

AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS INC

Form 10-Q

December 07, 2017

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended October 28, 2017

OR

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

Commission File Number: 1-33338

American Eagle Outfitters, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Delaware | No. 13-2721761 |
| (State or other jurisdiction of | (I.R.S. Employer |
| incorporation or organization) | Identification No.) |
| 77 Hot Metal Street, Pittsburgh, PA | 15203-2329 |
| (Address of principal executive offices) | (Zip Code) |

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (412) 432-3300

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

N/A

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§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, a small reporting company, or emerging growth company. See the definitions of “large accelerated filer”, “accelerated filer”, “smaller reporting company,” and “emerging growth company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

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: 177,307,946 Common Shares were outstanding at December 4, 2017.

AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS, INC.

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PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS, INC.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

| (In thousands, except per share amounts) | October 28, 2017 (Unaudited) | January 28, 2017 | October 29, 2016 (Unaudited) |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Assets | | | |
| Current assets: | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$257,527 | \$378,613 | \$291,667 |
| Merchandise inventory | 534,019 | 358,446 | 492,602 |
| Accounts receivable, net | 77,113 | 86,634 | 74,812 |
| Prepaid expenses and other | 61,553 | 77,536 | 77,768 |
| Total current assets | 930,212 | 901,229 | 936,849 |
| Property and equipment, at cost, net of accumulated depreciation | 726,168 | 707,797 | 708,488 |
| Intangible assets, at cost, net of accumulated amortization | 46,979 | 49,373 | 49,993 |
| Goodwill | 14,972 | 14,887 | 17,315 |
| Non-current deferred income taxes | 29,025 | 49,250 | 49,627 |
| Other assets | 54,424 | 60,124 | 60,268 |
| Total assets | \$1,801,780 | \$1,782,660 | \$1,822,540 |
| Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity | | | |
| Current liabilities: | | | |
| Accounts payable | \$330,716 | \$246,204 | \$314,111 |
| Accrued compensation and payroll taxes | 43,561 | 54,184 | 56,939 |
| Accrued rent | 80,580 | 78,619 | 79,255 |
| Accrued income and other taxes | 17,262 | 12,220 | 29,373 |
| Unredeemed gift cards and gift certificates | 29,475 | 52,966 | 30,130 |
| Current portion of deferred lease credits | 12,887 | 12,780 | 12,783 |
| Other liabilities and accrued expenses | 38,359 | 36,810 | 40,288 |
| Total current liabilities | 552,840 | 493,783 | 562,879 |
| Non-current liabilities: | | | |
| Deferred lease credits | 50,439 | 45,114 | 47,677 |
| Non-current accrued income taxes | 4,590 | 4,537 | 4,573 |
| Other non-current liabilities | 30,712 | 34,657 | 35,451 |
| Total non-current liabilities | 85,741 | 84,308 | 87,701 |
| Commitments and contingencies | — | — | — |
| Stockholders' equity: | | | |
| Preferred stock, \$0.01 par value; 5,000 shares authorized; none | — | — | — |

issued and outstanding

Common stock, \$0.01 par value; 600,000 shares authorized;

249,566 shares issued; 177,084, 181,886 and 181,863 shares

| | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| outstanding, respectively | 2,496 | 2,496 | 2,496 |
| Contributed capital | 588,978 | 603,890 | 597,919 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (34,798) | (36,462) | (31,160) |
| Retained earnings | 1,812,821 | 1,775,775 | 1,744,227 |
| Treasury stock, 72,482, 67,680 and 67,703 shares, respectively | (1,206,298) | (1,141,130) | (1,141,522) |
| Total stockholders' equity | 1,163,199 | 1,204,569 | 1,171,960 |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$1,801,780 | \$1,782,660 | \$1,822,540 |

Refer to Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS AND RETAINED EARNINGS

(Unaudited)

| | 13 Weeks Ended | | 39 Weeks Ended | |
|--|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| | October | October | October | October |
| | 28, | 29, | 28, | 29, |
| (In thousands, except per share amounts) | 2017 | 2016 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Total net revenue | \$960,433 | \$940,609 | \$2,566,826 | \$2,512,619 |
| Cost of sales, including certain buying, occupancy and | | | | |
| warehousing expenses | 585,520 | 562,793 | 1,621,441 | 1,534,194 |
| Gross profit | 374,913 | 377,816 | 945,385 | 978,425 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 217,146 | 219,912 | 615,842 | 615,503 |
| Restructuring charges | 3,695 | — | 18,888 | — |
| Depreciation and amortization expense | 43,149 | 39,636 | 123,878 | 117,319 |
| Operating income | 110,923 | 118,268 | 186,777 | 245,603 |
| Other (expense) income, net | (13,243) | 603 | (19,574) | 2,403 |
| Income before income taxes | 97,680 | 118,871 | 167,203 | 248,006 |
| Provision for income taxes | 33,947 | 43,111 | 56,997 | 90,179 |
| Net income | \$63,733 | \$75,760 | \$110,206 | \$157,827 |
| Net income per basic share | \$0.36 | \$0.42 | \$0.62 | \$0.87 |
| Net income per diluted share | \$0.36 | \$0.41 | \$0.61 | \$0.86 |
| Cash dividends per common share | \$0.125 | \$0.125 | \$0.375 | \$0.375 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding - basic | 177,288 | 181,819 | 178,272 | 181,196 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding - diluted | 179,132 | 184,615 | 180,260 | 183,651 |
| Retained earnings, beginning | \$1,772,233 | \$1,693,371 | \$1,775,775 | \$1,659,267 |
| Net income | 63,733 | 75,760 | 110,206 | 157,827 |
| Cash dividends and dividend equivalents | (22,733) | (23,349) | (68,119) | (69,754) |
| Reissuance of treasury stock | (412) | (1,555) | (5,041) | (3,113) |
| Retained earnings, ending | \$1,812,821 | \$1,744,227 | \$1,812,821 | \$1,744,227 |

Refer to Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(Unaudited)

| | 13 Weeks Ended | | 39 Weeks Ended | |
|---|----------------|----------|----------------|-----------|
| | October | October | October | October |
| | 28, | 29, | 28, | 29, |
| (In thousands) | 2017 | 2016 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Net income | \$63,733 | \$75,760 | \$110,206 | \$157,827 |
| Other comprehensive income: | | | | |
| Foreign currency translation (expense) income | (4,677) | (1,805) | 1,504 | (1,287) |
| Other comprehensive (expense) income: | (4,677) | (1,805) | 1,504 | (1,287) |
| Comprehensive income | \$59,056 | \$73,955 | \$111,710 | \$156,540 |

Refer to Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(Unaudited)

| | 39 Weeks Ended | |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| | October 28, 2017 | October 29, 2016 |
| (In thousands) | | |
| Operating activities: | | |
| Net income | \$ 110,206 | \$ 157,827 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash from operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 125,370 | 118,173 |
| Share-based compensation | 12,056 | 23,024 |
| Deferred income taxes | 19,846 | 14,647 |
| Foreign currency transaction gain | (5,002) | (806) |
| Changes in assets and liabilities: | | |
| Merchandise inventory | (173,020) | (186,594) |
| Accounts receivable | 9,515 | 4,070 |
| Prepaid expenses and other | 16,220 | (499) |
| Other assets | 2,872 | (5,893) |
| Accounts payable | 80,844 | 117,967 |
| Unredeemed gift cards and gift certificates | (23,581) | (18,265) |
| Deferred lease credits | 5,287 | (2,577) |
| Accrued compensation and payroll taxes | (9,499) | (22,002) |
| Accrued income and other taxes | 5,519 | 7,038 |
| Accrued liabilities | 11,467 | (3,256) |
| Total adjustments | 77,894 | 45,027 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 188,100 | 202,854 |
| Investing activities: | | |
| Capital expenditures for property and equipment | (134,920) | (107,616) |
| Acquisition of intangible assets | (645) | (1,215) |
| Net cash used for investing activities | (135,565) | (108,831) |
| Financing activities: | | |
| Payments on capital leases | (8,705) | (5,604) |
| Repurchase of common stock as part of publicly announced programs | (87,682) | — |
| Repurchase of common stock from employees | (12,300) | (6,898) |
| Net proceeds from stock options exercised | 225 | 16,177 |
| Excess tax benefit from share-based payments | — | 758 |
| Cash dividends paid | (66,385) | (67,945) |
| Net cash used for financing activities | (174,847) | (63,512) |
| Effect of exchange rates changes on cash | 1,226 | 1,089 |
| Net change in cash and cash equivalents | (121,086) | 31,600 |
| Cash and cash equivalents - beginning of period | 378,613 | 260,067 |
| Cash and cash equivalents - end of period | \$ 257,527 | \$ 291,667 |
| Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information: | | |
| Cash paid during the period for income taxes | \$ 36,822 | \$ 77,562 |
| Cash paid during the period for interest | \$ 818 | \$ 881 |

Refer to Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

1. Interim Financial Statements

The accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements of American Eagle Outfitters, Inc. (the “Company”) at October 28, 2017 and October 29, 2016 and for the 13 and 39 week periods ended October 28, 2017 and October 29, 2016 have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (“GAAP”) for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by GAAP for complete financial statements. Certain notes and other information have been condensed or omitted from the interim Consolidated Financial Statements presented in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. Therefore, these Consolidated Financial Statements should be read in conjunction with the Company’s Fiscal 2016 Annual Report. In the opinion of the Company’s management, all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring adjustments and those described in the footnotes that follow) considered necessary for a fair presentation have been included. The existence of subsequent events has been evaluated through the filing date of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

As used in this report, all references to “we,” “our” and the “Company” refer to American Eagle Outfitters, Inc. and its wholly owned subsidiaries. “American Eagle Outfitters,” “American Eagle,” “AEO” and the “AE Brand” refer to our American Eagle Outfitters stores. “Aerie” refers to our Aerie[®] by American Eagle[®] stores. “AEO Direct” refers to our e-commerce operations, www.ae.com and www.aerie.com. “Tailgate” refers to our Tailgate brand of vintage, sports-inspired apparel. “Todd Snyder” refers to our Todd Snyder New York premium menswear brand.

