

AARON'S INC  
Form 10-Q  
May 04, 2010

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

**þ QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES  
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
FOR THE QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2010  
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 1-13941**

**AARON S, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Georgia**

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**58-0687630**

(I. R. S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**309 E. Paces Ferry Road, N.E.**

**Atlanta, Georgia**

(Address of principal executive offices)

**30305-2377**

(Zip Code)

**(404) 231-0011**

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

**Not Applicable**

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulations S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes ☐ No ☐

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

Large Accelerated Filer ☐ Accelerated Filer ☐

Non-Accelerated Filer ☐

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller

Reporting

Company ☐

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

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

**Shares Outstanding as of**

<b>Title of Each Class</b>	<b>May 3, 2010</b>
Common Stock, \$.50 Par Value	69,849,650
Class A Common Stock, \$.50 Par Value	11,635,056

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**AARON S, INC.**

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CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

	<b>(Unaudited) March 31, 2010</b>	<b>December 31, 2009</b>
	<b>(In Thousands, Except Share Data)</b>	
<b>ASSETS:</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 112,667	\$ 109,685
Accounts Receivable (net of allowances of \$3,067 in 2010 and \$4,157 in 2009)	65,141	66,095
Lease Merchandise	1,175,665	1,122,954
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(428,698)	(440,552)
	746,967	682,402
Property, Plant and Equipment, Net	193,953	215,183
Goodwill, Net	197,309	194,376
Other Intangibles, Net	4,919	5,200
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	40,559	36,082
Assets Held For Sale	12,214	12,433
Total Assets	\$ 1,373,729	\$ 1,321,456
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY:</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 205,876	\$ 177,284
Deferred Income Taxes Payable	152,895	163,670
Customer Deposits and Advance Payments	33,470	38,198
Credit Facilities	56,560	55,044
Total Liabilities	448,801	434,196
Shareholders' Equity:		
Common Stock, Par Value \$.50 Per Share; Authorized: 100,000,000 Shares; Shares Issued: 72,659,403 at March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009	36,330	36,330
Class A Common Stock, Par Value \$.50 Per Share; Authorized: 25,000,000 Shares; Shares Issued: 18,095,784 at March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009	9,048	9,048
Additional Paid-in Capital	198,063	196,669
Retained Earnings	730,688	694,689
Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	219	(101)
	974,348	936,635
Less: Treasury Shares at Cost,	(18,248)	(18,203)

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Common Stock, 2,819,786 Shares at March 31, 2010 and 2,937,321 Shares  
at December 31, 2009

Class A Common Stock, 6,460,676 Shares at March 31, 2010 and  
December 31, 2009

	(31,172)	(31,172)
Total Shareholders' Equity	924,928	887,260
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	\$ 1,373,729	\$ 1,321,456

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the Consolidated Financial Statements

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**AARON S, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EARNINGS**  
(Unaudited)

	<b>Three Months Ended March 31,</b>	
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
	<b>(In Thousands, Except Share Data)</b>	
<b>REVENUES:</b>		
Lease Revenues and Fees	\$ 366,697	\$ 344,502
Retail Sales	15,086	15,875
Non-Retail Sales	96,076	92,966
Franchise Royalties and Fees	14,927	13,107
Other	2,483	7,500
	495,269	473,950
<b>COSTS AND EXPENSES:</b>		
Retail Cost of Sales	8,962	9,405
Non-Retail Cost of Sales	87,363	84,312
Operating Expenses	206,459	196,517
Depreciation of Lease Merchandise	132,080	125,204
Interest	843	1,276
	435,707	416,714
<b>EARNINGS FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS BEFORE INCOME TAXES</b>	59,562	57,236
<b>INCOME TAXES</b>	22,587	21,876
<b>NET EARNINGS FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS</b>	36,975	35,360
<b>LOSS FROM DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS, NET OF TAX</b>		(209)
<b>NET EARNINGS</b>	\$ 36,975	\$ 35,151
<b>EARNINGS PER SHARE FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS:</b>		
Basic	\$ .45	\$ .44
Assuming Dilution	.45	.43
<b>EARNINGS PER SHARE FROM DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS:</b>		
Basic	\$ .00	\$ .00

Assuming Dilution	.00	.00
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**CASH DIVIDENDS DECLARED PER SHARE:**

Common Stock	\$ .012	\$ .011
Class A Common Stock	.012	.011

**WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING:**

Basic	81,399	80,648
Assuming Dilution	82,148	81,549

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the Consolidated Financial Statements

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**AARON S, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**  
(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
	(In Thousands)	
<b>CONTINUING OPERATIONS:</b>		
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Net Earnings from Continuing Operations	\$ 36,975	\$ 35,360
Depreciation of Lease Merchandise	132,080	125,204
Other Depreciation and Amortization	11,529	11,416
Additions to Lease Merchandise	(300,955)	(245,419)
Book Value of Lease Merchandise Sold or Disposed	106,052	101,644
Change in Deferred Income Taxes	(10,775)	8,709
Loss on Sale of Property, Plant, and Equipment	158	323
Gain on Asset Dispositions		(5,663)
Change in Income Tax Receivable, Included in Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	(3,336)	10,360
Change in Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	28,856	(14,592)
Change in Accounts Receivable	954	837
Excess Tax Benefits from Stock-Based Compensation	(200)	(1,715)
Change in Other Assets	(1,404)	6,488
Change in Customer Deposits and Advanced Payments	(4,728)	(211)
Stock-Based Compensation	1,170	1,025
Other Changes, Net	451	679
Cash (Used in) Provided by Operating Activities	(3,173)	34,445
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Additions to Property, Plant and Equipment	(16,216)	(17,143)
Acquisitions of Businesses and Contracts	(5,300)	(8,469)
Proceeds from Sales of Property, Plant, and Equipment	26,883	2,851
Proceeds from Dispositions of Businesses and Contracts		20,810
Cash Provided by (Used in) Investing Activities	5,367	(1,951)
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Proceeds from Credit Facilities	2,428	22,980
Repayments on Credit Facilities	(912)	(58,952)
Dividends Paid	(976)	(1,827)
Acquisition of Treasury Stock	(968)	
Excess Tax Benefits from Stock-Based Compensation	200	1,715
Issuance of Stock Under Stock Option Plans	1,016	2,360
Cash Provided by (Used in) Financing Activities	788	(33,724)

**DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS:**

Operating Activities		(209)
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Cash Used in Discontinued Operations		(209)
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Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	2,982	(1,439)
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Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Period	109,685	7,376
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Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Period	\$ 112,667	\$ 5,937
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of the Consolidated Financial Statements

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**AARON S, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
(Unaudited)

**Note A Basis of Presentation**

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Aaron s, Inc. (the Company ) and its wholly owned subsidiaries. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated.

