Purchase Options | Weighted-Average Exercise Price |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Outstanding at March 31, 2012 | 79 | \$51.61 |
| Granted | 244 | \$71.10 |
| Exercised | (79 |) \$51.61 |
| Outstanding at June 30, 2012 | 244 | \$71.10 |

(11) EARNINGS PER SHARE

Basic earnings per share is calculated by dividing net earnings by the weighted average number of shares of the Company's common stock outstanding during the period. Outstanding shares consist of issued shares less treasury stock. Diluted earnings per share is calculated by dividing net earnings by the weighted average common shares outstanding adjusted for the dilutive effect of common stock equivalents related to stock options and the Company's ESPP.

Outstanding stock options that are anti-dilutive are excluded from the Company's diluted earnings per share computation. There were approximately 1.3 million and 1.5 million shares covered by outstanding stock options that were not dilutive for the three months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

The table below presents the computation of basic and diluted weighted average common shares outstanding for the three months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011:

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | |
|---|--------------------|--------|
| | June 30, 2012 | 2011 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding: | | |
| Basic | 76,833 | 78,346 |
| Incremental shares from assumed exercises of stock options and options under the ESPP | 1,966 | 1,751 |
| Diluted shares outstanding | 78,799 | 80,097 |

(12) COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Litigation

The Company is involved in various legal and regulatory proceedings that have arisen in the ordinary course of business and have not been fully adjudicated. These actions, when ultimately concluded and determined, will not, in the opinion of management, have a material adverse effect upon the Company's consolidated financial condition, results of operations or liquidity.

(13) SUMMARY BY BUSINESS SEGMENT

Business segment information for the Company's Distribution and All Other Operations business segments is presented below for the three months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011. Business segment operating results for the prior period were adjusted for the retrospective application of the LIFO to average-cost change in accounting principle implemented during the year ended March 31, 2012. Although corporate operating expenses are generally allocated to each business segment based on sales dollars, the Company reports expenses (excluding depreciation) related to the implementation of its SAP system and the Company's withdrawal from various multi-employer pension plans ("MEPPs") under selling, distribution and administrative expenses in the Eliminations and Other column below. Additionally, the Company's restructuring and other special charges and the legal, professional and other costs (benefits) incurred as a result of the Air Products & Chemicals, Inc. ("Air Products") unsolicited takeover attempt are

not allocated to the Company's business segments. These costs (benefits) are also reflected in the Eliminations and Other column below. Corporate assets have been allocated to the Distribution business segment, intercompany sales are recorded on the same basis as sales to third parties, and intercompany transactions are eliminated in consolidation. Management utilizes more than one measurement and multiple views of data to measure segment performance and to allocate resources to the segments. However, the predominant measurements are consistent with the Company's

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AIRGAS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)

consolidated financial statements and accordingly, are reported on the same basis below.

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended June 30, 2012 | | | Total |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| | Distribution | All Other Ops. | Eliminations and Other | |
| Gas and rent | \$638,610 | \$152,125 | \$(9,179) |) \$781,556 |
| Hardgoods | 473,991 | 1,710 | (1) |) 475,700 |
| Total net sales | 1,112,601 | 153,835 | (9,180) |) 1,257,256 |
| Cost of products sold (excluding depreciation) | 500,613 | 77,305 | (9,180) |) 568,738 |
| Selling, distribution and administrative expenses | 408,819 | 41,374 | 9,938 | 460,131 |
| Restructuring and other special charges | — | — | 5,712 | 5,712 |
| Depreciation | 59,096 | 5,271 | — | 64,367 |
| Amortization | 5,367 | 1,251 | — | 6,618 |
| Operating income | \$138,706 | \$28,634 | \$(15,650) |) \$151,690 |

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended June 30, 2011 | | | Total |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| | Distribution | All Other Ops. | Eliminations and Other | |
| Gas and rent | \$604,571 | \$141,588 | \$(9,122) |) \$737,037 |
| Hardgoods | 425,889 | 1,378 | (4) |) 427,263 |
| Total net sales | 1,030,460 | 142,966 | (9,126) |) 1,164,300 |
| Cost of products sold (excluding depreciation) | 461,403 | 78,262 | (9,126) |) 530,539 |
| Selling, distribution and administrative expenses | 375,227 | 39,038 | 9,181 | 423,446 |
| Restructuring and other special charges | — | — | 13,330 | 13,330 |
| Costs (benefits) related to unsolicited takeover attempt | — | — | (6,700) |) (6,700) |
| Depreciation | 55,734 | 4,533 | — | 60,267 |
| Amortization | 4,915 | 1,234 | — | 6,149 |
| Operating income | \$133,181 | \$19,899 | \$(15,811) |) \$137,269 |

(14) SUPPLEMENTAL CASH FLOW INFORMATION

Cash Paid for Interest and Taxes

Cash paid for interest and income taxes was as follows:

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended June 30, | |
|--|--------------------------------|----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Interest paid | \$22,185 | \$20,524 |
| Income taxes (net of refunds) ^(a) | 1,587 | (4,873) |

^(a) During the three months ended June 30, 2011, the Company applied for and received federal income tax refunds of \$9.4 million. The Company did not receive federal income tax refunds during the three months ended June 30, 2012.

(15) RESTRUCTURING AND OTHER SPECIAL CHARGES

The following table presents the components of restructuring and other special charges:

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AIRGAS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—(Continued)

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | |
|---|--------------------|----------|
| | June 30, | |
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Restructuring costs | \$488 | \$13,330 |
| Other related costs | 3,495 | — |
| Asset impairment charges | 1,729 | — |
| Total restructuring and other special charges | \$5,712 | \$13,330 |

In May 2011, the Company announced the alignment of its twelve regional distribution companies into four new divisions, and the consolidation of its regional company accounting and certain administrative functions into four newly created Business Support Centers (“BSCs”). Additionally, the Company initiated a related change in its legal entity structure on January 1, 2012 whereby the majority of Airgas' distribution businesses have merged or will merge into a single LLC of which the Company is the sole member. Each of the Company's twelve regional distribution companies operated (prior to conversion to SAP) or operates its own accounting and administrative functions. Enabled by the Company's conversion to a single information platform across all of its regional companies as part of the SAP implementation, the restructuring will allow Airgas to more effectively utilize its resources across regional company boundaries and to form an operating structure that will help Airgas leverage the full benefits of its new SAP platform. During the three months ended June 30, 2012, the Company recorded \$0.5 million in restructuring costs. During the prior year quarter, the Company recorded \$13.3 million in restructuring costs related to severance benefits to be paid out through fiscal 2014.

The activity in the accrued liability balances associated with the restructuring plan was as follows for the three months ended June 30, 2012:

| (In thousands) | Severance Costs | Facility Exit and Other Costs | Total |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Balance at March 31, 2012 | \$13,138 | \$990 | \$14,128 |
| Restructuring charges | — | 488 | 488 |
| Cash payments and other adjustments | (409) | (884) | (1,293) |
| Balance at June 30, 2012 | \$12,729 | \$594 | \$13,323 |

Of the \$13.3 million in accrued restructuring costs at June 30, 2012, \$10.1 million was included in accrued expenses and other current liabilities and \$3.2 million was included in other non-current liabilities on the Company's Consolidated Balance Sheets. The restructuring costs were not allocated to the Company's business segments (see Note 13).

For the three months ended June 30, 2012, the Company also incurred \$3.5 million of other costs related to the divisional realignment and LLC restructuring. These costs primarily related to transition staffing for the BSCs, legal costs and other expenses associated with the Company's organizational and legal entity changes. The realignment is expected to be completed in fiscal 2013. The Company expects to incur additional costs, primarily related to transition staffing, legal, relocation and other costs, of approximately \$7 million for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The Company also recorded a special charge of \$1.7 million related to intangible asset impairments during the three months ended June 30, 2012 – see Note 4 for further information.

(16) UNSOLICITED TAKEOVER ATTEMPT

On February 11, 2010, Air Products initiated an unsolicited tender offer for all of the Company's outstanding shares of common stock. In connection with this unsolicited tender offer, Air Products filed an action against the Company and members of its Board in the Delaware Court of Chancery. On February 15, 2011, the Delaware Court of Chancery

denied in their entirety all requests for relief by Air Products and dismissed with prejudice all claims asserted against the Company and its directors. Air Products promptly terminated its unsolicited tender offer and no appeal of the Court's decision was filed. In connection with the unsolicited tender offer and related litigation, the Company incurred on a cumulative basis a net \$60.0 million of legal and professional fees and other costs. During the three months ended June 30, 2011, the Company recognized benefits of \$6.7 million from lower than previously estimated net costs related to the unsolicited takeover attempt.