Our business is affected by the pattern of seasonality common to most retail apparel businesses. Historically, a large portion of total net revenue and operating income occurs in the third and fourth fiscal quarters, reflecting the increased demand during the back-to-school and year-end holiday selling seasons, respectively. The results for the current and prior periods are not necessarily indicative of future financial results.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Principles of Consolidation

The Consolidated Financial Statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries. All intercompany transactions and balances have been eliminated in consolidation. At October 28, 2017, the Company operated in one reportable segment.

Fiscal Year

The Company’s financial year is a 52/53 week year that ends on the Saturday nearest to January 31. As used herein, “Fiscal 2017” refers to the 53 week period ending February 3, 2018. “Fiscal 2016” refers to the 52 week period ended January 28, 2017.

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of our contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. On an ongoing basis, our management reviews the Company's estimates based on currently available information. Changes in facts and circumstances may result in revised estimates.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standard Board (“FASB”) issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (“ASU 2014-09”). ASU 2014-09 is a comprehensive new revenue recognition model that expands disclosure requirements and requires a company to recognize revenue to depict the transfer of goods or services to a customer at an amount that reflects the consideration it expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services. Originally, ASU 2014-09 was effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016. In July 2015, the FASB voted to approve amendments deferring the effective date by one year to be effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017. Accordingly, the Company will adopt ASU 2014-09 on February 4, 2018 using the modified retrospective method. The adoption of ASU 2014-09 will not have a material impact on the Company’s Consolidated Financial Statements.

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-02, Leases (“ASU 2016-02”) which replaces the existing guidance in Accounting Standard Certification (“ASC”) 840, Leases. The new standard establishes a right-of-use (ROU) model that requires a lessee to record a ROU asset and a lease liability on the balance sheet for all leases with terms longer than 12 months. Leases will be classified as either finance or operating, with classification affecting the pattern of expense recognition in the income statement. The guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018, including interim periods within those fiscal years and requires retrospective application. The Company will adopt in Fiscal 2019 and is currently evaluating the impact of ASU 2016-02 to its Consolidated Financial Statements, but expects that it will result in a significant increase to its long-term assets and liabilities on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

In March 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-09, Compensation—Stock Compensation (Topic 718) (“ASU 2016-09”). ASU 2016-09 makes several modifications to Topic 718 related to the accounting for forfeitures, employer tax withholding on share-based compensation and the financial statement presentation of excess tax benefits or deficiencies. ASU 2016-09 also clarifies the statement of cash flows presentation for certain components of share-based awards. The standard is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016. The Company adopted ASU 2016-09 prospectively on January 29, 2017 and it did not have a material impact to the Consolidated Financial Statements for the 13 or 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017.

Foreign Currency Translation

In accordance with “ASC” 830, Foreign Currency Matters, assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies were translated into United States dollars (“USD”) (the reporting currency) at the exchange rates prevailing at the balance sheet date. Revenues and expenses denominated in foreign currencies were translated into USD at the monthly average exchange rates for the period. Gains or losses resulting from foreign currency transactions are included in the results of operations, whereas, related translation adjustments are reported as an element of other comprehensive income in accordance with ASC 220, Comprehensive Income.

Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recorded for store sales upon the purchase of merchandise by customers. The Company’s e-commerce operation records revenue upon the estimated customer receipt date of the merchandise. Shipping and handling revenues are included in total net revenue. Sales tax collected from customers is excluded from revenue and is included as part of accrued income and other taxes on the Company’s Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Revenue is recorded net of estimated and actual sales returns and promotional price reductions. The Company records the impact of adjustments to its sales return reserve quarterly within total net revenue and cost of sales. The sales return reserve reflects an estimate of sales returns based on projected merchandise returns determined through the use of historical average return percentages.

Revenue is not recorded on the issuance of gift cards. A current liability is recorded upon issuance, and revenue is recognized when the gift card is redeemed for merchandise. Additionally, the Company recognizes revenue on unredeemed gift cards based on an estimate of the amounts that will not be redeemed (“gift card breakage”), determined through historical redemption trends. Gift card breakage revenue is recognized in proportion to actual gift card redemptions as a component of total net revenue. For further information on the Company’s gift card program, refer to the Gift Cards caption below.

The Company recognizes royalty revenue generated from its license or franchise agreements based on a percentage of merchandise sales by the licensee/franchisee. This revenue is recorded as a component of total net revenue when earned.

Cost of Sales, Including Certain Buying, Occupancy and Warehousing Expenses

Cost of sales consists of merchandise costs, including design, sourcing, importing and inbound freight costs, as well as markdowns, shrinkage and certain promotional costs (collectively “merchandise costs”) and buying, occupancy and warehousing costs.

Design costs are related to the Company's Design Center operations and include compensation, travel and entertainment, supplies and samples for our design teams, as well as rent and depreciation for our Design Center. These costs are included in cost of sales as the respective inventory is sold.

Buying, occupancy and warehousing costs consist of compensation, employee benefit expenses and travel and entertainment for our buyers and certain senior merchandising executives; rent and utilities related to our stores, corporate headquarters, distribution centers and other office space; freight from our distribution centers to the stores; compensation and supplies for our distribution centers, including purchasing, receiving and inspection costs; and shipping and handling costs related to our e-commerce operation. Gross profit is the difference between total net revenue and cost of sales.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general and administrative expenses consist of compensation and employee benefit expenses, including salaries, incentives and related benefits associated with our stores and corporate headquarters. Selling, general and administrative expenses also include advertising costs, supplies for our stores and home office, communication costs, travel and entertainment, leasing costs and services purchased. Selling, general and administrative expenses do not include compensation, employee benefit expenses and travel for our design, sourcing and importing teams, our buyers and our distribution centers as these amounts are recorded in cost of sales. Additionally, selling, general and administrative expenses do not include rent and utilities related to our stores, operating costs of our distribution centers, and shipping and handling costs related to our e-commerce operations.

Other (Expense) Income, Net

Other (expense) income, net consists primarily of allowances for uncollectible receivables, foreign currency transaction gain/loss, interest income/expense and realized investment gains/losses.

As of October 28, 2017, allowances for uncollectible receivables were \$20.4 million. There were no allowances for uncollectible receivables as of October 29, 2016.

Cash and Cash Equivalents and Investments

The Company considers all highly liquid investments purchased with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

As of October 28, 2017 and October 29, 2016, the Company held no investments.

Refer to Note 3 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for information regarding cash and cash equivalents and investments.

Merchandise Inventory

Merchandise inventory is valued at the lower of average cost or market, utilizing the retail method. Average cost includes merchandise design and sourcing costs and related expenses. The Company records merchandise receipts when both title and risk of loss for the merchandise have transferred to the Company.

The Company reviews its inventory levels to identify slow-moving merchandise and generally uses markdowns to clear merchandise. Additionally, the Company estimates a markdown reserve for future planned permanent markdowns related to current inventory. Markdowns may occur when inventory exceeds customer demand for reasons of style, seasonal adaptation, changes in customer preference, lack of consumer acceptance of fashion items, competition, or if it is determined that the inventory in stock will not sell at its currently ticketed price. Such markdowns may have a material adverse impact on earnings, depending on the extent and amount of inventory affected. The Company also estimates a shrinkage reserve for the period between the last physical count and the balance sheet date. The estimate for the shrinkage reserve, based on historical results, can be affected by changes in merchandise mix and changes in actual shrinkage trends.

Income Taxes

The Company calculates income taxes in accordance with ASC 740, Income Taxes (“ASC 740”), which requires the use of the asset and liability method. Under this method, deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized based on the difference between the Consolidated Financial Statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases as computed pursuant to ASC 740. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using the tax rates, based on certain judgments regarding enacted tax laws and published guidance, in effect in the years when those temporary differences are expected to reverse. A valuation allowance is established against the deferred tax assets when it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred taxes may not be realized. Changes in the Company’s level and composition of earnings, tax laws or the deferred tax valuation allowance, as well as the results of tax audits may materially impact the Company’s effective income tax rate.

The Company evaluates its income tax positions in accordance with ASC 740, which prescribes a comprehensive model for recognizing, measuring, presenting and disclosing in the financial statements tax positions taken or expected to be taken on a tax return, including a decision whether to file or not to file in a particular jurisdiction. Under ASC 740, a tax benefit from an uncertain position may be recognized only if it is “more likely than not” that the position is sustainable based on its technical merits.

The calculation of deferred tax assets and liabilities, as well as the decision to recognize a tax benefit from an uncertain position and to establish a valuation allowance require management to make estimates and assumptions. The Company believes that its estimates and assumptions are reasonable, although actual results may have a positive or negative material impact on the balances of deferred tax assets and liabilities, valuation allowances or net income.

