

Ulta Beauty, Inc.
Form 10-Q
August 30, 2018
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UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 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 August 4, 2018

or

Transition Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number: 001 33764

ULTA BEAUTY, INC.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

incorporation or organization) Identification No.)

Delaware 38 4022268

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization) (I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)
1000 Remington Blvd., Suite 120 60440

Bolingbrook, Illinois (Zip code)

(Address of principal executive offices)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (630) 410 4800

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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 every Interactive Data File required to be submitted 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 such files). Yes No

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

incorporation or organization)

Identification No.)

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

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

The number of shares of the registrant’s common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, outstanding as of August 28, 2018 was 59,770,399 shares.

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ULTA BEAUTY, INC.

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Part I - Financial Information

Item 1. Financial Statements

Ulta Beauty, Inc.

Consolidated Balance Sheets

| (In thousands, except per share data) | August 4, 2018 (Unaudited) | February 3, 2018 | July 29, 2017 (Unaudited) |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Assets | | | |
| Current assets: | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 237,107 | \$ 277,445 | \$ 92,860 |
| Short-term investments | 149,000 | 120,000 | 180,000 |
| Receivables, net | 103,666 | 99,719 | 67,593 |
| Merchandise inventories, net | 1,219,685 | 1,096,424 | 1,144,702 |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | 103,618 | 98,666 | 98,215 |
| Prepaid income taxes | 17,082 | 1,489 | 9,124 |
| Total current assets | 1,830,158 | 1,693,743 | 1,592,494 |
| Property and equipment, net | 1,212,978 | 1,189,453 | 1,095,135 |
| Deferred compensation plan assets | 19,585 | 16,827 | 14,588 |
| Other long-term assets | 10,628 | 8,664 | — |
| Total assets | \$ 3,073,349 | \$ 2,908,687 | \$ 2,702,217 |
| Liabilities and stockholders' equity | | | |
| Current liabilities: | | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 409,849 | \$ 325,758 | \$ 313,483 |
| Accrued liabilities | 348,906 | 302,307 | 256,794 |
| Accrued income taxes | — | 14,101 | — |
| Total current liabilities | 758,755 | 642,166 | 570,277 |
| Deferred rent | 422,455 | 407,916 | 387,670 |
| Deferred income taxes | 49,700 | 59,403 | 85,181 |
| Other long-term liabilities | 29,961 | 24,985 | 23,739 |
| Total liabilities | 1,260,871 | 1,134,470 | 1,066,867 |
| Commitments and contingencies (Note 4) | | | |
| Stockholders' equity: | | | |
| Common stock, \$0.01 par value, 400,000 shares authorized; 60,518, 61,441, and 62,263 shares issued; 59,872, 60,822, and 61,645 shares outstanding; at August 4, 2018 (unaudited), February 3, 2018, and July 29, 2017 (unaudited), respectively | 605 | 614 | 623 |
| Treasury stock-common, at cost | (24,413) | (18,767) | (18,551) |
| Additional paid-in capital | 720,535 | 698,917 | 683,156 |
| Retained earnings | 1,115,751 | 1,093,453 | 970,122 |
| Total stockholders' equity | 1,812,478 | 1,774,217 | 1,635,350 |

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| | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$ 3,073,349 | \$ 2,908,687 | \$ 2,702,217 |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

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Ulta Beauty, Inc.

Consolidated Statements of Income

(Unaudited)

| (In thousands, except per share data) | 13 Weeks Ended | | 26 Weeks Ended | |
|--|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | August 4, 2018 | July 29, 2017 | August 4, 2018 | July 29, 2017 |
| Net sales | \$ 1,488,221 | \$ 1,289,854 | \$ 3,031,888 | \$ 2,604,733 |
| Cost of sales | 952,760 | 820,528 | 1,935,714 | 1,659,399 |
| Gross profit | 535,461 | 469,326 | 1,096,174 | 945,334 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 337,142 | 283,427 | 682,766 | 566,872 |
| Pre-opening expenses | 4,504 | 6,099 | 9,751 | 10,257 |
| Operating income | 193,815 | 179,800 | 403,657 | 368,205 |
| Interest income, net | (1,143) | (555) | (2,468) | (893) |
| Income before income taxes | 194,958 | 180,355 | 406,125 | 369,098 |
| Income tax expense | 46,635 | 66,162 | 93,406 | 126,682 |
| Net income | \$ 148,323 | \$ 114,193 | \$ 312,719 | \$ 242,416 |
| Net income per common share: | | | | |
| Basic | \$ 2.47 | \$ 1.84 | \$ 5.18 | \$ 3.91 |
| Diluted | \$ 2.46 | \$ 1.83 | \$ 5.16 | \$ 3.88 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding: | | | | |
| Basic | 60,070 | 61,935 | 60,340 | 62,018 |
| Diluted | 60,375 | 62,379 | 60,630 | 62,483 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

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Ulta Beauty, Inc.

