

BUCKLE INC
Form 10-Q
December 08, 2016

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-Q

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

For the Quarterly Period Ended October 29, 2016

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

For the Transition Period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number: 001-12951

THE BUCKLE, INC.
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Nebraska 47-0366193
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

2407 West 24th Street, Kearney, Nebraska 68845-4915
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (308) 236-8491

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

Title of class	Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered
Common Stock, \$.01 par value	New York Stock Exchange

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

(Former name, former address, and former fiscal year if changed since last report)

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for a shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

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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 definition of “large accelerated filer,” “accelerated filer,” and “smaller reporting company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

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

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

The number of shares outstanding of the Registrant's Common Stock, as of December 2, 2016, was 48,622,780.

THE BUCKLE, INC.

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THE BUCKLE, INC.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(Amounts in Thousands Except Share and Per Share Amounts)
(Unaudited)

ASSETS	October 29, 2016	January 30, 2016
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 163,006	\$ 161,185
Short-term investments	49,987	36,465
Receivables	13,427	9,651
Inventory	148,193	149,566
Prepaid expenses and other assets	7,320	6,030
Total current assets	381,933	362,897
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT		
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	464,507	450,762
	(289,547)	(277,981)
	174,960	172,781
LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS		
OTHER ASSETS	19,828	33,826
	4,850	3,269
Total assets	\$ 581,571	\$ 572,773
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable	\$ 36,314	\$ 33,862
Accrued employee compensation	15,651	33,126
Accrued store operating expenses	16,440	6,639
Gift certificates redeemable	16,088	22,858
Income taxes payable	2,751	11,141
Total current liabilities	87,244	107,626
DEFERRED COMPENSATION		
DEFERRED RENT LIABILITY	12,571	12,849
Total liabilities	38,602	39,655
	138,417	160,130
COMMITMENTS		
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY:		
Common stock, authorized 100,000,000 shares of \$.01 par value; 48,622,780 and 48,428,110 shares issued and outstanding at October 29, 2016 and January 30, 2016, respectively	486	484
Additional paid-in capital	139,670	134,864
Retained earnings	303,176	277,626
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(178)	(331)
Total stockholders' equity	443,154	412,643

Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 581,571	\$ 572,773
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See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

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THE BUCKLE, INC.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

(Amounts in Thousands Except Per Share Amounts)

(Unaudited)

	Thirteen Weeks Ended October 29, 2016		Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended October 29, 2015	
SALES, Net of returns and allowances	\$239,213	\$280,187	\$694,913	\$787,585
COST OF SALES (Including buying, distribution, and occupancy costs)	142,339	162,923	423,428	462,129
Gross profit	96,874	117,264	271,485	325,456
OPERATING EXPENSES:				
Selling	50,820	52,268	144,448	147,780
General and administrative	9,234	8,701	29,705	31,399
	60,054	60,969	174,153	179,179
INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	36,820	56,295	97,332	146,277
OTHER INCOME, Net	497	951	1,500	1,959
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES	37,317	57,246	98,832	148,236
PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES	13,920	21,353	36,866	55,292
NET INCOME	\$23,397	\$35,893	\$61,966	\$92,944
EARNINGS PER SHARE:				
Basic	\$0.49	\$0.75	\$1.29	\$1.93
Diluted	\$0.48	\$0.74	\$1.28	\$1.93
Basic weighted average shares	48,107	48,073	48,107	48,074
Diluted weighted average shares	48,259	48,219	48,230	48,203

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

THE BUCKLE, INC.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(Amounts in Thousands)

(Unaudited)

	Thirteen Weeks Ended October 29, 2016		Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended October 31, 2015	
NET INCOME	\$23,397	\$ 35,893	\$61,966	\$ 92,944
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME, NET OF TAX:				
Change in unrealized loss on investments, net of tax of \$0, \$0, \$72, and \$3, respectively	—	—	125	4
Reclassification adjustment for losses included in net income, net of tax of \$0, \$0, \$17, and \$0, respectively	—	—	28	—
Other comprehensive income	—	—	153	4
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	\$23,397	\$ 35,893	\$62,119	\$ 92,948

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

THE BUCKLE, INC.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

(Amounts in Thousands Except Share and Per Share Amounts)

(Unaudited)

	Number of Shares	Common Stock	Additional Paid-in Capital	Retained Earnings	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	Total
FISCAL 2016						
BALANCE, January 31, 2016	48,428,110	\$ 484	\$ 134,864	\$ 277,626	\$ (331)	\$ 412,643
Net income	—	—	—	61,966	—	61,966
Dividends paid on common stock, (\$0.75 per share)	—	—	—	(36,416)	—	(36,416)
Issuance of non-vested stock, net of forfeitures	194,670	2	(2)	—	—	—
Amortization of non-vested stock grants, net of forfeitures	—	—	4,808	—	—	4,808
Change in unrealized loss on investments, net of tax	—	—	—	—	125	125
Reclassification adjustment for losses included in net income, net of tax	—	—	—	—	28	28
BALANCE, October 29, 2016	48,622,780	\$ 486	\$ 139,670	\$ 303,176	\$ (178)	\$ 443,154
FISCAL 2015						
BALANCE, February 1, 2015	48,379,613	\$ 484	\$ 131,112	\$ 224,111	\$ (429)	\$ 355,278
Net income	—	—	—	92,944	—	92,944
Dividends paid on common stock, (\$0.69 per share)	—	—	—	(33,397)	—	(33,397)
Issuance of non-vested stock, net of forfeitures	152,360	1	(1)	—	—	—
Amortization of non-vested stock grants, net of forfeitures	—	—	4,460	—	—	4,460
Common stock purchased and retired	(20,097)	—	(685)	—	—	(685)
Change in unrealized loss on investments, net of tax	—	—	—	—	4	4
BALANCE, October 31, 2015	48,511,876	\$ 485	\$ 134,886	\$ 283,658	\$ (425)	\$ 418,604

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

THE BUCKLE, INC.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(Amounts in Thousands)

(Unaudited)

	Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended	
	October 29, 2016	October 31, 2015
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net income	\$61,966	\$92,944
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash flows from operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	24,070	23,614
Amortization of non-vested stock grants, net of forfeitures	4,808	4,460
Deferred income taxes	(1,779)	(1,650)
Other	1,326	496
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Receivables	2,190	2,036
Inventory	1,373	(45,931)
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(1,290)	(1,530)
Accounts payable	1,615	17,929
Accrued employee compensation	(17,475)	(15,538)
Accrued store operating expenses	9,801	1,426
Gift certificates redeemable	(6,770)	(7,254)
Income taxes payable	(14,356)	(15,565)
Deferred rent liabilities and deferred compensation	(1,331)	(1,846)
Net cash flows from operating activities	64,148	53,591
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchases of property and equipment	(26,738)	(30,925)
Change in other assets	109	129
Purchases of investments	(32,432)	(27,906)
Proceeds from sales/maturities of investments	33,150	26,915
Net cash flows from investing activities	(25,911)	(31,787)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchases of common stock	—	(685)
Payment of dividends	(36,416)	(33,397)
Net cash flows from financing activities	(36,416)	(34,082)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	1,821	(12,278)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, Beginning of period	161,185	133,708
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, End of period	\$163,006	\$121,430

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

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THE BUCKLE, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

THIRTEEN AND THIRTY-NINE WEEKS ENDED OCTOBER 29, 2016 AND OCTOBER 31, 2015

(Dollar Amounts in Thousands Except Share and Per Share Amounts)

(Unaudited)

1. Management Representation

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for interim financial information. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments necessary for the fair presentation of the results of operations for the interim periods have been included. All such adjustments are of a normal recurring nature. Because of the seasonal nature of the business, results for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of a full year's operations. The accounting policies followed by the Company and additional footnotes are reflected in the consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended January 30, 2016, included in The Buckle, Inc.'s 2015 Form 10-K. The condensed consolidated balance sheet as of January 30, 2016 is derived from audited financial statements.

The Company follows generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") established by the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB"). References to GAAP in these notes are to the FASB Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC").

2. Description of the Business

The Company is a retailer of medium to better priced casual apparel, footwear, and accessories for fashion conscious young men and women. The Company operates its business as one reportable segment. The Company had 470 stores located in 44 states throughout the United States as of October 29, 2016 and 468 stores in 44 states as of October 31, 2015. During the thirty-nine week period ended October 29, 2016, the Company opened 4 new stores, substantially remodeled 17 stores, and closed 2 stores; which includes 1 new store, 5 substantial remodels, and 1 closed store during the third quarter. During the thirty-nine week period ended October 31, 2015, the Company opened 8 new stores and substantially remodeled 13 stores; which includes 4 new stores and 2 substantial remodels during the third quarter.

The following is information regarding the Company's major product lines, stated as a percentage of the Company's net sales:

Merchandise Group	Thirteen Weeks Ended		Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended	
	October 29, 2016	October 31, 2015	October 29, 2016	October 31, 2015
Denims	44.9 %	45.3 %	40.9 %	41.0 %
Tops (including sweaters)	31.8	31.4	30.7	31.1
Accessories	8.4	8.6	8.9	8.7
Sportswear/Fashions	2.1	1.9	8.8	8.7
Footwear	6.1	6.4	6.1	6.1
Casual bottoms	2.3	1.7	1.8	1.5
Outerwear	2.5	2.7	1.3	1.4

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Other	1.9	2.0	1.5	1.5
	100.0%	100.0 %	100.0%	100.0 %

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3. Earnings Per Share

Basic earnings per share data are based on the weighted average outstanding common shares during the period. Diluted earnings per share data are based on the weighted average outstanding common shares and the effect of all dilutive potential common shares.

	Thirteen Weeks Ended October 29, 2016			Thirteen Weeks Ended October 31, 2015		
	Income	Weighted Average Shares	Per Share Amount	Income	Weighted Average Shares	Per Share Amount
Basic EPS	\$23,397	48,107	\$ 0.49	\$35,893	48,073	\$ 0.75
Effect of Dilutive Securities:						
Non-vested shares	—	152	(0.01)	—	146	(0.01)
Diluted EPS	\$23,397	48,259	\$ 0.48	\$35,893	48,219	\$ 0.74
	Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended October 29, 2016			Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended October 31, 2015		
	Income	Weighted Per Average Share Shares	Per Amount	Income	Weighted Per Average Share Shares	Per Amount
Basic EPS	\$61,966	48,107	\$ 1.29	\$92,944	48,074	\$ 1.93
Effect of Dilutive Securities:						
Non-vested shares	—	123	(0.01)	—	129	—
Diluted EPS	\$61,966	48,230	\$ 1.28	\$92,944	48,203	\$ 1.93

4. Investments

The following is a summary of investments as of October 29, 2016:

	Amortized Cost or Par Value	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Other-than- Temporary Impairment	Estimated Fair Value
Available-for-Sale Securities:					
Auction-rate securities	\$ 3,450	\$ —	\$ (283)	\$ —	\$ 3,167
Held-to-Maturity Securities:					
State and municipal bonds	\$ 54,077	\$ 47	\$ (19)	\$ —	\$ 54,105
Trading Securities:					
Mutual funds	\$ 12,428	\$ 143	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 12,571

The following is a summary of investments as of January 30, 2016:

	Amortized Cost or Par Value	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Other-than- Temporary Impairment	Estimated Fair Value
Available-for-Sale Securities:					
Auction-rate securities	\$ 7,975	\$ —	\$ (525)	\$	—\$ 7,450
Held-to-Maturity Securities:					
State and municipal bonds	\$ 49,992	\$ 163	\$ (32)	\$	—\$ 50,123
Trading Securities:					
Mutual funds	\$ 13,442	\$ —	\$ (593)	\$	—\$ 12,849

The auction-rate securities were invested as follows as of October 29, 2016:

Nature	Underlying Collateral	Par Value
Municipal revenue bonds	100% insured by AAA/AA/A-rated bond insurers	\$3,400
Municipal bond funds	Fixed income instruments within issuers' money market funds	50
Total par value		\$3,450

As of October 29, 2016, the Company's auction-rate securities portfolio was 100% AA/Aa-rated.

The amortized cost and fair value of debt securities by contractual maturity as of October 29, 2016 is as follows:

	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Held-to-Maturity Securities		
Less than 1 year	\$ 49,987	\$50,016
1 - 5 years	4,090	4,089
	\$ 54,077	\$54,105

As of October 29, 2016 and January 30, 2016, \$3,167 and \$7,450 of available-for-sale securities and \$4,090 and \$13,527 of held-to-maturity securities are classified in long-term investments. Trading securities are held in a Rabbi Trust, intended to fund the Company's deferred compensation plan, and are classified in long-term investments.

The Company's investments in auction-rate securities ("ARS") are classified as available-for-sale and reported at fair market value. As of October 29, 2016, the reported investment amount is net of \$283 of temporary impairment to account for the impairment of certain securities from their stated par value. The \$283 temporary impairment is reported, net of tax, as an "accumulated other comprehensive loss" of \$178 in stockholders' equity as of October 29, 2016. For the investments considered temporarily impaired, all of which have been in loss positions for over a year, the Company believes that these ARS can be successfully redeemed or liquidated in the future at par value plus accrued interest. The Company believes it has the ability and maintains its intent to hold these investments until such recovery of market value occurs; therefore, the Company believes the current lack of liquidity has created the temporary impairment in valuation.

As of October 29, 2016, the Company had \$3,450 invested in ARS, at par value, which was reported at its estimated fair value of \$3,167. As of January 30, 2016, the Company had \$7,975 invested in ARS, at par value, which was reported at its estimated fair value of \$7,450. ARS have a long-term stated maturity, but are reset through a "dutch auction" process that occurs every 7 to 49 days, depending on the terms of the individual security. Until February 2008, the ARS market was highly liquid. During February 2008, however, a significant number of auctions related to these securities failed, meaning that there was not enough demand to sell the entire issue at auction. The failed auctions have limited the current liquidity of certain of the Company's investments in ARS. The Company does not, however, anticipate that further auction failures will have a material impact on the Company's ability to fund its business. During the first three quarters of fiscal 2016, the Company was able to successfully liquidate ARS with a par value of \$4,525. The Company reviews all investments for other-than-temporary impairment ("OTTI") at least quarterly or as indicators of impairment exist. Indicators of impairment include the duration and severity of decline in market value. In addition, the Company considers qualitative factors including, but not limited to, the financial condition of the investee, the credit rating of the investee, and the current and expected market and industry conditions in which the investee operates.

As of both October 29, 2016 and January 30, 2016, all of the Company's investments in ARS were classified in long-term investments.

5. Fair Value Measurements

Fair value is 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. Financial assets and liabilities measured and reported at fair value are classified and disclosed in one of the following categories:

Level 1 – Quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Short-term and long-term investments with active markets or known redemption values are reported at fair value utilizing Level 1 inputs.

Level 2 – Observable market-based inputs (either directly or indirectly) such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities, quoted prices in markets that are not active, or other inputs that are observable or inputs that are corroborated by market data.

Level 3 – Unobservable inputs that are not corroborated by market data and are projections, estimates, or interpretations that are supported by little or no market activity and are significant to the fair value of the assets. The Company has concluded that certain of its ARS represent Level 3 valuation. A discounted cash flow analysis was used to value these investments. The assumptions used in preparing the discounted cash flow model include estimates for interest rates, timing and amount of cash flows, and expected holding periods of the ARS. As of October 29, 2016, the unobservable inputs used by the Company and its independent third-party valuation consultant in valuing its Level 3 investments in ARS included:

Durations until redemption ranging from 7.2 to 8.5 years, with a weighted average of 7.8 years.