Refer to Note 10 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information regarding income taxes.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment is recorded on the basis of cost, including costs to prepare the asset for use, with depreciation computed utilizing the straight-line method over the assets’ estimated useful lives. The useful lives of our major classes of assets are as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Buildings | 25 years |
| Leasehold improvements | Lesser of 10 years or the term of the lease |
| Fixtures and equipment | 5 years |
| Information technology | 3-5 years |

As of October 28, 2017, the weighted average remaining useful life of our assets is approximately 8.3 years.

In accordance with ASC 360, Property, Plant, and Equipment (“ASC 360”), the Company evaluates long-lived assets for impairment at the individual store level, which is the lowest level at which individual cash flows can be identified, for stores that have been open for a period of time sufficient to reach maturity. Impairment losses are recorded on long-lived assets used in operations when events and circumstances indicate that the assets are impaired and the undiscounted cash flows estimated to be generated by those assets are less than their carrying amounts. When events such as these occur, the impaired assets are adjusted to their estimated fair value and an impairment loss is recorded. No long-lived asset impairment charges were recorded during the 13 or 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017 or October 29, 2016.

Refer to Note 6 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information regarding property and equipment.

Goodwill

The Company's goodwill is primarily related to the acquisition of its importing operations, Canada business, Tailgate and Todd Snyder brands, and Hong Kong and China businesses. In accordance with ASC 350, Intangibles – Goodwill and Other ("ASC 350"), the Company evaluates goodwill for possible impairment on at least an annual basis and last performed an annual impairment test as of January 28, 2017. During the fourth quarter of Fiscal 2016, the goodwill was fully impaired for the Hong Kong and China businesses. All other goodwill for the Company was not impaired as a result of the annual impairment test.

Intangible Assets

Intangible assets are recorded on the basis of cost with amortization computed utilizing the straight-line method over the assets' estimated useful lives. The Company's intangible assets, which consists primarily of trademark assets, are generally amortized over 15 to 25 years.

The Company evaluates intangible assets for impairment in accordance with ASC 350 when events or circumstances indicate that the carrying value of the asset may not be recoverable. Such an evaluation includes the estimation of undiscounted future cash flows to be generated by those assets. If the sum of the estimated future undiscounted cash flows are less than the carrying amounts of the assets, then the assets are impaired and are adjusted to their estimated fair value. No intangible asset impairment charges were recorded during the 13 or 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017 or October 29, 2016.

Refer to Note 7 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information regarding intangible assets.

Gift Cards

The value of a gift card is recorded as a current liability upon issuance, and revenue is recognized when the gift card is redeemed for merchandise. The Company estimates gift card breakage and recognizes revenue in proportion to actual gift card redemptions as a component of total net revenue. The Company determines an estimated gift card breakage rate by continuously evaluating historical redemption data and the time when there is a remote likelihood that a gift card will be redeemed. The Company recorded \$1.6 million and \$1.5 million of revenue related to gift card breakage during the 13 weeks ended October 28, 2017 and October 29, 2016, respectively. During the 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017 and October 29, 2016, the Company recorded \$6.1 million and \$5.3 million, respectively, of revenue related to gift card breakage.

Deferred Lease Credits

Deferred lease credits represent the unamortized portion of construction allowances received from landlords related to the Company's retail stores. Construction allowances are generally comprised of cash amounts received by the Company from its landlords as part of the negotiated lease terms. The Company records a receivable and a deferred lease credit liability at the lease commencement date (date of initial possession of the store). The deferred lease credit is amortized on a straight-line basis as a reduction of rent expense over the term of the original lease (including the pre-opening build-out period). The receivable is reduced as amounts are received from the landlord.

Co-branded Credit Card

The Company offers a co-branded credit card (the "AEO Visa Card") and a private label credit card (the "AEO Credit Card") under the AEO and Aerie brands. These credit cards are issued by a third-party bank (the "Bank") in accordance with a credit card agreement ("the Agreement"). The Company has no liability to the Bank for bad debt expense, provided that purchases are made in accordance with the Bank's procedures. We receive funding from the Bank based on the Agreement and card activity, which includes payments for new account activations and usage of the credit cards. We recognize revenue for this funding when the amounts are fixed or determinable and collectability is reasonably assured. This revenue is recorded in other revenue, which is a component of total net revenue in our Consolidated Statements of Operations and Retained Earnings.

Once a customer is approved to receive the AEO Visa Card or the AEO Credit Card and the card is activated, the customer is eligible to participate in the customer loyalty program offered by the Company. For further information on the Company's loyalty program, refer to the Customer Loyalty Program caption below.

Customer Loyalty Program

The Company recently launched a new, highly digitized loyalty program called AEO Connected™ (the “Program”). This Program integrates the current credit card rewards program and the AEREWARDS® loyalty program into one combined customer offering. Under the Program, customers accumulate points based on purchase activity and earn rewards by reaching certain point thresholds and when reached rewards are distributed. Customers will earn discounts in the form of savings certificates, which are accounted for in accordance with ASC 605-25. Rewards earned are valid through the stated expiration date, which is approximately 45 days from the issuance date of the reward. Additional rewards are also given for key items such as jeans and bras. Rewards not redeemed during the 45 days redemption period are forfeited.

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Points earned under the Program on purchases at AEO and Aerie are accounted for by analogy to ASC 605-25, Revenue Recognition, Multiple Element Arrangements (“ASC 605-25”). The Company believes that points earned under the Program represent deliverables in a multiple element arrangement rather than a rebate or refund of cash. Accordingly, the portion of the sales revenue attributed to the award points is deferred and recognized when the award is redeemed or when the points expire. Additionally, reward points earned on non-AEO or Aerie purchases are accounted for in accordance with ASC 605-25. As the points are earned, a current liability is recorded for the estimated cost of the award, and the impact of adjustments is recorded in cost of sales.

Segment Information

In accordance with ASC 280, Segment Reporting (“ASC 280”), the Company has identified two operating segments (American Eagle Outfitters Brand and Aerie by American Eagle Outfitters Brand) that reflect the basis used internally to review performance and allocate resources. All operating segments have been aggregated and are presented as one reportable segment, as permitted by ASC 280.

3. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The following table summarizes the fair market values for the Company’s cash and marketable securities, which are recorded on the Consolidated Balance Sheets:

| | October 28, | January 28, | October 29, |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| (In thousands) | 2017 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Cash and cash equivalents: | | | |
| Cash | \$185,546 | \$265,332 | \$209,581 |
| Interest bearing deposits | 71,981 | 83,281 | 82,086 |
| Commercial paper | — | 30,000 | — |
| Total cash and cash equivalents | \$257,527 | \$378,613 | \$291,667 |

There were no sales or purchases of investments for the 13 and 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017 and October 29, 2016.

4. Fair Value Measurements

ASC 820, Fair Value Measurement Disclosures (“ASC 820”), defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in accordance with GAAP and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. Fair value is defined under ASC 820 as the exit price associated with the sale of an asset or transfer of a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Financial Instruments

Valuation techniques used to measure fair value under ASC 820 must maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. In addition, ASC 820 establishes a three-tier fair value hierarchy, which prioritizes the inputs used in measuring fair value. These tiers include:

Level 1 — Quoted prices in active markets.

Level 2 — Inputs other than Level 1 that are observable, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3 — Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities.

In accordance with ASC 820, the following table represents the Company's fair value hierarchy for its financial assets (cash equivalents) measured at fair value on a recurring basis at October 28, 2017 and October 29, 2016:

Fair Value Measurements at October 28, 2017

Quoted Market

Prices in Active

Markets for

Significant

Identical

Significant Other

Unobservable

Assets

Observable Inputs

Inputs

| (In thousands) | Carrying Amount | (Level 1) | (Level 2) | (Level 3) |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Cash and cash equivalents: | | | | |
| Cash | \$ 185,546 | \$ 185,546 | — | — |
| Interest bearing deposits | 71,981 | 71,981 | — | — |
| Total cash and cash equivalents | \$ 257,527 | \$ 257,527 | — | — |

Fair Value Measurements at October 29, 2016

Quoted Market

Prices in Active

Markets for

Significant

Identical

Significant Other

Unobservable

Assets

Observable Inputs

Inputs

| (In thousands) | Carrying Amount | (Level 1) | (Level 2) | (Level 3) |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Cash and cash equivalents: | | | | |
| Cash | \$ 209,581 | \$ 209,581 | — | — |
| Interest bearing deposits | 82,086 | 82,086 | — | — |
| Total cash and cash equivalents | \$ 291,667 | \$ 291,667 | \$ — | \$ — |

In the event the Company holds Level 3 investments, a discounted cash flow model is used to value those investments. There were no Level 3 investments at October 28, 2017 or October 29, 2016.

Non-Financial Assets

The Company's non-financial assets, which include goodwill, intangible assets and property and equipment, are not required to be measured at fair value on a recurring basis. However, if certain triggering events occur, or if an annual impairment test is required, and the Company is required to evaluate the non-financial instrument for impairment, a resulting asset impairment would require that the non-financial asset be recorded at the estimated fair value. During the 13 and 39 weeks ended for October 28, 2017, the Company did not impair any non-financial assets.

5. Earnings per Share

The following is a reconciliation between basic and diluted weighted average shares outstanding:

| (In thousands) | 13 Weeks Ended | | 39 Weeks Ended | |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | October 28, 2017 | October 29, 2016 | October 28, 2017 | October 29, 2016 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding: | | | | |
| Basic number of common shares outstanding | 177,288 | 181,819 | 178,272 | 181,196 |
| Dilutive effect of stock options and non-vested | | | | |
| restricted stock | 1,844 | 2,796 | 1,988 | 2,455 |
| Diluted number of common shares outstanding | 179,132 | 184,615 | 180,260 | 183,651 |

Equity awards to purchase approximately 2.5 million shares of common stock during both the 13 and 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017 and approximately 1.4 million shares of common stock during both the 13 and 39 weeks ended October 29, 2016 were outstanding, but were not included in the computation of weighted average diluted common share amounts as the effect of doing so would be anti-dilutive.

Additionally, approximately 0.1 million and 0.9 million shares of restricted stock units for the 13 and 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017, respectively, were outstanding, but not included in the computation of weighted average diluted common share amounts as the effect of doing so would be anti-dilutive.

Refer to Note 9 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information regarding share-based compensation.

6. Property and Equipment

Property and equipment consists of the following:

| (In thousands) | October 28, 2017 | January 28, 2017 | October 29, 2016 |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Property and equipment, at cost | \$1,994,071 | \$1,884,297 | \$1,858,863 |
| Less: Accumulated depreciation and impairment | (1,267,903) | (1,176,500) | (1,150,375) |
| Property and equipment, net | \$726,168 | \$707,797 | \$708,488 |

7. Intangible Assets

Intangible assets consist of the following:

| | October 28, 2017 | January 28, 2017 | October 29, 2016 |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| (In thousands) | | | |
| Trademarks, at cost | \$69,623 | \$68,978 | \$68,611 |
| Less: Accumulated amortization | (22,644) | (19,605) | (18,618) |
| Intangible assets, net | \$46,979 | \$49,373 | \$49,993 |

8. Other Credit Arrangements

In Fiscal 2014, the Company entered into a Credit Agreement (“Credit Agreement”) for five-year, syndicated, asset-based revolving credit facilities (the “Credit Facilities”). The Credit Agreement provides senior secured revolving credit for loans and letters of credit up to \$400 million, subject to customary borrowing base limitations. The Credit Facilities provide increased financial flexibility and take advantage of a favorable credit environment.

All obligations under the Credit Facilities are unconditionally guaranteed by certain subsidiaries. The obligations under the Credit Agreement are secured by a first-priority security interest in certain working capital assets of the borrowers and guarantors, consisting primarily of cash, receivables, inventory and certain other assets and have been further secured by first-priority mortgages on certain real property.

As of October 28, 2017, the Company was in compliance with the terms of the Credit Agreement and had \$8.1 million outstanding in stand-by letters of credit. No loans were outstanding under the Credit Agreement as of October 28, 2017.

Additionally, the Company has a borrowing agreement with one financial institution under which it may borrow an aggregate of \$5.0 million USD for the purposes of trade letter of credit issuances. The availability of any future borrowings under the trade letter of credit facilities is subject to acceptance by the financial institution. As of October 28, 2017, the Company had no outstanding trade letters of credit.

9. Share-Based Compensation

The Company accounts for share-based compensation under the provisions of ASC 718, Compensation - Stock Compensation ("ASC 718"), which requires companies to measure and recognize compensation expense for all share-based payments at fair value. The Company adopted ASU 2016-09 prospectively at the beginning of Fiscal 2017 and now records excess tax benefits and deficiencies as a discrete adjustment to income tax expense when stock awards vest or are exercised, rather than in contributed capital where they have been historically recorded. ASU 2016-09 also requires cash flows related to excess tax benefits from share-based compensation to be presented in operating activities, rather than separately as a financing activity, in the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows.

Total share-based compensation expense included in the Consolidated Statements of Operations for the 13 weeks and 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017 was \$2.3 million (\$1.5 million, net of tax) and \$12.1 million (\$7.9 million, net of tax), respectively, and for the 13 weeks and 39 weeks ended October 29, 2016 was \$6.3 million (\$4.0 million, net of tax) and \$23.0 million (\$14.6 million, net of tax), respectively.

Stock Option Grants

The Company grants both time-based and performance-based stock options. A summary of the Company's stock option activity for the 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017 follows:

| | | Weighted- | Weighted- | Remaining | |
|--|----------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|--|
| | | Average | | | |
| | Options | Exercise Price | Contractual | Aggregate | |
| | (In thousands) | | Term | Intrinsic Value | |
| | | | (In years) | (In thousands) | |
| Outstanding - January 28, 2017 | 2,314 | \$ 15.33 | | | |
| Granted | 1,055 | \$ 14.59 | | | |
| Exercised (1) | (29) | \$ 11.51 | | | |
| Cancelled | (852) | \$ 14.82 | | | |
| Outstanding - October 28, 2017 | 2,488 | \$ 15.24 | 5.3 | \$ 0.3 | |
| Vested and expected to vest - October 28, 2017 | 2,341 | \$ 15.25 | 5.3 | \$ 0.3 | |
| Exercisable - October 28, 2017 (2) | 5 | \$ 13.70 | 1.3 | \$ 0.3 | |

(1) Options exercised during the 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017 had an exercise price of \$11.51.

(2)

Options exercisable represent “in-the-money” vested options based upon the weighted-average exercise price of vested options compared to the Company’s stock price at October 28, 2017.

Cash received from the exercise of stock options was \$0.2 million for the 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017 and \$16.2 million for the 39 weeks ended October 29, 2016. The actual tax benefit realized from stock option exercises totaled \$0.7 million for the 39 weeks October 28, 2017 and \$(0.2) million for the 39 weeks ended October 29, 2016.

As of October 28, 2017, there was \$5.2 million of unrecognized compensation expense for stock option awards that is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 2.0 years.

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The fair value of stock options was estimated at the date of grant using a Black-Scholes option pricing model with the following weighted-average assumptions:

| Black-Scholes Option Valuation Assumptions | 39 Weeks Ended October 28, 2017 | |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Risk-free interest rate (1) | 2.1 | % |
| Dividend yield | 3.1 | % |
| Volatility factor (2) | 38.5 | % |
| Weighted-average expected term (3) | 4.5 | years |

(1) Based on the U.S. Treasury yield curve in effect at the time of grant with a term consistent with the expected life of our stock options.

(2) Based on a combination of historical volatility of the Company's common stock and implied volatility.

(3) Represents the period of time options are expected to be outstanding. The weighted average expected option terms were determined based on historical experience.

Restricted Stock Grants

Time-based restricted stock awards are comprised of time-based restricted stock units. These awards vest over three years. Time-based restricted stock units receive dividend equivalents in the form of additional time-based restricted stock units, which are subject to the same restrictions and forfeiture provisions as the original award.

Performance-based restricted stock awards include performance-based restricted stock units. These awards cliff vest at the end of a three year period based upon the Company's achievement of pre-established goals throughout the term of the award. Performance-based restricted stock units receive dividend equivalents in the form of additional performance-based restricted stock units, which are subject to the same restrictions and forfeiture provisions as the original award.

The grant date fair value of all restricted stock awards is based on the closing market price of the Company's common stock on the date of grant.

A summary of the Company's restricted stock activity is presented in the following tables:

| (Shares in thousands) | Time-Based Restricted | | Performance-Based Restricted | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|
| | Stock Units | | Stock Units | |
| | 39 Weeks Ended | | 39 Weeks Ended | |
| | October 28, 2017 | | October 28, 2017 | |
| | Shares | Weighted | Shares | Weighted |
| | -Average | | -Average | |
| | Grant | | Grant | |
| | Date | | Date | |

| | | Fair Value | | Fair Value |
|------------------------------|--------|---------------|--------|---------------|
| Nonvested - January 28, 2017 | 2,001 | \$ 15.39 | 2,825 | \$ 15.07 |
| Granted | 1,489 | \$ 11.62 | 703 | \$ 14.97 |
| Vested | (986) | \$ 14.91 | (957) | \$ 14.14 |
| Cancelled | (194) | \$ 14.13 | (295) | \$ 16.13 |
| Nonvested - October 28, 2017 | 2,310 | \$ 13.27 | 2,276 | \$ 15.17 |

As of October 28, 2017, there was \$21.3 million of unrecognized compensation expense related to non-vested, time-based restricted stock unit awards that is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.9 years. Based on current probable performance, there is \$4.1 million of unrecognized compensation expense related to performance-based restricted stock unit awards which will be recognized as achievement of performance goals is probable over a one to three year period.

As of October 28, 2017, the Company had 9.3 million shares available for all equity grants.

10. Income Taxes

The provision for income taxes is based on the current estimate of the annual effective income tax rate and is adjusted as necessary for discrete quarterly events. The effective income tax rate for the 13 weeks ended October 28, 2017 was 34.8% compared to 36.3% for the 13 weeks ended October 29, 2016. The effective income tax rate for the 39 weeks

ended October 28, 2017 was 34.1% compared to 36.4% for the 39 weeks ended October 29, 2016. The decrease in the effective income tax rate for the 13 weeks ended October 28, 2017 was primarily due to the overall mix of earnings in jurisdictions with different tax rates. The decrease in the effective income tax rate for the 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017 was primarily due to the overall mix of earnings in jurisdictions with different tax rates and changes in unrecognized tax benefits.

The Company records accrued interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits in income tax expense. The Company recognizes income tax liabilities related to unrecognized tax benefits in accordance with ASC 740 and adjusts these liabilities when its judgment changes as the result of the evaluation of new information not previously available. Unrecognized tax benefits did not change significantly during the 13 weeks ended October 28, 2017. Over the next twelve months, the Company believes that it is reasonably possible that unrecognized tax benefits may decrease by approximately \$3.9 million due to settlements, expiration of statute of limitations or other changes in unrecognized tax benefits.

11. Legal Proceedings

The Company is subject to certain legal proceedings and claims arising out of the conduct of its business. In accordance with ASC 450, Contingencies ("ASC 450"), the Company records a reserve for estimated losses when the loss is probable and the amount can be reasonably estimated. If a range of possible loss exists and no anticipated loss within the range is more likely than any other anticipated loss, the Company records the accrual at the low end of the range, in accordance with ASC 450. As the Company believes that it has provided adequate reserves, it anticipates that the ultimate outcome of any matter currently pending against the Company will not materially affect the consolidated financial position, results of operations or consolidated cash flows of the Company. However, our assessment of any litigation or other legal claims could potentially change in light of the discovery of facts not presently known or determinations by judges, juries, or other finders of fact which are not in accord with management's evaluation of the possible liability or outcome of such litigation or claims.

12. Restructuring Related Charges

In the 13 and 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017, the Company recorded pre-tax restructuring related charges of \$3.7 million and \$29.9 million, respectively. These amounts consist of costs related to the planned exit of a joint business venture; charges for home office restructuring; and the previously announced initiative to explore the closure or conversion of Company owned and operated stores in Hong Kong, China, and the United Kingdom to licensed partnerships. The closure of the United Kingdom was completed in the 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017. The Company expects to incur additional charges for corporate and international restructuring charges in Fiscal 2017. The magnitude is dependent on a number of factors, including negotiating third-party agreements, adherence to notification requirements and local laws.

13 Weeks Ended 39 Weeks Ended

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| (In thousands) | October 28, 2017 | October 28, 2017 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Severance and related employee costs | \$ 2,431 | \$ 9,592 |
| Lease termination and store closure costs | 1,264 | 9,296 |
| Total cash restructuring charges (1) | 3,695 | 18,888 |
| Joint business venture charges (2) | — | 9,311 |
| Inventory charges (3) | — | 1,669 |
| Total restructuring related charges | \$ 3,695 | \$ 29,868 |

(1) Cash charges of \$3.7 million and \$18.9 million for the 13 and 39 weeks respectively, for lease termination, store closures & severance were recorded within Restructuring Charges on the Consolidated Statements of Operations

(2) \$9.3 million (\$5.1 million cash and \$4.2 million non-cash) of charges related to the planned exit of a joint business venture were recorded within Other (Expense) Income, Net on the Consolidated Statements of Operations

(3) Non-cash inventory charges of \$1.7 million related to restructuring activities for our United Kingdom and Asia markets recorded as a reduction in Gross Profit on the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

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A rollforward of the liabilities recognized in the Consolidated Balance Sheet is as follows. The accrued liability as of January 28, 2017 relates to previous restructuring activities disclosed in the Company's Fiscal 2016 Form 10-K, which remained unpaid at the beginning of Fiscal 2017.

(In thousands)

| | |
|---|----------|
| Accrued liability as of January 28, 2017 | \$1,175 |
| Add: Costs incurred, excluding non-cash charges | 24,015 |
| Less: Cash payments and adjustments | (15,391) |
| Accrued liability as of October 28, 2017 | \$9,799 |

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Review by Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Ernst & Young LLP, our independent registered public accounting firm, has performed a limited review of the unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements for the thirteen and thirty-nine week periods ended October 28, 2017 and October 29, 2016, as indicated in their report on the limited review included below. Since they did not perform an audit, they express no opinion on the unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements referred to above.

Review Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Stockholders of

American Eagle Outfitters, Inc.

We have reviewed the consolidated balance sheets of American Eagle Outfitters, Inc. (the Company) as of October 28, 2017 and October 29, 2016, and the related consolidated statements of operations and retained earnings and comprehensive income for the thirteen and thirty-nine week periods ended October 28, 2017 and October 29, 2016 and the consolidated statements of cash flows for the thirty-nine week periods ended October 28, 2017 and October 29, 2016. 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 (United States), 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 reviews, 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 U.S. 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 American Eagle Outfitters, Inc. as of January 28, 2017, and the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for the year then ended (not presented herein), and we expressed an unqualified audit opinion on those consolidated financial statements in our report dated March 10, 2017. In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated balance sheet of American Eagle Outfitters, Inc. as of January 28, 2017, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the consolidated balance sheet from which it has been derived.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

December 7, 2017

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

The following discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with our Fiscal 2016 Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations which can be found in our Fiscal 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

In addition, the following discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations are based upon our Consolidated Financial Statements and should be read in conjunction with these statements and notes thereto.

This report contains various "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which represent our expectations or beliefs concerning future events, including the following:

- the planned opening of approximately 15 to 20 AEO stores, including 10 to 15 Aerie side-by-side formats, and 15 Aerie stand-alone stores, and remodel of 15 to 20 existing AE stores to Aerie side-by-side format in North America during Fiscal 2017;
- the success of our efforts to expand internationally, engage in future franchise/license agreements, and/or growth through acquisitions or joint ventures;
- the selection of approximately 50 American Eagle Outfitters stores in the United States and Canada for remodeling and refurbishing during Fiscal 2017;
- the potential closure of approximately 20 to 23 American Eagle Outfitters and 4 to 7 Aerie stores primarily in North America during Fiscal 2017;
- the success of our core American Eagle Outfitters and Aerie brands within North America and internationally;
- the success of our business priorities and strategies;
- the expected payment of a dividend in future periods;
- the possibility that our credit facilities may not be available for future borrowings;
- the possibility that rising prices of raw materials, labor, energy and other inputs to our manufacturing process, if unmitigated, will have a significant impact to our profitability; and
- the possibility that we may be required to take additional store impairment charges related to underperforming stores.

We caution that these forward-looking statements, and those described elsewhere in this report, involve material risks and uncertainties and are subject to change based on factors beyond our control as discussed within Item 1A of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and Item 1A of our Fiscal 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K. Accordingly, our future performance and financial results may differ materially from those expressed or implied in any such forward-looking statements.

Key Performance Indicators

Our management evaluates the following items, which are considered key performance indicators, in assessing our performance:

Comparable sales - Comparable sales provide a measure of sales growth for stores and channels open at least one year over the comparable prior year period. In fiscal years following those with 53 weeks, the prior year period is shifted by one week to compare similar calendar weeks. A store is included in comparable sales in the thirteenth month of operation. However, stores that have a gross square footage change of 25% or greater due to a remodel are removed from the comparable sales base, but are included in total sales. These stores are returned to the comparable sales base in the thirteenth month following the remodel. Sales from American Eagle Outfitters, Aerie and Tailgate stores, as well as sales from AEO Direct and other digital channels, are included in total comparable sales. Sales from licensed stores are not included in comparable sales. Individual American Eagle Outfitters and Aerie brand comparable sales disclosures represent sales from stores and AEO Direct.

AEO Direct sales are included in the individual American Eagle Outfitters and Aerie brand comparable sales metric for the following reasons:

Our approach to customer engagement is “omni-channel”, which provides a seamless customer experience through both traditional and non-traditional channels, including four wall store locations, web, mobile/tablet devices, social networks, email, in-store displays and kiosks. Additionally, we fulfill online orders at stores through our buy online, ship from store capability, maximizing store inventory exposure to digital traffic. We also offer reserve online, pickup in store service to our customers and give them the ability to look up store inventory from all digital channels; and Shopping behavior has continued to evolve across multiple channels that work in tandem to meet customer needs. Management believes that presenting a brand level performance metric that includes all channels (i.e., stores and AEO Direct) is the most appropriate, given customer behavior.

Our management considers comparable sales to be an important indicator of our current performance. Comparable sales results are important to achieve leveraging of our costs, including store payroll, store supplies, rent, etc. Comparable sales also have a direct impact on our total net revenue, cash and working capital.

Gross profit — Gross profit measures whether we are optimizing profitability of our sales. Gross profit is the difference between total net revenue and cost of sales. Cost of sales consists of: merchandise costs, including design, sourcing, importing and inbound freight costs, as well as markdowns, shrinkage and certain promotional costs (collectively “merchandise costs”) and buying, occupancy and warehousing costs. Design costs consist of: compensation, rent, depreciation, travel, supplies and samples.

Buying, occupancy and warehousing costs consist of: compensation, employee benefit expenses and travel for our buyers and certain senior merchandising executives; rent and utilities related to our stores, corporate headquarters, distribution centers and other office space; freight from our distribution centers to the stores; compensation and supplies for our distribution centers, including purchasing, receiving and inspection costs; and shipping and handling costs related to our e-commerce operation. The inability to obtain acceptable levels of sales, initial markups or any significant increase in our use of markdowns could have an adverse effect on our gross profit and results of operations.

Operating income — Our management views operating income as a key indicator of our performance. The key drivers of operating income are comparable sales, gross profit, our ability to control selling, general and administrative expenses, and our level of capital expenditures. Management also uses earnings before interest and taxes as an indicator of operating results.

Return on invested capital — Our management uses return on invested capital as a key measure to assess our efficiency at allocating capital to profitable investments. This measure is critical in determining which strategic alternatives to pursue.

Omni-channel sales performance — Our management utilizes the following quality of sales metrics in evaluating our omni-channel sales performance: Comparable sales, average unit retail price (“AUR”), units per transaction (“UPT”), average transaction value, transactions, customer traffic and conversion rates.

Inventory turnover — Our management evaluates inventory turnover as a measure of how productively inventory is bought and sold. Inventory turnover is important as it can signal slow moving inventory. This can be critical in determining the need to take markdowns on merchandise.

Cash flow and liquidity — Our management evaluates free cash flow in determining the sufficiency of our cash position. Free cash flow has historically been sufficient to cover our uses of cash. Our management believes that free cash flow will be sufficient to fund anticipated capital expenditures, dividends and working capital requirements.

Results of Operations

Overview

Our third quarter produced record sales and the eleventh consecutive quarter of positive comparable sales growth. Comparable sales were positive in both the AE and Aerie brands. Our results validated our investments in product leadership, innovation, quality and strong brand equity. Margin demonstrated sequential improvement year over-year as erosion narrowed significantly. SG&A expense declined compared to last year, resulting in strong expense leverage. We ended the quarter in solid financial condition, with \$257.5 million in cash and no outstanding debt.

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Total net revenue increased 2% to \$960.4 million and consolidated comparable sales, including AEO Direct, increased 3%, following a 2% increase last year. By brand, American Eagle Outfitters comparable sales increased 1% while Aerie increased 19%.

Gross profit decreased 1% to \$374.9 million compared to \$377.8 million last year and decreased 120 basis points to 39.0% as a rate to total net revenue. The decline in margin rate is the result of increased promotional activity and shipping costs associated with a strong digital business.

Selling, general and administrative expense decreased 1% to \$217.1 million compared to \$219.9 million last year and leveraged 80 basis points to 22.6% as a rate to total net revenue. SG&A expense decreased as a result of lower incentives and expense discipline, partially offset by higher wages.

Net income for the quarter was \$63.7 million, or \$0.36 per diluted share, compared to \$75.8 million, or \$0.41 per diluted share, last year. On an adjusted basis, net income per diluted share this year was \$0.37 per share, which excludes \$0.01 per share of restructuring related charges. Additionally, this year we incurred a discrete charge of \$13.9 million, or \$0.05 per diluted share, in other expense associated with a reserve against a receivable.

During Fiscal 2017, we returned \$155.8 million to shareholders through share repurchases of \$87.7 million, and cash dividends of \$68.1 million. We had \$257.5 million in cash and cash equivalents as of October 28, 2017 compared to \$291.7 million last year. Merchandise inventory at the end of the third quarter was \$534.0 million, compared to \$492.6 million last year, an 8% increase.

Our business is affected by the pattern of seasonality common to most retail apparel businesses. The results for the current and prior periods are not necessarily indicative of future financial results.

This results of operations section contains non-GAAP financial measures (“non-GAAP” or “adjusted”), comprised of earnings per share information excluding non-GAAP items. This financial measure is not based on any standardized methodology prescribed by U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) and is not necessarily comparable to similar measures presented by other companies. We believe that this non-GAAP information is useful as an additional means for investors to evaluate our operating performance, when reviewed in conjunction with our GAAP financial statements. These amounts are not determined in accordance with GAAP and, therefore, should not be used exclusively in evaluating our business and operations. The table below reconciles the GAAP financial measure to the non-GAAP financial measure discussed above.

| | |
|---|--|
| | 13 Weeks Ended October 28, 2017 |
| Net income per diluted share - GAAP Basis | \$ 0.36 |
| Add: Restructuring related charges (1) | 0.01 |
| Net income per diluted share - Adjusted or Non-GAAP | |
| Basis | \$ 0.37 |

(1) \$3.7 million pre-tax restructuring related charges, consisting of:

• Corporate severance related charges (\$2.4 million) and corporate lease buyouts of (\$1.3 million)

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The following table shows the percentage relationship to total net revenue of the listed line items included in our Consolidated Statements of Operations.

| | 13 Weeks Ended | | 39 Weeks Ended | |
|--|----------------|---------|----------------|---------|
| | October | October | October | October |
| | 28, | 29, | 28, | 29, |
| | 2017 | 2016 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Total net revenue | 100.0 | % 100.0 | % 100.0 | % 100.0 |
| Cost of sales, including certain buying, occupancy | | | | |
| and warehousing expenses | 61.0 | 59.8 | 63.2 | 61.1 |
| Gross profit | 39.0 | 40.2 | 36.8 | 38.9 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 22.6 | 23.4 | 24.0 | 24.5 |
| Restructuring charges | 0.4 | — | 0.8 | — |
| Depreciation and amortization expense | 4.5 | 4.2 | 4.8 | 4.6 |
| Operating income | 11.5 | 12.6 | 7.2 | 9.8 |
| Other (expense) income, net | (1.4) | — | (0.8) | 0.1 |
| Income before income taxes | 10.1 | 12.6 | 6.4 | 9.9 |
| Provision for income taxes | 3.5 | 4.6 | 2.2 | 3.6 |
| Net Income | 6.6 | % 8.0 | % 4.2 | % 6.3 |

The following table shows our consolidated store data:

| | 13 Weeks | | 39 Weeks | |
|--|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| | Ended | Ended | Ended | Ended |
| | October | October | October | October |
| | 28, | 29, | 28, | 29, |
| | 2017 | 2016 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Number of stores: | | | | |
| Beginning of period | 1,057 | 1,044 | 1,050 | 1,047 |
| Opened | 5 | 11 | 26 | 19 |
| Closed | (4) | (3) | (18) | (14) |
| End of period | 1,058 | 1,052 | 1,058 | 1,052 |
| Total gross square feet at end of period (in '000) | 6,641 | 6,638 | 6,641 | 6,638 |
| International licensed/franchise stores at end of | | | | |
| period (1) | 205 | 163 | 205 | 163 |

(1) International licensed/franchise stores are not included in the consolidated store data or the total gross square feet calculation.

Our operations are conducted in one reportable segment, consisting of 943 American Eagle Outfitters retail stores which include 114 Aerie side-by-side locations, 110 Aerie stand-alone locations and AEO Direct. Additionally, there were 4 Tailgate and 1 Todd Snyder stand-alone locations.

Comparison of the 13 weeks ended October 28, 2017 to the 13 weeks ended October 29, 2016

Total net revenue

Total net revenue increased 2%, or \$19.8 million, to \$960.4 million compared to \$940.6 million last year. The increase resulted from a consolidated comparable sales increase of 3% for the period following a 2% increase last year.

By brand, including the respective AEO Direct sales, American Eagle Outfitters brand comparable sales increased 1%, or \$10.7 million, and Aerie brand comparable sales increased 19%, or \$13.5 million. Total comparable sales for AE women's increased 1% and men's increased 2%.

For the third quarter, consolidated comp traffic increased in the low-double digits while transactions increased in the mid-single digits. Average transaction value decreased slightly, driven by a decrease in units per transaction in the low-single digits, partially offset by an AUR increase in the low-single digits.

Gross Profit

Gross profit decreased 1% or \$2.9 million to \$374.9 million compared to \$377.8 million last year and decreased 120 basis points to 39.0%. 50 basis points of the decline in the gross margin rate is the result of increased promotions to drive sales and conversion. Additionally, buying, occupancy, and warehousing costs deleveraged 70 basis points as a result of higher delivery costs related to increased AEO Direct penetration.

There was \$2.0 million and \$3.1 million of share-based payment expense included in gross profit for the periods ended October 28, 2017 and October 29, 2016, respectively, comprised of both time and performance-based awards.

Our gross profit may not be comparable to that of other retailers, as some retailers include all costs related to their distribution network, as well as design costs in cost of sales and others may exclude a portion of these costs from cost of sales, including them in a line item such as selling, general and administrative expenses. Refer to Note 2 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for a description of our accounting policy regarding cost of sales, including certain buying, occupancy and warehousing expenses.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general and administrative (“SG&A”) expenses decreased 1% or \$2.8 million to \$217.1 million from \$219.9 million last year. As a rate to total net revenue, SG&A expenses leveraged 80 basis points to 22.6%, compared to 23.4% last year. SG&A expense decreased as a result of lower incentives and expense discipline, partially offset by higher wages.

There was \$0.3 million and \$3.2 million of share-based payment expense included in SG&A expenses for the periods ended October 28, 2017 and October 29, 2016, respectively, comprised of both time and performance-based awards.

Restructuring Charges

Restructuring charges were \$3.7 million, or 0.4% as a rate to total net revenue, for the 13 weeks ended October 28, 2017. These charges are the result of corporate severance related charges of \$2.4 million and \$1.3 million of corporate lease buyout charges.

Depreciation and Amortization Expense

Depreciation and amortization expense increased 9% or \$3.5 million to \$43.1 million, compared to \$39.6 million last year. As a rate to total net revenue, depreciation and amortization expense was 4.5% this year as compared to 4.2% last year. The increase was driven by omni-channel, stores and IT technology investments.

Other (Expense) Income, Net

Other expense increased to \$(13.2) million this year, compared to other income of \$0.6 million last year. Included in other expense this year was a \$13.9 million discrete charge, associated with a reserve against a receivable.