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(Unaudited)

| (In thousands) | 26 Weeks Ended | |
|---|-------------------|------------------|
| | August 4, 2018 | July 29, 2017 |
| Operating activities | | |
| Net income | \$ 312,719 | \$ 242,416 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 137,815 | 125,582 |
| Deferred income taxes | 612 | (1,317) |
| Non-cash stock compensation charges | 13,172 | 11,649 |
| Loss on disposal of property and equipment | 499 | 2,348 |
| Change in operating assets and liabilities: | | |
| Receivables | (3,947) | 21,038 |
| Merchandise inventories | (123,261) | (200,727) |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | (4,952) | (9,594) |
| Income taxes | (29,694) | (18,095) |
| Accounts payable | 84,091 | 53,965 |
| Accrued liabilities | (13,149) | (29,557) |
| Deferred rent | 14,539 | 21,479 |
| Other assets and liabilities | (441) | 806 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 388,003 | 219,993 |
| Investing activities | | |
| Purchases of short-term investments | (558,163) | (240,000) |
| Proceeds from short-term investments | 529,163 | 90,000 |
| Purchases of property and equipment | (141,691) | (193,210) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (170,691) | (343,210) |
| Financing activities | | |
| Repurchase of common shares | (260,452) | (178,085) |
| Stock options exercised | 8,448 | 13,179 |
| Purchase of treasury shares | (5,646) | (4,027) |
| Net cash used in financing activities | (257,650) | (168,933) |
| Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents | (40,338) | (292,150) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period | 277,445 | 385,010 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period | \$ 237,107 | \$ 92,860 |
| Supplemental cash flow information | | |
| Cash paid for income taxes (net of refunds) | \$ 121,914 | \$ 145,494 |
| Non-cash investing activities: | | |
| Change in property and equipment included in accrued liabilities | \$ 19,453 | \$ 25,497 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

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Ulta Beauty, Inc.

Consolidated Statement of Stockholders' Equity

(Unaudited)

| (In thousands) | Common Stock Issued | | Treasury - Common Stock Treasury | | Additional Paid-In Capital | Retained Earnings | Total Stockholders' Equity |
|---|---------------------|--------|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| | Shares | Amount | Shares | Amount | | | |
| Balance – February 3, 2018 | 61,441 | \$ 614 | (619) | \$ (18,767) | \$ 698,917 | \$ 1,093,453 | \$ 1,774,217 |
| Adoption of accounting standards (Note 3) | – | – | – | – | – | (29,980) | (29,980) |
| Stock options exercised and other awards | 208 | 2 | – | – | 8,446 | – | 8,448 |
| Purchase of treasury shares | – | – | (27) | (5,646) | – | – | (5,646) |
| Net income | – | – | – | – | – | 312,719 | 312,719 |
| Stock compensation charge | – | – | – | – | 13,172 | – | 13,172 |
| Repurchase of common shares | (1,131) | (11) | – | – | – | (260,441) | (260,452) |
| Balance – August 4, 2018 | 60,518 | \$ 605 | (646) | \$ (24,413) | \$ 720,535 | \$ 1,115,751 | \$ 1,812,478 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

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Ulta Beauty, Inc.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(In thousands, except per share and store count data) (Unaudited)

1. Business and basis of presentation

On January 29, 2017, Ulta Salon, Cosmetics & Fragrance, Inc. implemented a holding company reorganization. Pursuant to which Ulta Beauty, Inc., which was incorporated as a Delaware corporation in December 2016, became the successor to Ulta Salon, Cosmetics & Fragrance, Inc., the former publicly-traded company and now a wholly owned subsidiary of Ulta Beauty, Inc. As used in these notes and throughout this Quarterly Report on Form 10 Q, all references to “we,” “us,” “our,” “Ulta Beauty,” or the “Company” refer to Ulta Beauty, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries.

The Company was originally founded in 1990 to operate specialty retail stores selling cosmetics, fragrance, haircare and skincare products, and related accessories and services. The stores also feature full-service salons. As of August 4, 2018, the Company operated 1,124 stores in 49 states, as shown in the table below.

| Location | Number of stores | Location | Number of stores |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Alabama | 17 | Montana | 6 |
| Alaska | 3 | Nebraska | 5 |
| Arizona | 25 | Nevada | 14 |
| Arkansas | 9 | New Hampshire | 7 |
| California | 142 | New Jersey | 33 |
| Colorado | 24 | New Mexico | 6 |
| Connecticut | 15 | New York | 45 |
| Delaware | 3 | North Carolina | 29 |
| Florida | 76 | North Dakota | 3 |
| Georgia | 34 | Ohio | 40 |
| Hawaii | 1 | Oklahoma | 20 |
| Idaho | 8 | Oregon | 14 |
| Illinois | 55 | Pennsylvania | 42 |
| Indiana | 22 | Rhode Island | 3 |
| Iowa | 10 | South Carolina | 18 |
| Kansas | 11 | South Dakota | 2 |
| Kentucky | 11 | Tennessee | 22 |
| Louisiana | 17 | Texas | 103 |
| Maine | 3 | Utah | 14 |
| Maryland | 19 | Virginia | 26 |
| Massachusetts | 18 | Washington | 30 |
| Michigan | 46 | West Virginia | 6 |
| Minnesota | 15 | Wisconsin | 20 |
| Mississippi | 9 | Wyoming | 2 |
| Missouri | 21 | Total | 1,124 |