Discount rates ranging from 3.67% to 3.67%, with a weighted average of 3.67%.

As of October 29, 2016 and January 30, 2016, the Company held certain assets that are required to be measured at fair value on a recurring basis including available-for-sale and trading securities. The Company's available-for-sale securities include its investments in ARS, as further described in Note 4. The failed auctions, beginning in February 2008, related to certain of the Company's investments in ARS have limited the availability of quoted market prices. The Company has determined the fair value of its ARS using Level 1 inputs for known or anticipated subsequent redemptions at par value, Level 2 using observable inputs, and Level 3 using unobservable inputs where the following criteria were considered in estimating fair value:

Pricing was provided by the custodian or third-party broker for ARS;

Sales of similar securities;

Quoted prices for similar securities in active markets;

Quoted prices for similar assets in markets that are not active - including markets where there are few

- transactions for the asset, the prices are not current, or price quotations vary substantially either over time or among market makers, or in which little information is released publicly;

Pricing was provided by a third-party valuation consultant (using Level 3 inputs).

In addition, the Company considers other factors including, but not limited to, the financial condition of the investee, the credit rating, insurance, guarantees, collateral, cash flows, and the current and expected market and industry conditions in which the investee operates. Management believes it has used information that was reasonably obtainable in order to complete its valuation process and determine if the Company's investments in ARS had incurred any temporary and/or other-than-temporary impairment as of October 29, 2016 and January 30, 2016.

Future fluctuations in fair value of ARS that the Company judges to be temporary, including any recoveries of previous write-downs, would be recorded as an adjustment to "accumulated other comprehensive loss." The value and liquidity of ARS held by the Company may be affected by continued auction-rate failures, the credit quality of each security, the amount and timing of interest payments, the amount and timing of future principal payments, and the probability of full repayment of the principal. Additional indicators of impairment include the duration and severity of the decline in market value. The interest rates on these investments will be determined by the terms of each individual ARS. The risks associated with the ARS held by the Company include those stated above as well as the current economic environment, downgrading of credit ratings on investments held, and the volatility of the entities backing each of the issues.

The Company's financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis are as follows:

	Fair Value Measurements at Reporting Date			
	Using Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total
October 29, 2016				
Available-for-sale securities:				
Auction-rate securities	\$—	\$ 183	\$ 2,984	\$3,167
Trading securities (including mutual funds)	12,571	—	—	12,571
Totals	\$12,571	\$ 183	\$ 2,984	\$15,738

	Fair Value Measurements at Reporting Date			
	Using Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total
January 30, 2016				
Available-for-sale securities:				
Auction-rate securities	\$—	\$ 185	\$ 7,265	\$7,450

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Trading securities (including mutual funds)	12,849	—	—	12,849
Totals	\$12,849	\$ 185	\$ 7,265	\$20,299

Securities included in Level 1 represent securities which have a known or anticipated upcoming redemption as of the reporting date and those that have publicly traded quoted prices. ARS included in Level 2 represent securities which have not experienced a successful auction subsequent to the end of fiscal 2007. The fair market value for these securities was determined by applying a discount to par value based on auction prices for similar securities and by utilizing a discounted cash flow model, using market-based inputs, to determine fair value. The Company used a discounted cash flow model to value its Level 3 investments, using estimates regarding recovery periods, yield, and liquidity. The assumptions used are subjective based upon management's judgment and views on current market conditions, and resulted in \$266 of the Company's recorded temporary impairment as of October 29, 2016. The use of different assumptions would result in a different valuation and related temporary impairment charge.

Changes in the fair value of the Company's financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis are as follows:

	Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended October 29, 2016 Fair Value Measurements Using Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) Available-for-Sale Securities Auction-Mutual Securities Funds			Total
Balance, beginning of year	\$7,265	\$	—	—\$7,265
Total gains and losses:				
Included in net income	(45)	—	(45)
Included in other comprehensive income	244		—	244
Purchases, Issuances, Sales, and Settlements:				
Sales	(4,480)	—	(4,480)
Balance, end of quarter	\$2,984	\$	—	—\$2,984

	Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended October 31, 2015 Fair Value Measurements Using Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) Available-for-Sale Securities Auction-Mutual Securities Funds			Total
Balance, beginning of year	\$7,186	\$	—	—\$7,186
Total gains and losses:				
Included in other comprehensive income	7		—	7
Purchases, Issuances, Sales, and Settlements:				
Sales	(75)	—	(75)
Balance, end of quarter	\$7,118	\$	—	—\$7,118

There were no transfers of securities between Levels 1, 2, or 3 during the thirty-nine week periods ended October 29, 2016 or October 31, 2015. The Company's policy is to recognize transfers in and transfers out as of the beginning of the reporting period in which the transfer occurred.

The carrying value of cash equivalents approximates fair value due to the low level of risk these assets present and their relatively liquid nature, particularly given their short maturities. The Company also holds certain financial instruments that are not carried at fair value on the condensed consolidated balance sheets, including held-to-maturity securities. Held-to-maturity securities consist primarily of state and municipal bonds. The fair values of these debt securities are based on quoted market prices and yields for the same or similar securities, which the Company determined to be Level 2 inputs. As of October 29, 2016, the fair value of held-to-maturity securities was \$54,105

compared to the carrying amount of \$54,077. As of January 30, 2016, the fair value of held-to-maturity securities was \$50,123 compared to the carrying amount of \$49,992.

The carrying values of receivables, accounts payable, accrued expenses, and other current liabilities approximates fair value because of their short-term nature. From time to time, the Company measures certain assets at fair value on a non-recurring basis, specifically long-lived assets evaluated for impairment. These are typically store specific assets, which are reviewed for impairment when circumstances indicate impairment may exist due to the questionable recoverability of the carrying values of long-lived assets. If expected future cash flows related to a store's assets are less than their carrying value, an impairment loss would be recognized for the difference between the carrying value and the estimated fair value of the store's assets. The fair value of the store's assets is estimated utilizing an income-based approach based on the expected cash flows over the remaining life of the store's lease. The amount of impairment related to long-lived assets was immaterial as of both October 29, 2016 and January 30, 2016.

6. Supplemental Cash Flow Information

The Company had non-cash investing activities during the thirty-nine week periods ended October 29, 2016 and October 31, 2015 of (\$837) and \$1,106, respectively. The non-cash investing activity relates to the change in the balance of unpaid purchases of property, plant, and equipment included in accounts payable as of the end of the period. The liability for unpaid purchases of property, plant, and equipment included in accounts payable was \$1,953 and \$1,116 as of October 29, 2016 and January 30, 2016, respectively. Amounts reported as unpaid purchases are recorded as cash outflows from investing activities for purchases of property, plant, and equipment in the condensed consolidated statement of cash flows in the period they are paid.

Additional cash flow information for the Company includes cash paid for income taxes during the thirty-nine week periods ended October 29, 2016 and October 31, 2015 of \$53,000 and \$72,734, respectively.

7. Stock-Based Compensation

The Company has several stock option plans which allow for granting of stock options to employees, executives, and directors. The Company has not granted any stock options since fiscal 2008 and there are currently no stock options outstanding. The Company also has a restricted stock plan that allows for the granting of non-vested shares of common stock to employees and executives and a restricted stock plan that allows for the granting of non-vested shares of common stock to non-employee directors. As of October 29, 2016, 856,306 shares were available for grant under the Company's various restricted stock plans, of which 781,682 shares were available for grant to executive officers.

Compensation expense was recognized during fiscal 2016 and fiscal 2015 for equity-based grants, based on the grant date fair value of the awards. The fair value of grants of non-vested common stock awards is the stock price on the date of grant.

Information regarding the impact of compensation expense related to grants of non-vested shares of common stock is as follows:

	Thirteen Weeks Ended October 29, 2016		Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended October 31, 2015	
Stock-based compensation expense, before tax	\$ 1,135	\$ (50)	\$ 4,808	\$ 4,460
Stock-based compensation expense, after tax	\$ 715	\$ (31)	\$ 3,029	\$ 2,810

Non-vested shares of common stock granted during the thirty-nine week periods ended October 29, 2016 and October 31, 2015 were granted pursuant to the Company's 2005 Restricted Stock Plan and the Company's 2008 Director Restricted Stock Plan. Shares granted under the 2005 Plan are typically "performance based" and vest over a period of four years, only upon certification by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors that the Company has achieved its pre-established performance targets for the fiscal year. Certain shares granted under the 2005 Plan, however, are "non-performance based" and vest over a period of four years without being subject to the achievement of performance targets. Shares granted under the 2008 Director Plan vest 25% on the date of grant and then in equal portions on each of the first three anniversaries of the date of grant.

A summary of the Company's stock-based compensation activity related to grants of non-vested shares of common stock for the thirty-nine week period ended October 29, 2016 is as follows:

	Shares	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value
Non-Vested - beginning of year	360,784	\$ 49.28
Granted	336,600	28.42
Forfeited	(141,930)	50.53
Vested	(39,580)	48.01
Non-Vested - end of quarter	515,874	\$ 35.42

As of October 29, 2016, there was \$7,313 of unrecognized compensation expense related to grants of non-vested shares. It is expected that this expense will be recognized over a weighted average period of approximately 2.0 years. The total fair value of shares vested during the thirty-nine week periods ended October 29, 2016 and October 31, 2015 was \$1,262 and \$1,823, respectively. During the thirty-nine week period ended October 29, 2016, 130,400 shares (representing one-half of the "performance based" shares granted during fiscal 2015 under the 2005 Restricted Stock Plan) were forfeited because the Company did not achieve all of the performance targets established for the fiscal 2015 grants.

8. Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606), which supersedes the revenue recognition requirements in Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 605, Revenue Recognition. The new revenue recognition standard requires entities to recognize revenue in a way that depicts the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. In July 2015, the FASB approved a one-year deferral of the effective date of the new revenue recognition standard. The new standard will become effective for the Company beginning with the first quarter of fiscal 2018 and can be adopted either retrospectively to each prior reporting period presented or as a cumulative effect adjustment as of the date of adoption. The Company is currently evaluating the effect that adopting this new accounting guidance will have on its consolidated results of operations and financial position.

In July 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-11, Simplifying the Measurement of Inventory. Under this ASU, inventory will be measured at the "lower of cost and net realizable value" and options that currently exist for "market value" will be eliminated. The ASU defines net realizable value as the "estimated selling prices in the ordinary course of business, less reasonably predictable costs of completion, disposal, and transportation." No other changes were made to the current guidance on inventory measurement. ASU 2015-11 is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2016. The Company does not expect that the adoption of this ASU will have a material effect on its consolidated results of operations and financial position.

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-02, Leases (Topic 842). This ASU replaces the existing guidance in ASC 840, Leases. The new standard establishes a right-of-use ("ROU") model that requires a lessee to record a ROU asset and a lease liability on the balance sheet for all leases with terms longer than 12 months. Leases will be classified as either finance or operating, with classification affecting the pattern of expense recognition in the income

statement. The guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018, including interim periods within those fiscal years and requires retrospective application. The Company is currently evaluating the effect that adopting this new accounting guidance will have on its consolidated results of operations and financial position.

In March 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-09, Compensation - Stock Compensation (Topic 718): Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting. This standard is intended to simplify several aspects of the accounting for share-based payment award transactions, including the income tax consequences, classification of awards as either equity or liabilities, an option to recognize gross stock compensation expense with actual forfeitures recognized as they occur, and classifications in the statement of cash flows. ASU 2016-09 is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2016 and early adoption is permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the effect that adopting this new accounting guidance will have on its consolidated results of operations and financial position.

THE BUCKLE, INC.
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF
FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the condensed consolidated financial statements and notes thereto of the Company included in this Form 10-Q. All references herein to the “Company”, “Buckle”, “we”, “us”, or similar terms refer to The Buckle, Inc. and its subsidiary. The following is management’s discussion and analysis of certain significant factors which have affected the Company’s financial condition and results of operations during the periods included in the accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements.

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

Company management considers the following items to be key performance indicators in evaluating Company performance.

Comparable Store Sales – Stores are deemed to be comparable stores if they were open in the prior year on the first day of the fiscal period being presented. Stores which have been remodeled, expanded, and/or relocated, but would otherwise be included as comparable stores, are not excluded from the comparable store sales calculation. Online sales are included in comparable store sales. Management considers comparable store sales to be an important indicator of current Company performance, helping leverage certain fixed costs when results are positive. Negative comparable store sales results could reduce net sales and have a negative impact on operating leverage, thus reducing net earnings.

Net Merchandise Margins – Management evaluates the components of merchandise margin including initial markup and the amount of markdowns during a period. Any inability to obtain acceptable levels of initial markups or any significant increase in the Company’s use of markdowns could have an adverse effect on the Company’s gross margin and results of operations.

Operating Margin – Operating margin is a good indicator for management of the Company’s success. Operating margin can be positively or negatively affected by comparable store sales, merchandise margins, occupancy costs, and the Company’s ability to control operating costs.

Cash Flow and Liquidity (working capital) – Management reviews current cash and short-term investments along with cash flow from operating, investing, and financing activities to determine the Company’s short-term cash needs for operations and expansion. The Company believes that existing cash, short-term investments, and cash flow from operations will be sufficient to fund current and long-term anticipated capital expenditures and working capital requirements for the next several years.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following table sets forth certain financial data expressed as a percentage of net sales and the percentage change in the dollar amount of such items compared to the prior period:

	Percentage of Net Sales			Percentage Increase/(Decrease)	Percentage of Net Sales			Percentage Increase/(Decrease)
	For Thirteen Weeks Ended				For Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended			
	October 29, 2016	October 31, 2015		October 29, 2016	October 31, 2015			
Net sales	100.0%	100.0%	(14.6)%	100.0%	100.0%	(11.8)%		
Cost of sales (including buying, distribution, and occupancy costs)	59.5%	58.1%	(12.6)%	60.9%	58.7%	(8.4)%		
Gross profit	40.5%	41.9%	(17.4)%	39.1%	41.3%	(16.6)%		
Selling expenses	21.2%	18.7%	(2.8)%	20.8%	18.7%	(2.3)%		
General and administrative expenses	3.9%	3.1%	6.1%	4.3%	4.0%	(5.4)%		
Income from operations	15.4%	20.1%	(34.6)%	14.0%	18.6%	(33.5)%		
Other income, net	0.2%	0.3%	(47.7)%	0.2%	0.2%	(23.4)%		
Income before income taxes	15.6%	20.4%	(34.8)%	14.2%	18.8%	(33.3)%		
Provision for income taxes	5.8%	7.6%	(34.8)%	5.3%	7.0%	(33.3)%		
Net income	9.8%	12.8%	(34.8)%	8.9%	11.8%	(33.3)%		

Net sales decreased from \$280.2 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2015 to \$239.2 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2016, a 14.6% decrease. Comparable store net sales for the thirteen week quarter ended October 29, 2016 decreased by \$42.6 million, or 15.3%, compared to the prior year thirteen week period ended October 31, 2015. The comparable store sales decline for the quarter was primarily attributable to a 10.8% reduction in the number of transactions at comparable stores during the quarter and a 5.6% reduction in the average retail price per piece of merchandise sold; which were partially offset by a 1.7% increase in the average number of units sold per transaction. Comparable store sales for the quarter were also impacted by both reward redemptions and accruals for estimated future rewards (which are recorded as reductions to revenue) related to the Company's new Guest Loyalty program, which launched during the fiscal quarter ended April 30, 2016. Absent the \$3.9 million impact related to the new loyalty program, total net sales for the quarter were down 13.2% and comparable store net sales were down 13.9%. The comparable store sales decline for the quarter was partially offset by the inclusion of a full quarter of operating results for the 5 new stores opened after the first half of fiscal 2015 and by the opening of 4 new stores during the first three quarters of fiscal 2016. Online sales for the quarter decreased 8.5% to \$23.7 million for the thirteen week period ended October 29, 2016 compared to \$25.9 million for the thirteen week period ended October 31, 2015.

Net sales decreased from \$787.6 million for the first three quarters of fiscal 2015 to \$694.9 million for the first three quarters of fiscal 2016, an 11.8% decrease. Comparable store net sales for the thirty-nine week period ended October 29, 2016 decreased by \$97.5 million, or 12.5%, compared to the prior year thirty-nine week period ended October 31, 2015. The comparable store sales decline for the thirty-nine week period was primarily attributable to a 9.4% reduction in the number of transactions at comparable stores during the period and a 2.9% reduction in the average retail price per piece of merchandise sold; which were partially offset by a 0.8% increase in the average number of units sold per transaction. Comparable store sales for the thirty-nine week period were also impacted by both reward redemptions and accruals for estimated future rewards (which are recorded as reductions to revenue) related to the Company's new Guest Loyalty program, which launched during the fiscal quarter ended April 30, 2016. Absent the \$10.7 million impact related to the new loyalty program, total net sales for the thirty-nine week period

were down 10.4% and comparable store net sales were down 11.1%. The comparable store sales decline for the thirty-nine week period was partially offset by the inclusion of a full three quarters of operating results for the 9 new stores opened during fiscal 2015 and by the opening of 4 new stores during the first three quarters of fiscal 2016. Online sales for the year-to-date period decreased 3.7% to \$67.6 million for the thirty-nine week period ended October 29, 2016 compared to \$70.2 million for the thirty-nine week period ended October 31, 2015. Average sales per square foot decreased 13.2% from \$305.45 for the thirty-nine week period ended October 31, 2015 to \$265.06 for the thirty-nine week period ended October 29, 2016. Total square footage as of October 29, 2016 was 2.403 million compared to 2.372 million as of October 31, 2015.

The Company's average retail price per piece of merchandise sold decreased \$2.95, or 5.6%, during the third quarter of fiscal 2016 compared to the third quarter of fiscal 2015. This \$2.95 decrease was primarily attributable to the following changes (with their corresponding effect on the overall average price per piece): a 6.6% reduction in average denim price points (-\$1.59), a 16.9% reduction in average footwear price points (-\$0.62), a 4.9% reduction in average knit shirt price points (-\$0.58), a 7.6% reduction in average woven shirt price points (-\$0.30), a 15.6% reduction in average sweater price points (-\$0.20), and a reduction in average price points for certain other merchandise categories (-\$0.30); which were partially offset by a shift in the merchandise mix (\$0.64). These changes are primarily a reflection of merchandise shifts in terms of brands and product styles, fabrics, details, and finishes.

For the year-to-date period, the Company's average retail price per piece of merchandise sold decreased \$1.48, or 2.9%, compared to the same period in fiscal 2015. This \$1.48 decrease was primarily attributable to the following changes (with their corresponding effect on the overall average price per piece): a 4.5% reduction in average denim price points (-\$0.94), a 3.4% reduction in average knit shirt price points (-\$0.37), a 7.3% reduction in average footwear price points (-\$0.23), a 5.8% reduction in average woven shirt price points (-\$0.23), and a reduction in average price points for certain other merchandise categories (-\$0.13); which were partially offset by a shift in the merchandise mix (\$0.42). These changes are primarily a reflection of merchandise shifts in terms of brands and product styles, fabrics, details, and finishes.

Gross profit after buying, distribution, and occupancy expenses decreased from \$117.3 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2015 to \$96.9 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2016, a 17.4% decrease. As a percentage of net sales, gross profit declined from 41.9% in the third quarter of fiscal 2015 to 40.5% in the third quarter of fiscal 2016. The decrease was primarily attributable to deleveraged occupancy, buying, and distribution expenses as a result of the comparable store sales decline (2.70%, as a percentage of net sales), which was partially offset by an increase in merchandise margins (1.30%, as a percentage of net sales).

Year-to-date, gross profit decreased from \$325.5 million for the thirty-nine week period ended October 31, 2015 to \$271.5 million for the thirty-nine week period ended October 29, 2016, a 16.6% decrease. As a percentage of net sales, gross profit declined from 41.3% for the first three quarters of fiscal 2015 to 39.1% for the first three quarters of fiscal 2016. The decrease was primarily attributable to deleveraged occupancy, buying, and distribution expenses as a result of the comparable store sales decline (2.20%, as a percentage of net sales). Merchandise margins for the year-to-date period were essentially flat.

Selling expenses decreased from \$52.3 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2015 to \$50.8 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2016, a 2.8% decrease. As a percentage of net sales, selling expenses increased from 18.7% in the third quarter of fiscal 2015 to 21.2% in the third quarter of fiscal 2016. Increases in store payroll expense (1.30%, as a percentage of net sales), marketing expenses (0.60%, as a percentage of net sales), health insurance expense (0.40%, as a percentage of net sales), and certain other selling expenses (0.40%, as a percentage of net sales) were partially offset by a reduction in expense related to the incentive bonus accrual (0.20%, as a percentage of net sales).

Year-to-date, selling expenses decreased from \$147.8 million for the first three quarters of fiscal 2015 to \$144.4 million for the first three quarters of fiscal 2016, a 2.3% decrease. As a percentage of net sales, selling expenses increased from 18.7% in fiscal 2015 to 20.8% in fiscal 2016. Increases in store payroll expense (1.25%, as a percentage of net sales), marketing expenses (0.55%, as a percentage of net sales), health insurance expense (0.15%, as a percentage of net sales), and certain other selling expenses (0.45%, as a percentage of net sales) were partially offset by a reduction in expense related to the incentive bonus accrual (0.30%, as a percentage of net sales).

General and administrative expenses increased from \$8.7 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2015 to \$9.2 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2016, a 6.1% increase. As a percentage of net sales, general and administrative expenses increased from 3.1% in the third quarter of fiscal 2015 to 3.9% in the third quarter of fiscal 2016. Increases in equity

compensation expense (0.50%, as a percentage of net sales) and certain other general and administrative expenses (0.55%, as a percentage of net sales) were partially offset by a reduction in expense related to the incentive bonus accrual (0.25%, as a percentage of net sales).

Year-to-date, general and administrative expenses decreased from \$31.4 million for the first three quarters of fiscal 2015 to \$29.7 million for the first three quarters of fiscal 2016, a 5.4% decrease. As a percentage of net sales, general and administrative expenses increased from 4.0% in fiscal 2015 to 4.3% in fiscal 2016. Increases across several general and administrative expense categories (0.55%, as a percentage of net sales) were partially offset by a reduction in expense related to the incentive bonus accrual (0.25%, as a percentage of net sales).

As a result of the above changes, the Company's income from operations was \$36.8 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2016 compared to \$56.3 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2015. Income from operations was 15.4% of net sales in the third quarter of fiscal 2016 compared to 20.1% of net sales in the third quarter of fiscal 2015.

Year-to-date, income from operations was \$97.3 million for the thirty-nine week period ended October 29, 2016 compared to \$146.3 million for the thirty-nine week period ended October 31, 2015. Income from operations was 14.0% of net sales for the first three quarters of fiscal 2016 compared to 18.6% of net sales for the first three quarters of fiscal 2015.

Other income decreased from \$1.0 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2015 to \$0.5 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2016. Other income for the year-to-date period decreased from \$2.0 million for the thirty-nine week period ended October 31, 2015 to \$1.5 million for the thirty-nine week period ended October 29, 2016. The Company's other income is derived primarily from investment income related to the Company's cash and investments.

Income tax expense as a percentage of pre-tax income was 37.3% in both the third quarter of fiscal 2016 and the third quarter of fiscal 2015, bringing net income to \$23.4 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2016 compared to \$35.9 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2015.

Income tax expense as a percentage of pre-tax income was also 37.3% for both the first three quarters of fiscal 2016 and the first three quarters of fiscal 2015, bringing year-to-date net income to \$62.0 million for fiscal 2016 compared to \$92.9 million for fiscal 2015.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

As of October 29, 2016, the Company had working capital of \$294.7 million, including \$163.0 million of cash and cash equivalents and \$50.0 million of short-term investments. The Company's cash receipts are generated from retail sales and from investment income, and the Company's primary ongoing cash requirements are for inventory, payroll, occupancy costs, dividend payments, new store expansion, remodeling, and other capital expenditures. Historically, the Company's primary source of working capital has been cash flow from operations. During the first three quarters of fiscal 2016 and fiscal 2015, the Company's cash flow from operations was \$64.1 million and \$53.6 million, respectively.

The uses of cash for both thirty-nine week periods primarily include payment of annual bonuses accrued at fiscal year end, changes in inventory and accounts payable for inventory purchases, dividend payments, construction costs for new and remodeled stores, other capital expenditures, and purchases of investment securities.

During the first three quarters of fiscal 2016 and 2015, the Company invested \$25.5 million and \$20.3 million, respectively, in new store construction, store renovation, and store technology upgrades. The Company also spent \$1.2 million and \$10.6 million in the first three quarters of fiscal 2016 and 2015, respectively, in capital expenditures for the corporate headquarters and distribution facility. For the first three quarters of fiscal 2015, capital spending for the corporate headquarters and distribution facility included expenditures related to the construction of a new office building as a part of the Company's home office campus in Kearney, Nebraska. The new building was substantially completed and placed into service during the first quarter of 2015.

During the remainder of fiscal 2016, the Company anticipates completing approximately 3 additional store construction projects, including approximately 1 new store and approximately 2 stores to be substantially remodeled and/or relocated. Management estimates that total capital expenditures during fiscal 2016 will be approximately \$28.0 to \$32.0 million, which includes primarily planned new store and store remodeling projects and IT investments. The Company believes that existing cash and cash equivalents, investments, and cash flow from operations will be sufficient to fund current and long-term anticipated capital expenditures and working capital requirements for the next several years. The Company has a consistent record of generating positive cash flow from operations each year and, as of October 29, 2016, had total cash and investments of \$232.8 million, including \$19.8 million of long-term investments. The Company does not currently have plans for a merger or acquisition and has fairly consistent plans

for new store expansion and remodels. Based upon past results and current plans, management does not anticipate any large swings in the Company's need for cash in the upcoming years.

Future conditions, however, may reduce the availability of funds based upon factors such as a decrease in demand for the Company's product, change in product mix, competitive factors, and general economic conditions as well as other risks and uncertainties which would reduce the Company's sales, net profitability, and cash flows. Also, the Company's acceleration in store openings and/or remodels or the Company entering into a merger, acquisition, or other financial related transaction could reduce the amount of cash available for further capital expenditures and working capital requirements.

The Company has available an unsecured line of credit of \$25.0 million with Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. for operating needs and letters of credit. The line of credit agreement has an expiration date of July 31, 2017 and provides that \$10.0 million of the \$25.0 million line is available for letters of credit. Borrowings under the line of credit provide for interest to be paid at a rate based on LIBOR. The Company has, from time to time, borrowed against these lines of credit. There were no bank borrowings during the first three quarters of fiscal 2016 or 2015. The Company had no bank borrowings as of October 29, 2016 and was in compliance with the terms and conditions of the line of credit agreement.

Auction-Rate Securities - As of October 29, 2016, total cash and investments included \$3.2 million of auction-rate securities ("ARS"), which compares to \$7.5 million of ARS as of January 30, 2016. All of the \$3.2 million in ARS was classified in long term investments as of October 29, 2016. ARS have a long-term stated maturity, but are reset through a "dutch auction" process that occurs every 7 to 49 days, depending on the terms of the individual security. During February 2008, a significant number of auctions related to these securities failed, meaning that there was not enough demand to sell the entire issue at auction. The failed auctions have limited the current liquidity of the Company's investments in ARS. The Company does not anticipate, however, that further auction failures will have a material impact on the Company's ability to fund its business.

ARS are reported at fair market value, and as of October 29, 2016, the reported investment amount is net of a \$0.3 million temporary impairment to account for the impairment of certain securities from their stated par value. The Company reported the \$0.3 million temporary impairment, net of tax, as an "accumulated other comprehensive loss" of \$0.2 million in stockholders' equity as of October 29, 2016. The Company has accounted for the impairment as temporary, as it currently believes that these ARS can be successfully redeemed or liquidated in the future at par value plus accrued interest. During the first three quarters of fiscal 2016, the Company was able to successfully liquidate ARS with a par value of \$4.5 million.

The Company reviews all investments for other-than-temporary impairment ("OTTI") at least quarterly or as indicators of impairment exist. The value and liquidity of ARS held by the Company may be affected by continued auction-rate failures, the credit quality of each security, the amount and timing of interest payments, the amount and timing of future principal payments, and the probability of full repayment of the principal. Additional indicators of impairment include the duration and severity of the decline in market value. The interest rates on these investments will be determined by the terms of each individual ARS. The risks associated with the ARS held by the Company include those stated above as well as the current economic environment, downgrading of credit ratings on investments held, and the volatility of the entities backing each of the issues. In addition, the Company considers qualitative factors including, but not limited to, the financial condition of the investee, the credit rating of the investee, and the current and expected market and industry conditions in which the investee operates. The Company believes it has the ability and intent to hold these investments until recovery of market value occurs or until the ultimate maturity of the investments.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations are based upon The Buckle, Inc.'s condensed consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The preparation of these consolidated financial statements requires that management make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the financial statement date, and the reported amounts of sales and expenses during the reporting period. The Company regularly evaluates its estimates, including those related to inventory, investments, incentive bonuses, and income taxes. Management bases its estimates on past experience and on various other factors that are thought to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other

sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions. Management believes that the estimates and judgments used in preparing these consolidated financial statements were the most appropriate at that time. Presented below are those critical accounting policies that management believes require subjective and/or complex judgments that could potentially affect reported results of operations. The critical accounting policies and estimates utilized by the Company in the preparation of its condensed consolidated financial statements for the period ended October 29, 2016 have not changed materially from those utilized for the fiscal year ended January 30, 2016, included in The Buckle Inc.'s 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Revenue Recognition. Retail store sales are recorded upon the purchase of merchandise by customers. Online sales are recorded when merchandise is delivered to the customer, with the time of delivery being based on estimated shipping time from the Company's distribution center to the customer. Shipping fees charged to customers are included in revenue and shipping costs are included in selling expenses. The Company recognizes revenue from sales made under its layaway program upon delivery of the merchandise to the customer. Revenue is not recorded when gift cards and gift certificates are sold, but rather when a card or certificate is redeemed for merchandise. A current liability for unredeemed gift cards and certificates is recorded at the time the card or certificate is purchased. The liability recorded for unredeemed gift certificates and gift cards was \$16.1 million and \$22.9 million as of October 29, 2016 and January 30, 2016, respectively. The amounts of the gift certificate and gift card liabilities are determined using the outstanding balances from the prior three and four years of issuance, respectively. The Company records breakage as other income when the probability of redemption is remote, based on historical issuance and redemption patterns.

1.

The Company establishes a liability for estimated merchandise returns based upon the historical average sales return percentage. Customer returns could potentially exceed the historical average, thus reducing future net sales results and potentially reducing future net earnings. The accrued liability for reserve for sales returns was \$1.0 million as of October 29, 2016 and \$0.8 million as of January 30, 2016. Sales tax collected from customers is excluded from revenue and is included as part of "accrued store operating expenses" on the Company's condensed consolidated balance sheets. Net sales are reported net of the impact of both reward redemptions and accruals for estimated future rewards earned during the period related to the Company's new Guest Loyalty program, which launched during the fiscal quarter ended April 30, 2016.

Inventory. Inventory is valued at the lower of cost or market. Cost is determined using an average cost method that approximates the first-in, first-out (FIFO) method. Management makes adjustments to inventory and cost of goods sold, based upon estimates, to account for merchandise obsolescence and markdowns that could affect market value, based on assumptions using calculations applied to current inventory levels within each different markdown level. Management also reviews the levels of inventory in each markdown group and the overall aging of the inventory versus the estimated future demand for such product and the current market conditions. Such judgments could vary significantly from actual results, either favorably or unfavorably, due to fluctuations in future economic conditions, industry trends, consumer demand, and the competitive retail environment. Such changes in market conditions could negatively impact the sale of markdown inventory, causing further markdowns or inventory obsolescence, resulting in increased cost of goods sold from write-offs and reducing the Company's net earnings. The adjustment to inventory for markdowns and/or obsolescence was \$13.0 million as of October 29, 2016 and \$9.3 million as of January 30, 2016. The Company is not aware of any events, conditions, or changes in demand or price that would indicate that its inventory valuation may not be materially accurate at this time.

2.

Income Taxes. The Company records a deferred tax asset and liability for expected future tax consequences resulting from temporary differences between financial reporting and tax bases of assets and liabilities. The Company considers future taxable income and ongoing tax planning in assessing the value of its deferred tax assets. If the Company determines that it is more than likely that these assets will not be realized, the Company would reduce the value of these assets to their expected realizable value, thereby decreasing net income. Estimating the value of these assets is based upon the Company's judgment. If the Company subsequently determined that the deferred tax assets, which had been written down, would be realized in the future, such value would be increased. Adjustment would be made to increase net income in the period such determination was made. As of October 29, 2016 and January 30, 2016, the Company's deferred tax asset related to capital loss carryforwards is net of a \$0.5 million valuation allowance recorded to reduce the value of the Company's capital loss carryforward to its expected realizable amount prior to expiration.

3.

Operating Leases. The Company leases retail stores under operating leases. Most lease agreements contain tenant improvement allowances, rent holidays, rent escalation clauses, and/or contingent rent provisions. For purposes of recognizing lease incentives and minimum rental expense on a straight-line basis over the terms of the leases, the Company uses the date of initial possession to begin amortization, which is generally when the Company enters the space and begins to make improvements in preparation of intended use. For tenant improvement allowances and rent holidays, the Company records a deferred rent liability on the condensed consolidated balance sheets and amortizes the deferred rent over the terms of the leases as reductions to rent expense on the condensed consolidated statements of income.

For scheduled rent escalation clauses during the lease terms or for rental payments commencing at a date other than the date of initial occupancy, the Company records minimum rental expense on a straight-line basis over the terms of the leases on the condensed consolidated statements of income. Certain leases provide for contingent rents, which are determined as a percentage of gross sales in excess of specified levels. The Company records a contingent rent liability on the condensed consolidated balance sheets and the corresponding rent expense when specified levels have been achieved or are reasonably probable to be achieved.

Investments. Investments classified as short-term investments include securities with a maturity of greater than three months and less than one year. Available-for-sale securities are reported at fair value, with unrealized gains and losses excluded from earnings and reported as a separate component of stockholders' equity (net of the effect of income taxes), using the specific identification method, until they are sold.

As more fully described in Liquidity and Capital Resources and in Note 4 to the condensed consolidated financial statements, in prior years the Company invested a portion of its investments in auction-rate securities ("ARS"). These investments are classified as available-for-sale securities and are reported at fair market values of \$3.2 million and \$7.5 million as of October 29, 2016 and January 30, 2016.

The Company reviews impairment to determine the classification of potential impairments as either temporary or other-than-temporary. A temporary impairment results in an unrealized loss being recorded in other comprehensive income. An impairment that is considered other-than-temporary would be recognized in net income. The Company considers various factors in reviewing impairment, including the duration and severity of the decline in market value. In addition, the Company considers qualitative factors including, but not limited to, the financial condition of the investee, the credit rating of the investee, the current and expected market and industry conditions in which the investee operates, and the Company's intent and ability to hold the investments for a period of time sufficient to allow for any anticipated recovery in market value. The Company believes it has the ability and maintains its intent to hold these investments until recovery of market value occurs or until the ultimate maturity of the investments.

The Company determined the fair value of ARS using Level 1 inputs for known or anticipated subsequent redemptions at par value, Level 2 using observable inputs, and Level 3 using unobservable inputs, where the following criteria were considered in estimating fair value:

Pricing was provided by the custodian or third party broker for ARS;

Sales of similar securities;

Quoted prices for similar securities in active markets;

Quoted prices for similar assets in markets that are not active - including markets where there are few

- transactions for the asset, the prices are not current, or price quotations vary substantially either over time or among market makers, or in which little information is released publicly;

Pricing was provided by a third-party valuation consultant (using Level 3 inputs).

In addition, the Company considers other factors including, but not limited to, the financial condition of the investee, the credit rating, insurance, guarantees, collateral, cash flows, and the current and expected market and industry conditions in which the investee operates. Management believes it has used information that was reasonably obtainable in order to complete its valuation process and determine if the Company's investments in ARS had incurred any temporary and/or other-than-temporary impairment as of October 29, 2016.

The Company has concluded that certain of its ARS represent Level 3 valuation. A discounted cash flow analysis was used to value these investments. The assumptions used in preparing the discounted cash flow model include estimates for interest rates, timing and amount of cash flows, and expected holding periods of the ARS. As of October 29, 2016, the unobservable inputs used by the Company and its independent third-party valuation consultant in valuing its Level 3 investments in ARS included:

Durations until redemption ranging from 7.2 to 8.5 years, with a weighted average of 7.8 years.

Discount rates ranging from 3.67% to 3.67%, with a weighted average of 3.67%.

OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS, CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS, AND COMMERCIAL COMMITMENTS

As referenced in the tables below, the Company has contractual obligations and commercial commitments that may affect the financial condition of the Company. Based on management's review of the terms and conditions of its contractual obligations and commercial commitments, there is no known trend, demand, commitment, event, or uncertainty that is reasonably likely to occur which would have a material effect on the Company's financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows.

In addition, the commercial obligations and commitments made by the Company are customary transactions which are similar to those of other comparable retail companies. The operating lease obligations shown in the table below represent future cash payments to landlords required to fulfill the Company's minimum rent requirements. Such amounts are actual cash requirements by year and are not reported net of any tenant improvement allowances received from landlords.

The following table identifies the material obligations and commitments as of October 29, 2016:

Contractual obligations (dollar amounts in thousands):	Payments Due by Period				
	Total	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	4-5 years	After 5 years
Purchase obligations	\$17,100	\$6,426	\$5,087	\$3,472	\$2,115
Deferred compensation	12,571	—	—	—	12,571
Operating leases	362,459	67,439	116,566	83,180	95,274
Total contractual obligations	\$392,130	\$73,865	\$121,653	\$86,652	\$109,960

The Company has available an unsecured line of credit of \$25.0 million, which is excluded from the preceding table. The line of credit agreement has an expiration date of July 31, 2017 and provides that \$10.0 million of the \$25.0 million line is available for letters of credit. Certain merchandise purchase orders require that the Company open letters of credit. When the Company takes possession of the merchandise, it releases payment on the letters of credit. The amounts of outstanding letters of credit reported reflect the open letters of credit on merchandise ordered, but not yet received or funded. The Company believes it has sufficient credit available to open letters of credit for merchandise purchases. There were no bank borrowings during the first three quarters of fiscal 2016 or the first three quarters of fiscal 2015. The Company had outstanding letters of credit totaling \$1.8 million and \$2.1 million as of October 29, 2016 and January 30, 2016, respectively. The Company has no other off-balance sheet arrangements.

SEASONALITY AND INFLATION

The Company's business is seasonal, with the holiday season (from approximately November 15 to December 30) and the back-to-school season (from approximately July 15 to September 1) historically contributing the greatest volume of net sales. For fiscal years 2015, 2014, and 2013, the holiday and back-to-school seasons accounted for approximately 35% of the Company's fiscal year net sales. Although the operations of the Company are influenced by general economic conditions, the Company does not believe that inflation has had a material effect on the results of operations during the thirty-nine week periods ended October 29, 2016 and October 31, 2015. Quarterly results may vary significantly depending on a variety of factors including the timing and amount of sales and costs associated with the opening of new stores, the timing and level of markdowns, the timing of store closings, the remodeling of existing stores, competitive factors, and general economic conditions.

RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606), which supersedes the revenue recognition requirements in Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 605, Revenue Recognition. The new revenue recognition standard requires entities to recognize revenue in a way that depicts the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. In July 2015, the FASB approved a one-year deferral of the effective date of the new revenue recognition standard. The new standard will become effective for the Company beginning with the first quarter of fiscal 2018 and can be adopted either retrospectively to each prior reporting period presented or as a cumulative effect adjustment as of the date of adoption. The Company is currently evaluating the effect that adopting this new accounting guidance will have on its consolidated results of operations and financial position.

In July 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-11, Simplifying the Measurement of Inventory. Under this ASU, inventory will be measured at the "lower of cost and net realizable value" and options that currently exist for "market value" will be

eliminated. The ASU defines net realizable value as the “estimated selling prices in the ordinary course of business, less reasonably predictable costs of completion, disposal, and transportation.” No other changes were made to the current guidance on inventory measurement. ASU 2015-11 is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2016. The Company does not expect that the adoption of this ASU will have a material effect on its consolidated results of operations and financial position.

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-02, Leases (Topic 842). This ASU replaces the existing guidance in ASC 840, Leases. The new standard establishes a right-of-use ("ROU") model that requires a lessee to record a ROU asset and a lease liability on the balance sheet for all leases with terms longer than 12 months. Leases will be classified as either finance or operating, with classification affecting the pattern of expense recognition in the income statement. The guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018, including interim periods within those fiscal years and requires retrospective application. The Company is currently evaluating the effect that adopting this new accounting guidance will have on its consolidated results of operations and financial position.

In March 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-09, Compensation - Stock Compensation (Topic 718): Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting. This standard is intended to simplify several aspects of the accounting for share-based payment award transactions, including the income tax consequences, classification of awards as either equity or liabilities, an option to recognize gross stock compensation expense with actual forfeitures recognized as they occur, and classifications in the statement of cash flows. ASU 2016-09 is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2016 and early adoption is permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the effect that adopting this new accounting guidance will have on its consolidated results of operations and financial position.

FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

Information in this report, other than historical information, may be considered to be forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (the "1995 Act"). Such statements are made in good faith by the Company pursuant to the safe-harbor provisions of the 1995 Act. In connection with these safe-harbor provisions, this management's discussion and analysis contains certain forward-looking statements, which reflect management's current views and estimates of future economic conditions, Company performance, and financial results. The statements are based on many assumptions and factors that could cause future results to differ materially. Such factors include, but are not limited to, changes in product mix, changes in fashion trends, competitive factors, and general economic conditions, economic conditions in the retail apparel industry, as well as other risks and uncertainties inherent in the Company's business and the retail industry in general. Any changes in these factors could result in significantly different results for the Company. The Company further cautions that the forward-looking information contained herein is not exhaustive or exclusive. The Company does not undertake to update any forward-looking statements, which may be made from time to time by or on behalf of the Company.

ITEM 3 – QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Interest Rate Risk - To the extent that the Company borrows under its line of credit facility, the Company would be exposed to market risk related to changes in interest rates. As of October 29, 2016, no borrowings were outstanding under the line of credit facility. The Company is not a party to any derivative financial instruments. Additionally, the Company is exposed to market risk related to interest rate risk on the cash and investments in interest-bearing securities. These investments have carrying values that are subject to interest rate changes that could impact earnings to the extent that the Company did not hold the investments to maturity. If there are changes in interest rates, those changes would also affect the investment income the Company earns on its cash and investments. For each one-quarter percent decline in the interest/dividend rate earned on cash and investments (approximately a 50% change in the rate earned), the Company's net income would decrease approximately \$0.3 million, or less than \$0.01 per share. This amount could vary based upon the number of shares of the Company's stock outstanding and the level of cash and investments held by the Company.

Other Market Risk – As of October 29, 2016, the Company held \$3.5 million, at par value, of investments in auction-rate securities (“ARS”). The Company concluded that a \$0.3 million temporary impairment existed related to these securities as of October 29, 2016. Given current market conditions in the ARS market, the Company may incur additional temporary or other-than-temporary impairment in the future if market conditions persist and the Company is unable to recover the cost of its investments in ARS.

ITEM 4 – CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

The Company maintains a system of disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to provide reasonable assurance that material information, which is required to be timely disclosed, is accumulated and communicated to management in a timely manner. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”)) was performed as of the end of the period covered by this report. This evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer.

Based upon that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report were effective to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by the Company in the Company's reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to management, including its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure and are effective to provide reasonable assurance that such information is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified by the SEC's rules and forms.

Change in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

THE BUCKLE, INC.

PART II -- OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings: None

Item 1A. Risk Factors:

There have been no material changes from the risk factors disclosed under “Item 1A - Risk Factors” in the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 30, 2016.

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

The following table sets forth information concerning purchases made by the Company of its common stock for each of the months in the fiscal quarter ended October 29, 2016:

	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid Per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans	Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under Publicly Announced Plans
Jul. 31, 2016 to Aug. 27, 2016	-	-	-	440,207
Aug. 28, 2016 to Oct. 1, 2016	-	-	-	440,207
Oct. 2, 2016 to Oct. 29, 2016	-	-	-	440,207
	-	-	-	

The Board of Directors authorized a 1,000,000 share repurchase plan on November 20, 2008. The Company has 440,207 shares remaining to complete this authorization.

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities: None

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures: None

Item 5. Other Information: None

Item 6. Exhibits:

Exhibits 31.1 and 31.2 certifications, as well as Exhibits 32.1 and 32.2 Certifications Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

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Exhibit 101 includes the following materials from The Buckle, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended October 29, 2016, formatted in XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language): (i) Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets; (ii) Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income; (iii) Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income; (iv) Condensed Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity; (v) Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows; and (vi) Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements, tagged as blocks of text and in detail.

SIGNATURES

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

THE BUCKLE, INC.

Date: December 8, 2016 By: /s/ DENNIS H. NELSON
DENNIS H. NELSON,
President and CEO
(principal executive officer)

Date: December 8, 2016 By: /s/ KAREN B. RHOADS
KAREN B. RHOADS,
Senior Vice President of Finance and CFO
(principal accounting officer)