Provision for Income Taxes

The provision for income taxes is based on the current estimate of the annual effective income tax rate and is adjusted as necessary for quarterly events. The effective income tax rate for the 13 weeks ended October 28, 2017 was 34.8% compared to 36.3% for the 13 weeks ended October 29, 2016. The decrease in the effective income tax rate for the 13 weeks ended October 28, 2017 was primarily due to the overall mix of earnings in jurisdictions with different tax rates.

Net Income

Net income decreased 16%, or \$12.0 million, to \$63.7 million, or 6.6% as a percent to total net revenue, from \$75.8 million, or 8.0% as a percent to total net revenue last year. Net income per share decreased to \$0.36 per diluted share from \$0.41 per diluted share last year. Net income per diluted share of \$0.36 this year includes \$0.01 per share of restructuring related charges and \$0.05 per share of a discrete charge associated with a reserve against a receivable. The change in net income is attributable to the factors noted above.

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Comparison of the 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017 to the 39 weeks ended October 29, 2016

Total net revenue

Total net revenue increased 2%, or \$54.2 million, to \$2.567 billion compared to \$2.513 billion last year. The increase resulted from a consolidated comparable sales increase of 2% for the period, following a 4% increase last year.

By brand, including the respective AEO Direct sales, American Eagle Outfitters brand comparable sales remained approximately flat, or \$3.3 million, and Aerie brand comparable sales increased 23%, or \$48.0 million. Total comparable sales for AE women's increased 1% and men's decreased 2%.

For the year to date period, consolidated comp traffic increased in the high-single digits and transactions increased in the mid-single digits. Average transaction value decreased in the low-single digits, driven by a low-single digits decrease in units per transaction, partially offset by an AUR increase in the low-single digits.

Gross Profit

Gross profit decreased 3% or \$33.0 million to \$945.4 million compared to \$978.4 million last year, and the gross profit rate decreased 210 basis points to 36.8% compared to 38.9% last year. Gross profit this year includes \$1.7 million, or 10 basis points, of inventory charges related to restructuring activities in our United Kingdom and Asia markets. 150 basis points of decline in the gross profit rate is the result of increased promotions to drive sales and conversion. Additionally, buying, occupancy, and warehousing costs deleveraged 50 basis points primarily as a result of higher delivery costs related to increased AEO Direct penetration.

There was \$7.2 million and \$12.1 million of share-based payment expense included in gross profit for the periods ended October 28, 2017 and October 29, 2016, respectively, comprised of both time and performance-based awards.

Our gross profit may not be comparable to that of other retailers, as some retailers include all costs related to their distribution network, as well as design costs in cost of sales and others may exclude a portion of these costs from cost of sales, including them in a line item such as selling, general and administrative expenses. Refer to Note 2 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for a description of our accounting policy regarding cost of sales, including certain buying, occupancy and warehousing expenses.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

SG&A expenses of \$615.8 were relatively flat as compared to \$615.5 million last year. SG&A expense remained flat as a result of higher advertising investments and store salaries, offset by lower incentive compensation. As a rate to total net revenue, SG&A expenses leveraged 50 basis points to 24.0%, compared to 24.5% last year.

There was \$4.8 million and \$10.9 million of share-based payment expense included in SG&A expenses for the periods ended October 28, 2017 and October 29, 2016, respectively, comprised of both time and performance-based awards.

Restructuring Charges

Restructuring charges were \$18.9 million, or 0.8% as a rate to total net revenue, for the 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017. These charges are the result of home office restructuring and the previously announced initiative to explore the closure or conversion of Company owned and operated stores in Hong Kong, China, and the United Kingdom to licensed partnerships. The closure of the United Kingdom was completed in the 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017. We expect to incur additional charges for corporate and international restructuring charges in Fiscal 2017.

Recorded separately from Restructuring Charges on the Consolidated Statements of Operations is \$1.7 million, or 0.1% as a rate to total revenue, of inventory charges related to restructuring activities recorded as a reduction in Gross Profit in our United Kingdom and Asia markets. Additionally, \$9.3 million, or 0.4% as a rate to total revenue, for costs related to the planned exit of a joint business venture are recorded within Other (Expense) Income, Net.

Depreciation and Amortization Expense

Depreciation and amortization expense increased 6% or \$6.6 million to \$123.9 million, compared to \$117.3 million last year. As a rate to total net revenue, depreciation and amortization expense was 4.8% this year as compared to 4.6% last year. The increase was driven by omni-channel, stores and IT technology investments.

Other (Expense) Income, Net

Other expense was \$(19.6) million this year, compared to \$2.4 million of other income last year. Included in other expense this year is \$9.3 million of costs related to the planned exit of a joint business venture, along with a \$16.0 million discrete charge in the 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017 associated with a reserve against a receivable, partially offset by foreign currency fluctuations.

Provision for Income Taxes

The provision for income taxes is based on the current estimate of the annual effective income tax rate and is adjusted as necessary for quarterly events. The effective income tax rate for the 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017 was 34.1% compared to 36.4% for the 39 weeks ended October 29, 2016. The decrease in the effective income tax rate this year is primarily due to the overall mix of earnings in jurisdictions with different tax rates and changes in unrecognized tax benefits.

Net Income

Net income decreased 30% or \$47.6 million to \$110.2 million, or 4.2% as a percent to total net revenue, from \$157.8 million, or 6.3% as a percent to total net revenue last year. Net income per diluted share decreased to \$0.61 per diluted share from \$0.86 per diluted share last year. Net income per diluted share of \$0.61 this year includes \$0.11 per diluted share of restructuring related charges and \$0.05 per share of a discrete charge associated with to a reserve against a receivable. The change in net income is attributable to the factors noted above.

International Operations

We have agreements with multiple third party operators to expand our brands internationally. Through these agreements, a series of franchised, licensed or other brand-dedicated American Eagle Outfitters stores have opened and will continue to open in areas including Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Central and South America, Northern Africa and parts of Asia. These agreements do not involve a significant capital investment or operational involvement from us. We continue to increase the number of countries in which we enter into these types of arrangements as part of our strategy to expand internationally. In the 13 weeks ended October 28, 2017 we signed a multi-year license agreement for the India territory, with the Aditya Birla Group, a leading Indian conglomerate, with the first stores expecting to open in Spring 2018. As of October 28, 2017, we had 205 stores operated by our third party operators in 24 countries. International third party operated stores are not included in the consolidated store data or the total gross square feet calculation.

As of October 28, 2017, we had 103 company-operated stores in Canada, 32 in Mexico, 6 in Hong Kong, 6 in China and 6 in Puerto Rico. During the 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017, we completed the closure of all stores in the United Kingdom. We continue to evaluate further opportunities to expand internationally, which may include additional company-operated stores as well as stores operated by third party operators under license, franchise and/or joint venture agreements.

Fair Value Measurements

ASC 820 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in accordance with GAAP, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. Fair value is defined under ASC 820 as the exit price associated with the sale of an asset or transfer of a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Financial Instruments

Valuation techniques used to measure fair value under ASC 820 must maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. In addition, ASC 820 establishes a three-tier fair value hierarchy, which prioritizes the inputs used in measuring fair value. These tiers include:

Level 1 — Quoted prices in active markets.

Level 2 — Inputs other than Level 1 that are observable, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3 — Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities.

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As of October 28, 2017, we held certain assets that are required to be measured at fair value on a recurring basis. These include cash and cash equivalents.

In accordance with ASC 820, the following table represents the fair value hierarchy of our financial assets (cash equivalents and investments) measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of October 28, 2017:

| Fair Value Measurements at October 28, 2017 | | | | |
|---|-----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Quoted Market | | | | |
| Prices in Active | | | | |
| Markets for | | | | |
| Identical | | | | |
| Assets | | | | |
| Significant Other | | | | |
| Observable Inputs | | | | |
| Significant | | | | |
| Unobservable | | | | |
| Inputs | | | | |
| (In thousands) | Carrying Amount | (Level 1) | (Level 2) | (Level 3) |
| Cash and cash equivalents: | | | | |
| Cash | \$ 185,546 | \$ 185,546 | — | — |
| Interest bearing deposits | 71,981 | 71,981 | — | — |
| Total cash and cash equivalents | \$ 257,527 | \$ 257,527 | — | — |

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our uses of cash are generally for working capital, the construction of new stores and remodeling of existing stores, information technology upgrades, distribution center improvements and expansion and the return of value to shareholders through the repurchase of common stock and the payment of dividends. Historically, these uses of cash have been funded with cash flow from operations and existing cash on hand. Also, we hold a five-year asset-based revolving credit facility that allows us to borrow up to \$400 million, which will expire in December of 2019. Additionally, our uses of cash include the development of the Aerie brand, investments in technology and omni-channel capabilities, and our international expansion efforts. We expect to be able to fund our future cash requirements through current cash holdings as well as cash generated from operations.

Our growth strategy includes fortifying our brands and further e-commerce and store expansion or acquisitions. We periodically consider and evaluate these options to support future growth. In the event we do pursue such options, we could require additional equity or debt financing. There can be no assurance that we would be successful in closing any potential transaction, or that any endeavor we undertake would increase our profitability.

The following sets forth certain measures of our liquidity:

| | October 28, 2017 | January 28, 2017 | October 29, 2016 |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Working Capital (in thousands) | \$377,372 | \$407,446 | \$373,970 |
| Current Ratio | 1.68 | 1.83 | 1.66 |

Working capital decreased \$30.1 million compared to January 28, 2017 and increased \$3.4 million compared to last year. The \$30.1 million decrease in our working capital and corresponding decrease in the current ratio as of October 28, 2017, is driven by the following: \$121.1 million decrease in cash driven by cash flow from operations of \$188.1 million, offset by share repurchases of \$87.7 million, capital expenditures of \$134.9 million and dividends of \$66.4 million. Additionally, we had a net increase in non-cash working capital balances of \$91.0, primarily the result of higher inventory levels as compared to Fiscal 2016 year end.

Cash Flows from Operating Activities

Net cash provided by operating activities totaled \$188.1 million and \$202.9 million for the 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017 and October 29, 2016, respectively. For both periods, our major source of cash from operations was merchandise sales and our primary outflow of cash for operations was for the payment of operational costs.

Cash Flows from Investing Activities

Investing activities for the 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017 primarily consisted of \$134.9 million of capital expenditures for property and equipment. Investing activities for the 39 weeks ended October 29, 2016 primarily included \$107.6 million of capital expenditures for property and equipment.

Cash Flows from Financing Activities

Cash used for financing activities for the 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017 consisted primarily of \$87.7 million of purchases of common stock under publically announced programs, \$66.4 million for cash dividends paid at a quarterly rate of \$0.125 per share, \$12.3 million for the repurchase of common stock from employees for the payment of taxes in connection with the vesting of share-based payments and \$8.7 million for the payments on capital leases.

Cash used for financing activities for the 39 weeks ended October 29, 2016 consisted primarily of \$67.9 million for cash dividends paid at a quarterly rate of \$0.125 per share, \$6.9 million for the repurchase of common stock from employees for the payment of taxes in connection with the vesting of share-based payments and \$5.6 million for the payments on capital leases, partially offset by \$16.2 million of net proceeds from stock option exercises. There were no purchases of common stock from publically announced programs last year.

Credit Facilities

In Fiscal 2014, we entered into a Credit Agreement (“Credit Agreement”) for five-year, syndicated, asset-based revolving credit facilities (the “Credit Facilities”). The Credit Agreement provides senior secured revolving credit for loans and letters of credit up to \$400.0 million, subject to customary borrowing base limitations. The Credit Facilities provide increased financial flexibility and take advantage of a favorable credit environment.

All obligations under the Credit Facilities are unconditionally guaranteed by certain subsidiaries. The obligations under the Credit Agreement are secured by a first-priority security interest in certain working capital assets of the borrowers and guarantors, consisting primarily of cash, receivables, inventory and certain other assets and have been further secured by first-priority mortgages on certain real property.

As of October 28, 2017, we were in compliance with the terms of the Credit Agreement and had \$8.1 million outstanding in stand-by letters of credit. No loans were outstanding under the Credit Agreement on October 28, 2017.

Additionally, we have a borrowing agreement with one financial institution under which we may borrow an aggregate of \$5.0 million for the purposes of trade letter of credit issuances. The availability of any future borrowings under the trade letter of credit facilities is subject to acceptance by the respective financial institutions. As of October 28, 2017, we had no outstanding trade letters of credit.

Capital Expenditures for Property and Equipment

Capital expenditures for the 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017 were \$134.9 million and included \$76.8 million related to investments in our stores. In the 13 weeks ended October 28, 2017, we opened 1 new Aerie location. Also, we opened 4 new AE stores; 1 in Mexico, 1 in Canada and the remaining 2 in the U.S. to better position select markets. Additionally, we continued to support our infrastructure growth by investing in information technology initiatives (\$25.0 million), e-commerce (\$22.9 million), the improvement of our distribution centers (\$8.8 million), and other home office projects (\$1.4 million).

For Fiscal 2017, we expect capital expenditures to be in the range of \$160 million to \$170 million in support of our expansion efforts, stores investments including selective remodels of high performing, long-term locations, information technology upgrades to support growth and investments in e-commerce.

Stock Repurchases

During the 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017, as part of our publicly announced share repurchase program, we repurchased 6.0 million shares for \$87.7 million, at a weighted average price of \$14.59 per share.

During Fiscal 2016, our Board authorized the repurchase of 25.0 million shares under a new share repurchase program which expires on January 30, 2021. As of October 28, 2017, 19.0 million shares remain outstanding under the current authorization.

During the 39 weeks ended October 28, 2017 and October 29, 2016, we repurchased approximately 0.8 million and 0.4 million shares, respectively, from certain employees at market prices totaling \$12.3 million and \$6.9 million, respectively. These shares were repurchased for the payment of taxes, in connection with the vesting of share-based payments, as permitted under our equity incentive plans. The aforementioned shares repurchased have been recorded as treasury stock.

Dividends

During the 13 weeks ended October 28, 2017, our Board declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.125 per share, which was paid on October 20, 2017. The payment of future dividends is at the discretion of our Board and is based on future earnings, cash flow, financial condition, capital requirements, changes in U.S. taxation and other relevant factors. It is anticipated that any future dividends paid will be declared on a quarterly basis.

Critical Accounting Policies

Our critical accounting policies are described in Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, and in the notes to our Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended January 28, 2017 contained in our Fiscal 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K. Any new accounting policies or updates to existing accounting policies as a result of new accounting pronouncements have been discussed in the notes to our Consolidated Financial Statements in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. The application of our critical accounting policies may require our management to make judgments and estimates about the amounts reflected in the Consolidated Financial Statements. Our management uses historical experience and all available information to make these estimates and judgments, and different amounts could be reported using different assumptions and estimates.

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK.

There were no material changes in our exposure to market risk from January 28, 2017. Our market risk profile as of January 28, 2017 is disclosed in Item 7A, Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk, of our Fiscal 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

We maintain disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed in our reports under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission’s rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management including our Principal Executive Officer and our Principal Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. In designing and evaluating the disclosure controls and procedures, management recognized that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives.

In connection with the preparation of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, as of October 28, 2017, an evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including the Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Exchange Act). Based upon that evaluation, our Principal Executive Officer and our Principal Financial Officer have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level as of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the 13 weeks ended October 28, 2017 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II – OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS.

Risk factors that affect our business and financial results are discussed within Item 1A of our Fiscal 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K. There have been no material changes to the disclosures relating to this item from those set forth in our Fiscal 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

The following table provides information regarding our repurchases of our common stock during the 13 weeks ended October 28, 2017.

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased (1) | Average Price Paid Per Share (2) | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Programs (1) | Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Program (1) (3) |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| Month #1 (July 30, 2017 through August 26, 2017) | — | — | — | 19,000,000 |
| Month #2 (August 27, 2017 through September 30, 2017) | 7,140 | \$ 12.27 | — | 19,000,000 |
| Month #3 (October 1, 2017 through October 28, 2017) | 12,916 | \$ 13.78 | — | 19,000,000 |
| Total | 20,056 | \$ 13.24 | — | 19,000,000 |

(1) During the 13 weeks ended October 28, 2017 there were no shares repurchased as part of our publicly announced share repurchase program and there were 20,056 shares repurchased for the payment of taxes in connection with the vesting of share-based payments.

(2) Average price paid per share excludes any broker commissions paid.

(3) During Fiscal 2016, our Board of Directors authorized 25.0 million shares under a new share repurchase program which expires on January 30, 2021.

ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

On December 7, 2017, the Company entered into an indemnification agreement (the “Indemnification Agreement”) with James H. Keefer, Jr., the Company’s Vice President – Controller and Chief Accounting Officer. The Indemnification Agreement is in the same form as the indemnification agreement that we have entered into with our other directors and executive officers and previously has been filed with the SEC.

The terms of the Indemnification Agreement, subject to certain exceptions, generally provide that the Company will indemnify the indemnitee to the fullest extent permitted by law in connection with any claims, suits or proceedings arising as a result of his or her service as a director or officer of the Company or any subsidiary of the Company, including against third-party claims and proceedings brought by or in right of the Company. No indemnification will be paid pursuant to the Indemnification Agreement (i) on account of any proceedings brought by the indemnitee, including any proceedings against the Company (except as otherwise provided in the Indemnification Agreement), (ii) if a court finally determines that the indemnification is prohibited under applicable law, (iii) on account of any proceeding arising against the indemnitee for the disgorgement of profits from the purchase or sale of securities of the Company pursuant to Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or (iv) relating to the clawback or recoupment of any bonus or other incentive-based or equity-based compensation previously received by indemnitee or payment of any profits realized by indemnitee from the sale of securities of the Company. Additionally, the Indemnification Agreement provides that the indemnitee is entitled to the advancement of certain expenses, subject to certain exceptions and repayment conditions, incurred in connection with such claims, suits or proceedings.

Any indemnification agreement to be entered into between the Company and a newly-appointed director or executive officer following the date hereof will be substantially similar to the form of the Indemnification Agreement described herein.

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS.

- * Exhibit 10.1 Separation Agreement between the registrant and Peter Horvath, dated October 5, 2017
 - * Exhibit 15 Acknowledgement of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
 - * Exhibit 31.1 Certification by Jay L. Schottenstein pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a)
 - * Exhibit 31.2 Certification by Robert L. Madore pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a)
 - **Exhibit 32.1 Certification of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
 - **Exhibit 32.2 Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
 - * Exhibit 101 Interactive Data File
- * Filed with this report.
**Furnished with this report.

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.

Dated: December 7, 2017

American Eagle Outfitters, Inc.

(Registrant)

By: /s/ Jay L. Schottenstein
Jay L. Schottenstein
Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

By: /s/ Robert L. Madore
Robert L. Madore
Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)