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements and related notes have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10 Q and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission’s Article 10, Regulation S-X. These consolidated

financial statements were prepared on a consolidated basis to include the accounts of the Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries. All significant intercompany accounts, transactions, and unrealized profit were eliminated in consolidation. In the opinion of management, the accompanying consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments, which are of a normal recurring nature, necessary to fairly state the financial position and results of operations and cash flows for the interim periods presented.

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The Company's business is subject to seasonal fluctuation. Significant portions of the Company's net sales and net income are realized during the fourth quarter of the fiscal year due to the holiday selling season. The results for the 13 weeks and 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the fiscal year ending February 2, 2019, or for any other future interim period or for any future year.

These interim consolidated financial statements and the related notes should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10 K for the year ended February 3, 2018. All amounts are stated in thousands, with the exception of per share amounts and number of stores.

2.Summary of significant accounting policies

Information regarding the Company's significant accounting policies is contained in Note 2, "Summary of significant accounting policies," to the consolidated financial statements in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10 K for the year ended February 3, 2018. Presented below and in the following notes is supplemental information that should be read in conjunction with "Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" in the Annual Report.

Fiscal quarter

The Company's quarterly periods are the 13 weeks ending on the Saturday closest to April 30, July 31, October 31, and January 31. The Company's second quarter in fiscal 2018 and 2017 ended on August 4, 2018 and July 29, 2017, respectively.

Share-based compensation

The Company measures share-based compensation cost on the grant date, based on the fair value of the award, and recognizes the expense on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period for awards expected to vest. The Company estimated the grant date fair value of stock options using a Black-Scholes valuation model using the following weighted-average assumptions for the periods indicated:

| | 26 Weeks Ended | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | August 4, 2018 | July 29, 2017 |
| Volatility rate | 29.0% | 31.0% |
| Average risk-free interest rate | 2.4% | 1.6% |
| Average expected life (in years) | 3.4 | 3.5 |
| Dividend yield | None | None |

The Company granted 163 and 103 stock options during the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018 and July 29, 2017, respectively. The compensation cost charged against operating income for stock options was \$2,215 and \$2,235 for the 13 weeks ended August 4, 2018 and July 29, 2017, respectively. The compensation cost charged against operating income for stock options was \$4,423 and \$4,377 for the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018 and July 29, 2017, respectively. The weighted-average grant date fair value of these stock options was \$50.10 and \$70.12 for the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018 and July 29, 2017, respectively. At August 4, 2018, there was approximately \$21,720 of unrecognized compensation expense related to unvested stock options.

The Company issued 92 and 42 restricted stock units during the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018 and July 29, 2017, respectively. The compensation cost charged against operating income for restricted stock units was \$3,290 and \$2,354 for the 13 weeks ended August 4, 2018 and July 29, 2017, respectively. The compensation cost charged against operating income for restricted stock units was \$5,795 and \$4,453 for the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018 and

July 29, 2017, respectively. At August 4, 2018, there was approximately \$25,569 of unrecognized compensation expense related to restricted stock units.

The Company issued 33 and 21 performance-based restricted stock units during the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018 and July 29, 2017, respectively. The compensation cost charged against operating income for performance-based restricted stock units was \$1,722 and \$1,569 for the 13 weeks ended August 4, 2018 and July 29, 2017, respectively. The compensation cost charged against operating income for performance-based restricted stock units was \$3,179 and \$2,819

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for the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018 and July 29, 2017, respectively. At August 4, 2018, there was approximately \$12,426 of unrecognized compensation expense related to performance-based restricted stock units.

Recent accounting pronouncements not yet adopted

Leases

In February 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2016-02, Leases (Topic 842) and has since issued additional ASUs to further clarify or add options to the issued guidance. This standard will change the way all leases of one year or more are treated. Under this guidance, lessees will be required to capitalize virtually all leases on the balance sheet as a right-of-use asset and recognize an associated lease liability. The right-of-use asset represents the lessee's right to use, or control the use of, a specified asset for the specified lease term. The lease liability represents the lessee's obligation to make lease payments arising from the lease, measured on a discounted basis. Based on certain characteristics, leases are classified as financing or operating leases and their classification impacts the recognition of expense in the income statement. Entities are required to use a modified retrospective approach for leases that exist or are entered into after the beginning of the earliest comparative period in the financial statements, but have the option to apply this guidance to leases at the beginning of the period in which ASU 2016-02 is adopted instead. The Company continues to assess the method of adoption. ASU 2016-02 is effective for public companies for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018, including interim reporting periods. Early adoption is permitted.

The Company will adopt the new standard in fiscal 2019. The Company formed a project team to review the current accounting policies and practices and assess the effect of the standard on the consolidated financial statements. The team is evaluating the impact of the standard, including optional practical expedients that may be elected upon adoption, and is progressing with the implementation plan. The implementation plan includes identifying the lease population, updating and assessing the lease administration software, and identifying changes to processes and controls. The adoption of ASU 2016-02 will have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial position as the Company will have approximately 1,200 leased locations at the time of adoption, including the corporate office, stores, and distribution centers, however, the Company is not able to quantify the difference at this time. The Company does not believe adoption of this standard will have a material impact on the Company's consolidated results of operations or cash flows.

Recently adopted accounting pronouncements

Revenue Recognition from Contracts with Customers

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (ASU 2014-09), issued as a new Topic, Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 606, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (ASC 606), which supersedes the revenue recognition requirements in ASC 605, Revenue Recognition (ASC 605). The guidance in ASU 2014-09 and subsequently issued amendments outlines a comprehensive model for all entities to use in accounting for revenue arising from contracts with customers as well as required disclosures. Under the new standard, recognition of revenue occurs when a customer obtains control of promised goods or services in an amount that reflects the consideration, which the entity expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services. The new standard requires additional disclosure of the nature, amount, timing, and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from contracts with customers including significant judgments and changes in judgments.

The Company adopted the new revenue standard effective February 4, 2018 using the modified retrospective transition method applied to all contracts with the cumulative effect recorded to the opening balance of retained earnings as of the date of adoption. The comparative information has not been restated and continues to be reported

under accounting standards in effect for those periods. The adoption of the new revenue standard did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial position, results of operations, or cash flows. The Company expects the impact of the adoption of the new revenue standard will be immaterial to net income on an ongoing basis. See Note 3, "Revenue", for further details.

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3.Revenue

Revenue from Contracts with Customers

On February 4, 2018, the Company adopted ASC 606 using the modified retrospective method applied to all contracts as of the date of adoption. The cumulative effect of initially applying the new revenue standard was recorded as an adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings within the consolidated balance sheets. Under ASC 606, changes were made to the recognition timing or classification of revenues and expenses for the following:

| Description | Policy under ASC 605 | Policy under ASC 606 |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Credit card program | Recognized amounts earned under the private label credit card and co-branded credit card programs as a reduction of cost of sales and selling, general and administrative expenses. | Recognize amounts earned under private label credit card and co-branded credit card programs within net sales. |
| Loyalty program | Recognized revenue under the incremental cost method at the time of purchase by the guest (when points were earned). Recorded a liability for the cost associated with the future performance obligation to the guest. | Recognize revenue under the deferred revenue method by deferring the recognition of the portion of revenue related to the earning of loyalty points to a future period when the guest redeems the points or the points expire. |
| Gift card breakage | Recognized gift card breakage (amounts not expected to be redeemed) within selling, general and administrative expenses. | Recognize gift card breakage in net sales proportionately as other gift card balances are redeemed. |
| Sales refund reserve | Recognized a sales refund reserve as a net liability within accrued liabilities. | Recognize a sales refund reserve on a gross basis as a liability within accrued liabilities and a right of return asset within prepaid expense and other current assets. |
| E-commerce revenue | Recognized revenue based on delivery of merchandise to the guest. | Recognize revenue upon shipment of merchandise to the guest based on meeting the transfer of control criteria. |

Upon the adoption of ASC 606, the Company recognized the cumulative effect of \$29,980, net of tax, as a reduction to the opening balance of retained earnings as of February 4, 2018. The cumulative effect of adoption is primarily related to the change in accounting for the loyalty program. The comparative information has not been restated and continues to be reported under accounting standards in effect for those periods. The adoption of the new revenue standard did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial position, results of operations, or cash flows. The Company expects the impact of the adoption of the new revenue standard will be immaterial to net income on an ongoing basis.

Revenue recognition policies

Revenue is recognized when control of the promised goods or services is transferred to the guest, in an amount that reflects the consideration the Company expects to be entitled to in exchange for those goods or services.

The Company determines revenue recognition through the following steps:

- Identification of the contract, or contracts, with a guest;
- Identification of the performance obligations in the contract;
- Determination of the transaction price;
- Allocation of the transaction price to the performance obligations in the contract; and
- Recognition of revenue when, or as, a performance obligation is satisfied.

The Company's net sales include retail stores and e-commerce merchandise sales as well as salon services and other revenue.

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Revenue from merchandise sales at retail stores is recognized at the point of sale, net of estimated returns. Revenue from e-commerce merchandise sales is recognized upon shipment of the merchandise to the guest based on meeting the transfer of control criteria, net of estimated returns. Shipping and handling are treated as costs to fulfill the contract, and as a result, any fees received from guests are included in the transaction price allocated to the performance obligation of providing goods with a corresponding amount accrued within cost of sales for amounts paid to applicable carriers. The Company provides refunds for merchandise returns within 60 days from the original purchase date. State sales taxes are presented on a net basis as the Company considers itself a pass-through conduit for collecting and remitting state sales tax. Company coupons and other incentives are recorded as a reduction of net sales.

Salon services revenue is recognized at the time the service is provided to the guest.

Other revenue sources include the private label credit card and co-branded credit card programs, as well as deferred revenue related to the loyalty program and gift card breakage.

Credit card program

The Company has agreements (the Agreements) with third parties to provide guests with private label credit cards and/or co-branded credit cards (collectively, the Credit Cards). The private label credit card can be used at any store location and online, and the co-branded credit card can be used anywhere the co-branded card is accepted. A third-party financing company is the sole owner of the accounts and underwrites the credit issued under the Credit Card programs. The Company's performance obligation is to maintain the Ultimate Rewards loyalty program as only guests enrolled in the loyalty program can apply for the Credit Cards. Loyalty members earn points through purchases at Ulta Beauty and anywhere the co-branded credit card is accepted.

The third parties pay the Company for the credit card program costs such as advertising and loyalty points, which help promote the credit card program. The Company recognizes revenue when collectability is reasonably assured, under the assumption the amounts are not constrained and it is probable that a significant revenue reversal will not occur in future periods, which is generally the time at which the actual usage of the Credit Cards or specified transaction occurs.

The Company accounts for the amounts associated with the Agreements as a single contract with the sole commercial objective to maintain the Credit Card programs. As a result, all amounts associated with the Agreements are recognized within net sales on the consolidated statements of income.

Consistent with the accounting for the customer loyalty program, the Company defers the value of the Ultimate Rewards points earned at the time of the initial purchase in accrued liabilities on the consolidated balance sheets until the points are redeemed or expire. Other administrative costs related to the Credit Card programs, including payroll, marketing expenses, and other direct costs, are included in selling, general and administrative expenses on the consolidated statements of income.

Loyalty program

The Company maintains a customer loyalty program, Ultimate Rewards, in which program members earn points based on purchases of merchandise or services. Points earned by members are valid for at least one year and may be redeemed on any product the Company sells.

In the Ultimate Rewards loyalty program there is a contract with the guest that creates enforceable rights and obligations. In exchange for the guest's consideration (i.e. payment), the guest is granted the right to a certain number of Ultimate Rewards points depending upon the program level and any active promotional multipliers. The points earned are a distinct promise from the original purchase that can be exchanged for future goods, which creates a performance obligation for the Company to provide goods until those points are redeemed or expire.

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The standalone selling price of the goods or services provided is directly observable, as it is the price paid by the guest for those goods or services at the time of sale. The standalone selling price of the Ultimate Rewards points awarded is not directly observable and as such that amount must be estimated. The Company utilizes the expected retail value to account for Ultimate Rewards points earned and considers the expected redemption rate as part of that calculation. The estimated redemption rate is based on historical experience and other assumptions. The estimates are evaluated on an on-going basis. The Company does not believe there is a reasonable likelihood there will be a material change in the future estimates or assumptions used to calculate the redemption rates. The Company defers the value of the Ultimate Rewards points earned at the time of the initial purchase in accrued liabilities on the consolidated balance sheets until the points are redeemed or expire.

Gift card program

The Company's gift card sales are deferred within accrued liabilities on the consolidated balance sheets and recognized in net sales when the gift card is redeemed for product or services. The Company's gift cards do not expire and do not include service fees that decrease guest balances. The Company has maintained historical data related to gift card transactions sold and redeemed over a significant time frame. The Company recognizes gift card breakage (amounts not expected to be redeemed) to the extent there is no requirement for remitting balances to governmental agencies under unclaimed property laws. Estimated gift card breakage revenue is recognized over time in proportion to actual gift card redemptions.

Disaggregated revenue

The following table sets forth the amount of net sales attributable to retail stores, e-commerce, salon services, and other:

| (Dollars in thousands) | 13 Weeks Ended | | | | 26 Weeks Ended | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|------|------------------|------|-------------------|------|------------------|------|
| | August 4, 2018 | | July 29, 2017 | | August 4, 2018 | | July 29, 2017 | |
| Retail stores | \$ 1,271,404 | 85% | \$ 1,125,479 | 87% | \$ 2,572,954 | 85% | \$ 2,267,352 | 87% |
| E-commerce | 132,821 | 9% | 96,329 | 8% | 287,204 | 9% | 200,607 | 8% |
| Salon services | 74,004 | 5% | 68,046 | 5% | 149,679 | 5% | 136,774 | 5% |
| Other | 9,992 | 1% | - | 0% | 22,051 | 1% | - | 0% |
| Total | \$ 1,488,221 | 100% | \$ 1,289,854 | 100% | \$ 3,031,888 | 100% | \$ 2,604,733 | 100% |

The following table sets forth the approximate percentage of net sales by primary category:

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| | 13 Weeks Ended | | 26 Weeks Ended | |
|---|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | August 4, 2018 | July 29, 2017 | August 4, 2018 | July 29, 2017 |
| (Percentage of net sales) | | | | |
| Cosmetics | 49% | 50% | 51% | 51% |
| Skincare, Bath & Fragrance | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% |
| Haircare Products & Styling Tools | 21% | 21% | 19% | 20% |
| Salon Services | 5% | 5% | 5% | 5% |
| Other (nail products, accessories, and other) | 5% | 4% | 5% | 4% |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Deferred revenue

Contract liabilities primarily represent the Company's obligation to transfer additional goods or services to a guest for which the Company has received consideration, such as Ultamate Rewards loyalty points and unredeemed Ulta Beauty gift cards. In addition, the Company recognizes breakage on gift cards proportionately as redemption occurs.

During the 13 weeks and 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018, the contract liabilities balance includes additions related to the earnings of Ultamate Rewards loyalty points or issuances of Ulta Beauty gift cards and deductions for revenues

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recognized during the period as a result of the redemption of Ultamate Rewards loyalty points or Ulta Beauty gift cards and breakage of Ulta Beauty gift cards. The following table provides a summary of the changes in deferred revenue (included in accrued liabilities):

| | 13 Weeks Ended August 4, 2018 | 26 Weeks Ended August 4, 2018 |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Beginning balance | \$ 130,591 | \$ 110,103 |
| Adoption of ASC 606 | - | 38,773 |
| Additions to contract liabilities | 89,001 | 174,835 |
| Deductions to contract liabilities | (88,976) | (193,095) |
| Ending balance | \$ 130,616 | \$ 130,616 |

4. Commitments and contingencies

Leases – The Company leases retail stores, distribution centers, and corporate offices. Original non-cancelable lease terms range from three to ten years, and store leases generally contain renewal options for additional years. Total rent expense under operating leases was \$64,128 and \$57,812 for the 13 weeks ended August 4, 2018 and July 29, 2017, respectively. Total rent expense under operating leases was \$129,503 and \$114,595 for the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018 and July 29, 2017, respectively.

General litigation – The Company is involved in various legal proceedings that are incidental to the conduct of the business. In the opinion of management, the amount of any liability with respect to these proceedings, either individually or in the aggregate, will not have a material adverse effect on the Company’s consolidated financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.

5. Notes payable

On August 23, 2017, the Company entered into a Second Amended and Restated Loan Agreement (the Loan Agreement) with Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Administrative Agent, Collateral Agent and a Lender thereunder, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Lead Arrangers and Bookrunners, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Syndication Agent and a Lender, PNC Bank, National Association, as Documentation Agent and a Lender, and the other lenders party thereto. The Loan Agreement matures on August 23, 2022, provides maximum revolving loans equal to the lesser of \$400,000 or a percentage of eligible owned inventory (which borrowing base may, at the election of the Company and satisfaction of certain conditions, include a percentage of eligible owned receivables and qualified cash), contains a \$20,000 subfacility for letters of credit and allows the Company to increase the revolving facility by an additional \$50,000, subject to the consent by each lender and other conditions. The Loan Agreement contains a requirement to maintain a fixed charge coverage ratio of not less than 1.0 to 1.0 during such periods when availability under the Loan Agreement falls below a specified threshold. Substantially all of the Company’s assets are pledged as collateral for outstanding borrowings under the Loan Agreement. Outstanding borrowings will bear interest at either a base rate or the London Interbank Offered Rate plus 1.25%, and the unused line fee is 0.20% per annum.

As of August 4, 2018, February 3, 2018, and July 29, 2017, the Company had no borrowings outstanding under the credit facility and the Company was in compliance with all terms and covenants of the Loan Agreement.

6. Fair value measurements

The carrying value of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, and accounts payable approximates their estimated fair values due to the short maturities of these instruments.

Fair value is measured using inputs from the three levels of the fair value hierarchy, which are described as follows:

- Level 1 – observable inputs such as quoted prices for identical instruments in active markets.
- Level 2 – inputs other than quoted prices in active markets that are observable either directly or indirectly through corroboration with observable market data.

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- Level 3 – unobservable inputs in which there is little or no market data, which would require the Company to develop its own assumptions.

As of August 4, 2018, February 3, 2018, and July 29, 2017, the Company held financial liabilities of \$20,419, \$15,942, and \$14,303, respectively, related to its non-qualified deferred compensation plan. The liabilities have been categorized as Level 2 as they are based on third-party reported values, which are based primarily on quoted market prices of underlying assets of the funds within the plan.

7. Investments

The Company's short-term investments as of August 4, 2018, February 3, 2018, and July 29, 2017 consist of \$149,000, \$120,000, and \$180,000, respectively, in certificates of deposit. These short-term investments are carried at cost, which approximates fair value and are recorded in the consolidated balance sheets in short-term investments. The contractual maturity of the Company's investments was less than twelve months at August 4, 2018.

8. Income Taxes

Income tax expense reflects the federal statutory tax rate and the weighted average state statutory tax rate for the states in which the Company operates stores. Income tax expense of \$46,635 for the 13 weeks ended August 4, 2018 represents an effective tax rate of 23.9%, compared to \$66,162 of tax expense representing an effective tax rate of 36.7% for the 13 weeks ended July 29, 2017. Income tax expense of \$93,406 for the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018 represents an effective tax rate of 23.0%, compared to \$126,682 of tax expense representing an effective tax rate of 34.3% for the 26 weeks ended July 29, 2017. The lower effective tax rate is primarily due to tax reform.

9. Net income per common share

The following is a reconciliation of net income and the number of shares of common stock used in the computation of net income per basic and diluted share:

| (In thousands, except per share data) | 13 Weeks Ended | | 26 Weeks Ended | |
|--|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | August 4, 2018 | July 29, 2017 | August 4, 2018 | July 29, 2017 |
| Numerator for diluted net income per share – net income | \$ 148,323 | \$ 114,193 | \$ 312,719 | \$ 242,416 |
| Denominator for basic net income per share – weighted-average common shares | 60,070 | 61,935 | 60,340 | 62,018 |
| Dilutive effect of stock options and non-vested stock | 305 | 444 | 290 | 465 |
| Denominator for diluted net income per share | 60,375 | 62,379 | 60,630 | 62,483 |
| Net income per common share: | | | | |
| Basic | \$ 2.47 | \$ 1.84 | \$ 5.18 | \$ 3.91 |
| Diluted | \$ 2.46 | \$ 1.83 | \$ 5.16 | \$ 3.88 |

The denominator for diluted net income per common share for the 13 weeks ended August 4, 2018 and July 29, 2017 excludes 285 and 112 employee stock options and restricted stock units, respectively, due to their anti-dilutive effects. The denominator for diluted net income per common share for the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018 and July 29, 2017 excludes 378 and 151 employee stock options and restricted stock units, respectively, due to their anti-dilutive effects. Outstanding performance-based restricted stock units are included in the computation of dilutive shares only to the

extent that the underlying performance conditions are satisfied prior to the end of the reporting period or would be considered satisfied if the end of the reporting period were the end of the related contingency period and the results would be dilutive under the treasury stock method.

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10. Share repurchase program

On March 9, 2017, the Company announced that the Board of Directors authorized a share repurchase program (the 2017 Share Repurchase Program) pursuant to which the Company could repurchase up to \$425,000 of the Company's common stock. The 2017 Share Repurchase Program authorization revoked the previously authorized but unused amount of \$79,863 from the earlier share repurchase program. The 2017 Share Repurchase Program did not have an expiration date but provided for suspension or discontinuation at any time.

On March 15, 2018, the Company announced that the Board of Directors authorized a new share repurchase program (the 2018 Share Repurchase Program) pursuant to which the Company may repurchase up to \$625,000 of the Company's common stock. The 2018 Share Repurchase Program authorization revoked the previously authorized but unused amount of \$41,317 from the 2017 Share Repurchase Program. The 2018 Share Repurchase Program does not have an expiration date and may be suspended or discontinued at any time.

During the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018, the Company purchased 1,131 shares of common stock for \$260,452. During the 26 weeks ended July 29, 2017, the Company purchased 647 shares of common stock for \$178,085.

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with our financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this quarterly report. This discussion contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, which reflect our current views with respect to, among other things, future events and financial performance. You can identify these forward-looking statements by the use of forward-looking words such as "outlook," "believes," "expects," "plans," "estimates," "targets," "strategies," or other comparable words. Any forward-looking statements contained in this Form 10 Q are based upon our historical performance and on current plans, estimates, and expectations. The inclusion of this forward-looking information should not be regarded as a representation by us or any other person that the future plans, estimates, targets, strategies, or expectations contemplated by us will be achieved. Such forward-looking statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties, which include, without limitation:

- changes in the overall level of consumer spending and volatility in the economy;
 - the possibility that we may be unable to compete effectively in our highly competitive markets;
- the possibility that cybersecurity breaches and other disruptions could compromise our information or result in the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information;
- our ability to gauge beauty trends and react to changing consumer preferences in a timely manner;
- our ability to attract and retain key executive personnel;
- the possibility that the capacity of our distribution and order fulfillment infrastructure and the performance of our newly opened and to be opened distribution centers may not be adequate to support our recent growth and expected future growth plans;
- our ability to sustain our growth plans and successfully implement our long-range strategic and financial plan;
- the possibility of material disruptions to our information systems;
- changes in the wholesale cost of our products;
- the possibility that new store openings and existing locations may be impacted by developer or co-tenant issues;
- natural disasters that could negatively impact sales;
- our ability to successfully execute our common stock repurchase program or implement future common stock repurchase programs; and
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other risk factors detailed in our public filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC), including risk factors contained in Item 1A, “Risk Factors” of our Annual Report on Form 10 K for the year ended February 3, 2018, as such may be amended or supplemented in our subsequently filed Quarterly Reports on Form 10 Q (including this report).

Except to the extent required by the federal securities laws, we undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.

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References in the following discussion to “we,” “us,” “our,” “Ulta Beauty,” the “Company,” and similar references mean Ulta Beauty, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries, unless otherwise expressly stated or the context otherwise requires.

Overview

We were founded in 1990 as a beauty retailer at a time when prestige, mass, and salon products were sold through distinct channels – department stores for prestige products, drug stores and mass merchandisers for mass products, and salons and authorized retail outlets for professional hair care products. We developed a unique specialty retail concept that offers All Things Beauty. All in One Place.™, a compelling value proposition, and a convenient and welcoming shopping environment. We believe our strategy provides us with the competitive advantages that have contributed to our financial performance.

On January 29, 2017, we implemented a holding company reorganization pursuant to which Ulta Beauty, Inc., which was incorporated as a Delaware corporation in December 2016, became the successor to Ulta Salon, Cosmetics & Fragrance, Inc., the former publicly-traded company and now a wholly owned subsidiary of Ulta Beauty, Inc.

We are the largest beauty retailer in the United States and the premier beauty destination for cosmetics, fragrance, skin care products, hair care products, and salon services. We focus on providing affordable indulgence to our guests by combining unmatched product breadth, value, and convenience with a distinctive specialty retail environment and experience. Key aspects of our business include: our ability to offer our guests a unique combination of more than 20,000 beauty products across the categories of prestige and mass cosmetics, fragrance, haircare, skincare, bath and body products, and salon styling tools, as well as a full-service salon in every store featuring hair, skin, and brow services; our focus on delivering a compelling value proposition to our guests across all of our product categories; and convenience, as our stores are predominantly located in convenient, high-traffic locations such as power centers.

The continued growth of our business and any future increases in net sales, net income, and cash flows is dependent on our ability to execute our strategic imperatives: 1) acquire new guests and deepen loyalty with existing guests, 2) differentiate by delivering a distinctive and personalized guest experience across all channels, 3) offer relevant, innovative, and often exclusive products that excite our guests, 4) deliver exceptional services in three core areas: hair, skin health, and brows, 5) grow stores and e-commerce to reach and serve more guests, 6) invest in infrastructure to support our guest experience and growth, and capture scale efficiencies, and 7) attract and retain talent that drives a winning culture. We believe the expanding U.S. beauty products and salon services industry, the shift in distribution channel of prestige beauty products from department stores to specialty retail stores, coupled with Ulta Beauty’s competitive strengths, positions us to capture additional market share in the industry.

Comparable sales is a key metric that is monitored closely within the retail industry. Our comparable sales have fluctuated in the past and we expect them to continue to fluctuate in the future. A variety of factors affect our comparable sales, including general U.S. economic conditions, changes in merchandise strategy or mix, and timing and effectiveness of our marketing activities, among others.

Over the long term, our growth strategy is to increase total net sales through increases in our comparable sales, opening new stores, and increasing e-commerce sales. Operating profit is expected to increase as a result of our ability to expand merchandise margin and leverage our fixed store costs with comparable sales increases and operating efficiencies, offset by incremental investments in people, systems, and supply chain required to support a 1,400 to 1,700 store chain with successful e-commerce and competitive omni-channel capabilities.

Basis of presentation

Revenue from merchandise sales at retail stores is recognized at the point of sale, net of estimated returns. Revenue from e-commerce merchandise sales is recognized upon shipment of the merchandise to the guest based on meeting the transfer of control criteria, net of estimated returns. Shipping and handling are treated as costs to fulfill the contract, and as a result, any fees received from guests are included in the transaction price allocated to the performance obligation of providing goods with a corresponding amount accrued within cost of sales for amounts paid to applicable carriers. We provide refunds for merchandise returns within 60 days from the original purchase date. State sales taxes are presented on a net basis as we consider our self a pass-through conduit for collecting and remitting state sales tax. Coupons and

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other incentives are recorded as a reduction of net sales. Salon services revenue is recognized at the time the service is provided to the guest. Other revenue sources include the private label credit card and co-branded credit card programs, as well as deferred revenue related to the loyalty program and gift card breakage.

Comparable sales reflect sales for stores beginning on the first day of the 14th month of operation. Therefore, a store is included in our comparable store base on the first day of the period after one year of operations plus the initial one month grand opening period. Non-comparable store sales include sales from new stores that have not yet completed their 13th month of operation and stores that were closed for part or all of the period in either year as a result of remodel activity. Remodeled stores are included in comparable sales unless the store was closed for a portion of the current or prior period. