

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHOCOLATE FACTORY INC

Form 10-K

May 25, 2004

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**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549  
FORM 10-K**

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended February 29, 2004

OR

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

**For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_**

Commission file number 0-14749

**Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Inc.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Colorado  
(State of Incorporation)

84-0910696  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

265 Turner Drive, Durango, CO 81303  
(Address of principal executive offices)

(970) 259-0554  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OF THE ACT  
None

SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(g) OF THE ACT  
Common Stock, \$.03 par value

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 if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. ☒

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12b of the Act). Yes ☐ No ☒

On April 30, 2004, there were 4,283,510 shares of Common Stock outstanding. The aggregate market value of the Common Stock (based on the average of the closing bid and ask prices as quoted on the Nasdaq National Market System on April 30, 2004) held by non-affiliates was \$26,705,481.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's proxy statement furnished to stockholders in connection with the 2004 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Proxy Statement") are incorporated by reference in Part III of this Report. The Proxy Statement will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission within 120 days of the close of the registrant's fiscal year.

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FORM 10-K

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**PART I.**

**ITEM 1. BUSINESS**

**General**

Founded in 1981 and incorporated in Colorado in 1982, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Inc. (the Company) is an international franchiser and confectionery manufacturer. The Company is headquartered in Durango, Colorado and manufactures an extensive line of premium chocolate candies and other confectionery products. As of March 31, 2004 there were 8 Company-owned and 252 franchised Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores operating in 40 states, Canada, Guam and the United Arab Emirates.

Approximately 40% of the products sold at Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores are prepared on the premises. The Company believes this in-store preparation creates a special store ambiance and the aroma and sight of products being made attracts foot traffic and assures customers that products are fresh.

The Company believes that its principal competitive strengths lie in its brand name recognition, its reputation for the quality, variety and taste of its products; the special ambiance of its stores; its knowledge and experience in applying criteria for selection of new store locations; its expertise in the manufacture of chocolate candy products and the merchandising and marketing of chocolate and other candy products; and the control and training infrastructures it has implemented to assure consistent customer service and execution of successful practices and techniques at its stores.

The Company believes its manufacturing expertise and reputation for quality has facilitated the sale of selected products through new distribution channels. The Company is currently selling its products in a number of new distribution channel programs including wholesaling, fundraising, corporate sales, mail order and internet sales.

The Company's revenues are currently derived from three principal sources: (i) sales to franchisees and others of chocolates and other confectionery products manufactured by the Company (67-72-70%); (ii) sales at Company-owned stores of chocolates and other confectionery products (including product manufactured by the Company) (12-7-8%) and (iii) the collection of initial franchise fees and royalties from franchisees (21-21-22%). The figures in parentheses show the percentage of total revenues attributable to each source for fiscal years ended February 28 (29), 2004, 2003 and 2002, respectively.

According to the National Confectionery Association, the total U.S. candy market approximated \$24.0 billion of retail sales in 2001 with chocolate generating sales of approximately \$13.1 billion. According to the Department of Commerce, per capita consumption of chocolate in 2002 approached 13 pounds per year nationally and consumption of chocolate products increased approximately 5% compared to 2001.

In Fiscal 2001, the Company began phasing out its Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory Company-owned store program. In Fiscal 2002, the Company sold to new or existing franchisees all Company-owned store locations with the exception of four Company-owned stores located in key markets in Colorado (the Colorado Stores). In Fiscal 2003, the Company foreclosed on four of the stores previously sold to a franchisee due to the franchisee's insolvency. The Company intends to retain the eight stores to test sales, marketing, design and operational initiatives.

**Business Strategy**

The Company's objective is to build on its position as a leading international franchiser and manufacturer of high quality chocolate and other confectionery products. The Company continually seeks opportunities to profitably expand its business. To accomplish this objective, the Company employs a business strategy that includes the

following elements:

#### Product Quality and Variety

The Company maintains the unsurpassed taste and quality of its chocolate candies by using only the finest chocolate and other wholesome ingredients. The Company uses its own proprietary recipes, primarily developed by its master candy maker. A typical Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory store offers up to 100 of the Company's chocolate candies throughout the year and as many as 200, including many packaged candies, during the holiday seasons. Individual stores also offer numerous varieties of premium fudge and gourmet caramel apples, as well as other products prepared in the store from Company recipes.

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### **Store Atmosphere and Ambiance**

The Company seeks to establish an enjoyable and inviting atmosphere in each Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory store. Each store prepares numerous products, including fudge, brittles and caramel apples, in the store. In-store preparation is designed both to be fun and entertaining for customers and to convey an image of freshness and homemade quality. The Company's design staff has developed easily replicable designs and specifications to ensure that the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory concept is consistently implemented throughout the system.

In February 2000, the Company retained a nationally recognized design firm to evaluate and update its existing store design. The objective of the store design project is threefold: (1) increase average revenue per unit thereby opening untapped real estate environments; (2) further emphasize the entertainment and freshness value of the Company's in-store confectionery factory; and (3) improve operational efficiency through optimal store layout. The Company completed the store redesign project and the testing of the new design in fiscal 2002. Through March 31, 2004, 59 stores incorporating the new design have been opened.

### **Site Selection**

Careful selection of a site is critical to the success of a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory store. Many factors are considered by the Company in identifying suitable sites, including tenant mix, visibility, attractiveness, accessibility, level of foot traffic and occupancy costs. Final site selection occurs only after the Company's senior management has approved the site. The Company believes that the experience of its management team in evaluating a potential site is one of the Company's competitive strengths.

### **Customer Service Commitment**

The Company emphasizes excellence in customer service and seeks to employ and to sell franchises to motivated and energetic people. The Company also fosters enthusiasm for its customer service philosophy and the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory concept through its annual franchisee convention, regional meetings and other frequent contacts with its franchisees.

### **Increase Same Store Retail Sales at Existing Locations**

The Company seeks to increase profitability of its store system through increasing sales at existing store locations. Changes in system wide same store retail sales are as follows:

2000	(4.3%)
2001	(3.9%)
2002	0.0%
2003	(3.4%)
2004	(0.6%)

The Company believes that its same store sales growth was positively impacted by the sale of Beanie Babies (stuffed animals manufactured by Ty Inc.) and related products in fiscal 1999 because many of the Company's retail stores capitalized on this extraordinary trend during this time period. In fiscal 2000 and 2001, however, the demand for Beanie Babies decreased significantly, and the Company believes this decreased demand is the primary reason for negative comparable store sales in fiscal 2000 and 2001. As expected, this trend reversed in fiscal 2002. The Company believes that the negative trend in fiscal 2003 and through the third fiscal quarter of 2004 was due to the overall weak economy and retail environment, especially in tourist areas where many of the stores operate. The Company

experienced positive same store sales of 5.4% in its fiscal fourth quarter of 2004 and believes the positive trend is due primarily to a recovery in the United States economy.

The Company feels that same store retail sales growth can be accelerated through store redesign to provide a more attractive and effective retail sales environment while retaining the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory store ambiance and theme.



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In February 2000, the Company retained a nationally recognized packaging design firm to completely redesign the packaging featured in the Company's retail stores. The Company has designed a contemporary and coordinated line of packaged products that capture and convey the freshness, fun and excitement of the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory retail store experience. The Company completed the packaging redesign project during 2002. Testing of the new designs has yielded positive results. The Company believes that the successful launch of new packaging will have a positive future impact on same store sales.

### **Increase Same Store Pounds Purchased by Existing Locations**

In fiscal 2004, the Company experienced a same store pounds purchased decline of 1.7%. The decline in same store pounds purchased from the factory continued what appears to be a trend of a shift in sales mix toward store-made products and away from factory-made products. The Company is in the process of adding new products and focusing its existing product lines in an effort to control this trend.

### **Enhanced Operating Efficiencies**

The Company seeks to improve its profitability by controlling costs and increasing the efficiency of its operations. Efforts in the last several years include the purchase of additional automated factory equipment, implementation of a comprehensive MRP II forecasting, planning, scheduling and reporting system, implementation of alternative manufacturing strategies and installation of enhanced Point-of-Sale (POS) systems in all of its Company-owned and eighty-six of its franchised stores through March 31, 2004. These measures have significantly improved the Company's ability to deliver its products to its stores safely, quickly and cost-effectively and impact store operations. Additionally, the divestiture of substantially all of the Company-owned stores has reduced the Company's exposure to real estate risk, improved the Company's operating margins and allowed the Company to increase its focus on franchising.

## **Expansion Strategy**

Key elements of the Company's expansion strategy include:

### **Unit Growth**

The cornerstone of the Company's growth strategy is to aggressively pursue unit growth opportunities in locations where the Company has traditionally been successful, to pursue new and developing real estate environments which appear promising based on early sales results, and to improve and expand the retail store concept, such that previously untapped and unfeasible environments (such as most regional malls) generate sufficient revenue to support a successful Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory location.

### **High Traffic Environments**

The Company currently establishes franchised stores in the following environments: factory outlet malls, tourist environments, regional malls, street fronts and other entertainment oriented environments. The Company, over the last several years, has had a particular focus on factory outlet mall locations. Although each of these environments has a number of attractive features, including a high level of foot traffic, the factory outlet mall environment has historically offered the best combination of tenant mix, customer spending characteristics and favorable occupancy costs. The Company is optimistic that its exciting new store design will allow it to target untapped potential of the over 1,200 regional malls in the United States. The Company has established a business relationship with most of the major developers in the United States and believes that these relationships provide it with the opportunity to take advantage of attractive sites in new and existing real estate environments.

## Name Recognition and New Market Penetration

The Company believes the visibility of its stores and the high foot traffic at most of its locations has generated strong name recognition of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and demand for its franchises. The Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory system has historically been concentrated in the western and Rocky Mountain region of the United States, but recent growth has generated a gradual easterly momentum as new stores have been opened in the eastern half of the country. This growth has further increased the Company's name recognition and demand for its franchises. Distribution of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory products through new channels also increases name recognition and brand awareness in areas of the country in which the Company has not previously had a significant presence. The Company believes that by distributing selected Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory products through new distribution channels its name recognition will improve and benefit its entire store system.

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### **Store Concept**

The Company seeks to establish a fun and inviting atmosphere in its Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory store locations. Unlike most other confectionery stores, each Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory store prepares certain products, including fudge and caramel apples, in the store. Customers can observe store personnel making fudge from start to finish, including the mixing of ingredients in old-fashioned copper kettles and the cooling of the fudge on large marble tables, and are often invited to sample the store's products. The Company believes that an average of approximately 40% of the revenues of franchised stores are generated by sales of products prepared on the premises. The Company believes the in-store preparation and aroma of its products enhance the ambiance at Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores, are fun and entertaining for its customers and convey an image of freshness and homemade quality.

The majority of existing Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores have a distinctive country Victorian decor, which further enhances their friendly and enjoyable atmosphere. Each store includes finely crafted wood cabinetry, copper and brass accents, etched mirrors and large marble tables on which fudge and other products are made. To ensure that all stores conform to the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory image, the Company's design staff provides working drawings and specifications and approves the construction plans for each new store. The Company also controls the signage and building materials that may be used in the stores.

In fiscal 2002, the Company launched its new store design concept intended specifically for high foot traffic regional shopping malls. The new store design concept is modern with crisp and clean site lines and an even stronger emphasis on the Company's unique upscale kitchen. Based on encouraging results, the Company is requiring that all new Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores incorporate the new design concept.

The average store size is approximately 1,000 square feet, approximately 650 square feet of which is selling space. Most stores are open seven days a week. Typical hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 12 noon to 6 p.m. on Sundays. Store hours in tourist areas may vary depending upon the tourist season.

### **Kiosk Concept**

In fiscal 2002, the Company opened its first full service retail kiosk concept. The kiosk is a vehicle for retail environments where in-line real estate is unavailable or build-out costs and/or rent factors do not meet the Company's financial criteria. The kiosk, which is approximately 250 square feet, incorporates the Company's trademark cooking area where caramel apples, fudge and other popular confections are prepared in front of customers using traditional cooking utensils. The kiosk also includes the Company's core product and gifting lines in order to provide the customer with a full Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory experience.

The Company believes the kiosk concept enhances its franchise opportunity by providing more flexibility in support of existing franchisees' expansion programs and allows new franchisees that otherwise would not qualify for an in-line location an opportunity to join the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory system.

### **Products and Packaging**

The Company typically produces approximately 300 chocolate candies and other confectionery products, using proprietary recipes developed primarily by the Company's master candy maker. These products include many varieties of clusters, caramels, creams, mints and truffles. The Company continues to engage in a major effort to expand its product line by developing additional exciting and attractive new products. During the Christmas, Easter and Valentine's Day holiday seasons, the Company may make as many as 100 additional items, including many candies offered in packages specially designed for the holidays. A typical Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory store offers up

to 100 of these candies throughout the year and up to an additional 100 during holiday seasons. Individual stores also offer more than 15 premium fudges and other products prepared in the store. The Company believes that approximately 50% of the revenues of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores are generated by products manufactured at the Company's factory, 40% by products made in the store using Company recipes and ingredients purchased from the Company or approved suppliers and the remaining 10% by products, such as ice cream, coffee and other sundries, purchased from approved suppliers.

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The Company uses only the finest chocolates, nut meats and other wholesome ingredients in its candies and continually strives to offer new confectionery items in order to maintain the excitement and appeal of its products. The Company develops special packaging for the Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter holidays, and customers can have their purchases packaged in decorative boxes and fancy tins throughout the year.

Chocolate candies manufactured by the Company are sold at prices ranging from \$12.90 to \$20.25 per pound, with an average price of \$16.60 per pound. Franchisees set their own retail prices, though the Company does recommend prices for all of its products.

## **Operating Environment**

The Company currently establishes Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores in four primary environments: factory outlet malls, tourist areas, regional malls and street fronts. Each of these environments has a number of attractive features, including high levels of foot traffic.

### **Factory Outlet Malls**

There are approximately 230 factory outlet malls in the United States, and as of February 29, 2004, there were Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores in approximately 75 of these malls in over 30 states. The Company has established business relationships with most of the major outlet mall developers in the United States. Although not all factory outlet malls provide desirable locations for the Company's stores, management believes the Company's relationships with these developers will provide it with the opportunity to take advantage of attractive sites in new and existing outlet malls.

### **Tourist Areas and Street Fronts**

As of February 29, 2004, there were approximately 70 Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores in locations considered to be tourist areas, including Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco, California and the Riverwalk in San Antonio, Texas. Tourist areas are very attractive locations because they offer high levels of foot traffic and favorable customer spending characteristics, and greatly increase the Company's visibility and name recognition. The Company believes significant opportunities exist to expand into additional tourist areas with high levels of foot traffic.

### **Regional Malls**

There are approximately 1,130 regional malls in the United States, and as of February 29, 2004, there were Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores in approximately 40 of these malls, including locations in the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota; Escondido, California; Fort Collins, Colorado; and West Palm Beach, Florida. Although often providing favorable levels of foot traffic, regional malls typically involve more expensive rent structures and competing food and beverage concepts. The Company's new store concept is designed to unlock the potential of the regional mall environment.

The Company believes there are a number of other environments that have the characteristics necessary for the successful operation of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores such as airports and sports arenas. Three franchised Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores exist at airport locations: two at Denver International Airport and one at Vancouver International Airport in Canada.

## **Franchising Program**

### **General**

The Company's franchising philosophy is one of service and commitment to its franchise system, and the Company continuously seeks to improve its franchise support services. The Company's concept has consistently been rated as an outstanding franchise opportunity by publications and organizations rating such opportunities. In February 2003, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory was rated the number one franchise opportunity in the candy category by Entrepreneur Magazine. As of March 31, 2004, there were 252 franchised stores in the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory system.

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### **Franchisee Sourcing and Selection**

The majority of new franchises are awarded to persons referred by existing franchisees, to interested consumers who have visited Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores and to existing franchisees. The Company also advertises for new franchisees in national and regional newspapers as suitable potential store locations come to the Company's attention. Franchisees are approved by the Company on the basis of the applicant's net worth and liquidity, together with an assessment of work ethic and personality compatibility with the Company's operating philosophy.

In fiscal 1992, the Company entered into a franchise development agreement covering Canada with Immaculate Confections, Ltd. of Vancouver, British Columbia. Pursuant to this agreement, Immaculate Confections purchased the exclusive right to franchise and operate Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores in Canada. Immaculate Confections, as of March 31, 2004, operated 28 stores under the agreement.

In fiscal 2000, the Company entered into a franchise development agreement covering the Gulf Cooperation Council States of United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Oman with Al Muhairy Group of United Arab Emirates. Pursuant to this agreement, Al Muhairy Group purchased the exclusive right to franchise and operate Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores in the Gulf Cooperation Council States. Al Muhairy Group, as of March 31, 2004, operated 2 stores under this agreement.

### **Training and Support**

Each domestic franchisee owner/operator and each store manager for a domestic franchisee is required to complete a 7-day comprehensive training program in store operations and management. The Company has established a training center at its Durango headquarters in the form of a full-sized replica of a properly configured and merchandised Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory store. Topics covered in the training course include the Company's philosophy of store operation and management, customer service, merchandising, pricing, cooking, inventory and cost control, quality standards, record keeping, labor scheduling and personnel management. Training is based on standard operating policies and procedures contained in an operations manual provided to all franchisees, which the franchisee is required to follow by terms of the franchise agreement. Additionally, and importantly, trainees are provided with a complete orientation to Company operations by working in key factory operational areas and by meeting with each member of the senior management of the Company. Training continues through the opening of the store, where Company field consultants assist and guide the franchisee in all areas of operation.

The Company's operating objectives include providing Company knowledge and expertise in merchandising, marketing and customer service to all front-line store level employees to maximize their skills and ensure that they are fully versed in the Company's proven techniques.

The Company provides ongoing support to franchisees through its field consultants, who maintain regular and frequent communication with the stores by phone and by site visits. The field consultants also review and discuss with the franchisee store operating results and provide advice and guidance in improving store profitability and in developing and executing store marketing and merchandising programs. The Company has developed a handbook containing a pre-packaged local store marketing plan, which allows franchisees to implement cost-effective promotional programs that have proven successful in other Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores.

### **Quality Standards and Control**

The franchise agreement for Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory franchisees requires compliance with the Company's procedures of operation and food quality specifications and permits audits and inspections by the Company.

Operating standards for Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores are set forth in operating manuals. These manuals cover general operations, factory ordering, merchandising, advertising and accounting procedures. Through their regular visits to franchised stores, Company field consultants audit performance and adherence to Company standards. The Company has the right to terminate any franchise agreement for non-compliance with the Company's operating standards. Products sold at the stores and ingredients used in the preparation of products approved for on-site preparation must be purchased from the Company or from approved suppliers.



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### **The Franchise Agreement: Terms and Conditions**

The domestic offer and sale of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory franchises is made pursuant to the Uniform Franchise Offering Circular prepared in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations. States that regulate the sale and operation of franchises require a franchiser to register or file certain notices with the state authorities prior to offering and selling franchises in those states.

Under the current form of domestic Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory franchise agreement, franchisees pay the Company (i) an initial franchise fee of \$19,500 for each store, (ii) royalties equal to 5% of monthly gross sales, and (iii) a marketing fee equal to 1% of monthly gross sales. Franchisees are generally granted exclusive territory with respect to the operation of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores only in the immediate vicinity of their stores. Chocolate products not made on the premises by franchisees must be purchased from the Company or approved suppliers. The franchise agreements require franchisees to comply with the Company's procedures of operation and food quality specifications, to permit inspections and audits by the Company and to remodel stores to conform with standards in effect. The Company may terminate the franchise agreement upon the failure of the franchisee to comply with the conditions of the agreement and upon the occurrence of certain events, such as insolvency or bankruptcy of the franchisee or the commission by the franchisee of any unlawful or deceptive practice, which in the judgment of the Company is likely to adversely affect the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory system. The Company's ability to terminate franchise agreements pursuant to such provisions is subject to applicable bankruptcy and state laws and regulations. See Business Regulation.

The agreements prohibit the transfer or assignment of any interest in a franchise without the prior written consent of the Company. The agreements also give the Company a right of first refusal to purchase any interest in a franchise if a proposed transfer would result in a change of control of that franchise. The refusal right, if exercised, would allow the Company to purchase the interest proposed to be transferred under the same terms and conditions and for the same price as offered by the proposed transferee.

The term of each Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory franchise agreement is ten years, and franchisees have the right to renew for one additional ten-year term.

### **Franchise Financing**

The Company does not provide prospective franchisees with financing for their stores, but has developed relationships with several sources of franchisee financing to whom it will refer franchisees. Typically, franchisees have obtained their own sources of such financing and have not required the Company's assistance.

### **Company Store Program**

As of March 31 2004, there were 8 Company-owned Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores. Company-owned stores provide a training ground for Company-owned store personnel and district managers and a controllable testing ground for new products and promotions, operating and training methods and merchandising techniques.

Managers of Company-owned stores are required to comply with all Company operating standards and undergo training and receive support from the Company similar to the training and support provided to franchisees. See Franchising Program-Training and Support and Franchising Program-Quality Standards and Control.

### **Manufacturing Operations**

#### **General**

The Company manufactures its chocolate candies at its factory in Durango, Colorado. All products are produced consistent with the Company's philosophy of using only the finest, highest quality ingredients with no artificial preservatives to achieve its marketing motto of *the Peak of Perfection in Handmade Chocolates®*.

It has always been the belief of management that the Company should control the manufacturing of its own chocolate products. By controlling manufacturing, the Company can better maintain its high product quality standards, offer unique, proprietary products, manage costs, control production and shipment schedules and potentially pursue new or under-utilized distribution channels.

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### **Manufacturing Processes**

The manufacturing process primarily involves cooking or preparing candy centers, including nuts, caramel, peanut butter, creams and jellies, and then coating them with chocolate or other toppings. All of these processes are conducted in carefully controlled temperature ranges, and the Company employs strict quality control procedures at every stage of the manufacturing process. The Company uses a combination of manual and automated processes at its factory. Although the Company believes that it is currently preferable to perform certain manufacturing processes, such as dipping of some large pieces, by hand, automation increases the speed and efficiency of the manufacturing process. The Company has from time to time automated processes formerly performed by hand where it has become cost-effective for the Company to do so without compromising product quality or appearance.

The Company seeks to ensure the freshness of products sold in Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores with frequent shipments. Most Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores do not have significant space for the storage of inventory, and the Company encourages franchisees and store managers to order only the quantities that they can reasonably expect to sell within approximately two to four weeks. For these reasons, the Company generally does not have a significant backlog of orders.

### **Ingredients**

The principal ingredients used by the Company are chocolate, nuts, sugar, corn syrup, cream and butter. The factory receives shipments of ingredients daily. To ensure the consistency of its products, the Company buys ingredients from a limited number of reliable suppliers. In order to assure a continuous supply of chocolate and certain nuts, the Company frequently enters into purchase contracts of between six to eighteen months for these products. Because prices for these products may fluctuate, the Company may benefit if prices rise during the terms of these contracts, but it may be required to pay above-market prices if prices fall. The Company has one or more alternative sources for all essential ingredients and therefore believes that the loss of any supplier would not have a material adverse effect on the Company and its results of operations. The Company currently also purchases small amounts of finished candy from third parties on a private label basis for sale in Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores.

### **Trucking Operations**

The Company operates eight trucks and ships a substantial portion of its products from the factory on its own fleet. The Company's trucking operations enable it to deliver its products to the stores quickly and cost-effectively. In addition, the Company back-hauls its own ingredients and supplies, as well as product from third parties, on return trips as a basis for increasing trucking program economics.

### **Marketing**

The Company relies primarily on in-store promotion and point-of-purchase materials to promote the sale of its products. The monthly marketing fees collected from franchisees are used by the Company to develop new packaging and in-store promotion and point-of-purchase materials, and to create and update the Company's local store marketing handbooks.

The Company focuses on local store marketing efforts by providing customizable marketing materials, including advertisements, coupons, flyers and mail order catalogs generated by its in-house Creative Services department. The department works directly with franchisees to implement local store marketing programs.

The Company aggressively seeks low cost, high return publicity opportunities through participation in local and regional events, sponsorships and charitable causes. The Company has not historically and does not intend to engage

in national advertising in the near future.

### **Competition**

The retailing of confectionery products is highly competitive. The Company and its franchisees compete with numerous businesses that offer confectionery products. Many of these competitors have greater name recognition and financial, marketing and other resources than the Company. In addition, there is intense competition among retailers for real estate sites, store personnel and qualified franchisees. Competitive market conditions could adversely affect the Company and its results of operations and its ability to expand successfully.

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The Company believes that its principal competitive strengths lie in its name recognition and its reputation for the quality, value, variety and taste of its products and the special ambiance of its stores; its knowledge and experience in applying criteria for selection of new store locations; its expertise in merchandising and marketing of chocolate and other candy products; and the control and training infrastructures it has implemented to assure execution of successful practices and techniques at its store locations. In addition, by controlling the manufacturing of its own chocolate products, the Company can better maintain its high product quality standards for those products, offer proprietary products, manage costs, control production and shipment schedules and pursue new or under-utilized distribution channels.

**Trade Name and Trademarks**

The trade name *Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory*®, the phrases, *The Peak of Perfection in Handmade Chocolates*®, *America's Chocolatier*®, *The World's Chocolatier*® as well as all other trademarks, service marks, symbols, slogans, emblems, logos and designs used in the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory system, are proprietary rights of the Company. All of the foregoing are believed to be of material importance to the Company's business. The registration for the trademark *Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory* has been granted in the United States and Canada. Applications have been filed to register the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory trademark and/or obtained in certain foreign countries.

The Company has not attempted to obtain patent protection for the proprietary recipes developed by the Company's master candy-maker and is relying upon its ability to maintain the confidentiality of those recipes.

**Employees**

At February 29, 2004, the Company employed approximately 159 people. Most employees, with the exception of store, factory and corporate management, are paid on an hourly basis. The Company also employs some people on a temporary basis during peak periods of store and factory operations. The Company seeks to assure that participatory management processes, mutual respect and professionalism and high performance expectations for the employee exist throughout the organization.

The Company believes that it provides working conditions, wages and benefits that compare favorably with those of its competitors. The Company's employees are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement. The Company considers its employee relations to be good.

**Executive Officers**

The executive officers of the Company and their ages at April 15, 2004 are as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Position</b>
Franklin E. Crail	62	Chairman of the Board, President and Director
Bryan J. Merryman	43	Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Director
Gregory L. Pope	37	Sr. Vice President - Franchise Development and Operations
Edward L. Dudley	40	Sr. Vice President - Sales and Marketing
William K. Jobson	48	Chief Information Officer
Jay B. Haws	54	Vice President - Creative Services
Virginia M. Perez	66	Corporate Secretary

Mr. Crail co-founded the first Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory store in May 1981. Since the incorporation of the Company in November 1982, he has served as its President and a Director. He was elected Chairman of the Board in March 1986. Prior to founding the Company, Mr. Crail was co-founder and president of CNI Data Processing, Inc., a software firm which developed automated billing systems for the cable television industry.

Mr. Merryman joined the Company in December 1997 as Vice President Finance and Chief Financial Officer. Since April 1999 Mr. Merryman has also served the Company as the Chief Operating Officer and as a Director, and since January 2000 as its Treasurer. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Merryman was a principal in Knightsbridge Holdings, Inc. (a leveraged buyout firm) from January 1997 to December 1997. Mr. Merryman also served as Chief Financial Officer of Super Shops, Inc., a retailer and manufacturer of aftermarket auto parts from July 1996 to November 1997 and was employed for more than eleven years by Deloitte and Touche LLP, most recently as a senior manager.

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Mr. Pope became Sr. Vice President of Franchise Development and Operations in May 2004. Since joining the Company in October 1990, he has served in various positions including store manager, new store opener and franchise field consultant. In March 1996 he became Director of Franchise Development and Support. In June 2001 he became Vice President of Franchise Development, a position he held until he was promoted to his present position.

Mr. Dudley joined the Company in January 1997 to spearhead the Company's newly formed Product Sales Development function as Vice President Sales and Marketing, with the goal of increasing the Company's factory and retail sales. He was promoted to Senior Vice President in June 2001. During his 10 year career with Baxter Healthcare Corporation, Mr. Dudley served in a number of senior marketing and sales management capacities, including most recently that of Director, Distribution Services from March 1996 to January 1997. Mr. Dudley holds B.S. degrees in Finance and Accounting from the University of Colorado.

Mr. Jobson joined the Company in July 1998 as Director of Information Technology. In June 2001, he was promoted to Chief Information Officer, a position created to enhance the Company's strategic focus on information and information technology. From July 1995 to July 1998, Mr. Jobson worked for ADAC Laboratories in Durango, Colorado, a leading provider of diagnostic imaging and information systems solutions in the healthcare industry, as Manager of Technical Services and before that, Regional Manager.

Mr. Haws joined the Company in August 1991 as Vice President of Creative Services. Since 1981, Mr. Haws had been closely associated with the Company both as a franchisee and marketing/graphic design consultant. From 1986 to 1991 he operated two Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory franchises located in San Francisco, California. From 1983 to 1989 he served as Vice President of Marketing for Image Group, Inc., a marketing communications firm based in Northern California. Concurrently, Mr. Haws was co-owner of two other Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory franchises located in Sacramento, and Walnut Creek California. From 1973 to 1983 he was principal of Jay Haws and Associates, an advertising and graphic design agency. Mr. Haws holds a B.A. in graphics design and communication from California State University.

Ms. Perez joined the Company in June 1996 and has served as the Company's corporate secretary since February, 1997. From 1992 until joining the Company, she was employed by Huettig & Schromm, Inc., a property management and development firm in Palo Alto, California as executive assistant to the president and owner. Huettig & Schromm developed, owned and managed over 1,000,000 square feet of office space in business parks and office buildings on the San Francisco peninsula. Ms. Perez is a paralegal and has held various administrative positions during her career including executive assistant to the Chairman and owner of Sunset Magazine & Books, Inc.

## **Seasonal Factors**

The Company's sales and earnings are seasonal, with significantly higher sales and earnings occurring during the Christmas holiday and summer vacation seasons than at other times of the year, which causes fluctuations in the Company's quarterly results of operations. In addition, quarterly results have been, and in the future are likely to be, affected by the timing of new store openings and the sale of franchises. Because of the seasonality of the Company's business and the impact of new store openings and sales of franchises, results for any quarter are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be achieved in other quarters or for a full fiscal year.

## **Regulation**

Each of the Company-owned and franchised stores is subject to licensing and regulation by the health, sanitation, safety, building and fire agencies in the state or municipality where located. Difficulties or failures in obtaining the required licensing or approvals could delay or prevent the opening of new stores. New stores must also comply with landlord and developer criteria.

Many states have laws regulating franchise operations, including registration and disclosure requirements in the offer and sale of franchises. The Company is also subject to the Federal Trade Commission regulations relating to disclosure requirements in the sale of franchises and ongoing disclosure obligations.



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Additionally, certain states have enacted and others may enact laws and regulations governing the termination or non-renewal of franchises and other aspects of the franchise relationship that are intended to protect franchisees. Although these laws and regulations, and related court decisions, may limit the Company's ability to terminate franchises and alter franchise agreements, the Company does not believe that such laws or decisions will have a material adverse effect on its franchise operations. However, the laws applicable to franchise operations and relationships continue to develop, and the Company is unable to predict the effect on its intended operations of additional requirements or restrictions that may be enacted or of court decisions that may be adverse to franchisers.

Federal and state environmental regulations have not had a material impact on the Company's operations but more stringent and varied requirements of local governmental bodies with respect to zoning, land use and environmental factors could delay construction of new stores.

Companies engaged in the manufacturing, packaging and distribution of food products are subject to extensive regulation by various governmental agencies. A finding of a failure to comply with one or more regulations could result in the imposition of sanctions, including the closing of all or a portion of the Company's facilities for an indeterminate period of time.

The Company's product labeling is subject to and complies with the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act of 1990.

The Company provides a limited amount of trucking services to third parties, to fill available space on the Company's trucks. The Company's trucking operations are subject to various federal and state regulations, including regulations of the Federal Highway Administration and other federal and state agencies applicable to motor carriers, safety requirements of the Department of Transportation relating to interstate transportation and federal, state and Canadian provincial regulations governing matters such as vehicle weight and dimensions.

The Company believes it is operating in substantial compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

## **ITEM 2. PROPERTIES**

The Company's manufacturing operations and corporate headquarters are located at its 58,000 square foot manufacturing facility, which it owns, in Durango, Colorado. During fiscal 2004, the Company's factory produced approximately 1.80 million pounds of chocolate candies, a 4.8% increase from the approximately 1.72 million pounds produced in fiscal 2003. The factory has the capacity to produce approximately 3.5 million pounds per year. In January 1998, the Company acquired a two-acre parcel adjacent to its factory to ensure the availability of adequate space to expand the factory as volume demands.

As of March 31, 2004, all of the 8 Company-owned stores were occupied pursuant to non-cancelable leases of five to ten years having varying expiration dates from August 2005 to October 2008, most of which contain optional five-year renewal rights. The Company does not deem any individual store lease to be significant in relation to its overall operations.

The Company acts as primary lessee of some franchised store premises, which it then subleases to franchisees, but the majority of existing locations are leased by the franchisee directly. Current Company policy is not to act as primary lessee on any further franchised locations. At March 31, 2004, the Company was the primary lessee at 11 of its 252 franchised stores. The subleases for such stores are on the same terms as the Company's leases of the premises. For information as to the amount of the Company's rental obligations under leases on both Company-owned and franchised stores, see Note 5 of Notes to financial statements.

**ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

The Company is not currently involved in any legal proceedings that are material to the Company's business or financial condition.

**ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS**

None

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**Table of Contents****Part II.****ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS****(a) Market Information**

The Company's Common Stock trades on the National Market System of The Nasdaq Stock Market under the trading symbol **RMCF**. On May 4, 2004 the Board of Directors declared a 10 percent stock dividend payable on May 27, 2004 to shareholders of record as of May 13, 2004. On December 17, 2003 the Board of Directors declared a three-for-two stock split payable on February 2, 2004 to shareholders of record on January 20, 2004. On January 28, 2002 the Board of Directors declared a four-for-three stock split payable on March 4, 2002 to shareholders of record on February 11, 2002.

The Company declared this dividend and these stock splits because the Company felt that its Common Stock lacked sufficient shares and related liquidity to satisfy an increasing number of investors interested in purchasing the Company's Common Stock. All of the following items in Item 5. have been adjusted, where necessary, for the effects of the dividend and splits.

Between October 3, 2003 and February 19, 2004 the Company repurchased 120,285 Company shares at an average price of \$7.56 per share. In March 2004 the Company repurchased 31,440 Company shares at an average price of \$8.68 per share.

Between March 6, 2001 and September 28, 2001, the Company repurchased 203,535 Company shares at an average price of \$3.07 per share. Of the shares repurchased during this period, 41,800 were repurchased from employees.

The Company made these purchases because the Company felt that its Common Stock was undervalued and that such purchases would therefore be in the best interest of the Company and its stockholders.

The table below sets forth high and low price information for the Common Stock for each quarter of fiscal years 2004 and 2003, and dividend information.

**Fiscal Year Ended February 29, 2004**

	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>Dividends declared</b>
Fourth Quarter	\$9.64	\$7.04	.0545
Third Quarter	7.88	5.88	.0492
Second Quarter	6.06	4.61	.0455
First Quarter	5.00	3.71	

**Fiscal Year Ended February 29, 2003**

	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>LOW</b>	<b>Dividends declared</b>
Fourth Quarter	\$6.22	\$3.39	

Third Quarter	5.81	4.24
Second Quarter	6.97	4.61
First Quarter	9.82	5.68

On April 30, 2004 the closing price for the Common Stock was \$9.16.

**(b) Holders**

On April 30, 2004 there were approximately 420 record holders of the Company's Common Stock. The Company believes that there are more than 800 beneficial owners of its Common Stock.

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The selected financial data presented below for the fiscal years ended February 28 or 29, 2000 through 2004, are derived from the Financial Statements of the Company, which have been audited by Ehrhardt Keefe Steiner & Hottman PC or Grant Thornton LLP, independent certified public accountants. The selected financial data should be read in conjunction with the Financial Statements and related Notes thereto included elsewhere in this Report and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

(Amounts in thousands, except per share data)

	<b>YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28 or 29,</b>				
	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
<b>Selected Statement of Operations Data</b>					
Total revenues	\$21,133	\$19,461	\$19,439	\$22,572	\$24,647
Operating income	3,779	1,496	3,370	3,105	2,662
Net income	\$ 2,319	\$ 852	\$ 1,995	\$ 1,556	\$ 1,057
<b>Basic Earnings per Common Share</b>	\$ .55	\$ .21	\$ .49	\$ .35	\$ .19
<b>Diluted Earnings per Common Share</b>	\$ .52	\$ .19	\$ .46	\$ .35	\$ .18
Weighted average common shares outstanding	4,181	4,117	4,081	4,457	5,677
Weighted average common shares outstanding, assuming dilution	4,503	4,464	4,350	4,469	5,713
<b>Selected Balance Sheet Data</b>					
Working capital	\$ 6,394	\$ 4,765	\$ 3,940	\$ 1,249	\$ 1,589
Total assets	17,967	16,084	16,795	15,042	16,440
Long-term debt	1,986	3,073	4,325	3,297	3,774
Stockholders' equity	11,590	9,891	8,821	7,062	8,433

**ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The following discussion and analysis of the financial condition and results of operations of the Company should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements and related Notes of the Company included elsewhere in this report. This Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and other parts of this Annual Report on Form 10-K contain forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties.

The Company is a product-based international franchiser. The Company's revenues and profitability are derived principally from its franchised system of retail stores that feature chocolate and other confectionery products. The Company also sells its candy in selected locations outside its system of retail stores to build brand awareness. The Company operates eight retail units as a laboratory to test marketing, design and operational initiatives.

The Company is subject to seasonal fluctuations in sales because of the location of its franchisees, which have traditionally been located in resort or tourist locations. As the Company expands its geographical diversity to include regional malls, it has seen some moderation to its seasonal sales mix. Seasonal fluctuation in sales cause fluctuations in quarterly results of operations. Historically, the strongest sales of the Company's products have occurred during the

Christmas holiday and summer vacation seasons. Additionally, quarterly results have been, and in the future are likely to be, affected by the timing of new store openings and sales of franchises. Because of the seasonality of the Company's business and the impact of new store openings and sales of franchises, results for any quarter are not necessarily indicative of results that may be achieved in other quarters or for a full fiscal year.

The most important factors in continued growth in the Company's earnings are ongoing unit growth, increased same store sales and increased same store pounds purchased from the factory. Historically, unit growth has more than offset decreases in same store sales and same store pounds purchased.

The Company's ability to successfully achieve expansion of its Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory franchise system depends on many factors not within the Company's control including the availability of suitable sites for new store establishment and the availability of qualified franchisees to support such expansion.

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Efforts to reverse the decline in same store pounds purchased from the factory by franchised stores and to increase total factory sales depends on many factors not within the Company's control including the receptivity of its franchise system of its product introductions and promotional programs.

As a result, the actual results realized by the Company could differ materially from the results discussed in or contemplated by the forward-looking statements made herein. Words or phrases such as will, anticipate, expect, believe, intend, estimate, project, plan or similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

## **Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

The Company's discussion and analysis of its financial condition and results of operations are based upon the Company's financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The preparation of these financial statements requires the Company to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and the related disclosures. Estimates and assumptions include, but are not limited to, the carrying value of accounts and notes receivable from franchisees, inventories, the useful lives of fixed assets, goodwill, and other intangible assets, income taxes, contingencies and litigation. The Company bases its estimates on analyses, 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.

We believe that the following represent our more critical estimates and assumptions used in the preparation of our financial statements, although not all inclusive.

**Accounts and Notes Receivable** The Company records an allowance for credit losses based on estimates of customers ability to pay and collateral value, as applicable. If the financial condition of our customers or collateral were to deteriorate, additional allowances may be required.

**Revenue Recognition** The Company recognizes revenue on sales of products to franchisees and other customers at the time of shipment. Franchise fee revenue is recognized upon completion of all significant initial services provided to the franchisee and upon satisfaction of all material conditions of the franchise agreement. The initial \$5,000 portion of the fee is recognized upon signing of the franchise agreement. The balance of the fee is recognized upon the franchisee's commitment to a property lease. The Company also recognizes a royalty fee of five percent (5%) and a marketing and promotion fee of one percent (1%) of the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory franchised stores' gross retail sales. Sales of products at retail stores are recognized at the time of sale.

**Inventories** The Company will write down inventory for estimated obsolescence or unmarketable inventory equal to the difference between the cost of inventory and the estimated market value based upon assumptions about future demand and market conditions. If actual market conditions are less favorable than those projected by management, additional inventory write-downs may be required.

**Goodwill** Goodwill consists of the excess of purchase price over the fair market value of acquired assets and liabilities. Effective March 1, 2002, under SFAS 142 all goodwill with indefinite lives is no longer subject to amortization. SFAS 142 requires that an impairment test be conducted annually or in the event of an impairment indicator. Our transition test conducted in fiscal 2004 showed no impairment of our goodwill.

Other accounting estimates inherent in the preparation of the Company's financial statements include estimates associated with its evaluation of the recoverability of deferred tax assets, as well as those used in the determination of

liabilities related to litigation and taxation. Various assumptions and other factors underlie the determination of these significant estimates. The process of determining significant estimates is fact specific and takes into account factors such as historical experience, current and expected economic conditions, and product mix. The Company constantly re-evaluates these significant factors and makes adjustments where facts and circumstances dictate. Historically, actual results have not significantly deviated from those determined using the estimates described above.



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As discussed in Note 5 to the financial statements, the Company is involved in litigation incidental to its business, the disposition of which is expected to have no material effect on the Company's financial position or results of operations. It is possible, however, that future results of operations for any particular quarterly or annual period could be materially affected by changes in the Company's assumptions related to these proceedings.

**Results of Operations****Fiscal 2004 Compared To Fiscal 2003**

## Results Summary

Basic earnings per share increased 161.9% from \$.21 in fiscal 2003 to \$.55 in fiscal 2004. Revenues increased 8.6% from fiscal 2003 to fiscal 2004. Operating income increased 152.5% from \$1.5 million in fiscal 2003 to \$3.7 million in fiscal 2004. Net income increased 172.1% from \$0.9 million in fiscal 2003 to \$2.3 million in fiscal 2004. The increase in earnings per share, operating income, and net income in fiscal 2004 from 2003 was due primarily to the insolvency of a single franchisee and the related provision for loss on accounts and notes receivable and related foreclosure costs in the prior fiscal year. Increased revenue and cost containment initiatives also contributed to the improvement.

## Revenues

(\$ s in thousands)	2004	2003	Change	% Change
Factory sales	\$14,103.4	\$13,905.6	197.8	1.4%
Retail sales	2,564.8	1,398.8	1,166.0	83.4%
Royalty and marketing fees	3,875.9	3,768.4	107.5	2.9%
Franchise fees	588.7	388.7	200.0	51.5%
Total	\$21,132.8	\$19,461.5	1,671.3	8.6%

## Factory Sales

This increase in factory sales was due to an increase in the number of franchised stores in operation to 251 in fiscal 2004 from 222 in fiscal 2003. This increase was partially offset by a decrease in same store pounds purchased from the factory by franchised stores of 1.7% and a decrease in factory sales to customers outside the Company's system of franchised retail stores of 25.7%.

## Retail Sales

This increase in retail sales resulted primarily from an increase in the average number of Company-owned stores from 4 during fiscal 2003 to 8 during fiscal 2004, plus a 3.2% increase in same store sales.

In fiscal 2002, the Company completed phasing out its Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory Company-owned store program. The Company sold to new or existing franchisees all viable Company-owned store locations with the exception of four Company-owned stores located in key markets in Colorado. The Colorado Stores were excluded because these stores are used to test sales, marketing, design and operational initiatives. In Fiscal 2003, the Company foreclosed on four of the stores previously sold to a franchisee due to the franchisee's insolvency. The Company initially planned to operate one such retail outlet as a Company-owned store and sell three stores to other franchisees. However, management's intentions changed in the second quarter of 2004 and the Company intends to retain and

operate these stores to gain further insight into retail activity and operations outside of Colorado tourist areas.

#### Royalties, Marketing Fees and Franchise Fees

This increase in royalties and marketing fees resulted from growth in the average number of domestic units in operation from 202 in fiscal 2003 to 205 in fiscal 2004 partially offset by a decrease in same store sales of 0.7%. Of the thirty-six domestic stores that opened in fiscal 2004, fifteen opened in the fourth quarter. Franchise fee revenues increased due to an increase in the number of franchises sold.

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## Costs and Expenses

(\$ s in thousands)	2004	2003	Change	% Change
Cost of sales factory	\$ 9,579.9	\$ 9,451.3	\$ 128.6	1.4%
Cost of sales retail	955.5	545.3	410.2	75.2%
Franchise costs	1,135.7	1,245.8	(110.1)	(8.8%)
Sales and marketing	1,220.5	1,441.1	(220.6)	(15.3%)
General and administrative	2,235.5	1,967.1	268.4	13.6%
Retail operating	1,430.1	832.6	597.5	71.8%
Total	\$16,557.2	\$15,483.2	\$1,074.0	6.9%

## Gross margin

(\$ s in thousands)	2004	2003	Change	% Change
Factory	\$4,523.5	\$4,454.3	\$ 69.2	1.6%
Retail	1,609.3	853.5	755.8	88.6%
Total	\$6,132.8	\$5,307.8	\$825.0	15.5%
(Percent)				
Factory	32.1%	32.0%	0.1%	0.3%
Retail	62.7%	61.0%	1.7%	2.8%
Total	36.8%	34.7%	2.1%	6.1%

## Cost of Sales

Factory margins were approximately the same in fiscal 2004 when compared to fiscal 2003. Improvement in Company-owned store margin is due to changes in mix of product sold. The Company anticipates improvement in factory margins in fiscal 2005 due to increased production efficiencies.

## Franchise Costs

The decrease in franchise costs is due primarily to a planned reduction in expenditures. As a percentage of total royalty and marketing fees and franchise fee revenue, franchise costs decreased to 25.4% in fiscal 2004 from 30.0% in fiscal 2003. This decrease as a percentage of royalty, marketing and franchise fees is primarily a result of decreased franchise support costs plus a 7.4% increase in income from franchise fees and royalty and marketing fees.

## Sales &amp; Marketing

The decrease in sales and marketing is due primarily to decreased personnel costs as well as more focused and efficient marketing programs.

## General and Administrative

The increase in general and administrative costs is due primarily to increased cash incentive compensation, professional fees and insurance costs. As a percentage of total revenues, general and administrative expense increased to 10.6% in fiscal 2004 from 10.1% in fiscal 2003.

### Retail Operating Expenses

The increase in retail operating expenses resulted primarily from an increase in the average number of Company-owned stores from 4 during fiscal 2003 to 8 during fiscal 2004. Retail operating expenses, as a percentage of retail sales, decreased to 55.8% in fiscal 2004 compared to 59.5% in fiscal 2003 due to a change in mix of stores in operations.

### Depreciation and Amortization

Depreciation and amortization decreased 2.3% to \$796,000 in fiscal 2004 from \$815,000 in fiscal 2003.

### Provision for Loss on Accounts and Notes Receivable and Related Foreclosure Costs

The provision for loss on accounts and notes receivable and related foreclosure costs in fiscal 2003 resulted from the insolvency of a single franchisee. There was no such provision in fiscal 2004.

**Table of Contents****Other Expense, Net**

Other expense, net of \$51,000 incurred in fiscal 2004 decreased 59.6% from the \$126,000 incurred in fiscal 2003 due primarily to lower interest expense on lower average rates and outstanding amounts of both short-term and long-term debt, partially offset by lower interest income on lower average outstanding amounts of notes receivable.

**Income Tax Expense**

The Company's effective income tax rate in fiscal 2004 was 37.8%, which is the same as the effective rate in fiscal 2003.

**Fiscal 2003 Compared To Fiscal 2002****Results Summary**

Basic earnings per share decreased 57.1% from \$.49 in fiscal 2002 to \$.21 in fiscal 2003. Revenues increased 0.1% from fiscal 2002 to fiscal 2003. Operating income decreased 55.6% from \$3.4 million in fiscal 2002 to \$1.5 million in fiscal 2003. Net income decreased 57.3% from \$2.0 million in fiscal 2002 to \$0.9 million in fiscal 2003. The decrease in earnings per share, operating income, and net income from fiscal 2002 to 2003 was due primarily to the insolvency of a single franchisee and the related provision for loss on accounts and notes receivable and related foreclosure costs.

**Revenues**

<b>(\$ s in thousands)</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Factory sales	\$13,905.6	\$13,619.4	\$ 286.2	2.1%
Retail sales	1,398.8	1,604.7	(205.9)	(12.8%)
Royalty and marketing fees	3,768.4	3,544.9	223.5	6.3%
Franchise fees	388.7	670.1	(281.4)	(42.0%)
Total	\$19,461.5	\$19,439.1	\$ 22.4	0.1%

**Factory Sales**

The increase in factory sales was due primarily to an increase of 47.6% in factory sales to customers outside the Company's system of franchised retail stores and an increase in the average number of franchised stores in operation during fiscal 2003 versus fiscal 2002. This increase was partially offset by a decrease in same store pounds purchased from the factory by franchised stores of 10.6% in fiscal 2003 versus fiscal 2002. The Company believes the decrease in same store pounds purchased is due to a continued product mix shift from factory-made products to store-made products.

**Retail Sales**

The decline in retail sales resulted primarily from a decrease in the average number of Company-owned stores from 5 during fiscal 2002 to 4 during fiscal 2003, partially offset by a 1.6% increase in same store sales.

In fiscal 2002, the Company completed phasing out its Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory Company-owned store program. The Company sold to new or existing franchisees all viable Company-owned store locations with the exception of four Company-owned stores located in key markets in Colorado. The Colorado Stores were excluded because these stores are used to test sales, marketing, design and operational initiatives. In Fiscal 2003, the Company

foreclosed on four of the stores previously sold to a franchisee due to the franchisee's insolvency. The Company initially planned to operate one such retail outlet as a Company-owned store and sell three stores to other franchisees. However, management's intentions changed in the second quarter of 2004 and the Company intends to retain and operate the repossessed stores.

#### Royalties, Marketing Fees and Franchise Fees

The increase in royalties and marketing fees resulted from growth in the average number of units in operation from 194 in fiscal 2002 to 202 in fiscal 2003 partially offset by a decrease in same store sales of 3.5%. Franchise fee revenues decreased \$281,000 in fiscal 2003 compared to fiscal 2002 due to a decrease in the number of new franchises sold. This decrease was due to higher franchise fees in fiscal 2002 from the sale of Company-owned stores.

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## Costs and Expenses

(\$ s in thousands)	2003	2002	Change	% Change
Cost of sales factory	\$ 9,451.3	\$ 8,955.1	\$ 496.2	5.5%
Cost of sales retail	545.3	657.6	(112.3)	(17.1%)
Franchise costs	1,245.8	1,286.6	(40.8)	(3.2%)
Sales and marketing	1,441.1	1,293.3	147.8	11.4%
General and administrative	1,967.1	2,096.4	(129.3)	(6.2%)
Retail operating	832.6	875.2	(42.6)	(4.9%)
Total	\$15,483.2	\$15,164.2	\$ 319.0	2.1%

## Gross margin

(\$ s in thousands)	2003	2002	Change	% Change
Factory	\$4,454.3	\$4,664.3	\$(210.0)	(4.5%)
Retail	853.5	947.1	(93.6)	(9.9%)
Total	\$5,307.8	\$5,611.4	\$(303.6)	(5.4%)
(Percent)				
Factory	32.0%	34.2%	(2.2%)	(6.4%)
Retail	61.0%	59.0%	(2.0%)	3.4%
Total	34.7%	36.9%	(2.2%)	(6.0%)

## Cost of Sales

Factory margins decreased to 32.0% in fiscal 2003 from 34.2% in fiscal 2002. This decline in factory margins is due primarily to decreased production efficiencies caused by lower production volume and increased commodity prices, primarily chocolate.

## Franchise Costs

As a percentage of total royalty and marketing fees and franchise fee revenue, franchise costs decreased to 30.0% in fiscal 2003 from 30.5% in fiscal 2002. This decrease as a percentage of royalty, marketing and franchise fees is primarily a result of decreased franchise support costs partially offset by a 1.4% decrease in income from franchise fees and royalty and marketing fees.

## Sales &amp; Marketing

The increase in sales and marketing costs is due to higher spending levels, primarily for marketing services for franchisees and advertising and promotion.

## General and Administrative

As a percentage of total revenues, general and administrative expense decreased to 10.1% in fiscal 2003 from 10.8% in fiscal 2002.

## Retail Operating Expenses

The decrease in retail operating expenses resulted primarily from a decrease in the average number of Company-owned stores from 5 during fiscal 2002 to 4 during fiscal 2003. Retail operating expenses, as a percentage of retail sales, increased to 59.5% in fiscal 2003 compared to 54.5% in fiscal 2002 due to the larger proportional decrease in retail sales.

## Depreciation and Amortization

Depreciation and amortization decreased 9.9% to \$815,000 in fiscal 2003 from \$905,000 in fiscal 2002. The decrease in depreciation and amortization is due primarily to suspension of amortization expense (\$29,000 quarterly) for goodwill beginning March 1, 2002. Goodwill has historically been amortized on the straight-line method over ten to twenty-five years. In June 2001, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 142 (SFAS 142), Goodwill and Intangible Assets, which revised the accounting for purchased goodwill and intangible assets. Under SFAS 142, goodwill and intangible assets with indefinite lives are no longer amortized, but will be tested for impairment annually, and also in the event of an impairment indicator. SFAS 142 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2001. The Company adopted SFAS 142 on March 1, 2002.



**Table of Contents****Provision for Loss**

The provision for loss resulted from the insolvency of a single franchisee and includes provision for loss on accounts and notes receivable and related foreclosure costs. The provision is comprised of the following amounts:

Notes receivable	\$ 1,099,328
Accounts receivable	356,876
Other accrued expenses (foreclosure costs)	210,320
Total	\$ 1,666,524

**Other Expense**

Other expense of \$126,000 incurred in fiscal 2003 decreased 22.0% from the \$162,000 incurred in fiscal 2002 due primarily to lower interest expense on lower average rates and outstanding amounts of both short-term and long-term debt.

**Income Tax Expense**

The Company's effective income tax rate in fiscal 2003 was 37.8%, which is approximately the same as the effective rate in fiscal 2002.

**Liquidity and Capital Resources**

As of February 29, 2004, working capital was \$6.5 million compared with \$4.8 million as of February 28, 2003, a \$1.7 million increase, and is after payment of cash dividends of \$398,000 during the year. The increase in working capital was due primarily to operating results.

Cash and cash equivalent balances increased from \$1.3 million as of February 28, 2003 to \$4.6 million as of February 29, 2004 as a result of cash flows generated by operating activities in excess of cash flows used in financing and investing activities. The Company's current ratio was 2.67 to 1 at February 29, 2004 in comparison with 2.65 to 1 at February 28, 2003.

The Company's long-term debt is comprised of a real estate mortgage facility used to finance the Company's factory expansion (unpaid balance as of February 29, 2004, \$1.8 million), and chattel mortgage notes (unpaid balance as of February 29, 2004, \$1.3 million) used to improve and automate the Company's factory infrastructure.

The Company has a \$2.5 million credit line, of which \$2.5 million was available as of February 29, 2004, secured by substantially all of the Company's assets except retail store assets and is subject to renewal in July, 2004.

The table below presents significant contractual obligations of the Company at February 29, 2004.

(Amounts in thousands)	Less than 1	1-3	4-5	After 5	Total
	year	Years	years	years	
<b>Contractual Obligations</b>					
Line of credit					
Notes payable	1,081	615	291	1,080	3,067

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Operating leases	518	405	28		951
Other long-term obligations	314	375	72		761
Total Contractual cash obligations	1,913	1,395	391	1,080	4,779

For fiscal 2005, the Company anticipates making capital expenditures of approximately \$1,750,000, which will be used to maintain and improve existing factory and administrative infrastructure and update certain Company-owned stores. The Company believes that cash flow from operations will be sufficient to fund capital expenditures and working capital requirements for fiscal 2005. If necessary, the Company has available bank lines of credit to help meet these requirements.

### **Impact of Inflation**

Inflationary factors such as increases in the costs of ingredients and labor directly affect the Company's operations. Most of the Company's leases provide for cost-of-living adjustments and require it to pay taxes, insurance and maintenance expenses, all of which are subject to inflation. Additionally, the Company's future lease cost for new facilities may include potentially escalating costs of real estate and construction. There is no assurance that the Company will be able to pass on increased costs to its customers.

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Depreciation expense is based on the historical cost to the Company of its fixed assets, and is therefore potentially less than it would be if it were based on current replacement cost. While property and equipment acquired in prior years will ultimately have to be replaced at higher prices, it is expected that replacement will be a gradual process over many years.

## **Seasonality**

The Company is subject to seasonal fluctuations in sales, which cause fluctuations in quarterly results of operations. Historically, the strongest sales of the Company's products have occurred during the Christmas holiday and summer vacation seasons. In addition, quarterly results have been, and in the future are likely to be, affected by the timing of new store openings and sales of franchises. Because of the seasonality of the Company's business and the impact of new store openings and sales of franchises, results for any quarter are not necessarily indicative of results that may be achieved in other quarters or for a full fiscal year.

## **New Accounting Pronouncements**

In December 2003, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Interpretation 46(R) (FIN 46(R)), *Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities*. FIN 46(R) replaces FIN 46 and addresses consolidation by business enterprises of variable interest entities. The provisions of FIN 46(R) are effective for the first reporting period that ends after December 15, 2003 for variable interests in those entities commonly referred to as special purpose entities. Application of the provisions of FIN 46(R) for all other entities is effective for the first reporting period ending after March 15, 2004. The Company has no interest in any entity considered a special purpose entity. The Company does not anticipate FIN 46(R) to have a material effect on the Company's financial statements.

## **ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

The Company does not engage in commodity futures trading or hedging activities and does not enter into derivative financial instrument transactions for trading or other speculative purposes. The Company also does not engage in transactions in foreign currencies or in interest rate swap transactions that could expose the Company to market risk. However, the Company is exposed to some commodity price and interest rate risks.

The Company frequently enters into purchase contracts of between six to eighteen months for chocolate and certain nuts. These contracts permit the Company to purchase the specified commodity at a fixed price on an as-needed basis during the term of the contract. Because prices for these products may fluctuate, the Company may benefit if prices rise during the terms of these contracts, but it may be required to pay above-market prices if prices fall and it is unable to renegotiate the terms of the contract.

As of February 29, 2004, \$3.1 million of the Company's long-term debt was subject to a variable interest rate. Assuming that this principal amount did not change during fiscal 2005, other than as a result of scheduled payments, and assuming that the average effective interest rate in effect on this debt for 2005 increased by one percent as compared to the average effective interest rate in effect during 2004, the Company would not incur additional interest expense in 2005, as compared to 2004, due to an increasing proportion of payments applied to principal. Additionally, cash flow would not be effected as payment amounts are fixed.

The Company also has a \$2.5 million bank line of credit that bears interest at a variable rate. As of February 29, 2004, no amount was outstanding under the line of credit. The Company does not believe that it is exposed to any material interest rate risk related to the line of credit.

The Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer of the Company has primary responsibility over the Company's long-term and short-term debt and has primary responsibility for determining the timing and duration of commodity purchase contracts and negotiating the terms and conditions of those contracts.

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**ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

Board of Directors and Stockholders  
Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Inc.  
Durango, Colorado

We have audited the accompanying balance sheet of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Inc. as of February 29, 2004, and the related statements of income, changes in stockholders' equity and cash flows for the year ended February 29, 2004. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. The financial statements of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Inc. as of February 28, 2003 and for the years ended February 28, 2003 and 2002, were audited by other auditors whose report dated April 18, 2003, expressed an unqualified opinion on those statements.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Inc. as of February 29, 2004, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Ehrhardt Keefe Steiner & Hottman PC

April 23, 2004  
Denver, Colorado

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Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants

Board of Directors and Stockholders

Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying balance sheets of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Inc. as of February 28, 2003 and 2002, and the related statements of income, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended February 28, 2003. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

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

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Inc. as of February 28, 2003 and 2002, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended February 28, 2003, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the Company adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets*, on March 1, 2002.

GRANT THORNTON LLP

Dallas, Texas

April 18, 2003

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHOCOLATE FACTORY, INC.  
STATEMENTS OF INCOME

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28 or 29,**

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Revenues</b>			
Sales	\$ 16,668,210	\$ 15,304,365	\$ 15,224,065
Franchise and royalty fees	4,464,618	4,157,107	4,215,012
Total revenues	21,132,828	19,461,472	19,439,077
<b>Costs and Expenses</b>			
Cost of sales	10,535,352	9,996,592	9,612,712
Franchise costs	1,135,686	1,245,778	1,286,595
Sales & marketing	1,220,585	1,441,111	1,293,309
General and administrative	2,235,499	1,967,117	2,096,356
Retail operating	1,430,124	832,591	875,190
Depreciation and amortization	796,271	815,279	905,227
Provision for loss on accounts and notes receivable and related foreclosure costs		1,666,524	
Total costs and expenses	17,353,517	17,964,992	16,069,389
<b>Operating Income</b>	3,779,311	1,496,480	3,369,688
<b>Other Income (Expense)</b>			
Interest expense	(144,787)	(297,344)	(437,339)
Interest income	93,847	171,197	275,593
Other, net	(50,940)	(126,147)	(161,746)
<b>Income Before Income Taxes</b>	3,728,371	1,370,333	3,207,942
<b>Income Tax Expense</b>	1,409,325	517,985	1,212,600
<b>Net Income</b>	\$ 2,319,046	\$ 852,348	\$ 1,995,342
<b>Basic Earnings per Common Share</b>	\$ .55	\$ .21	\$ .49
<b>Diluted Earnings per Common Share</b>	\$ .52	\$ .19	\$ .46
<b>Weighted Average Common Shares Outstanding</b>	4,181,472	4,117,438	4,080,892
<b>Dilutive Effect of Employee Stock Options</b>	321,228	346,399	269,148
<b>Weighted Average Common Shares Outstanding, Assuming Dilution</b>	4,502,700	4,463,837	4,350,040

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.



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ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHOCOLATE FACTORY, INC.  
BALANCE SHEETS

	<b>AS OF FEBRUARY 28 or 29,</b>	
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,552,283	\$ 1,282,972
Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$73,630 and \$65,117	2,388,848	2,021,391
Notes receivable	313,200	288,100
Refundable income taxes		548,490
Inventories	2,471,810	3,062,135
Deferred income taxes	149,304	174,616
Other	353,733	276,002
Total current assets	10,229,178	7,653,706
<b>Property and Equipment, Net</b>	5,456,695	5,618,239
<b>Other Assets</b>		
Notes receivable, less valuation allowance of \$47,005 and \$49,446	602,095	801,309
Goodwill, net	1,133,751	1,039,872
Intangible assets, net	498,885	557,167
Assets held for sale	30,027	373,525
Other	16,614	40,428
Total other assets	2,281,372	2,812,301
Total assets	\$ 17,967,245	\$ 16,084,246
<b>Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Current maturities of long-term debt	\$ 1,080,400	\$ 1,218,400
Accounts payable	952,542	612,770
Accrued salaries and wages	1,091,596	678,223
Other accrued expenses	474,906	378,849
Dividend payable	236,108	
Total current liabilities	3,835,552	2,888,242
<b>Long-Term Debt, Less Current Maturities</b>	1,986,174	3,072,798
<b>Deferred Income Taxes</b>	555,567	232,215
<b>Commitments and Contingencies</b>		
<b>Stockholders' Equity</b>		
Common stock, \$.03 par value; 7,250,000 shares authorized; 4,272,820 and 4,125,204 shares issued and outstanding	128,185	123,756
Additional paid-in capital	2,682,631	2,672,681
Retained earnings	8,779,136	7,094,554
Total stockholders' equity	11,589,952	9,890,991
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 17,967,245	\$ 16,084,246

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.



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ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHOCOLATE FACTORY, INC.  
STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

	FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28 or 29,		
	2004	2003	2002
<b>Common Stock</b>			
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 123,756	\$ 122,495	\$ 126,937
Repurchase and retirement of common stock	(3,608)		(6,106)
Issuance of common stock		7	10
Exercise of stock options and other	8,037	1,254	1,654
Balance at end of year	128,185	123,756	122,495
<b>Notes Receivable From Officers and Directors</b>			
Balance at beginning of year		(39,999)	(168,747)
Reduction of notes		39,999	128,748
Balance at end of year			(39,999)
<b>Additional Paid-In Capital</b>			
Balance at beginning of year	2,672,681	2,496,095	2,857,373
Repurchase and retirement of common stock	(905,987)		(619,435)
Costs related to stock split	(10,002)	(15,278)	
Issuance of common stock		1,261	1,074
Exercise of stock options and other	747,564	124,010	234,596
Tax benefit from employee stock transactions	178,375	66,593	22,487
Balance at end of year	2,682,631	2,672,681	2,496,095
<b>Retained Earnings</b>			
Balance at beginning of year	7,094,554	6,242,206	4,246,864
Net income	2,319,046	852,348	1,995,342
Dividends declared	(634,464)		
Balance at end of year	8,779,136	7,094,554	6,242,206
<b>Total Stockholders' Equity</b>	<b>\$ 11,589,952</b>	<b>\$ 9,890,991</b>	<b>\$ 8,820,797</b>
<b>Common Shares</b>			
Balance at beginning of year	4,125,204	4,083,156	4,231,226
Repurchase and retirement of common stock	(120,285)		(203,536)
Issuance of common stock		248	330
Exercise of stock options and other	267,901	41,800	55,136
Balance at end of year	4,272,820	4,125,204	4,083,156

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHOCOLATE FACTORY, INC.  
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	<b>FOR THE YEARS ENDED FEBRUARY 28 or 29,</b>		
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Cash Flows From Operating Activities:</b>			
Net income	\$ 2,319,046	\$ 852,348	\$ 1,995,342
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	796,272	815,279	905,227
Provision for loss on accounts and notes receivable and related foreclosure costs	50,000	1,754,524	162,046
Provision for inventory loss	55,000	37,000	162,000
(Gain) loss on sale of assets	87,136	2,209	(138,824)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
Accounts receivable	(417,457)	342,967	(887,947)
Refundable income taxes	548,490	(548,490)	37,574
Inventories	535,325	91,535	(603,779)
Other assets	(92,541)	37,941	(43,229)
Accounts payable	339,772	(54,649)	(397,791)
Income taxes payable	299,778	(49,943)	139,023
Deferred income taxes	348,664	27,726	11,794
Accrued liabilities	391,072	(334,347)	(75,608)
Net cash provided by operating activities	5,260,557	2,974,100	1,265,828
<b>Cash Flows From Investing Activities:</b>			
Additions to notes receivable	(53,676)	(1,033,097)	(659,258)
Proceeds received on notes receivable	227,790	530,043	195,494
Proceeds from sale of assets	84,572	13,940	382,018
(Increase) decrease in other assets	6,938	(11,578)	(231,228)
Purchase of property and equipment	(469,894)	(285,313)	(724,130)
Net cash used in investing activities	(204,270)	(786,005)	(1,037,104)
<b>Cash Flows From Financing Activities:</b>			
Net change in line of credit			(550,000)
Proceeds from long-term debt			6,077,827
Payments on long-term debt	(1,224,624)	(1,221,848)	(5,418,921)
Repayment of loans by director, officers and former officers		39,999	128,748
Costs of stock split	(10,002)	(15,278)	
Issuance of common stock	755,601	126,532	237,334
Repurchase and redemption of common stock	(909,595)		(625,541)
Dividends paid	(398,356)		
Net cash used in financing activities	(1,786,976)	(1,070,595)	(150,553)
<b>Net Increase In Cash And Cash Equivalents</b>	3,269,311	1,117,500	78,171
<b>Cash And Cash Equivalents At Beginning Of Year</b>	1,282,972	165,472	87,301
	\$ 4,552,283	\$ 1,282,972	\$ 165,472

**Cash And Cash Equivalents At End Of  
Year**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

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**Table of Contents****NOTE 1 NATURE OF OPERATIONS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES****Nature of Operations**

Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Inc. is an international franchiser, confectionery manufacturer and retail operator in the United States, Guam, Canada, and the United Arab Emirates. The Company manufactures an extensive line of premium chocolate candies and other confectionery products. The Company's revenues are currently derived from three principal sources: sales to franchisees and others of chocolates and other confectionery products manufactured by the Company; the collection of initial franchise fees and royalties from franchisees' sales; and sales at Company-owned stores of chocolates and other confectionery products. The following table summarizes the number of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores at February 29, 2004:

	<b>Sold, Not Yet Open</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>Total</b>
Company owned stores		8	8
Franchise stores U.S.	16	222	238
Franchise stores International		29	29
	16	259	275

**Cash Equivalents**

The Company considers all highly liquid instruments purchased with an original maturity of six months or less to be cash equivalents. The Company continually monitors its positions with, and the credit quality of, the financial institutions it invests with. As of the balance sheet date, and periodically throughout the year, the Company has maintained balances in various operating accounts in excess of federally insured limits.

**Accounts Receivable**

At the time the accounts and royalties receivable are originated, the Company considers a reserve for doubtful accounts. The provision for uncollectible amounts is continually reviewed and adjusted to maintain the allowance at a level considered adequate to cover future losses. The allowance is management's best estimate of uncollectible amounts and is determined based on historical performance that is tracked by the Company on an ongoing basis. The losses ultimately incurred could differ materially in the near term from the amounts estimated in determining the allowance.

**Inventories**

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market. Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out method.

**Property and Equipment and Other Assets**

Property and equipment are recorded at cost. Depreciation and amortization are computed using the straight-line method based upon the estimated useful life of the asset, which range from five to thirty-nine years. Leasehold improvements are amortized on the straight-line method over the lives of the respective leases or the service lives of the improvements, whichever is shorter.

The Company reviews its long-lived assets through analysis of estimated fair value, including identifiable intangible assets, whenever events or changes indicate the carrying amount of such assets may not be recoverable. The Company's policy is to review the recoverability of all assets, at a minimum, on an annual basis.

#### Income Taxes

The Company recognizes deferred tax liabilities and assets based on the differences between the tax basis of assets and liabilities and their reported amounts in the financial statements that will result in taxable or deductible amounts in future years. The Company's temporary differences are listed in Note 6.

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### **Amortization of Goodwill**

Goodwill has historically been amortized on the straight-line method over ten to twenty-five years. In June 2001, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 142 (SFAS 142), *Goodwill and Intangible Assets*, which revises the accounting for purchased goodwill and intangible assets. Under SFAS 142, goodwill and intangible assets with indefinite lives will no longer be amortized, but will be tested for impairment annually, and also in the event of an impairment indicator. SFAS 142 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2001. The Company adopted SFAS 142 on March 1, 2002.

### **Sales**

Sales of products to franchisees and other customers are recognized at the time of shipment. Sales of products at retail stores are recognized at the time of sale.

### **Shipping Fees**

Shipping fees charged to customers by the Company's trucking department are reported as sales. Shipping costs incurred by the Company's trucking department are reported as cost of sales.

### **Franchise and Royalty Fees**

Franchise fee revenue is recognized upon completion of all significant initial services provided to the franchisee and upon satisfaction of all material conditions of the franchise agreement. In addition to the initial franchise fee, the Company receives a royalty fee of five percent (5%) and a marketing and promotion fee of one percent (1%) of the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory franchised stores' gross sales.

### **Use of Estimates**

In preparing financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, at the date of the financial statements, and revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### **Vulnerability Due to Certain Concentrations**

Franchised stores are concentrated (27%) in the factory outlet mall environment. At February 29, 2004, 4 Company-owned stores and 71 franchise stores of 259 total stores are located in this environment. The Company is, therefore, vulnerable to changes in consumer traffic in this market environment.

As of February 29, 2004, the Company had long-term notes receivable of approximately \$427,000 due from two franchisees resulting from the Company financing the construction of their new concept stores. The notes are collateralized by the underlying store assets. The Company is, therefore, vulnerable to changes in the cash flow from these locations.

### **Stock-Based Compensation**

Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 (SFAS 123), *Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation* encourages, but does not require, companies to record compensation cost for stock-based employee compensation plans at fair value. The Company has chosen to continue to account for stock-based compensation using the intrinsic



value method prescribed in Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 25 (APB 25), Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees and provides the required pro forma disclosures prescribed by SFAS 123.

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The Company has adopted the disclosure-only provisions of SFAS 123. In accordance with those provisions, the Company applies APB 25 and related interpretations in accounting for its stock option plans and, accordingly, does not recognize compensation cost if the exercise price is not less than market. No compensation expense was recognized during the three years ended February 29, 2004. If the Company had elected to recognize compensation cost based on the fair value of the options granted at grant dates as prescribed by SFAS 123, net income and earnings per share would have been reduced to the pro-forma amounts indicated in the table below for the years ending February 28 (29)(in 000 s except per share amounts):

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
Net Income as reported	\$2,319	\$852	\$1,995
Net Income pro forma	2,264	757	1,843
Basic Earnings per Share as reported	.55	.21	.49
Diluted Earnings per Share as reported	.52	.19	.46
Basic Earnings per Share pro forma	.54	.18	.45
Diluted Earnings per Share pro forma	.50	.17	.43

**Advertising and Promotional Expenses**

The Company expenses advertising costs as incurred. Total advertising expense amounted to approximately \$334,885, \$420,000 and \$420,000 for the fiscal years ended February 28 (29), 2004, 2003 and 2002, respectively.

**Earnings Per Share**

Basic earnings per share is computed as net earnings divided by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during each year. Diluted earnings per share reflects the potential dilution that could occur from common shares issuable through stock options. During 2004, 2003 and 2002, 105,919, 92,652 and 103,116 stock options were excluded from diluted shares as their affect was anti-dilutive.

**Fair Value of Financial Instruments**

The Company's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, trade receivables, payables, notes receivable, and debt. The fair value of all instruments approximates the carrying value.

**NOTE 2 INVENTORIES**

Inventories consist of the following at February 28 or 29:

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
Ingredients and supplies	\$1,363,524	\$1,583,631
Finished candy	1,108,286	1,478,504
	<b>\$2,471,810</b>	<b>\$3,062,135</b>

**NOTE 3 PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET**

Property and equipment consists of the following at February 28 or 29:

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
Land	\$ 513,618	\$ 513,618
Building	3,864,582	3,838,936
Machinery and equipment	7,106,039	6,746,190
Furniture and fixtures	637,523	658,145
Leasehold improvements	494,515	489,405
Transportation equipment	180,723	180,723
	12,797,000	12,427,017
Less accumulated depreciation	7,340,305	6,808,778
Property and equipment, net	\$ 5,456,695	\$ 5,618,239

**Table of Contents****NOTE 4 LINE OF CREDIT AND LONG-TERM DEBT****Line of Credit**

At February 29, 2004 the Company had a \$2.5 million line of credit from a bank, collateralized by substantially all of the Company's assets with the exception of the Company's retail store assets. Draws may be made under the line at 75% of eligible accounts receivable plus 50% of eligible inventories. Interest on borrowings is at prime less 50 basis points (3.5% at February 29, 2004). At February 29, 2004, \$2.5 million was available for borrowings under the line of credit, subject to borrowing base limitations. Terms of the line require that the line be rested (that is, that there be no outstanding balance) for a period of 30 consecutive days during the term of the loan. The credit line is subject to renewal in July, 2004.

**Long-term debt**

Long-term debt consists of the following at February 28 or 29:

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
Mortgage note payable in monthly installments of \$17,600 through August, 2016 including interest at 6.0% per annum, collateralized by land and factory building. Interest was subject to adjustment every 60 months until maturity in August, 2016 but was adjusted to a floating rate of prime less fifty basis points (currently 3.50%) effective November 15, 2002.	\$ 1,804,917	\$ 1,947,500
Chattel mortgage note payable in monthly installments of \$65,500 through August, 2005 including interest at 6.00% per annum, collateralized by substantially all business assets. Interest rate was adjusted to a floating rate of prime less fifty basis points (currently 3.50%) effective November 15, 2002.	1,090,371	1,822,042
Chattel mortgage note payable in monthly installments of \$30,300 through August, 2004 including interest at 6.00% per annum, collateralized by inventory, accounts, equipment and general intangibles. Interest rate was adjusted to a floating rate of prime less fifty basis points (currently 3.50%) effective November 15, 2002.	171,286	521,656
	3,066,574	4,291,198
Less current maturities	1,080,400	1,218,400
	\$ 1,986,174	\$ 3,072,798

Maturities of long-term debt are as follows for the years ending February 28 or 29:

2005	\$ 1,080,400
2006	473,500
2007	141,400
2008	144,800
2009	146,500
Thereafter	1,079,974
	\$ 3,066,574

Additionally, the line of credit and certain term debt are subject to various financial ratio and leverage covenants as well as cross-default provisions. At February 29, 2004 the Company was in compliance with all such covenants and provisions.

#### NOTE 5 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

##### Operating leases

The Company conducts its retail operations in facilities leased under five to ten-year noncancelable operating leases. Certain leases contain renewal options for between two and ten additional years at increased monthly rentals. The majority of the leases provide for contingent rentals based on sales in excess of predetermined base levels.

**Table of Contents****NOTE 5 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES CONTINUED**

## Operating leases continued

The following is a schedule by year of future minimum rental payments required under such leases for the years ending February 28 or 29:

2005	\$267,900
2006	174,800
2007	46,800
2008	22,200
2009	5,800
	\$517,500

In some instances, in order to retain the right to site selection or because of requirements imposed by the lessor, the Company has leased space for its proposed franchise outlets. When a franchise was sold, the store was subleased to the franchisee who is responsible for the monthly rent and other obligations under the lease. The Company's liability as primary lessee on sublet franchise outlets, all of which is offset by sublease rentals, is as follows for the years ending February 28 or 29:

2005	\$313,800
2006	239,300
2007	135,500
2008	52,400
2009	19,700
	\$760,700

The following is a schedule of lease expense for all retail operating leases for the three years ended February 28 or 29:

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
Minimum rentals	\$ 753,314	\$1,023,898	\$1,206,337
Less sublease rentals	(427,600)	(785,219)	(971,938)
Contingent rentals	11,187	9,628	8,999
	\$ 336,901	\$ 248,307	\$ 243,398

The Company also leases trucking equipment under operating leases. The following is a schedule by year of future minimum rental payments required under such leases for the years ending February 28 or 29:

2005	\$250,600
2006	141,800
2007	41,400
	\$433,800

The following is a schedule of lease expense for trucking equipment operating leases for the three years ended February 28 or 29:

<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
\$301,600	\$305,798	\$260,988

#### Purchase contracts

The Company frequently enters into purchase contracts of between six to eighteen months for chocolate and certain nuts. These contracts permit the Company to purchase the specified commodity at a fixed price on an as-needed basis during the term of the contract. Because prices for these products may fluctuate, the Company may benefit if prices rise during the terms of these contracts, but it may be required to pay above-market prices if prices fall and it is unable to renegotiate the terms of the contract. Currently the Company has contracted for approximately \$2,256,000 of raw materials under such agreements.

#### Contingencies

The Company is party to various legal proceedings arising in the ordinary course of business. Management believes that the resolution of these matters will not have a significant adverse effect on the Company's financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

**Table of Contents****NOTE 6 INCOME TAXES**

Income tax expense is comprised of the following for the years ending February 28 or 29:

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
Current			
Federal	\$ 878,546	\$424,236	\$1,033,009
State	182,115	66,023	167,797
Total Current	1,060,661	490,259	1,200,806
Deferred			
Federal	313,613	24,939	10,608
State	35,051	2,787	1,186
Total Deferred	348,664	27,726	11,794
Total	\$1,409,325	\$517,985	\$1,212,600

A reconciliation of the statutory federal income tax rate and the effective rate as a percentage of pretax income is as follows for the years ending February 28 or 29:

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
Statutory rate	34.0%	34.0%	34.0%
Goodwill amortization			.3%
State income taxes, net of federal benefit	3.7%	3.3%	3.5%
Other	.1%	.5%	
Effective Rate	37.8%	37.8%	37.8%

The components of deferred income taxes at February 28 or 29 are as follows:

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
Deferred Tax Assets		
Allowance for doubtful accounts and notes	45,600	\$ 43,305
Inventories	32,572	26,520
Accrued compensation	33,425	39,508
Loss provisions	125,664	150,359
Self insurance accrual	25,098	28,902
Amortization, design costs and goodwill	27,694	45,790
	290,053	334,384
Deferred Tax Liabilities		
Depreciation	(702,318)	(308,966)
Deferred gain on sale	6,002	(83,017)
	(696,316)	(391,983)
Net deferred tax liability	\$ (406,263)	\$ (57,599)
Current deferred tax assets	\$ 149,304	\$ 174,616
Non-current deferred tax liabilities	(555,567)	(232,215)
Net deferred tax liability	\$ (406,263)	\$ (57,599)

**NOTE 7 STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY**



### Stock Dividend

On May 4, 2004 the Board of Directors declared a 10 percent stock dividend payable on May 27, 2004 to shareholders of record as of May 13, 2004. Shareholders will receive one additional share of Common Stock for every ten shares owned prior to the record date. Subsequent to the dividend there will be approximately 4.3 million shares outstanding.

### Stock Split

On December 17, 2003 the Board of Directors approved a three-for-two stock split payable February 2, 2004 to shareholders of record at the close of business on January 20, 2004. Shareholders received one additional share of Common Stock for every two shares owned prior to the record date. Immediately prior to the split there were 2,618,954 shares outstanding. Subsequent to the split there were 3,928,782 shares outstanding.

On January 28, 2002 the Board of Directors approved a four-for-three stock split payable March 4, 2002 to shareholders of record at the close of business on February 11, 2002. Shareholders received one additional share of Common Stock for every three shares owned prior to the record date. Immediately prior to the split there were 2,783,877 shares outstanding. Subsequent to the split there were 3,711,960 shares outstanding.

All share and per share data have been restated in all years presented to give effect to the stock dividend and stock splits.

**Table of Contents****NOTE 7 STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY CONTINUED****Stock Repurchases**

Between October 3, 2003 and February 19, 2004 the Company repurchased 120,285 Company shares at an average price of \$7.56 per share. In March 2004 the Company repurchased 31,440 Company shares at an average price of \$8.68 per share.

Between March 6, 2001 and September 28, 2001, the Company repurchased 203,535 Company shares at an average price of \$3.07 per share. Of the shares repurchased during this time period, 41,800 were repurchased from employees.

**Cash Dividend**

The Company paid an initial quarterly cash dividend of \$0.0455 per common share on September 16, 2003 to shareholders of record on September 2, 2003. The Company paid a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.0492 per common share on December 16, 2003 to shareholders of record on December 2, 2003. The Company paid a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.0545 per common share on March 16, 2004 to shareholders of record on March 3, 2004.

Future declaration of dividends will depend on, among other things, the Company's results of operations, capital requirements, financial condition and on such other factors as the Company's Board of Directors may in its discretion consider relevant and in the best long term interest of the shareholders.

**NOTE 8 STOCK OPTION PLANS**

Under the Company's 1985 Incentive Stock Option Plan (the "1985 Plan"), options to purchase 473,000 shares of the Company's common stock were granted at prices not less than market value at the date of grant. The 1985 Plan expired in October 1995. Options granted under the 1985 Plan could not have a term exceeding ten years. No options representing the right to purchase shares of the Company's common stock remained outstanding under the 1985 Plan at February 28, 2004.

Under the 1995 Stock Option Plan (the "1995 Plan"), the Nonqualified Stock Option Plan for Nonemployee Directors (the "Director's Plan") and the 2000 Nonqualified Stock Option Plan for Nonemployee Directors (the "2000 Director's Plan"), options to purchase up to 660,000, 198,000 and 132,000 shares, respectively, of the Company's common stock may be granted at prices not less than market value at the date of grant. Options granted may not have a term exceeding ten years under the 1995 plan and the Director's Plan. Options granted may not have a term exceeding five years under the 2000 Director's Plan. Options representing the right to purchase 448,580, 22,000 and 70,950 shares of the Company's common stock were outstanding under the 1995 Plan, the Director's Plan, and the 2000 Director's Plan, respectively, at February 29, 2004. Options become exercisable over a one to five year period from the date of the grant. The options outstanding under these plans will expire, if not exercised through March 2012.

The fair value of each option grant is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model utilizing the following weighted average assumptions:

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
Expected dividend yield	3.09%	0%	0%
Expected stock price volatility	30%	40%	40%
Risk-free interest rate	2.4%	4.3%	4.8%
Expected life of options	5 years	5 years	5 years

Information with respect to options outstanding under the Plans at February 29, 2004, and changes for the three years then ended was as follows:

	<b>2004</b>	<b>Weighted Average Exercise Price</b>
	<b>Shares</b>	
Outstanding at beginning of year	759,000	\$ 3.21
Granted	50,050	4.72
Exercised	(267,520)	2.85
Outstanding at end of year	541,530	\$ 3.53
Options exercisable at February 29, 2004	338,910	\$ 3.20

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## NOTE 8 STOCK OPTION PLANS CONTINUED

		<b>2003</b>
	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Weighted Average Exercise Price</b>
Outstanding at beginning of year	716,100	\$ 2.92
Granted	84,700	5.51
Exercised	(41,800)	3.00
Outstanding at end of year	759,000	\$ 3.21
Options exercisable at February 28, 2003	537,460	\$ 3.00

		<b>2002</b>
	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Weighted Average Exercise Price</b>
Outstanding at beginning of year	631,400	\$ 3.09
Granted	172,700	2.88
Exercised	(55,000)	4.30
Forfeited	(33,000)	3.60
Outstanding at end of year	716,100	\$ 2.92
Options exercisable at February 28, 2002	510,400	\$ 3.01
Weighted average fair value per share of options granted during 2004, 2003 and 2002 were \$1.08, \$2.31 and \$1.20, respectively.		

Additional information about stock options outstanding at February 29, 2004 is summarized as follows:

<b>Range of exercise prices</b>	<b>Number outstanding</b>	<b>Options Outstanding Weighted average remaining contractual</b>	<b>Weighted average exercise price</b>
\$1.818 to 2.327	175,450	6.13	\$ 2.23
\$2.386 to 4.097	174,350	3.15	2.74
\$4.445 to 8.182	191,730	7.13	5.43

<b>Range of exercise prices</b>	<b>Options Exercisable Number Exercisable</b>	<b>Weighted average exercise price</b>
\$1.818 to 2.327	107,690	\$2.26
\$2.386 to 4.097	171,600	2.74
\$4.445 to 8.182	59,620	6.21

## NOTE 9 OPERATING SEGMENTS

The Company classifies its business interests into two reportable segments: Franchising and Manufacturing. Previously the Company segregated Retail as a third reportable segment. The Company has phased out its Company-owned store program to eight remaining stores. The remaining stores provide an environment for testing new products and promotions, operating and training methods and merchandising techniques. Company management evaluates these stores in relation to their contribution to franchising efforts. The previously reported Retail segment is now included in the Franchising segment and all previously reported periods have been restated. The accounting policies of the segments are the same as those described in the summary of significant accounting policies in Note 1. The Company evaluates performance and allocates resources based on operating contribution, which excludes unallocated corporate general and administrative costs, provision for loss on accounts and notes receivable and related foreclosure costs and income tax expense or benefit. The Company's reportable segments are strategic businesses that utilize common merchandising, distribution, and marketing functions, as well as common information systems and corporate administration. All inter-segment sales prices are market based. Each segment is managed separately because of the differences in required infrastructure and the difference in products and services:

<b>FY 2004</b>	<b>Franchising</b>	<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total revenues	\$7,029,453	\$15,196,410	\$	\$22,225,863
Intersegment revenues		(1,093,035)		(1,093,035)
Revenue from external customers	7,029,453	14,103,375		21,132,828
Segment profit (loss)	2,270,890	3,846,198	(2,388,717)	3,728,371
Total assets	2,636,145	8,061,324	7,269,776	17,967,245
Capital expenditures	213,072	170,193	86,629	469,894
Total depreciation & amortization	219,742	390,715	185,815	796,272

**Table of Contents****NOTE 9 OPERATING SEGMENTS CONTINUED****FY 2003**

Total revenues	\$5,555,876	\$14,794,847	\$	\$20,350,723
Intersegment revenues		(889,251)		(889,251)
Revenue from external customers	5,555,876	13,905,596		19,461,472
Segment profit (loss)	1,635,959	3,701,220	(3,966,846)	1,370,333
Total assets	2,352,483	8,514,487	5,217,276	16,084,246
Capital expenditures	139,948	216,822	367,360	724,130
Provision for loss on accounts and notes receivable and related foreclosure costs			1,666,524	1,666,524
Total depreciation & amortization	206,923	411,994	196,362	815,279

**FY 2002**

Total revenues	\$5,819,742	\$14,692,696	\$	\$20,512,438
Intersegment revenues		(1,073,361)		(1,073,361)
Revenue from external customers	5,819,742	13,619,335		19,439,077
Segment profit (loss)	1,750,056	3,898,178	(2,440,292)	3,207,942
Total assets	2,009,009	9,310,982	5,475,400	16,795,391
Capital expenditures	139,948	216,822	367,360	724,130
Total depreciation & amortization	272,359	432,714	200,154	905,227

**NOTE 10 SUPPLEMENTAL CASH FLOW INFORMATION**

For the three years ended February 28 or 29:

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
Interest paid	\$144,936	\$ 298,141	\$ 448,384
Income taxes paid	212,393	1,088,692	1,024,208
Non-Cash Investing Activities:			
Company financed sales of retail store asset	\$	\$	\$1,429,317
Dividend payable	236,108		
Fair value of assets received upon foreclosure of notes:			
Tangible store assets			
Held for sale		430,260	
Store to be operated		82,917	
Goodwill		242,083	

**NOTE 11 EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN**

The Company has a 401(k) plan called the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Inc. 401(k) Plan. Eligible participants are permitted to make contributions up to statutory limits. The Company makes a matching contribution, which vests ratably over a 3-year period, and is 25% of the employee's contribution up to a maximum of 1.5% of the employee's compensation. For fiscal 2004, the Company made an additional discretionary contribution by doubling the normal matching. During the years ended February 28 or 29, 2004, 2003 and 2002, the Company's contribution was approximately \$63,000, \$33,000 and \$33,000, respectively, to the plan.

#### NOTE 12 STORE SALES AND FORECLOSURES

In connection with the Company's plans to phase out its Company-owned stores, the Company sold ten Company-owned stores in fiscal 2002 resulting in sales proceeds consisting of cash and notes receivable of approximately \$1.2 million and recognized and deferred gains of approximately \$124,000 and \$386,000, respectively.

In connection with the Company's plans to phase out its Company-owned stores, the Company sold eighteen Company-owned stores in fiscal 2001 resulting in sales proceeds consisting of cash and notes receivable of approximately \$2.3 million and recognized and deferred gains of approximately \$542,000 and \$193,000, respectively.

At February 29, 2004, the Company has \$962,300 of notes receivable outstanding. The notes require monthly payments and bear interest at rates ranging from 7.5% to 12.5%. The notes mature through October 2006 and are secured by the assets financed.

**Table of Contents****NOTE 12 STORE SALES AND FORECLOSURES CONTINUED**

During fiscal 2002 the Company adjusted the repayment schedule of the notes from a single franchisee to correspond to the franchisee's store operating cycles. The Company also financed an additional \$300,000 of inventory and wrote-off \$243,750 of the notes receivable. During fiscal 2003 the Company financed \$230,000 for an additional store for the franchisee. During the third quarter of fiscal 2003 the Company recorded an additional \$1,667,000 provision for potential loss on accounts and notes receivable and foreclosure costs related to the insolvency of this franchisee. In December 2002, the Company foreclosed on four of the stores previously operated by the franchisee and planned to operate one such retail outlet as a Company-owned store and sell three stores to other franchisees (Note 15). At February 28, 2003 the Company has no balance recorded for notes receivable from this franchisee.

**NOTE 13 SUMMARIZED QUARTERLY DATA (UNAUDITED)**

Following is a summary of the quarterly results of operations for the fourth quarter ended February 28 (29), 2004 and 2003:

	<b>Fiscal Quarter</b>				
<b>2004</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Fourth</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total revenue	\$3,926,799	\$5,471,253	\$5,801,058	\$5,933,718	\$21,132,828
Gross margin	1,041,551	1,653,081	1,791,704	1,646,522	6,132,858
Net income	381,137	679,770	630,402	627,737	2,319,046
Basic earnings per share	.09	.16	.15	.15	.55
Diluted earnings per share	.09	.15	.14	.14	.52

	<b>Fiscal Quarter</b>				
<b>2003</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>	<b>Fourth</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total revenue	\$3,972,339	\$5,066,360	\$5,632,577	\$4,790,196	\$19,461,472
Gross margin	1,213,860	1,477,146	1,505,766	1,111,001	5,307,773
Net income (loss)	459,427	615,840	(472,653)	249,734	852,348
Basic earnings (loss) per share	.11	.15	(.11)	.06	.21
Dilute earnings (loss) per share	.10	.14	(.11)	.06	.19

**NOTE 14 GOODWILL AND INTANGIBLE ASSETS**

Effective March 1, 2002 the Company adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 142 (SFAS 142), Goodwill and Intangible Assets. SFAS 142 revised the accounting for purchased goodwill and intangible assets. Under SFAS 142, goodwill and intangible assets with indefinite lives will no longer be amortized, will be tested for impairment annually and also in the event of an impairment indicator, and must be assigned to reporting units for purposes of impairment testing and segment reporting.

The Company has historically amortized goodwill on the straight-line method over ten to twenty-five years. Beginning March 1, 2002, quarterly and annual goodwill amortization is no longer recognized. The Company completed a transitional fair value based impairment test of goodwill as of March 1, 2002. There were no impairment losses resulting from the transitional testing. The Company has three reporting units with goodwill.



Intangible assets consist of the following at February 28 or 29:

	Amortization Period	2004		2003	
		Gross Carrying Value	Accumulated Amortization	Gross Carrying Value	Accumulated Amortization
Intangible assets subject to amortization					
Store design	10 Years	\$ 205,777	\$ 43,508	\$ 189,640	\$ 23,034
	3-5				
Packaging licenses	Years	95,831	73,865	95,831	61,670
Packaging design	10 Years	403,238	88,588	403,238	46,838
Total		704,846	205,961	688,709	131,542
Intangible assets not subject to amortization					
Franchising segment					
Company stores goodwill		1,275,962	336,847	1,182,083	336,847
Franchising goodwill		295,000	197,682	295,000	197,682
Manufacturing segment Goodwill		295,000	197,682	295,000	197,682
Total Goodwill		1,865,962	732,211	1,772,083	732,211
Total intangible assets		\$2,570,808	\$938,172	\$2,460,792	\$863,753

**Table of Contents****NOTE 14 GOODWILL AND INTANGIBLE ASSETS CONTINUED**

Amortization expense related to intangible assets totaled \$74,419 and \$87,498 during the fiscal year ended February 28 or 29, 2004 and 2003. The aggregate estimated amortization expense for intangible assets remaining as of February 29, 2004 is as follows:

2005	\$ 77,800
2006	72,100
2007	61,100
2008	61,100
2009	61,100
Thereafter	165,685
Total	498,885

Net income and earnings per share for the year ended February 28 or 29, 2004, 2003 and 2002 adjusted to exclude goodwill amortization is as follows:

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
Reported net income	\$2,319,046	\$852,348	\$1,995,342
Goodwill amortization, net of tax			73,152
Adjusted net income	\$2,319,046	\$852,348	\$2,068,494
Basic earnings per share:			
Reported net income	\$ .55	\$ .21	\$ .49
Goodwill amortization, net of tax			.02
Adjusted net income	\$ .55	\$ .21	\$ .51
Diluted earnings per share:			
Reported net income	\$ .52	\$ .19	\$ .46
Goodwill amortization, net of tax			.02
Adjusted net income	\$ .52	\$ .19	\$ .48

**NOTE 15 ASSETS HELD FOR SALE**

Assets held for sale consist of individual items of equipment, furniture and fixtures that were acquired in partial satisfaction of certain notes receivable from a franchisee. The notes were originally extended as part of store sales and construction financing of additional stores for the franchisee (Note 12). Management expects to dispose of the acquired assets to either existing franchisees who plan to upgrade or expand their operations or to prospective franchisees. These assets are included in Other for segment reporting. Three operational stores in the amount of \$255,000 previously classified as held for sale were reclassified to property and equipment, net when management's intentions changed in the second quarter of Fiscal 2004.

**NOTE 16 RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS**

In December 2003, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Interpretation 46(R) (FIN 46(R), *Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities*). FIN 46(R) replaces FIN 46 and addresses consolidation by business enterprises of variable interest entities. The provisions of FIN 46(R) are effective for the first reporting period that ends after December 15, 2003 for variable interests in those entities commonly referred to as special-purpose entities. Application of the provisions of FIN 46(R) for all other entities is effective for the first reporting period ending after

March 15, 2004. The Company has no interest in any entity considered a special purpose entity. The Company does not anticipate FIN 46(R) to have a material effect on the Company's financial statements.

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**ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH  
ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

On February 12, 2004 the Company dismissed Grant Thornton LLP as the Company's independent accountant and engaged Ehrhardt Keefe Steiner & Hottman PC as the Company's new independent accountant. The Company hereby incorporates by reference the information contained in its Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on February 17, 2004.

**PART III.**

**ITEM 10. DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT**

Certain information with respect to the executive officers of the Company is set forth in the section entitled "Executive Officers" in Part I of this report.

The information required by this item with respect to directors is incorporated by reference from the information under the caption "Election of Directors" and "Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance" contained in the Company's Proxy Statement for the Company's Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on July 16, 2004 (the "Proxy Statement").

**ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

The information required by this item is incorporated by reference to the information appearing under the caption "Executive Compensation" in the Proxy Statement.

**ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The information required by this item is incorporated by reference to the information appearing under the caption "Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management" in the Proxy Statement.

**ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS**

The information required by this item is incorporated by reference to the information appearing under the caption "Certain Transactions" in the Proxy Statement.

**ITEM 14. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, we have evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures within 90 days of the filing date of this annual report, and, based on their evaluation, our principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded that these controls and procedures are effective. There were no significant changes in our internal controls or in other factors that could significantly affect these controls subsequent to the date of their evaluation. Disclosure controls and procedures are our controls and other procedures

that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

#### **ITEM 15. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES**

The information required by this item is incorporated by reference to the information appearing under the caption Principal Accountant Fees and Services in the Proxy Statement.

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**PART IV.**

**ITEM 16. EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES AND REPORTS ON FORM 8-K**

(a) The following documents are filed as part of this report:

1. Financial Statements

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Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants	24-25
Statements of Income	26
Balance Sheets	27
Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity	28
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2. Financial Statement Schedules

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON SCHEDULES**

Board of Directors and Stockholders  
Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Inc.  
Durango, Colorado

In connection with our audit of the financial statements of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Inc. referred to in our report dated April 23, 2004, which is included in Part II of this Form 10-K, we have also audited Schedule II for the year ended February 29, 2004. In our opinion, this schedule presents fairly, in all material respects, the information required to be set forth therein.

Ehrhardt Keefe Steiner & Hottman PC

April 23, 2004  
Denver, Colorado

**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS ON SCHEDULES**

Board of Directors and Stockholders  
Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Inc.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Inc. referred to in our report dated April 18, 2003, which is included in Part II of this Form 10-K, we have also audited Schedule II for each of the three years in the period ended February 28, 2003. In our opinion, this schedule presents fairly, in all material

respects, the information required to be set forth therein.

GRANT THORNTON LLP

Dallas, Texas

April 18, 2003

**Table of Contents****SCHEDULE II Valuation and Qualifying Accounts**

	<b>Balance at</b>	<b>Additions</b>		<b>Balance at End</b>
	<b>Beginning of</b>	<b>Charged to</b>	<b>Deductions</b>	<b>of</b>
	<b>Period</b>	<b>Costs &amp; Exp.</b>		<b>of Period</b>
Year Ended February 29, 2004				
Valuation Allowance for				
Accounts and Notes Receivable	\$ 114,563	\$ 50,000	\$ 43,928	\$ 120,635
Year Ended February 28, 2003				
Valuation Allowance for				
Accounts and Notes Receivable	298,959	1,754,524	1,938,920	114,563
Year Ended February 28, 2002				
Valuation Allowance for				
Accounts and Notes Receivable	202,544	162,046	65,631	298,959

**3. Exhibits**

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Incorporated by Reference to</b>
3.1	Articles of Incorporation of the Registrant, as amended	Exhibit 3.1 to Current Report on Form 8-K of the Registrant filed on August 1, 1988.
3.2	By-laws of the Registrant, as amended on November 25, 1997	Exhibit 3.2 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of the Registrant for the fiscal year ended February 28, 1998.
4.1	Specimen Common Stock Certificate	Exhibit 4.1 to Current Report on Form 8-K of the Registrant filed on August 1, 1988.
4.2	Credit Agreement dated August 31, 2001 between Wells Fargo Bank and the Registrant	Exhibit 4.1 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of the Registrant for the quarter ended August 31, 2001.
4.3	Change in Terms Agreement dated August 31, 2001 in the amount of \$2,800,000 between Wells Fargo Bank and the Registrant	Exhibit 4.2 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of the Registrant for the quarter ended August 31, 2001.
4.4	Change in Terms Agreement dated August 31, 2001 in the amount of \$2,092,500 between Wells Fargo Bank and the Registrant	Exhibit 4.3 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of the Registrant for the quarter ended August 31, 2001.
4.5	Promissory Note dated August 31, 2001 in the amount of \$2,000,000 between Wells Fargo Bank and the Registrant	Exhibit 4.4 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of the Registrant for the quarter ended August 31, 2001.
4.6		



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Fourth Amendment, dated October 31, 2003, to  
Credit Agreement dated August 31, 2001  
between Wells Fargo Bank and the Registrant

Exhibit 4.1 to the Quarterly Report on form  
10-Q of the Registrant for the quarter ended  
November 30, 2003.

10.1

Form of Stock Option Agreement for the  
Registrant \*

Exhibit 10.3 to the Annual Report on  
Form 10-K of the Registrant for the fiscal  
year ended February 28, 1986.

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3. Exhibits (continued)

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Incorporated by Reference to</b>
10.2	Incentive Stock Option Plan of the Registrant as amended July 27, 1990 *	Exhibit 10.2 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of the Registrant for the fiscal year ended February 28, 1991.
10.3	Form of Employment Agreement between the Registrant and its officers *	Exhibit 99.2 to Schedule on Form 14D9 of the Registrant filed on May 21, 1999.
10.4	Current form of franchise agreement used by the Registrant	Exhibit 10.1 to the Quarterly Report on form 10-Q of the Registrant for the quarter ended May 31, 2003.
10.5	Form of Real Estate Lease between the Registrant as Lessee and franchisee as Sublessee	Exhibit 10.7 to Registration Statement on Form S-18 (Registration No. 33-2016-D).
10.6	Form of Nonqualified Stock Option Agreement for Nonemployee Directors for the Registrant *	Exhibit 10.8 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of the Registrant for the fiscal year ended February 28, 1991.
10.7	Nonqualified Stock Option Plan for Nonemployee Directors dated March 20, 1990 *	Exhibit 10.9 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of the Registrant for the fiscal year ended February 28, 1991.
10.8	1995 Stock Option Plan of the Registrant*	Exhibit 10.9 to Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Registration No. 33-62149) filed August 25, 1995.
10.9	Forms of Incentive Stock Option Agreement for 1995 Stock Option Plan*	Exhibit 10.10 to Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Registration No. 33-62149) filed on August 25, 1995.
10.10	Forms of Nonqualified Stock Option Agreement for 1995 Stock Option Plan*	Exhibit 10.11 to Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Registration No. 33-62149) filed on August 25, 1995.
10.11	Form of Indemnification Agreement between the Registrant and its directors	Exhibit 10.12 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of the Registrant for the fiscal year ended February 28, 1998.
10.12	Form of Indemnification Agreement between the Registrant and its officers	Exhibit 10.13 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of the Registrant for the fiscal year ended February 28, 1998.
10.13		

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	Form of Promissory Note and Stock Pledge Agreement between the Registrant and certain of its officers and directors	Exhibit 10.14 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K of the Registrant for the fiscal year ended February 28, 1998.
10.14	Commodity Contract with Guittard Chocolate Company	Filed herewith.
23.1	Consent of Independent Certified Public Accountants	Filed herewith.

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3. Exhibits (continued)

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Incorporated by Reference to</b>
31.1	Certification Pursuant To Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, Chief Executive Officer	Filed herewith.
31.2	Certification Pursuant TO Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, Chief Financial Officer	Filed herewith.
32.1	Certification Pursuant To Section 906 Of The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, Chief Executive Officer	Filed herewith.
32.2	Certification Pursuant To Section 906 Of The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, Chief Financial Officer	Filed herewith
99.1	Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure	Current Report on Form 8K of the Registrant filed on February 17, 2004 and exhibit 16.1 thereto.

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(b) Reports on Form 8-K.

A report on Form 8-K was filed by the Registrant on January 8, 2004, disclosing Item 12 and Item 7 information. A report on Form 8-K was filed by the Registrant on February 17, 2004, disclosing Item 4 and Item 7 information. No other reports on Form 8-K were filed during the fourth quarter of the year ended February 29, 2004. The Company filed a report on Form 8-K on May 6, 2004 disclosing Item 12 and Item 7 information.

**SIGNATURES**

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

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHOCOLATE  
FACTORY, INC.**

/s/ Bryan J. Merryman  
**BRYAN J. MERRYMAN**  
Chief Operating Officer, Chief  
Financial Officer, Treasurer and  
Director

Date: May 25, 2004

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

Date: May 25, 2004

/s/ Franklin E. Crail  
**FRANKLIN E. CRAIL**  
Chairman of the Board of Directors,  
President, and Director (principal executive  
officer)

Date: May 25, 2004

/s/ Bryan J. Merryman  
**BRYAN J. MERRYMAN**  
Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial  
Officer, Treasurer and Director (principal  
financial and accounting officer)

Date: May 25, 2004

/s/ Gerald A. Kien  
**GERALD A. KIEN**, Director

Date: May 25, 2004

/s/ Lee N. Mortenson  
LEE N. MORTENSON, Director

Date: May 25, 2004

/s/ Fred M. Trainor  
FRED M. TRAINOR, Director

Date: May 25, 2004

/s/ Clyde Wm. Engle  
CLYDE Wm. ENGLE, Director

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