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

OVERVIEW

Airgas, Inc. and its subsidiaries (“Airgas” or the “Company”) had net sales for the quarter ended June 30, 2012 (“current quarter”) of \$1.3 billion compared to \$1.2 billion for the quarter ended June 30, 2011 (“prior year quarter”), an increase of 8%. Total same-store sales increased 7%, with hardgoods up 9% and gas and rent up 5%. Acquisitions, net of a divestiture, contributed 1% sales growth in the current quarter. The same-store sales growth for the current quarter was driven by both volume and price, with sales volumes up 3% and pricing up 4%. The increase in sales volumes reflects strength in the Company's manufacturing, petrochemical and energy customer bases, despite moderating business trends and the impact of a disruption within the helium supply chain (see Supply Constraints section below) during the current quarter. Excluding the impact of helium shortages, same-store sales increased 8%, with sales volumes up 4% and pricing up 4%. Higher pricing reflects a broad-based price increase on gas and rent effective December 1, 2011. The pricing actions were designed to offset rising product, operating and distribution costs as well as support ongoing investments in production and distribution capabilities to support and efficiently meet the growing demands of the Company's customers.

The consolidated gross profit margin (excluding depreciation) in the current quarter was 54.8%, an increase of 40 basis points from the prior year quarter, reflecting margin improvement on industrial gases, refrigerant gases and ammonia, partially offset by the continued outperformance of lower-margin hardgoods relative to gas and rent.

The Company's operating income margin increased to 12.1%, a 30 basis-point improvement over the prior year quarter. Additionally, the current and prior year quarter's operating income margins were burdened by 40 basis points and 60 basis points, respectively, of net special charges. The current quarter and prior year quarter also included 100 basis points and 90 basis points of negative impact, respectively, from SAP implementation costs and depreciation expense (see Enterprise Information System section below).

Net earnings per diluted share increased to \$1.15 in the current quarter versus \$0.94 in the prior year quarter. Lower helium sales volumes driven by the inability of suppliers to meet their supply commitments to the Company reduced diluted earnings per share by \$0.04 in the current quarter compared to the prior year quarter. Net earnings per diluted share in the current and prior year quarter also included net special items of \$0.02 and \$(0.06) per diluted share, respectively. Net special items in each quarter consisted of the following:

| | Three Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| | June 30, | |
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Effect on Diluted EPS | | |
| Restructuring and other special charges | \$(0.05 |) \$(0.10 |
| Gain on sale of businesses | 0.07 | — |
| (Costs) benefits related to unsolicited takeover attempt | — | 0.05 |
| Multi-employer pension plan withdrawal charges | — | (0.01 |
| Special items, net | \$0.02 | \$(0.06 |
| Supply Constraints | | |

The global industrial gas industry continues to work through supply constraints related to helium. Disruption in crude helium production overseas and limited liquefied natural gas demand have been the primary causes of the worldwide helium shortage, aggravated by outages and temporary shutdowns at the Federal Helium Reserve and shutdowns at a major private helium source. Although sufficient helium exists in the United States to satisfy domestic demand, only a few companies have direct access to the taxpayer-owned helium in the Federal Helium Reserve and much of that helium is sold into overseas markets. To help mitigate the financial impact to Airgas, the Company continues to explore alternative sources of helium and has instituted product allocations and price increases related to helium. However, these supply constraints forced the Company to shed non-contract helium customers and to allocate its limited helium supply to contract customers. During the current quarter, the Company's helium sales significantly

decreased driven by the inability of suppliers to meet their supply commitments to the Company, thereby influencing the Company's volume of helium sales to its own customers. Diluted earnings per share was reduced by \$0.04 in the current quarter as a result of the helium supply chain disruption. Sales of helium represented approximately 2% and 3% of the Company's consolidated net sales in the current quarter and prior year quarter,

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respectively. The Company expects the global helium supply chain to improve in early calendar 2013, but anticipates the time frame for the Company to regain lost customers and recover from year over year headwinds to be longer.

Enterprise Information System

The Company continued its phased, multi-year rollout of its highly-customized SAP enterprise information system during the current quarter. At this stage in the Company's phased implementation, each of its four BSCs, into which the regional company accounting and administrative functions will be consolidated upon converting to SAP, are firmly in place. Through July 2012, the Company has successfully converted its Safety telesales and hardgoods infrastructure businesses and eight regional distribution companies to the SAP platform. One additional regional distribution company implementation is expected to take place in the second quarter ending September 30, 2012. The Company expects to have eleven of its twelve regional distribution companies converted to SAP by the end of calendar year 2012. The remaining regional distribution company will be converted in the first quarter of calendar year 2013.

With nearly seventy percent of its Distribution business operating on SAP, the Company believes the implementation risk associated with the remaining business units has been significantly diminished and is beginning to focus more on attaining benefits. Total implementation costs and depreciation expense related to the SAP system were \$0.10 and \$0.08 per diluted share for the quarter ended June 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively, and such costs, net of expected benefits, are estimated to be in the range of \$0.12 to \$0.16 per diluted share for the year ending March 31, 2013. Fiscal 2012 included \$0.34 per diluted share of SAP implementation costs and depreciation expense. The Company expects the combination of lower implementation costs and the increase in SAP-related benefits to yield year-over-year earnings accretion of between \$0.18 and \$0.22 per diluted share in fiscal 2013 above and beyond the Company's base business performance.

The Company previously quantified the economic benefits expected to be achieved through its implementation of SAP in three key areas: accelerated sales growth through expansion of the telesales platform, price management, and administrative and operating efficiencies. By December 2013, the Company expects these areas alone to have yielded a minimum of \$75 million in annual run-rate operating income benefits. Further economic benefits are expected to be identified as the implementation progresses.

New Divisional Alignment and LLC Formation

In May 2011, the Company announced the alignment of its twelve regional distribution companies into four new divisions, and the consolidation of its regional company accounting and certain administrative functions into four newly created BSCs. Additionally, the Company initiated a related change in its legal entity structure on January 1, 2012 whereby the majority of Airgas' distribution businesses have merged or will merge into a single limited liability company ("LLC") of which the Company is the sole member. Each of the Company's twelve regional distribution companies operated (prior to conversion to SAP) or operates its own accounting and administrative functions. Enabled by the Company's conversion to a single information platform across all of its regional companies as part of the SAP implementation, the restructuring will allow Airgas to more effectively utilize its resources across regional company boundaries and form an operating structure that will help Airgas leverage the full benefits of its new SAP platform. During the current quarter, the Company recorded restructuring costs of \$0.5 million associated with the Company's organization and legal entity changes. Also during the current quarter, the Company incurred \$3.5 million of other costs related to the divisional realignment and LLC restructuring. These costs primarily related to transition staffing for the BSCs, legal costs and other expenses associated with the Company's organizational and legal entity changes. During the prior year quarter, the Company recorded \$13.3 million in restructuring costs, primarily related to severance benefits to be paid out through fiscal 2014.

Acquisitions and Divestitures

During the three months ended June 30, 2012, the Company purchased two businesses with aggregate historical annual sales of approximately \$2.0 million.

Also during the three months ended June 30, 2012, the Company divested the assets and operations of five branch locations in western Canada. The Company realized a gain on the sale of \$6.8 million (\$5.5 million after tax) recorded in "Other income, net" in its Consolidated Statement of Earnings. The operations were included in the Distribution business segment and contributed net sales that were deemed to be immaterial to the Company's consolidated

earnings.

Fiscal 2013 Outlook

The Company expects earnings per diluted share for the quarter ending September 30, 2012 to be in the range of \$1.02 to

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\$1.06 and for fiscal 2013 to be in the range of \$4.61 to \$4.71. The earnings per diluted share range for fiscal 2013 includes an estimated \$0.11 per diluted share of restructuring and other special charges (\$0.03 of which are expected in the second quarter), a \$0.07 gain related to the sale of businesses in the first quarter, an estimated year-over-year decline of \$0.10 from the impact of lost sales due to helium supply constraints (\$0.02 of which are expected in the second quarter) and \$0.12 to \$0.16 per diluted share of implementation costs and depreciation expense, net of expected benefits, associated with the Company's SAP implementation. The Company expects its same-store sales growth rate for fiscal 2013 to be in the mid single digits.

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RESULTS OF OPERATIONS: THREE MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2012 COMPARED TO THREE MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2011

STATEMENT OF EARNINGS COMMENTARY

Results for the prior year quarter were adjusted for the retrospective application of a change implemented in the fourth quarter of the prior year in the Company's method of accounting for the small portion of its hardgoods inventory valued using the last-in, first-out ("LIFO") to the average-cost method. The impact of this change was immaterial to the operating results for the prior year quarter. Business segment information and statement of earnings commentary related to the prior year quarter have been recast to reflect the change in accounting principle.

Although corporate operating expenses are generally allocated to each business segment based on sales dollars, the Company reports expenses (excluding depreciation) related to the implementation of its SAP system under selling, distribution and administrative expenses as "other" expenses that are not allocated to the Company's business segments. Costs associated with the Company's withdrawal from multi-employer pension plans ("MEPPs") are also reported under selling, distribution and administrative expenses in the Other line item in the tables below. Additionally, the Company's restructuring and other special items and the legal, professional and other costs incurred as a result of Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.'s ("Air Products") unsolicited takeover attempt are not allocated to the Company's business segments. These costs are also reflected in the Other line item in the tables below.

Net Sales

Net sales increased 8% to \$1.3 billion for the current quarter compared to the prior year quarter, driven by same-store sales growth of 7% and incremental sales of 1% contributed by acquisitions, net of a divestiture. Gas and rent same-store sales increased 5% and hardgoods increased 9%. Same-store sales were driven by increased volumes of 3% and price of 4%. Excluding the impact of helium shortages, same-store sales increased 8%, with sales volumes up 4% and pricing up 4%. The Company estimates same-store sales growth based on a comparison of current period sales to prior period sales, adjusted for acquisitions and divestitures. The pro forma adjustments consist of adding acquired sales to, or subtracting sales of divested operations from, sales reported in the prior period.

Strategic products account for approximately 40% of net sales and include safety products, bulk, medical and specialty gases, as well as carbon dioxide and dry ice. The Company has identified these products as strategic because it believes they have good long-term growth profiles relative to the Company's core industrial gas and welding products due to favorable end customer markets, application development, increasing environmental regulation, strong cross-selling opportunities or a combination thereof. For the current quarter, sales of strategic products increased 7% on a same-store basis as compared to the prior year quarter.

Strategic accounts also contributed to the increase in net sales for the quarter. Strategic accounts sales growth of 8% was primarily driven by new account signings and increased activity in the majority of the Company's customer segments, most notably in the metal fabrication, oil and gas and chemical segments. Strategic account sales in the Company's retail customer segment experienced a substantial decline from the prior year quarter due to the helium supply chain disruption. Excluding this impact, strategic accounts grew 11% from the prior year quarter. The strategic accounts program, which now represents more than 20% of net sales, was designed to deliver superior product and service offerings to larger, multi-location customers, and presents the Company with strong cross-selling opportunities.

The table below reflects actual sales and does not include the pro forma adjustments used in calculating the same-store sales metric. The intercompany eliminations represent sales from the All Other Operations business segment to the Distribution business segment.

| Net Sales (In thousands) | Three Months Ended June 30, | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|----------|---|---|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Increase | | |
| Distribution | \$1,112,601 | \$1,030,460 | \$82,141 | 8 | % |
| All Other Operations | 153,835 | 142,966 | 10,869 | 8 | % |
| Intercompany eliminations | (9,180 |) (9,126 |) (54 |) | |

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| | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|----------|---|---|
| \$1,257,256 | \$1,164,300 | \$92,956 | 8 | % |
|-------------|-------------|----------|---|---|

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The Distribution business segment's principal products include industrial, medical and specialty gases, and process chemicals; cylinder and equipment rental; and hardgoods. Industrial, medical and specialty gases are distributed in cylinders and bulk containers. Rental fees are generally charged on cylinders, dewars (cryogenic liquid cylinders), bulk and micro-bulk tanks, tube trailers and certain welding equipment. Hardgoods generally consist of welding consumables and equipment, safety products, construction supplies and maintenance, repair and operating supplies. Distribution business segment sales increased 8% compared to the prior year quarter with an increase in same-store sales of 7% and incremental sales of 1% contributed by current and prior year acquisitions, net of a divestiture. Same-store sales growth for the Distribution business segment was driven by increased volumes of 3% and price of 4%. Excluding the impact of helium shortages discussed above, the Distribution business segment had same-store sales growth of 8%, with volumes up 4% and pricing up 4%. The Distribution business segment's gas and rent same-store sales increased 5%, with volumes up 1% and pricing up 4%. Excluding the impact of helium shortages, gas and rent same-store sales in the Distribution business segment increased 7%, with volumes up 3% and pricing up 4%. Hardgoods same-store sales increased 9%, with volumes up 6% and pricing up 3%. Both gas and rent and hardgoods volumes reflect strength in the Company's manufacturing, petrochemical and energy customers, while the increase in pricing was primarily driven by the December 1, 2011 price increase.

Sales of strategic gas products sold through the Distribution business segment in the current quarter increased 6% from the prior year quarter. Among strategic gas products, bulk gas sales were up 8% on improvement in the industrial manufacturing and food segments, as well as new customer signings. Sales of medical gases were up 3% as a result of new business signings and stronger demand across most medical segments. Sales of specialty gases were up 4% driven primarily by higher volumes on improvement in demand for core specialty gases, including EPA protocols. Contributing to the rise in the Distribution business segment hardgoods same-store sales were increases in both safety products and the Company's Radno® private-label brand product line, as well as welding and automation equipment. Safety product sales increased 11% in the current year quarter, comparing favorably to the hardgoods same-store sales increase for the Distribution business segment of 9% and driven by expanding business with new and existing large customers. Sales of the Company's Radno® private-label line were up 10% for the current quarter, driven by the overall increase in hardgoods volumes.

Revenues from the Company's rental welder business experienced a 22% increase in same-store sales during the current quarter as compared to the prior year quarter due to increased rental demand, reflecting strength in outage work in the oil, gas and chemicals industry, including refineries, and in the power industry.

The All Other Operations business segment consists of six business units. The primary products manufactured and/or distributed are carbon dioxide, dry ice, nitrous oxide, ammonia and refrigerant gases.

The All Other Operations business segment sales increased 8% in total and 6% on a same-store basis compared to the prior year quarter, with incremental sales of 2% contributed by current and prior year acquisitions. The same-store sales increase was primarily driven by increases in both refrigerants and ammonia sales, each on higher volume and pricing. The Company's refrigerant gas sales have continued to benefit from increased demand ahead of a potential EPA ruling which would accelerate the phase-out of new production of R-22, the most commonly used refrigerant gas in HVAC systems.

Gross Profits (Excluding Depreciation)

Gross profits (excluding depreciation) do not reflect deductions related to depreciation expense and distribution costs. The Company reflects distribution costs as an element of selling, distribution and administrative expenses and recognizes depreciation on all of its property, plant and equipment in the Consolidated Statement of Earnings line item, "Depreciation." Other companies may report certain or all of these costs as elements of their cost of products sold and, as such, the Company's gross profits (excluding depreciation) discussed below may not be comparable to those of other businesses.

Consolidated gross profits (excluding depreciation) increased 9% compared to the prior year quarter, principally due to the same-store sales increase for the current quarter. The consolidated gross profit margin (excluding depreciation) in the current quarter increased 40 basis points to 54.8% compared to 54.4% in the prior year quarter. The increase in consolidated gross profit margin (excluding depreciation) reflects margin expansion on industrial gases, refrigerant gases and ammonia, partially offset by a higher mix of lower-margin hardgoods sales as compared to the prior year

quarter. Hardgoods represented 37.8% of the Company's sales mix in the current quarter, up from 36.7% in the prior year quarter.

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| Gross Profits (ex. Depr.) (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------|----------|----|---|
| | June 30, 2012 | 2011 | Increase | | |
| Distribution | \$611,988 | \$569,057 | \$42,931 | 8 | % |
| All Other Operations | 76,530 | 64,704 | 11,826 | 18 | % |
| | \$688,518 | \$633,761 | \$54,757 | 9 | % |

The Distribution business segment's gross profits (excluding depreciation) increased 8% compared to the prior year quarter. The Distribution business segment's gross profit margin (excluding depreciation) was 55.0% versus 55.2% in the prior year quarter, a decrease of 20 basis points. The decline in the Distribution business segment's gross profit margin (excluding depreciation) reflects underlying margin expansion in several gas categories that was more than offset by the sales mix shift towards hardgoods. As a percentage of the Distribution business segment's sales, gas and rent decreased 130 basis points to 57.4% in the current quarter as compared to 58.7% in the prior year quarter.

The All Other Operations business segment's gross profits (excluding depreciation) increased 18% compared to the prior year quarter. The All Other Operations business segment's gross profit margin (excluding depreciation) increased 440 basis points to 49.7% in the current quarter from 45.3% in the prior year quarter. The increase in the All Other Operations business segment's gross profit margin (excluding depreciation) was primarily driven by margin expansion in the Company's refrigerants, CO₂ and ammonia businesses.

Operating Expenses

Selling, Distribution and Administrative ("SD&A") Expenses

SD&A expenses consist of labor and overhead associated with the purchasing, marketing and distribution of the Company's products, as well as costs associated with a variety of administrative functions such as legal, treasury, accounting, tax and facility-related expenses. Consolidated SD&A expenses increased \$37 million, or 9%, in the current quarter as compared to the prior year quarter. Contributing to the increase in SD&A expenses were \$29 million of higher variable costs associated with growing sales, such as sales commissions, salaries, production overtime and distribution costs, approximately \$6 million of incremental operating costs associated with acquired businesses and approximately \$2 million of incremental costs associated with the SAP implementation. As a percentage of net sales, SD&A expenses increased to 36.6% in the current quarter from 36.4% in the prior year quarter.

| SD&A Expenses (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------|---|---|
| | June 30, 2012 | 2011 | Increase | | |
| Distribution | \$408,819 | \$375,227 | \$33,592 | 9 | % |
| All Other Operations | 41,374 | 39,038 | 2,336 | 6 | % |
| Other | 9,938 | 9,181 | 757 | | |
| | \$460,131 | \$423,446 | \$36,685 | 9 | % |

SD&A expenses in the Distribution and All Other Operations business segments increased 9% and 6%, respectively, compared to the prior year quarter. For both business segments, the increases in SD&A costs were driven by higher variable costs on sales growth, including sales commissions, salaries, production overtime and distribution costs, and incremental operating costs associated with acquired businesses of \$5 million for the Distribution business segment and \$1 million for the All Other Operations business segment. As a percentage of Distribution business segment net sales, SD&A expenses in the Distribution business segment was 36.7% compared to 36.4% in the prior year quarter. As a percentage of All Other Operations business segment net sales, SD&A expenses in the All Other Operations business segment decreased 40 basis points to 26.9% compared to 27.3% in the prior year quarter primarily driven by operating leverage in the Company's ammonia and refrigerant businesses.

SD&A Expenses – Other

Enterprise Information System

The Company continues its phased, multi-year rollout of its highly-customized SAP enterprise information system, whereby business units will implement the new system in succession. Through July 2012, the Company has successfully

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converted its Safety telesales and hardgoods infrastructure businesses and eight regional distribution companies to SAP. The Company continues to prepare for the implementation of SAP at the remainder of its business units. SAP costs incurred by the Company include pre-implementation data conversion and training costs as well as post-implementation monitoring, training and operating activities related to the scheduled business unit rollouts. SAP implementation costs for the current quarter were \$9.9 million as compared to \$8.3 million in the prior year quarter, reflecting higher than expected costs related to additional post-conversion support costs, including training, travel and overtime in the current quarter. These costs were recorded as SD&A expenses and were not allocated to the Company's business segments.

Multi-employer Pension Plan Withdrawals

As collective bargaining agreements ("CBAs") came up for renewal, the Company actively negotiated the withdrawal from multi-employer defined benefit pension plans ("MEPPs"), replacing those retirement plans for CBA employees with defined contribution plans. During the prior year quarter, the Company incurred MEPP withdrawal charges of \$0.9 million, related to the withdrawal from MEPPs under two CBAs. These charges are reflected in selling, distribution and administrative expenses. As of June 30, 2012, the Company has successfully negotiated its withdrawal from all MEPPs in which it previously participated and has fully accrued for the related withdrawal assessments.

Restructuring and Other Special Charges

The following table presents the components of restructuring and other special charges for the current and prior year quarters:

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | |
|---|--------------------|----------|
| | June 30, 2012 | 2011 |
| Restructuring costs | \$488 | \$13,330 |
| Other related costs | 3,495 | — |
| Asset impairment charges | 1,729 | — |
| Total restructuring and other special charges | \$5,712 | \$13,330 |

Restructuring and Other Related Costs

As a result of the realignment of the Company's twelve regional distribution companies into four new divisions, and the consolidation of its regional company accounting and certain administrative functions into four newly created BSCs, the Company recorded \$0.5 million in restructuring costs during the current quarter. Also during the current quarter, the Company incurred \$3.5 million of other costs related to the divisional realignment and LLC restructuring. These costs primarily related to transition staffing for the BSCs, legal costs and other expenses associated with the Company's organizational and legal entity changes. During the prior year quarter, the Company recorded \$13.3 million in restructuring costs, primarily related to severance benefits to be paid out through fiscal 2014. The restructuring charges and other related costs were not allocated to the Company's business segments.

The activity in the accrued liability balances associated with the restructuring plan was as follows for the three months ended June 30, 2012:

| (In thousands) | Severance Costs | Facility Exit and Other Costs | Total |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Balance at March 31, 2012 | \$13,138 | \$990 | \$14,128 |
| Restructuring charges | — | 488 | 488 |
| Cash payments and other adjustments | (409 |) (884 |) (1,293 |
| Balance at June 30, 2012 | \$12,729 | \$594 | \$13,323 |

Asset Impairment

In June 2012, the Company re-evaluated the economic viability of a small hospital piping construction business, and as a result of an impairment analysis performed on the assets at this reporting unit, the Company recorded a charge of \$1.7 million related to certain of the intangible assets associated with this business for the three months ended June 30,

2012.

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Total restructuring and other special charges for the three months ended June 30, 2012 were \$5.7 million.

Unsolicited Takeover Attempt

On February 11, 2010, Air Products initiated an unsolicited tender offer for all of the Company's outstanding shares of common stock. In connection with this unsolicited tender offer, Air Products filed an action against the Company and members of its Board in the Delaware Court of Chancery. On February 15, 2011, the Delaware Court of Chancery denied in their entirety all requests for relief by Air Products and dismissed with prejudice all claims asserted against the Company and its directors. Air Products promptly terminated its unsolicited tender offer and no appeal of the Court's decision was filed. In responding to the unsolicited tender offer and related litigation, the Company incurred on a cumulative basis a net \$60.0 million of legal and professional fees and other costs. During the prior year quarter, the Company recognized a \$6.7 million benefit from lower than previously estimated net costs related to the Air Products' unsolicited takeover attempt of Airgas. The net costs and benefits recognized related to the unsolicited takeover attempt were reflected as a separate line item in the Company's Consolidated Statements of Earnings, and were not allocated to the Company's business segments.

Depreciation and Amortization

Depreciation expense increased \$4 million or 7%, to \$64 million in the current quarter as compared to \$60 million in the prior year quarter. The increase primarily reflects the additional depreciation expense on capital investments in revenue generating assets to support customer demand (such as cylinders, rental welders and bulk tanks).

Amortization expense of \$7 million in the current quarter increased \$0.5 million from the prior year quarter.

Operating Income

Consolidated operating income of \$152 million increased 11% in the current quarter driven by same-store sales growth in both the Distribution and All Other Operations business segments and margin expansion in the All Other Operations business segment, partially offset by \$2 million of incremental SAP costs. The current quarter and prior year quarter also included a 100 and 90 basis-point negative impact from SAP implementation costs and depreciation expense, respectively. The consolidated operating income margin increased 30 basis points to 12.1% from 11.8% in the prior year quarter, reflecting the impact of the above items.

| Operating Income (In thousands) | Three Months | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|----------|----|---|
| | June 30, 2012 | 2011 | Increase | | |
| Distribution | \$138,706 | \$133,181 | \$5,525 | 4 | % |
| All Other Operations | 28,634 | 19,899 | 8,735 | 44 | % |
| Other | (15,650 |) (15,811 |) 161 | | |
| | \$151,690 | \$137,269 | \$14,421 | 11 | % |

Operating income in the Distribution business segment increased 4% in the current quarter. The Distribution business segment's operating income margin decreased 40 basis points to 12.5% compared to 12.9% in the prior year quarter. The operating income margin decrease was primarily driven by the significant decline in helium sales due to supply constraints.

Operating income in the All Other Operations business segment increased 44% compared to the prior year quarter. The All Other Operations business segment's operating income margin of 18.6% increased by 470 basis points compared to the operating income margin of 13.9% in the prior year quarter. The increase in the All Other Operations business segment's operating income was primarily driven by margin expansion and sales volume growth in the refrigerants and ammonia businesses.

Interest Expense, Net

Interest expense, net, was \$16 million in the current quarter, representing a decrease of \$1 million, compared to the prior year quarter.

Other Income, Net

The increase of \$7.6 million in “Other income, net” was primarily driven by the Company's divestiture of the assets and operations of five branch locations in western Canada. The Company realized a gain of \$6.8 million (\$5.5 million after tax) on the sale.

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Income Tax Expense

The effective income tax rate was 37.1% of pre-tax earnings in the current quarter compared to 38.2% in the prior year quarter. The decrease in effective income tax rates reflects the benefit of a lower tax rate on the \$6.8 million pre-tax gain recorded on the sale of a portion of the Company's Canadian business during the current quarter. The Company expects the effective income tax rate for fiscal 2013 to be between 37.5% and 38.0% of pre-tax earnings.

Net Earnings

Net earnings per diluted share rose 22% to \$1.15 in the current quarter compared to \$0.94 in the prior year quarter. Net earnings were \$90.8 million compared to \$75.0 million in the prior year quarter. Net earnings per diluted share in the current and prior year quarters included net special items aggregating to \$0.02 and \$(0.06) per diluted share, respectively. Net special items in each period consisted of the following:

| | Three Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| | June 30, | |
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Effect on Diluted EPS | | |
| Restructuring and other special charges | \$(0.05 |) \$(0.10 |
| Gain on sale of businesses | 0.07 | — |
| (Costs) benefits related to unsolicited takeover attempt | — | 0.05 |
| Multi-employer pension plan withdrawal charges | — | (0.01 |
| Special items, net | \$0.02 | \$(0.06 |

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Cash Flows

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$148 million in the current quarter compared to \$110 million in the prior year quarter.

The following table provides a summary of the major items affecting the Company's cash flows from operating activities for the periods presented:

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| | June 30, | |
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Net earnings | \$90,798 | \$74,994 |
| Non-cash and non-operating activities ⁽¹⁾ | 84,707 | 87,704 |
| Changes in working capital | (27,367 |) (62,843 |
| Other operating activities | (515 |) 10,450 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | \$147,623 | \$110,305 |

⁽¹⁾ Includes depreciation, amortization, impairment, deferred income taxes, gain on sales of plant and equipment and businesses and stock-based compensation expense.

The decrease in the use of cash for working capital in the current quarter was primarily driven by a significant use of cash in the prior year quarter for payments related to the unsolicited takeover attempt. Net earnings adjusted for non-cash and non-operating activities provided cash of \$176 million in the current quarter versus \$163 million in the prior year quarter.

As of June 30, 2012, \$16 million of the Company's \$55 million cash balance was held by foreign subsidiaries. The Company does not believe it will be necessary to repatriate cash held outside of the U.S. and anticipates its domestic liquidity needs will be met through other funding sources such as cash flows generated from operating activities and external financing arrangements. Accordingly, the Company intends to permanently reinvest the cash in its foreign operations. Were the Company's intention to change, the amounts held within its foreign operations could be repatriated to the U.S., although any repatriations under current U.S. tax laws would be subject to income taxes.

The following table provides a summary of the major items affecting the Company's cash flows from investing activities for the periods presented:

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| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|
| | June 30, 2012 | 2011 |
| Capital expenditures | \$ (82,143 |) \$ (78,451 |
| Proceeds from sales of plant, equipment and businesses | 17,721 | 6,676 |
| Business acquisitions and holdback settlements | (2,817 |) (93,159 |
| Other investing activities | (774 |) (1,445 |
| Net cash used in investing activities | \$ (68,013 |) \$ (166,379 |

Capital expenditures as a percent of sales were 6.5% and 6.7% for the three months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively. Payments for business acquisitions and holdback settlements decreased significantly from the prior year quarter due to the purchase of two significant businesses, ABCO Gases, Welding and Industrial Supply Company, Inc. and Pain Enterprises, Inc., in the prior year quarter. During the first quarter of fiscal 2013, the Company purchased two small businesses. Additionally, during the three months ended June 30, 2012, the Company sold five branch locations in western Canada and received proceeds of \$17.7 million related to the sale of these businesses and other plant and equipment.

Free cash flow* in the quarter ended June 30, 2012 was \$76 million, compared to \$71 million in the prior year quarter. The increase in free cash flow from the prior year quarter was driven by adjusted cash from operations*, which was \$155 million in the current quarter compared to \$139 million in the prior year quarter.

The following table provides a summary of the major items affecting the Company's cash flows from financing activities for the periods presented:

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | |
|---|--------------------|--------------|
| | June 30, 2012 | 2011 |
| Net cash (repayments) borrowings | \$ (52,079 |) \$ 374,885 |
| Purchase of treasury stock | — | (300,000 |
| Dividends paid to stockholders | (30,779 |) (22,270 |
| Other financing activities | 13,480 | 6,776 |
| Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities | \$ (69,378 |) \$ 59,391 |

During the three months ended June 30, 2012, net financing activities used cash of \$69 million. Net repayments were a use of \$52 million, primarily related to a reduction in the funds outstanding under the Company's commercial paper program. Other financing activities, primarily comprised of proceeds and tax benefits related to the exercise of stock options and stock issued for the employee stock purchase plan, generated cash of \$13 million.

In the prior year quarter, net financing activities provided cash of \$59 million. Net borrowings were a source of \$375 million, primarily related to the issuance of \$250 million of 2.95% senior notes maturing on June 15, 2016. Also during the three months ended June 30, 2011, the Company authorized and completed a share repurchase program purchasing 4.5 million shares of treasury stock for \$300 million. Other financing activities, primarily comprised of proceeds and tax benefits related to the exercise of stock options and stock issued for the employee stock purchase plan, generated cash of \$7 million.

* See Non-GAAP reconciliations below.

Dividends

During the quarter ended June 30, 2012, the Company paid its stockholders \$31 million or \$0.40 per share. During the prior year quarter, the Company paid dividends of \$22 million or \$0.29 per share. Future dividend declarations and associated amounts paid will depend upon the Company's earnings, financial condition, loan covenants, capital requirements and other factors deemed relevant by management and the Company's Board of Directors.

Financial Instruments

Money Market Loans

The Company has an agreement with a financial institution which provides access to short-term advances not to exceed \$35 million that expires on September 30, 2012, but may be extended subject to renewal provisions contained in the agreement. The advances are generally overnight or for up to seven days. The amount, term and interest rate of an advance are established

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through mutual agreement with the financial institution when the Company requests such an advance. At June 30, 2012, there were no advances outstanding under the agreement.

The Company also has an agreement with another financial institution to provide access to additional short-term advances not to exceed \$35 million. The agreement expires on January 2, 2013, but may be extended subject to renewal provisions contained in the agreement. The advances may be for one to six months with rates at a fixed spread over the corresponding London Interbank Offered Rate (“LIBOR”). At June 30, 2012, there were no advances outstanding under the agreement.

Commercial Paper

The Company participates in a \$750 million commercial paper program supported by its \$750 million revolving credit facility (see below). This program allows the Company to obtain favorable short-term borrowing rates with maturities that may vary, but will generally not exceed 90 days from the date of issue. The Company has used proceeds from the commercial paper program to pay down amounts outstanding under its revolving credit facility and for general corporate purposes. At June 30, 2012, \$346.3 million was outstanding under the commercial paper program and the average effective interest rate on these borrowings was 0.55%.

Trade Receivables Securitization

The Company participates in a securitization agreement with three commercial banks to which it sells qualifying trade receivables on a revolving basis (the “Securitization Agreement”). The Company’s sale of qualified trade receivables is accounted for as a secured borrowing under which qualified trade receivables collateralize amounts borrowed from the commercial banks. Trade receivables that collateralize the Securitization Agreement are held in a bankruptcy-remote special purpose entity, which is consolidated for financial reporting purposes and represents the Company’s only variable interest entity. Qualified trade receivables in the amount of the outstanding borrowing under the Securitization Agreement are not available to the general creditors of the Company. The maximum amount of the Securitization Agreement is \$295 million and it bears interest at approximately LIBOR plus 70 basis points. At June 30, 2012, the amount of outstanding borrowing under the Securitization Agreement was \$295 million, and it was classified as long-term debt on the Consolidated Balance Sheet. Amounts borrowed under the Securitization Agreement could fluctuate monthly based on the Company’s funding requirements and the level of qualified trade receivables available to collateralize the Securitization Agreement. The Securitization Agreement expires in December 2013 and contains customary events of termination, including standard cross-default provisions with respect to outstanding debt.

Senior Credit Facility

The Company participates in a \$750 million Amended and Restated Credit Facility (the “Credit Facility”). The Credit Facility consists of a \$650 million U.S. dollar revolving credit line and a \$100 million (U.S. dollar equivalent) multi-currency revolving credit line. The maturity date of the Credit Facility is July 19, 2016. Under circumstances described in the Credit Facility, the revolving credit line may be increased by an additional \$325 million, provided that the multi-currency revolving credit line may not be increased by more than an additional \$50 million.

As of June 30, 2012, the Company had \$34 million of borrowings under the Credit Facility, all of which were under the multi-currency revolver. There were no borrowings under the U.S. dollar revolver at June 30, 2012. The Company also had outstanding U.S. letters of credit of \$44 million issued under the Credit Facility. U.S. dollar revolver borrowings bear interest at LIBOR plus 125 basis points. The multi-currency revolver bears interest based on a rate of 125 basis points over the Euro currency rate applicable to each foreign currency borrowing. As of June 30, 2012, the average effective interest rate on the multi-currency revolver was 1.84%. In addition to the borrowing spread of 125 basis points for U.S. dollar and multi-currency revolver borrowings, the Company pays a commitment (or unused) fee on the undrawn portion of the Credit Facility equal to 20 basis points per annum.

At June 30, 2012, the financial covenant of the Credit Facility did not restrict the Company’s ability to borrow on the unused portion of the Credit Facility. The Credit Facility contains customary events of default, including, without limitation, failure to make payments, a cross-default to certain other debt, breaches of covenants, breaches of representations and warranties, certain monetary judgments and bankruptcy and ERISA events. In the event of default, repayment of borrowings under the Credit Facility may be accelerated. As of June 30, 2012, \$325 million remained available under the Company’s Credit Facility, after giving effect to the borrowings under the commercial paper

program backstopped by the Credit Facility, the outstanding U.S. letters of credit and the borrowings under the multi-currency revolver.

The Company also maintains a committed revolving line of credit of up to €8.0 million (U.S. \$10.1 million) to fund its operations in France. These revolving credit borrowings are outside of the Company's Credit Facility. At June 30, 2012, these revolving credit borrowings were €5 million (U.S. \$6.4 million). The variable interest rates on the French revolving credit

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borrowings are based on the Euro currency rate plus 125 basis points. As of June 30, 2012, the effective interest rate on the French revolving credit borrowings was 1.58%. This line of credit matures on December 31, 2012.

Total Borrowing Capacity

As of June 30, 2012, \$325 million remained unused under the Company's Credit Facility, after giving effect to the borrowings under the commercial paper program backstopped by the Credit Facility, the outstanding U.S. letters of credit and the borrowings under the multi-currency revolver.

The Company believes that it has sufficient liquidity from cash from operations and under its revolving credit facilities to meet its working capital, capital expenditure and other financial commitments. The financial covenant under the Company's Credit Facility requires the Company to maintain a leverage ratio not higher than 3.5. The leverage ratio is a contractually defined amount principally reflecting debt and, historically, the amounts outstanding under the Securitization Agreement divided by a contractually defined Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization ("EBITDA") for the trailing twelve-month period with pro forma adjustments for acquisitions. The financial covenant calculations of the Credit Facility include the pro forma results of acquired businesses. Therefore, total borrowing capacity is not reduced dollar-for-dollar with acquisition financing. The leverage ratio measures the Company's ability to meet current and future obligations. At June 30, 2012, the Company's leverage ratio was 2.4. The Company continually evaluates alternative financing and believes that it can obtain financing on reasonable terms. The terms of any future financing arrangements depend on market conditions and the Company's financial position at that time. At June 30, 2012, the Company was in compliance with all covenants under all of its debt agreements.

Senior Notes

At June 30, 2012, the Company had \$250 million outstanding of 2.95% senior notes maturing on June 15, 2016 (the "2016 Notes"). The 2016 Notes were issued at a discount with a yield of 2.980%. Interest on the 2016 Notes is payable semi-annually on June 15 and December 15 of each year.

At June 30, 2012, the Company had \$300 million outstanding of 2.85% senior notes maturing on October 1, 2013 (the "2013 Notes"). The 2013 Notes were issued at a discount with a yield of 2.871%. Interest on the 2013 Notes is payable semi-annually on April 1 and October 1 of each year.

At June 30, 2012, the Company had \$400 million outstanding of 4.5% senior notes maturing on September 15, 2014 (the "2014 Notes"). The 2014 Notes were issued at a discount with a yield of 4.527%. Interest on the 2014 Notes is payable semi-annually on March 15 and September 15 of each year.

At June 30, 2012, the Company had \$250 million outstanding of 3.25% senior notes maturing on October 1, 2015 (the "2015 Notes"). The 2015 Notes were issued at a discount with a yield of 3.283%. Interest on the 2015 Notes is payable semi-annually on April 1 and October 1 of each year.

The 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 Notes (collectively, the "Senior Notes") contain covenants that could restrict the incurrence of liens and limit sale and leaseback transactions. Additionally, the Company has the option to redeem the Senior Notes prior to their maturity, in whole or in part, at 100% of the principal plus any accrued but unpaid interest and applicable make-whole payments.

Senior Subordinated Notes

At June 30, 2012, the Company had \$215 million outstanding of 7.125% senior subordinated notes maturing on October 1, 2018 (the "2018 Notes"). Interest on the 2018 Notes is payable semi-annually on April 1 and October 1 of each year. The 2018 Notes have a redemption provision which permits the Company, at its option, to call the 2018 Notes at scheduled dates and prices. The first scheduled optional redemption date is October 1, 2013 at a price of 103.563% of the principal amount.

Other Long-term Debt

The Company's other long-term debt primarily consists of vendor financing of rental welders, capitalized lease obligations and notes issued to sellers of businesses acquired, which are repayable in periodic installments. At June 30, 2012, other long-term debt totaled \$4.0 million with an average interest rate of approximately 6% and an average maturity of approximately one year.

Interest Rate Derivatives

In anticipation of the issuance of the 2015 Notes, the Company entered into a treasury rate lock agreement in July 2010

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with a notional amount of \$100 million that matured in September 2010. The treasury rate lock agreement was designated as a cash flow hedge of the semi-annual interest payments associated with the forecasted issuance of the 2015 Notes. When the treasury rate lock agreement matured, the Company realized a loss of \$2.6 million (\$1.6 million after tax) which was reported as a component within AOCI and is being reclassified into earnings over the term of the 2015 Notes. For the years ended June 30, 2012 and 2011, \$129 thousand and \$129 thousand, respectively, of the loss on the treasury rate lock was reclassified to interest expense. At June 30, 2012, the estimated loss recorded in AOCI on the treasury rate lock agreement that is expected to be reclassified into earnings within the next twelve months is \$517 thousand (\$326 thousand after tax).

The Company also has variable interest rate swap agreements, which are designated as fair value hedges. For derivative instruments designated as fair value hedges, the gain or loss on the derivative as well as the offsetting gain or loss on the hedged item attributable to the hedged risk are recognized in current earnings.

At June 30, 2012, the Company had five variable interest rate swaps outstanding with a notional amount of \$300 million. These variable interest rates swaps effectively convert the Company's \$300 million of fixed rate 2013 Notes to variable rate debt. At June 30, 2012, these swap agreements required the Company to make variable interest payments based on a weighted average forward rate of 1.33% and receive fixed interest payments from the counterparties based on a fixed rate of 2.85%. The maturity of these fair value swaps coincides with the maturity date of the Company's 2013 Notes in October 2013. During the year ended June 30, 2012, the fair value of the variable interest rate swaps decreased by \$1.0 million to an asset of \$5.7 million and was recorded in other non-current assets. The corresponding decrease in the carrying value of the 2013 Notes caused by the hedged risk was \$1.0 million and was recorded in long-term debt. The Company records the gain or loss on the hedged item (i.e., the 2013 Notes) and the gain or loss on the variable interest rate swaps in interest expense. The net gain or loss recorded in earnings as a result of hedge ineffectiveness related to the designated fair value hedges was immaterial for the three months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011.

The Company measures the fair value of its interest rate swaps using observable market rates to calculate the forward yield curves used to determine expected cash flows for each interest rate swap agreement. The discounted present values of the expected cash flows are calculated using the same forward yield curve. The discount rate assumed in the fair value calculations is adjusted for non-performance risk, dependent on the classification of the interest rate swap as an asset or liability. If an interest rate swap is a liability, the Company assesses the credit and non-performance risk of Airgas by determining an appropriate credit spread for entities with similar credit characteristics as the Company. If, however, an interest rate swap is in an asset position, a credit analysis of counterparties is performed assessing the credit and non-performance risk based upon the pricing history of counterparty specific credit default swaps or credit spreads for entities with similar credit ratings to the counterparties. The Company does not believe it is at risk for non-performance by its counterparties. However, if an interest rate swap is in an asset position, the failure of one or more of its counterparties would result in an increase in interest expense and a reduction of earnings. The Company compares its fair value calculations to the contract settlement values calculated by the counterparties for each swap agreement for reasonableness.

Interest Expense

A majority of the Company's variable rate debt is based on a spread over LIBOR. Based on the Company's fixed to variable interest rate ratio, for every 25 basis point increase in LIBOR, the Company estimates that its annual interest expense would increase by approximately \$2.5 million.

Non-GAAP Reconciliations

Adjusted Cash from Operations, Adjusted Capital Expenditures, and Free Cash Flow

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| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | |
|---|--------------------|------------|
| | June 30, 2012 | 2011 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | \$ 147,623 | \$ 110,305 |
| Adjustments to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Stock issued for the Employee Stock Purchase Plan | 4,211 | 3,527 |
| Tax benefit realized from the exercise of stock options | 3,060 | 4,012 |
| Net cash expenditures related to unsolicited takeover attempt | — | 21,048 |
| Adjusted cash from operations | 154,894 | 138,892 |
| Capital expenditures | (82,143 |) (78,451 |
| Adjustments to capital expenditures: | | |
| Proceeds from sales of plant and equipment | 2,001 | 6,676 |
| Operating lease buyouts | 1,350 | 4,206 |
| Adjusted capital expenditures | (78,792 |) (67,569 |
| Free cash flow | \$ 76,102 | \$ 71,323 |

The Company believes its adjusted cash from operations, adjusted capital expenditures, and free cash flow measures provide investors meaningful insight into the Company's ability to generate cash from operations without the impact of cash used related to Air Products' unsolicited takeover attempt, which is available for servicing debt obligations and for the execution of its business strategies, including acquisitions, the prepayment of debt, the payment of dividends or to support other investing and financing activities. Non-GAAP measures should be read in conjunction with GAAP financial measures, as non-GAAP measures are merely a supplement to, and not a replacement for, GAAP financial measures. It should be noted as well that the Company's free cash flow, adjusted capital expenditures, and adjusted cash from operations measures may be different from adjusted cash from operations, adjusted capital expenditures, and free cash flow measures provided by other companies.

OTHER**Forward-looking Statements**

This report contains statements that are forward looking within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements include, but are not limited to, statements regarding: the Company's benefits to be derived from the SAP implementation; the expectation that by December 2013, the Company will have achieved a minimum of \$75 million in annual run-rate operating income benefits; the Company's expectations of earnings of \$1.02 to \$1.06 for the quarter ending September 30, 2012 and earnings of \$4.61 to \$4.71 per diluted share for the year ending March 31, 2013, all of which include the Company's estimates of restructuring and related costs, a gain on the sale of businesses and SAP implementation costs and SAP-related depreciation expense, net of expected benefits; the expectation of year-over-year earnings accretion from SAP-related benefits in fiscal 2013; a year-over-year decline of \$0.10 per diluted share from lost sales due to helium supply chain constraints; the Company's expectations of the completion of, and the benefits to be achieved in connection with, its realignment and consolidation into four new divisions and estimates of the remaining fiscal 2013 restructuring charges and related costs of approximately \$7 million; expectations for the remainder of the current fiscal year regarding improvement in the global helium supply chain and related year-over-year headwinds greater than originally anticipated and modest growth for most of our customer segments; expectations for mid-single digit same-store sales growth in our core distribution business in fiscal 2013; the Company's expectation as to the long-term growth profiles of its strategic products; the continued supply of feedstock from a supplier that intends to cease operations of its hydrogen plant in calendar year 2013; the Company's expectation that its overall effective income tax rate for fiscal 2013 will range from 37.5% to 38% of pre-tax earnings; the Company's belief that it will not need to repatriate cash held outside of the U.S.; the Company's intent to permanently reinvest the cash held outside of the U.S. in its foreign operations; the Company's belief that it has sufficient liquidity from cash from operations and under its revolving credit facilities to meet its working capital, capital expenditure and other financial commitments; the Company's belief that it can obtain financing on reasonable terms; the Company's future dividend declarations; the Company's ability to manage its exposure to interest rate risk

through the use of interest rate derivatives; the performance of counterparties under interest rate derivative agreements; the Company's estimate that for every 25 basis point increase in LIBOR, annual interest expense will increase approximately \$2.5 million; the estimate of future interest payments on the Company's long-term debt obligations; the estimate of future receipts under interest rate swap agreements; and the Company's exposure to foreign currency exchange fluctuations.

These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. Factors that could cause actual results to differ

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materially from those predicted in any forward-looking statement include, but are not limited to: the Company's inability to meet its earnings estimates resulting from lower sales, decreased selling prices, higher product costs and/or higher operating expenses than those forecasted by the Company; continued or increased disruption in our helium supply chain; weakening of the economy resulting in weakening demand for the Company's products; weakening operating and financial performance of the Company's customers, which can negatively impact the Company's sales and the Company's ability to collect its accounts receivable; changes in the environmental regulations that affect the Company's sales of specialty gases; higher or lower overall tax rates in fiscal 2013 than those estimated by the Company resulting from changes in tax laws and the impact of changes in tax laws on the Company's consolidated results, changes in reserves and other estimates; increases in debt in future periods and the impact on the Company's ability to pay and/or grow its dividend as a result of loan covenant and other restrictions; a decline in demand from markets served by the Company; adverse customer response to the Company's strategic product sales initiatives; a lack of cross-selling opportunities for the Company's strategic products; a lack of specialty gas sales growth due to a downturn in certain markets; the negative effect of an economic downturn on strategic product sales and margins; the inability of strategic products to diversify against cyclicalities; supply shortages of certain gases, including the current shortage of helium, and the resulting inability of the Company to meet customer gas requirements; customers' acceptance of current prices and of future price increases; adverse changes in customer buying patterns; a rise in product costs and/or operating expenses at a rate faster than the Company's ability to increase prices; higher or lower capital expenditures than that estimated by the Company; limitations on the Company's borrowing capacity dictated by the Credit Facility; fluctuations in interest rates; the Company's ability to continue to access credit markets on satisfactory terms; the impact of tightened credit markets on the Company's customers; the extent and duration of current economic trends in the U.S. economy; higher than expected implementation costs of the SAP system and the realignment of its divisional structure; conversion problems related to the SAP system that disrupt the Company's business and negatively impact customer relationships; the Company's expectation as to completion of the conversion to SAP; the inability to retain employees to be affected by the reorganization prior to its completion; potential disruption to the Company's business related to the realignment; the impact of the management transition; potential disruption to the Company's business from integration problems associated with acquisitions; the Company's success in continuing its cost reduction program; the Company's ability to successfully identify, consummate and integrate acquisitions to achieve anticipated acquisition synergies; the inability to manage interest rate exposure; higher interest expense than that estimated by the Company due to changes in debt levels or increases in LIBOR; unanticipated non-performance by counterparties related to interest rate derivatives; the effects of competition on products, pricing and sales growth; changes in product prices from gas producers and name-brand manufacturers and suppliers of hardgoods; changes in customer demand resulting in the inability to meet minimum product purchases under long-term supply agreements and the inability to negotiate alternative supply arrangements; and the effects of, and changes in, the economy, monetary and fiscal policies, laws and regulations, inflation and monetary fluctuations, both on a national and international basis. The Company does not undertake to update any forward-looking statement made herein or that may be made from time to time by or on behalf of the Company.

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Item 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK.

Interest Rate Risk

The Company manages its exposure to changes in market interest rates. The interest rate exposure arises primarily from the interest payment terms of the Company's borrowing agreements. Interest rate derivatives are used to adjust the interest rate risk exposures that are inherent in its portfolio of funding sources. The Company has not established, and will not establish, any interest rate risk positions for purposes other than managing the risk associated with its portfolio of funding sources or anticipated funding sources. The counterparties to interest rate derivatives are major financial institutions. The Company has established counterparty credit guidelines and only enters into transactions with financial institutions with long-term credit ratings of at least a single 'A' rating by one of the major credit rating agencies. In addition, the Company monitors its position and the credit ratings of its counterparties, thereby minimizing the risk of non-performance by the counterparties.

The table below summarizes the Company's market risks associated with debt obligations and interest rate swaps at June 30, 2012. For debt obligations, the table presents cash flows related to payments of principal and interest by fiscal year of maturity. For interest rate swaps, the table presents the notional amounts underlying the agreements by year of maturity. The notional amounts are used to calculate contractual payments to be exchanged and are not actually paid or received. Fair values were computed using market quotes, if available, or based on discounted cash flows using market interest rates as of the end of the period.

| (In millions) | 3/31/2013 | 3/31/2014 | 3/31/2015 | 3/31/2016 | 3/31/2017 | Thereafter | Total | Fair Value |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|------------|
| Fixed Rate Debt: | | | | | | | | |
| Other long-term debt | \$ 1.9 | \$ 1.2 | \$ 0.5 | \$ 0.3 | \$ 0.1 | \$— | \$ 4.0 | \$ 4.2 |
| Interest expense | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.04 | 0.01 | — | — | 0.3 | |
| Average interest rate | 6.55 | % 5.88 | % 5.62 | % 5.55 | % 2.06 | % — | | |
| Senior notes due 10/1/2013 | \$— | \$ 300.0 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$ 300.0 | \$ 312.7 |
| Interest expense | 6.4 | 4.3 | — | — | — | — | 10.7 | |
| Interest rate | 2.85 | % 2.85 | % — | — | — | — | | |
| Senior notes due 9/15/2014 | \$— | \$— | \$ 400.0 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$ 400.0 | \$ 429.3 |
| Interest expense | 13.5 | 18.0 | 8.3 | — | — | — | 39.8 | |
| Interest rate | 4.50 | % 4.50 | % 4.50 | % — | — | — | | |
| Senior notes due 10/1/2015 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$ 250.0 | \$— | \$— | \$ 250.0 | \$ 259.5 |
| Interest expense | 6.1 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 4.1 | — | — | 26.4 | |
| Interest rate | 3.25 | % 3.25 | % 3.25 | % 3.25 | % — | — | | |
| Senior notes due 6/15/2016 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$ 250.0 | \$— | \$ 250.0 | \$ 259.0 |
| Interest expense | 5.5 | 7.4 | 7.4 | 7.4 | 1.5 | — | 29.2 | |
| Interest rate | 2.95 | % 2.95 | % 2.95 | % 2.95 | % 2.95 | % — | | |
| Senior subordinated notes due 10/1/2018 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$ 215.4 | \$ 215.4 | \$ 233.4 |
| Interest expense | 11.5 | 15.4 | 15.4 | 15.4 | 15.4 | 22.8 | 95.9 | |
| Interest rate | 7.13 | % 7.13 | % 7.13 | % 7.13 | % 7.13 | % 7.13 | % | |

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| (In millions) | 3/31/2013 | 3/31/2014 | 3/31/2015 | 3/31/2016 | 3/31/2017 | Thereafter | Total | Fair Value |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|---------|------------|
| Variable Rate Debt: | | | | | | | | |
| Commercial Paper | \$346.3 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$346.3 | \$346.3 |
| Interest expense | 0.2 | — | — | — | — | — | 0.2 | |
| Interest rate | 0.55 | % — | — | — | — | — | | |
| Revolving credit borrowings - | | | | | | | | |
| Multi-currency | | | | | | | | |
| Interest expense | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.3 | — | 2.6 | |
| Interest rate ^(a) | 1.84 | % 1.84 | % 1.84 | % 1.84 | % 1.84 | % — | | |
| Revolving credit borrowings - France | \$6.4 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$6.4 | \$6.4 |
| Interest expense | 0.1 | — | — | — | — | — | 0.1 | |
| Interest rate ^(b) | 1.58 | % — | — | — | — | — | | |
| Trade receivables securitization | \$— | \$295.0 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$295.0 | \$295.0 |
| Interest expense | 2.2 | 2.1 | — | — | — | — | 4.3 | |
| Interest rate | 0.98 | % 0.98 | % — | — | — | — | | |
| Interest Rate Swaps: | | | | | | | | |
| 5 swaps receive fixed/pay variable | | | | | | | | |
| Notional amounts | \$— | \$300.0 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$300.0 | \$(5.7) |
| Swap (receipts) | — | (5.7) | — | — | — | — | (5.7) | |
| Variable forward pay rate = 1.33% | | | | | | | | |
| Weighted average receive rate = 2.85% | | | | | | | | |

The interest rate on the revolving credit facilities is the weighted average of the variable interest rates on the U.S. dollar revolving credit line (which had no borrowings at June 30, 2012) and the multi-currency revolving credit line. The variable interest rates on the U.S. dollar revolving credit line are based on a spread over LIBOR applicable to each tranche under the U.S. credit line. The variable interest rates on the multi-currency revolving credit line are based on a spread over the Euro currency rate applicable to each foreign currency borrowing under the multi-currency credit line.

^(b) The variable interest rates on the French revolving credit borrowings are based on a spread over the Euro currency rate.

Limitations of the Tabular Presentation

As the table incorporates only those interest rate risk exposures that exist as of June 30, 2012, it does not consider those exposures or positions that could arise after that date. In addition, actual cash flows of financial instruments in future periods may differ materially from prospective cash flows presented in the table due to future fluctuations in variable interest rates, debt levels and the Company's credit rating.

Foreign Currency Rate Risk

Canadian subsidiaries and the European operations of the Company are funded in part with local currency debt. The Company does not otherwise hedge its exposure to translation gains and losses relating to foreign currency net asset exposures. The Company considers its exposure to foreign currency exchange fluctuations to be immaterial to its financial position and results of operations.

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**(a) Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

The Company carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and

procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) as of June 30, 2012. Based on that evaluation, the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that, as of such date, the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective such that the information required to be disclosed in the Company's Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") reports (i) is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within

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the time periods specified in the SEC rules and forms, and (ii) is accumulated and communicated to the Company's management, including the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding disclosure.

(b) Changes in Internal Control

There were no changes in internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the quarter ended June 30, 2012 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

The Company has an ongoing initiative to implement a new enterprise information system (the "SAP system"). The SAP system will be implemented in stages, by business unit, through fiscal 2013. Management believes the necessary procedures are in place to maintain effective internal control over financial reporting as the implementation continues.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

The Company is involved in various legal and regulatory proceedings that have arisen in the ordinary course of business and have not been fully adjudicated. These actions, when ultimately concluded and determined, will not, in the opinion of management, have a material adverse effect upon the Company's consolidated financial condition, results of operations or liquidity.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS.

There have been no material changes from the risk factors previously disclosed in Part I, Item 1A, "Risk Factors," of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 31, 2012.

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ITEM 6. Exhibits

The following exhibits are being filed or furnished as part of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q:

| Exhibit No. | Description |
|-------------|--|
| 31.1 | Certification of Peter McCausland as President and Chief Executive Officer of Airgas, Inc. pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 31.2 | Certification of Robert M. McLaughlin as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Airgas, Inc. pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 32.1 | Certification of Peter McCausland as President and Chief Executive Officer of Airgas, Inc. pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 32.2 | Certification of Robert M. McLaughlin as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Airgas, Inc. pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 101.INS | XBRL Instance Document. |
| 101.SCH | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document. |
| 101.CAL | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document. |
| 101.DEF | XBRL Taxonomy Definition Linkbase Document. |
| 101.LAB | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document. |
| 101.PRE | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document. |

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Signature

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

Dated: August 8, 2012

AIRGAS, INC.

(Registrant)

BY: /S/ THOMAS M. SMYTH
Thomas M. Smyth
Vice President & Controller
(Principal Accounting Officer)

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