The consolidated balance sheet as of March 31, 2010, the consolidated statements of earnings for the quarters ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, and the consolidated statements of cash flows for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, are unaudited. The preparation of interim consolidated financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in these financial statements and accompanying notes. Management does not believe these estimates or assumptions will change significantly in the future absent unsurfaced and unforeseen events. Generally, actual experience has been consistent with management s prior estimates and assumptions; however, actual results could differ from those estimates.

On March 23, 2010 the Company announced a 3-for-2 stock split effected in the form of a 50% stock dividend on both Common Stock and Class A Common Stock. New shares were distributed on April 15, 2010 to shareholders of record as of the close of business on April 1, 2010. All share and per share information has been restated for all periods presented to reflect this stock split.

Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States have been condensed or omitted. In the opinion of management, all adjustments (generally consisting of normal recurring accruals) considered necessary for a fair presentation have been included in the accompanying financial statements. We suggest you read these financial statements in conjunction with the financial statements and notes thereto included in the Company s Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for the year ended December 31, 2009. The results of operations for the quarter ended March 31, 2010 are not necessarily indicative of operating results for the full year. Certain reclassifications have been made to the prior periods to conform to the current period presentation. In all periods presented, Aaron s Office Furniture was reclassified from the Sales and Lease Ownership Segment to the Other Segment. Refer to Note D for the segment disclosure. Certain assets have been reclassified as held for sale in all periods presented.

*Accounting Policies and Estimates*

See Note A to the consolidated financial statements in the 2009 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

*Cash and Cash Equivalents*

Cash and cash equivalents include all highly liquid investments with maturity dates of less than three months when purchased.

*Lease Merchandise*

See Note A Rental Merchandise to the consolidated financial statements in the 2009 Annual Report on Form 10-K. Lease merchandise adjustments for the three month periods ended March 31 were \$9.6 million in 2010 and \$7.9 million in 2009. These charges are recorded as a component of operating expenses under the allowance method, which includes losses incurred but not yet identified.

*Goodwill and Other Intangibles*

During the three months ended March 31, 2010 the Company recorded \$2.9 million in goodwill, \$265,000 in customer relationship intangibles, \$130,000 in non-compete intangibles, and \$143,000 in acquired franchise development rights in connection with a series of acquisitions of sales and lease ownership businesses. Customer relationship intangibles are amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives of two years. Other intangible assets are amortized using the straight-line method over the life of the asset. Amortization expense was \$791,000 and \$1.0 million for the three month periods ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively. The aggregate purchase price for these asset acquisitions totaled \$5.3 million, with the principal tangible assets acquired consisting of lease merchandise and certain fixtures and equipment. These purchase price allocations are tentative and preliminary; the Company anticipates finalizing them prior to December 31, 2010. The results of operations of the acquired businesses are included in the Company s results of operations from the dates of acquisition and are not significant.



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### *Stock Compensation*

See Note H to the consolidated financial statements in the 2009 Annual Report on Form 10-K. The results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009 include \$716,000 and \$618,000, respectively, in compensation expense related to unvested stock option grants. The results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009 include \$454,000 and \$407,000, respectively, in compensation expense related to restricted stock awards. The Company granted 347,250 stock options and 300,000 restricted stock unit awards ( RSUs ) in the three months ended March 31, 2010. The Company did not grant stock options or restricted stock or RSU awards in the three months ended March 31, 2009. Approximately 20,000 and 454,000 options were exercised during the three month period ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively and 146,000 restricted stock awards vested on February 28, 2010. The aggregate number of shares of common stock that may be issued or transferred under the incentive stock awards plan is 11,127,750.

The RSUs awarded during the three month period ended March 31, 2010 settle in shares of the Company's Class A Common Stock, par value \$0.50 per share. Prior awards were in the form of, or exercisable for, shares of the Company's Common Stock, par value \$0.50 per share. The 2001 Aaron's, Inc. Stock Option and Incentive Award Plan was recently amended to allow for the issuance of Class A shares, which amendment is subject to shareholder approval at the Company's 2011 annual meeting of shareholders. Therefore the recent RSU awards are subject to approval of the plan amendment at the 2011 meeting. The Company believes that the shareholder approval of the amendment is perfunctory, as R. Charles Loudermilk, Sr., Chairman of the Board, holds more than 50% of the shares eligible to vote.

### *Deferred Compensation*

Effective July 1, 2009, the Company implemented the Aaron's, Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan (the Plan ) an unfunded, nonqualified deferred compensation plan for a select group of management, highly compensated employees and non-employee directors. On a pre-tax basis, eligible employees can defer receipt of up to 75% of their base compensation and up to 100% of their incentive pay compensation, and eligible non-employee directors can defer receipt of up to 100% of both their cash and stock director fees. In addition, the Company may elect to make restoration matching contributions on behalf of eligible employees to compensate for certain limitations on the amount of matching contributions an employee can receive under the Company's tax-qualified 401(k) plan.

Compensation deferred under the Plan is credited to each participant's deferral account and a deferred compensation liability is recorded in accounts payable and accrued expenses in our consolidated balance sheets. The deferred compensation plan liability was approximately \$1.7 million as of March 31, 2010. Liabilities under the Plan are recorded at amounts due to participants, based on the fair value of participants' selected investments. The Company has established a Rabbi Trust to fund obligations under the Plan with Company-owned life insurance ( COLI ) contracts. The obligations are unsecured general obligations of the Company and the participants have no right, interest or claim in the assets of the Company, except as unsecured general creditors. The cash surrender value of these policies totaled \$1.6 million as of March 31, 2010 and is included in prepaid expenses and other assets in the consolidated balance sheets.

Deferred compensation expense charged to operations for the Company's matching contributions totaled \$128,000 in the three month period ended March 31, 2010. No benefits have been paid as of March 31, 2010.

### *Income Taxes*

The Company files a federal consolidated income tax return in the United States, and the parent company and its subsidiaries file in various states and foreign jurisdictions. With few exceptions, the Company is no longer subject to federal, state and local tax examinations by tax authorities for years before 2006.

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As of March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, the amount of uncertain tax benefits that, if recognized, would affect the effective tax rate is \$1.2 million and \$1.1 million, respectively, including interest and penalties. The Company recognizes potential interest and penalties related to uncertain tax benefits as a component of income tax expense.

*Fair Value of Financial Instruments*

The fair values of the Company's cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable and accounts payable approximate their carrying amounts due to their short-term nature. At March 31, 2010, the fair value of fixed rate long-term debt approximated its carrying value.

*Earnings Per Share*

Earnings per share is computed by dividing net earnings by the weighted average number of Common Stock and Class A Common Stock outstanding during the period. The computation of earnings per share assuming dilution includes the dilutive effect of stock options and awards. Such stock options and awards had the effect of increasing the weighted average shares outstanding assuming dilution by approximately 749,000 and 777,000 for the three month period ended at March 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

The Company has a restricted stock plan in which shares are issuable upon satisfaction of certain performance and/or service conditions. The effect of unvested restricted stock was to increase weighted average shares outstanding assuming dilution by 125,000 for the three month period ended at March 31, 2009. There was no impact of unvested restricted stock on the weighted average shares outstanding assuming dilution at March 31, 2010.

*Derivative Financial Instruments*

The Company utilizes derivative financial instruments to mitigate its exposure to certain market risks associated with its ongoing operations. The primary risk it seeks to manage through the use of derivative financial instruments is commodity price risk, including the risk of increases in the market price of diesel fuel used in our delivery vehicles. All derivative financial instruments are recorded at fair value on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. The Company does not use derivative financial instruments for trading or speculative purposes. The Company is exposed to counterparty credit risk on all of our derivative financial instruments. The counterparties to these contracts are high credit quality commercial banks, which the Company believes largely minimize the risk of counterparty default. The impact of our fuel hedge was immaterial for the first three months of 2010.

*Assets Held for Sale*

Certain properties, primarily consisting of parcels of land met the held for sale classification criteria at March 31, 2010. After adjustment to fair value, the \$12.2 million carrying value of these properties has been included within assets held for sale in the consolidated balance sheet as of March 31, 2010. The Company estimated the fair value of these properties using the market values for similar properties.

*New Accounting Pronouncements*

The pronouncements that the Company adopted in the first quarter of 2010 did not have a material impact on the consolidated financial statements.

**Note B Credit Facilities**

See Note D to the consolidated financial statements in the 2009 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

**Note C Comprehensive Income**

Comprehensive income is comprised of the net earnings of the Company and foreign currency translation adjustments net of income taxes, as summarized below:

(In Thousands)	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
Net earnings	\$ 36,975	\$ 35,151
Other comprehensive income:		
Foreign currency translation adjustment	320	(269)
Comprehensive income	\$ 37,295	\$ 34,882



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(In Thousands)	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2010	2009
<b>Revenues From External Customers:</b>		
Sales and Lease Ownership	\$ 473,498	\$ 457,405
Franchise	14,927	13,026
Manufacturing	25,020	23,572
Other	4,895	5,957
Revenues of Reportable Segments	518,340	499,960
Elimination of Intersegment Revenues	(25,210)	(23,760)
Cash to Accrual Adjustments	2,139	(2,250)
Total Revenues from External Customers from Continuing Operations	\$ 495,269	\$ 473,950
<b>Earnings Before Income Taxes:</b>		
Sales and Lease Ownership	\$ 45,743	\$ 49,526
Franchise	11,530	9,384
Manufacturing	1,197	1,502
Other	(813)	(206)
Earnings Before Income Taxes for Reportable Segments	57,657	60,206
Elimination of Intersegment Profit	(1,199)	(1,505)
Cash to Accrual and Other Adjustments	3,104	(1,465)
Total Earnings from Continuing Operations Before Income Taxes	\$ 59,562	\$ 57,236

Earnings from continuing operations before income taxes for each reportable segment are determined in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States with the following adjustments:

Sales and lease ownership revenues are reported on a cash basis for management reporting purposes.

A predetermined amount of each reportable segment's revenues is charged to the reportable segment as an allocation of corporate overhead. This allocation was approximately 2% in 2009 and 2008.

Accruals related to store closures are not recorded on the reportable segment's financial statements, as they are maintained and controlled by corporate headquarters.

The capitalization and amortization of manufacturing and distribution variances are recorded in the consolidated financial statements as part of Cash to Accrual and Other Adjustments and are not allocated to the segment that holds the related lease merchandise.

Advertising expense in the sales and lease ownership division is estimated at the beginning of each year and then allocated to the division ratably over time for management reporting purposes. For financial reporting purposes, advertising expense is recognized when the related advertising activities occur. The difference between these two methods is recorded as part of Cash to Accrual and Other Adjustments.

Sales and lease ownership lease merchandise write-offs are recorded using the direct write-off method for management reporting purposes. For financial reporting purposes, the allowance method is used and is recorded as part of Cash to Accrual and Other Adjustments.

Interest on borrowings is estimated at the beginning of each year. Interest is then allocated to operating segments on the basis of relative total assets.

Revenues in the Other category are primarily revenues of the Aaron's Office Furniture division, from leasing space to unrelated third parties in the corporate headquarters building and revenues from several minor unrelated activities. The pre-tax losses in the Other category are the net result of the activity mentioned above, net of the portion of corporate overhead not allocated to the reportable segments for management purposes.

**Note E Commitments**

The Company leases warehouse and retail store space for substantially all of its operations under operating leases expiring at various times through 2029. Most of the leases contain renewal options for additional periods ranging from one to 15 years or provide for options to purchase the related property at predetermined purchase prices that do not represent bargain purchase options. The Company also leases transportation and computer equipment under operating leases expiring during the next five years. The Company expects that most leases will be renewed or replaced by other leases in the normal course of business.

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The Company has guaranteed the borrowings of certain independent franchisees under a franchise loan program with several banks. In the event these franchisees are unable to meet their debt service payments or otherwise experience an event of default, the Company would be unconditionally liable for the outstanding balance of the franchisees' debt obligations under the franchise loan program, which would be due in full within 90 days of the event of default. At March 31, 2010, the portion that the Company might be obligated to repay in the event franchisees defaulted was \$132.5 million. Of this amount, approximately \$124.4 million represents franchise borrowings outstanding under the franchise loan program and approximately \$8.1 million represents franchise borrowings under other debt facilities. Due to franchisee borrowing limits, management believes any losses associated with any defaults would be mitigated through recovery of lease merchandise as well as the associated lease agreements and other assets. Since its inception in 1994, the Company has had no significant losses associated with the franchisee loan and guaranty program. The Company has no long-term commitments to purchase merchandise. At March 31, 2010, the Company had non-cancelable commitments primarily related to certain advertising and marketing programs of \$20.1 million. The Company is a party to various claims and legal proceedings arising in the ordinary course of business. The Company regularly assesses its insurance deductibles, analyzes litigation information with its attorneys and evaluates its loss experience. The Company also enters into various contracts in the normal course of business that may subject it to risk of financial loss if counterparties fail to perform their contractual obligations. The Company does not believe its exposure to loss under any claims is probable nor can the Company estimate a range of amounts of loss that are reasonably possible. The Company's requirement to record or disclose potential losses under generally accepted accounting principles could change in the near term depending upon changes in facts and circumstances. See Note F to the consolidated financial statements in the 2009 Annual Report on Form 10-K for further information.

**Note F Related Party Transactions**

The Company leases certain properties under capital leases from certain related parties that are described in Note D to the consolidated financial statements in the 2009 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

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**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The Board of Directors

Aaron's, Inc.

We have reviewed the consolidated balance sheet of Aaron's, Inc. and subsidiaries as of March 31, 2010, and the related consolidated statements of earnings and cash flows for the three-month periods ended March 31, 2010 and 2009. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management.

We conducted our review in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). A review of interim financial information consists principally of applying analytical procedures and making inquiries of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters. It is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the consolidated financial statements referred to above for them to be in conformity with US generally accepted accounting principles.

We have previously audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheet of Aaron's, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2009, and the related consolidated statements of earnings, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for the year then ended not presented herein and in our report dated February 26, 2010, we expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements. In our opinion, the information set forth in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2009, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the consolidated balance sheet from which it has been derived.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Atlanta, Georgia

May 4, 2010

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

*Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Information: Except for historical information contained herein, the matters set forth in this Form 10-Q are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements involve a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from any such statements, including risks and uncertainties associated with our growth strategy, competition, trends in corporate spending, our franchise program, government regulation and the other risks and uncertainties discussed under Item 1A, Risk Factors, in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the Year Ended December 31, 2009, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and in the Company's other public filings.*

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements as of and for the three months ended March 31, 2010, including the notes to those statements, appearing elsewhere in this report. We also suggest that management's discussion and analysis appearing in this report be read in conjunction with the management's discussion and analysis and consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009.

**Overview**

Aaron's, Inc. is a leading specialty retailer of consumer electronics, computers, office furniture, household appliances and accessories. Our major operating divisions are the Aaron's Sales & Lease Ownership Division and the MacTavish Furniture Industries Division, which manufactures and supplies nearly one-half of the furniture and related accessories leased and sold in our stores.

Aaron's has demonstrated strong revenue growth over the last three years. Total revenues have increased from \$1.395 billion in 2007 to \$1.753 billion in 2009, representing a compound annual growth rate of 12.1%. Total revenues from operations for the three months ended March 31, 2010, were \$495.3 million, an increase of \$21.3 million, or 4.5%, over the comparable period in 2009.

Most of our growth comes from the opening of new sales and lease ownership stores and increases in same store revenues from previously opened stores. We spend on average approximately \$600,000 to \$700,000 in the first year of operation of a new store, which includes purchases of lease merchandise, investments in leasehold improvements and financing first year start-up costs. Our new sales and lease ownership stores typically achieve revenues of approximately \$1.1 million in their third year of operation. Our comparable stores open more than three years normally achieve approximately \$1.4 million in revenues per store, which we believe represents a higher per store revenue volume than the typical rent-to-own store. Most of our stores are cash flow positive in the second year of operations following their opening.

We believe that the decline in the number of furniture stores, the limited number of retailers that focus on credit installment sales to lower and middle income consumers and increased consumer credit constraints during the current economic downturn have created a market opportunity for our unique sales and lease ownership concept. The traditional retail consumer durable goods market is much larger than the lease market, leaving substantial potential for growth for our sales and lease ownership division. We believe that the segment of the population targeted by our sales and lease ownership division comprises approximately 50% of all households in the United States and that the needs of these consumers are generally underserved. However, although we believe our business is recession-resistant, with those who are no longer able to access consumer credit becoming new customers of Aaron's, there can be no guarantee that if the current economic downturn deepens or continues for an extensive period of time that our customer base will not curtail spending on household merchandise.

We also use our franchise program to help us expand our sales and lease ownership concept more quickly and into more areas than we otherwise would by opening only Company-operated stores. Franchise royalties and other related fees represent a growing source of high margin revenue for us, accounting for approximately \$52.9 million of revenues in 2009, up from \$38.8 million in 2007, representing a compounded annual growth rate of 16.8%. Total revenues from franchise royalties and fees for the three months ended March 31, 2010, were \$14.9 million, an increase of \$1.8 million, or 13.9%, over the comparable period in 2009.

*Same Store Revenues.* We believe the changes in same store revenues are a key performance indicator. For the three months ended March 31, 2010, we calculated this amount by comparing revenues for the three months ended

March 31, 2010 to revenues for the comparable period in 2009 for all stores open for the entire 15-month period ended March 31, 2010, excluding stores that received lease agreements from other acquired, closed, or merged stores.

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### **Key Components of Earnings**

In this management's discussion and analysis section, we review the Company's consolidated results.

*Revenues.* We separate our total revenues into five components: lease revenues and fees, retail sales, non-retail sales, franchise royalties and fees, and other. Lease revenues and fees includes all revenues derived from lease agreements from our sales and lease ownership and office furniture stores, including agreements that result in our customers acquiring ownership at the end of the term. Retail sales represent sales of both new and lease return merchandise from our sales and lease ownership and office furniture stores. Non-retail sales mainly represent new merchandise sales to our sales and lease ownership division franchisees. Franchise royalties and fees represent fees from the sale of franchise rights and royalty payments from franchisees, as well as other related income from our franchised stores. Other revenues include, at times, income from gains on sales of sales and lease ownership businesses and other miscellaneous revenues.

*Cost of Sales.* We separate our cost of sales into two components: retail and non-retail. Retail cost of sales represents the original or depreciated cost of merchandise sold through our Company-operated stores. Non-retail cost of sales primarily represents the cost of merchandise sold to our franchisees.

*Operating Expenses.* Operating expenses include personnel costs, selling costs, occupancy costs, and delivery costs, among other expenses.

*Depreciation of Lease Merchandise.* Depreciation of lease merchandise reflects the expense associated with depreciating merchandise leased to customers and held for lease by our Company-operated sales and lease ownership and office furniture stores.

### **Critical Accounting Policies**

*Revenue Recognition.* Lease revenues are recognized in the month they are due on the accrual basis of accounting. For internal management reporting purposes, lease revenues from the sales and lease ownership division are recognized as revenue in the month the cash is collected. On a monthly basis, we record a deferral of revenue for lease payments received prior to the month due and an accrual for lease revenues due but not yet received, net of allowances. Our revenue recognition accounting policy matches the lease revenue with the corresponding costs, mainly depreciation, associated with the lease merchandise. As of March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, we had a revenue deferral representing cash collected in advance of being due or otherwise earned totaling \$32.5 million and \$37.4 million, respectively, and an accrued revenue receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts, based on historical collection rates of \$3.5 million and \$5.3 million, respectively. Revenues from the sale of merchandise to franchisees are recognized at the time of receipt by the franchisee, and revenues from such sales to other customers are recognized at the time of shipment.

*Lease Merchandise.* Our sales and lease ownership division depreciates merchandise over the applicable agreement period, generally 12 to 24 months when leased, and 36 months when not leased, to 0% salvage value. Our office furniture stores depreciate merchandise over its estimated useful life, which ranges from 24 months to 48 months, net of salvage value, which ranges from 0% to 30%. Sales and lease ownership merchandise is generally depreciated at a faster rate than our office furniture merchandise. Our policies require weekly lease merchandise counts by store managers and write-offs for unsalable, damaged, or missing merchandise inventories. Full physical inventories are generally taken at our fulfillment and manufacturing facilities two to four times a year with appropriate provisions made for missing, damaged and unsalable merchandise. In addition, we monitor lease merchandise levels and mix by division, store and fulfillment center, as well as the average age of merchandise on hand. If unsalable lease merchandise cannot be returned to vendors, its carrying value is adjusted to net realizable value or written off. All lease merchandise is available for lease and sale, excluding merchandise determined to be missing, damaged or unsalable.

We record lease merchandise carrying value adjustments on the allowance method, which estimates the merchandise losses incurred but not yet identified by management as of the end of the accounting period. Lease merchandise adjustments for the three month periods ended March 31 were \$9.6 million in 2010 and \$7.9 million in 2009.



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*Leases and Closed Store Reserves.* The majority of our Company-operated stores are operated from leased facilities under operating lease agreements. The majority of the leases are for periods that do not exceed five years, although lease terms range in length up to 15 years. Leasehold improvements related to these leases are generally amortized over periods that do not exceed the lesser of the lease term or five years. While some of our leases do not require escalating payments, for the leases which do contain such provisions we record the related lease expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term. We do not generally obtain significant amounts of lease incentives or allowances from landlords. Any incentive or allowance amounts we receive are recognized ratably over the lease term. From time to time, we close or consolidate stores. Our primary costs associated with closing or consolidating stores are the future lease payments and related commitments. We record an estimate of the future obligation related to closed or consolidated stores based upon the present value of the future lease payments and related commitments, net of estimated sublease income which we base upon historical experience. As of March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, our reserve for closed or consolidated stores was \$3.5 million and \$2.3 million, respectively. Due to changes in the market conditions, our estimates related to sublease income may change and as a result, our actual liability may be more or less than the liability recorded at March 31, 2010.

*Insurance Programs.* Aaron's maintains insurance contracts to fund workers compensation, vehicle liability, general liability and group health insurance claims. Using actuarial analysis and projections, we estimate the liabilities associated with open and incurred but not reported workers compensation, vehicle liability and general liability claims. This analysis is based upon an assessment of the likely outcome or historical experience, net of any stop loss or other supplementary coverage. We also calculate the projected outstanding plan liability for our group health insurance program. Our gross liability for workers compensation insurance claims, vehicle liability, general liability and group health insurance was estimated at \$24.0 million and \$22.5 million at March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, respectively. In addition, we have prefunding balances on deposit with the insurance carriers of \$20.8 million and \$19.8 million at March 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, respectively.

If we resolve insurance claims for amounts that are in excess of our current estimates and within policy stop loss limits, we will be required to pay additional amounts beyond those accrued at March 31, 2010.

The assumptions and conditions described above reflect management's best assumptions and estimates, but these items involve inherent uncertainties as described above, which may or may not be controllable by management. As a result, the accounting for such items could result in different amounts if management used different assumptions or if different conditions occur in future periods.

*Income Taxes.* The calculation of our income tax expense requires significant judgment and the use of estimates. We periodically assess tax positions based on current tax developments, including enacted statutory, judicial and regulatory guidance. In analyzing our overall tax position, consideration is given to the amount and timing of recognizing income tax liabilities and benefits. In applying the tax and accounting guidance to the facts and circumstances, income tax balances are adjusted appropriately through the income tax provision. Reserves for income tax uncertainties are maintained at levels we believe are adequate to absorb probable payments. Actual amounts paid, if any, could differ significantly from these estimates.

We use the liability method of accounting for income taxes. Under this method, deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. Valuation allowances are established, when necessary, to reduce deferred tax assets when we expect the amount of tax benefit to be realized is less than the carrying value of the deferred tax asset.

**Table of Contents****Results of Operations****Three months ended March 31, 2010 compared with three months ended March 31, 2009**

The following table shows key selected financial data for the three month periods ended March 31, 2010 and 2009, and the changes in dollars and as a percentage to 2010 from 2009:

<b>(In Thousands)</b>	<b>Three Months Ended March 31, 2010</b>	<b>Three Months Ended March 31, 2009</b>	<b>Dollar Increase/ (Decrease) to 2010 from 2009</b>	<b>% Increase/ (Decrease) to 2010 from 2009</b>
<b>REVENUES:</b>				
Lease Revenues and Fees	\$ 366,697	\$ 344,502	\$ 22,195	6.4%
Retail Sales	15,086	15,875	(789)	(5.0)
Non-Retail Sales	96,076	92,966	3,110	3.3
Franchise Royalties and Fees	14,927	13,107	1,820	13.9
Other	2,483	7,500	(5,017)	(66.9)
	495,269	473,950	21,319	4.5
<b>COSTS AND EXPENSES:</b>				
Retail Cost of Sales	8,962	9,405	(443)	(4.7)
Non-Retail Cost of Sales	87,363	84,312	3,051	3.6
Operating Expenses	206,459	196,517	9,942	5.1
Depreciation of Lease Merchandise	132,080	125,204	6,876	5.5
Interest	843	1,276	(433)	(33.9)
	435,707	416,714	18,993	4.6
<b>EARNINGS FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS BEFORE INCOME TAXES</b>	59,562	57,236	2,326	4.1
<b>INCOME TAXES</b>	22,587	21,876	711	3.3
<b>NET EARNINGS FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS</b>	36,975	35,360	1,615	4.6
<b>NET LOSS FROM DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS</b>		(209)	209	(100.0)
<b>NET EARNINGS</b>	\$ 36,975	\$ 35,151	\$ 1,824	5.2%

*Revenues.* The 4.5% increase in total revenues, to \$495.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2010, from \$474.0 million in the comparable period in 2009, was due mainly to a \$22.2 million, or 6.4%, increase in lease revenues and fees. The \$22.2 million increase in lease revenues and fees was attributable to our sales and lease ownership division, which had a 4.4% increase in same store revenues during the first quarter of 2010.

The 5.0% decrease in revenues from retail sales, to \$15.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2010 from \$15.9 million in the comparable period in 2009, was due to decreased demand.

The 3.3% increase in non-retail sales (which mainly represents merchandise sold to our franchisees), to \$96.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2010, from \$93.0 million for the comparable period in 2009, was due to the growth of our franchise operations and our distribution network. The total number of franchised sales and lease ownership stores at March 31, 2010 was 602, reflecting a net addition of 63 stores since March 31, 2009.

The 13.9% increase in franchise royalties and fees, to \$14.9 million for the three months ended March 31, 2010, from \$13.1 million for the comparable period in 2009, primarily reflects an increase in royalty income from franchisees, increasing 17.9% to \$12.5 million for the three months ended March 31, 2010, compared to \$10.6 million for the three months ended March 31, 2009. The increase in royalty income is due primarily to the growth in the number of franchised stores and same store growth in the revenues of existing stores.

Other revenues decreased 66.9% to \$2.5 million for the three months ended March 31, 2010, from \$7.5 million for the comparable period in 2009. Included in other revenues for the three months ended March 31, 2009, is a \$5.7 million gain on sales of Company-operated stores.

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*Cost of Sales.* Retail cost of sales decreased 4.7% to \$9.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2010, compared to \$9.4 million for the comparable period in 2009, and as a percentage of retail sales, increased slightly to 59.4% in 2010 from 59.2% in 2009.

Non-retail cost of sales increased 3.6% to \$87.4 million for the three months ended March 31, 2010, from \$84.3 million for the comparable period in 2009, and as a percentage of non-retail sales, increased slightly to 90.9% from 90.7%.

*Expenses.* Operating expenses for the three months ended March 31, 2010, increased \$9.9 million to \$206.5 million from \$196.5 million for the comparable period in 2009, a 5.1% increase. As a percentage of total revenues, operating expenses were 41.7% for the three months ended March 31, 2010, and 41.5% for the comparable period in 2009. Operating expenses increased as a percentage of total revenues for the three months ended March 31, 2010 mainly due to the addition of 69 Company-operated sales and lease ownership stores since March 31, 2009 and increased advertising expenses.

Depreciation of lease merchandise increased \$6.9 million to \$132.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2010, from \$125.2 million during the comparable period in 2009, a 5.5% increase. As a percentage of total lease revenues and fees, depreciation of lease merchandise was 36.0% and 36.3%, for the three months ended March 31, 2010, and 2009, respectively.

Interest expense decreased to \$843,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2010, compared with \$1.3 million for the comparable period in 2009, a 33.9% decrease. The decrease in interest expense was due to lower debt levels during the first quarter of 2010.

Income tax expense increased \$711,000 to \$22.6 million for the three months ended March 31, 2010, compared with \$21.9 million for the comparable period in 2009, representing a 3.3% increase. Aaron's effective tax rate was 37.9% in 2010 and 38.2% in 2009.

*Net Earnings from Continuing Operations.* Net earnings increased \$1.6 million to \$37.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2010, compared with \$35.4 million for the comparable period in 2009, representing a 4.6% increase. As a percentage of total revenues, net earnings from continuing operations were 7.5% for the three months ended March 31, 2010, and 2009. The increase in net earnings was primarily the result of the maturing of new Company-operated sales and lease ownership stores added over the past several years, contributing to a 4.4% increase in same store revenues, and a 13.9% increase in franchise royalties and fees. Additionally, other income for the three months ended March 31, 2009, included a \$5.7 million gain on the sales of Company-operated stores.

*Discontinued Operations.* The loss from discontinued operations (which represents losses from the Aaron's Corporate Furnishings division that was sold on November 6, 2008), net of tax, was a \$209,000 loss for the three months ended March 31, 2009.

## **Balance Sheet**

*Cash and Cash Equivalents.* Our cash balance increased to \$112.7 million at March 31, 2010, from \$109.7 million at December 31, 2009. The increase in our cash balance is primarily due to proceeds from sale leaseback transactions completed in the first quarter of 2010. For additional information, refer to the Liquidity and Capital Resources section below.

*Lease Merchandise, Net.* Lease merchandise, net of accumulated depreciation, increased \$64.6 million to \$747.0 million at March 31, 2010, from \$682.4 million at December 31, 2009 primarily due to fluctuations in the normal course of business.

*Property, Plant and Equipment.* The decrease of \$21.2 million in property, plant and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation, to \$194.0 million at March 31, 2010 from \$215.2 million at December 31, 2009, is primarily the result of sale-leaseback transactions completed since December 31, 2009.

*Goodwill.* The \$2.9 million increase in goodwill, to \$197.3 million at March 31, 2010, from \$194.4 million on December 31, 2009, is the result of a series of acquisitions of sales and lease ownership businesses since December 31, 2009. The aggregate purchase price for these asset acquisitions totaled \$5.3 million, with the principal tangible assets acquired consisting of lease merchandise and certain fixtures and equipment.



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*Other Intangibles, Net.* The \$281,000 decrease in other intangibles, to \$4.9 million on March 31, 2010, from \$5.2 million on December 31, 2009, is the result of amortization of intangible assets, net of acquisitions of sales and lease ownership businesses mentioned above.

*Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets.* Prepaid expenses and other assets increased \$4.5 million to \$40.6 million at March 31, 2010, from \$36.1 million at December 31, 2009, primarily as a result of an increase in prepaid income tax expense. Certain assets have been reclassified as held for sale in all periods presented.

*Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses.* The increase of \$28.6 million in accounts payable and accrued expenses, to \$205.9 million at March 31, 2010, from \$177.3 million at December 31, 2009, is primarily the result of fluctuations in the timing of payments.

*Deferred Income Taxes Payable.* The decrease of \$10.8 million in deferred income taxes payable to \$152.9 million at March 31, 2010, from \$163.7 million at December 31, 2009, is primarily the result of the reversal of bonus lease merchandise depreciation deductions for tax purposes included in the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

*Credit Facilities.* The \$1.5 million increase in the amounts due under our credit facilities and senior notes to \$56.6 million at March 31, 2010, from \$55.0 million at December 31, 2009, primarily reflects borrowings on our revolving credit facility.

## **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

### ***General***

Cash flows from continuing operations for the three months ended March 31, 2010 and 2009 were \$3.2 million in cash outflows and \$34.4 million in cash inflows, respectively.

Purchases of sales and lease ownership stores had a positive impact on operating cash flows in each period presented. The positive impact on operating cash flows from purchasing stores occurs as the result of lease merchandise, other assets and intangibles acquired in these purchases being treated as an investing cash outflow. As such, the operating cash flows attributable to the newly purchased stores usually have an initial positive effect on operating cash flows that may not be indicative of the extent of their contributions in future periods. The amount of lease merchandise purchased in these acquisitions and shown under investing activities was \$1.7 million for the first three months of 2010 and \$3.0 million for the comparable 2009 period. Our cash flows include profits on the sale of lease merchandise. Sales of sales and lease ownership stores are an additional source of investing cash flows. There were no sales of sales and lease ownership stores for the first three months of 2010. Proceeds from such sales were \$20.8 million for the first three months of 2009.

Our primary capital requirements consist of buying lease merchandise for both sales and lease ownership and office furniture stores. As Aaron's continues to grow, the need for additional lease merchandise will continue to be our major capital requirement. Other capital requirements include purchases of property, plant and equipment and expenditures for acquisitions. These capital requirements historically have been financed through:

- cash flows from operations;
- bank credit;
- trade credit with vendors;
- proceeds from the sale of lease return merchandise;
- private debt offerings; and
- stock offerings.

At March 31, 2010, \$1.8 million was outstanding under our revolving credit agreement. The balance under the credit facilities increased by \$1.5 million in 2010. On May 23, 2008, we entered into a new revolving credit agreement that replaced the previous revolving credit agreement. The new revolving credit facility expires May 23, 2013, and the terms are consistent with the previous agreement. The total available credit on our revolving credit agreement is \$140.0 million. Additionally, we have \$36.0 million currently outstanding in aggregate principal amount of 5.03% senior unsecured notes due July 2012, principal repayments of which were first required in 2008.



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Our revolving credit agreement and senior unsecured notes, and our franchisee loan program discussed below, contain certain financial covenants. These covenants include requirements that we maintain ratios of: (1) EBITDA plus lease expense to fixed charges of no less than 2:1; (2) total debt to EBITDA of no greater than 3:1; and (3) total debt to total capitalization of no greater than 0.6:1. EBITDA in each case, means consolidated net income before interest and tax expense, depreciation (other than lease merchandise depreciation) and amortization expense, and other non-cash charges. The Company is also required to maintain a minimum amount of shareholders' equity. See the full text of the covenants themselves in our credit and guarantee agreements, which we have filed as exhibits to our Securities and Exchange Commission reports, for the details of these covenants and other terms. If we fail to comply with these covenants, we will be in default under these agreements, and all amounts would become due immediately. We were in compliance with all of these covenants at March 31, 2010 and believe that we will continue to be in compliance in the future.

We purchase our common shares in the market from time to time as authorized by our board of directors. We did not repurchase shares during 2009 or the first three months of 2010 and have authority remaining to purchase 5,880,620 shares.

We have a consistent history of paying dividends, having paid dividends for 23 consecutive years. A \$.0106 per share dividend on Common Stock and Class A Common Stock was paid in January 2009, April 2009, and July 2009. Our board of directors increased the dividend 6.6% for the third quarter of 2009 on August 5, 2009 to \$.0113 per share and was paid in October 2009 for a total cash outlay of \$3.7 million in 2009. The payment for the fourth quarter was paid in January 2010. Our board of directors increased the dividend for the first quarter of 2010 on February 23, 2010 to \$.0120 payable on April 1, 2010 to all shareholders of record as of close of business on March 5, 2010. Subject to sufficient operating profits, any future capital needs and other contingencies, we currently expect to continue our policy of paying dividends.

If we achieve our expected level of growth in our operations, we anticipate we can supplement our expected cash flows from operations, existing credit facilities, vendor credit, and proceeds from the sale of lease return merchandise by expanding our existing credit facilities, by securing additional debt financing, or by seeking other sources of capital to ensure we will be able to fund our capital and liquidity needs for at least the next 24 months. We believe we can secure these additional sources of capital in the ordinary course of business. However, if the credit and capital market disruptions that began in the second half of 2008 continue for an extended period, or if they deteriorate further, we may not be able to obtain access to capital at as favorable costs as we have historically been able to, and some forms of capital may not be available at all.

### **Commitments**

*Income Taxes.* During the three months ended March 31, 2010, we made \$37.4 million in income tax payments. Within the next nine months, we anticipate that we will make cash payments for income taxes of approximately \$85 million.

The Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provided for accelerated depreciation by allowing a bonus first-year depreciation deduction of 50% of the adjusted basis of qualified property placed in service during 2008 and 2009. Accordingly, our cash flow benefited from having a lower cash tax obligation which, in turn, provided additional cash flow from operations. We estimate that at December 31, 2009 the remaining tax deferral associated with the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is approximately \$76.0 million of which approximately 78% will reverse in 2010 and the remainder will reverse between 2011 and 2012.

*Leases.* We lease warehouse and retail store space for most of our operations under operating leases expiring at various times through 2028. Most of the leases contain renewal options for additional periods ranging from one to 15 years or provide for options to purchase the related property at predetermined purchase prices that do not represent bargain purchase options. We also lease transportation and computer equipment under operating leases expiring during the next five years. We expect that most leases will be renewed or replaced by other leases in the normal course of business. Approximate future minimum rental payments required under operating leases that have initial or remaining non-cancelable terms in excess of one year as of March 31, 2010 are shown in the below table under

Contractual Obligations and Commitments.



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We have 20 capital leases, 19 of which are with a limited liability company ( LLC ) whose managers and owners are 11 Aaron's executive officers and its controlling shareholder, with no individual, including the controlling shareholder, owning more than 13.33% of the LLC. Nine of these related party leases relate to properties purchased from Aaron's in October and November of 2004 by the LLC for a total purchase price of \$6.8 million. The LLC is leasing back these properties to Aaron's for a 15-year term, with a five-year renewal at Aaron's option, at an aggregate annual lease amount of \$716,000. Another ten of these related party leases relate to properties purchased from Aaron's in December 2002 by the LLC for a total purchase price of approximately \$5.0 million. The LLC is leasing back these properties to Aaron's for a 15-year term at an aggregate annual lease amount of \$556,000. We do not currently plan to enter into any similar related party lease transactions in the future.

We finance a portion of our store expansion through sale-leaseback transactions. The properties are generally sold at net book value and the resulting leases qualify and are accounted for as operating leases. We do not have any retained or contingent interests in the stores nor do we provide any guarantees, other than a corporate level guarantee of lease payments, in connection with the sale-leasebacks. The operating leases that resulted from these transactions are included in the table below under Contractual Obligations and Commitments.

*Franchisee Loan Guaranty.* We have guaranteed the borrowings of certain independent franchisees under a franchisee loan program with several banks, and we also guarantee franchisee borrowings under certain other debt facilities. The franchisee loan facility expires on May 22, 2010, and we plan to extend the maturity date on or prior to the current maturity date.

At March 31, 2010, the debt amount that we might be obligated to repay in the event franchisees defaulted was \$132.5 million. Of this amount, approximately \$124.4 million represents franchisee borrowings outstanding under the franchisee loan program, and approximately \$8.0 million represents franchisee borrowings that we guarantee under other debt facilities. However, due to franchisee borrowing limits, we believe any losses associated with any defaults would be mitigated through recovery of lease merchandise and other assets. Since its inception in 1994, we have had no significant losses associated with the franchisee loan and guaranty program. We believe the likelihood of any significant amounts being funded in connection with these commitments to be remote.

*Contractual Obligations and Commitments.* We have no long-term commitments to purchase merchandise. The following table shows the approximate amounts of our contractual obligations, including interest, and commitments to make future payments as of March 31, 2010:

(In Thousands)	Total	Period Less Than 1 Year	Period 1-3 Years	Period 3-5 Years	Period Over 5 Years
Credit Facilities, Excluding					
Capital Leases	\$ 41,130	\$ 13,828	\$ 24,001	\$	\$ 3,301
Capital Leases	15,430	1,269	2,643	3,047	8,471
Operating Leases	495,450	90,744	135,458	89,108	180,140
Purchase Obligations	20,131	12,016	7,682	433	
Total Contractual Cash Obligations	\$ 572,141	\$ 117,857	\$ 169,784	\$ 92,588	\$ 191,912

The following table shows the approximate amounts of the Company's commercial commitments as of March 31, 2010:

(In Thousands)	Total Amounts Committed	Period Less Than 1 Year	Period 1-3 Years	Period 3-5 Years	Period Over 5 Years
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Guaranteed Borrowings of

Franchisees	\$ 132,472	\$ 130,571	\$ 1,901	\$
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Purchase obligations are primarily related to certain advertising and marketing programs. Purchase orders or contracts for the purchase of lease merchandise and other goods and services are not included in the tables above. We are not able to determine the aggregate amount of those purchase orders that represent contractual obligations, as some purchase orders represent authorizations to purchase rather than binding agreements. Our purchase orders are based on our current distribution needs and are fulfilled by our vendors within short time horizons. We do not have a significant number of agreements for the purchase of lease merchandise or other goods that specify minimum quantities or set prices that exceed our expected requirements for twelve months.

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Deferred income tax liabilities as of March 31, 2010 were approximately \$152.9 million. This amount is not included in the total contractual obligations table because we believe this presentation would not be meaningful. Deferred income tax liabilities are calculated based on temporary differences between the tax basis of assets and liabilities and their respective book basis, which will result in taxable amounts in future years when the liabilities are settled at their reported financial statement amounts. The results of these calculations do not have a direct connection with the amount of cash taxes to be paid in any future periods. As a result, scheduling deferred income tax liabilities as payments due by period could be misleading, because this scheduling would not relate to liquidity needs.

**Market Risk**

Occasionally, we manage our exposure to changes in short-term interest rates, particularly to reduce the impact on our floating-rate borrowings, by entering into interest rate swap agreements. At March 31, 2010, we did not have any swap agreements. We do not use any market risk sensitive instruments to hedge foreign currency or other risks and hold no market risk sensitive instruments for trading or speculative purposes. In the first quarter of 2010, we entered into a fuel hedge which had no material impact on our financial position or operating results during the three month period ended March 31, 2010.

**Interest Rate Risk**

We generally hold long-term debt with variable interest rates indexed to LIBOR or the prime rate that exposes us to the risk of increased interest costs if interest rates rise. Based on our overall interest rate exposure at March 31, 2010, a hypothetical 1.0% increase or decrease in interest rates would not be material.

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**New Accounting Pronouncements**

The pronouncements that the Company adopted in the first quarter of 2010 did not have a material impact on the consolidated financial statements.

**ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

The information called for by this item is provided under Item 7A in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 and Part I, Item 2 of this Quarterly Report above under the heading "Market Risk."

**ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

**Disclosure Controls and Procedures.**

An evaluation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, was carried out by management, with the participation of the Chief Executive Officer ( "CEO" ) and Chief Financial Officer ( "CFO" ), as of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

No system of controls, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide absolute assurance that the objectives of the system of controls are met, and no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that the system of controls has operated effectively in all cases. Our disclosure controls and procedures, however, are designed to provide reasonable assurance that the objectives of disclosure controls and procedures are met.

Based on management's evaluation, the CEO and CFO concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the date of the evaluation to provide reasonable assurance that the objectives of disclosure controls and procedures are met.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting.**

There were no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting, as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, during the Company's first quarter of 2010 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

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**PART II OTHER INFORMATION**

**ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS**

The Company does not have any updates to its risk factors disclosure from that previously reported in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009.

**ITEM 6. EXHIBITS**

The following exhibits are furnished herewith:

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 15   | Letter Re: Unaudited Interim Financial Information.   |
| 31.1 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.             |
| 31.2 | Certification of Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.             |
| 32.1 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 32.2 | Certification of Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |

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**SIGNATURES**

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

AARON S, INC.  
(Registrant)

Date May 4, 2010

By: /s/ Gilbert L. Danielson  
Gilbert L. Danielson  
Executive Vice President, Chief Financial  
Officer

Date May 4, 2010

/s/ Robert P. Sinclair, Jr.  
Robert P. Sinclair, Jr.  
Vice President, Corporate Controller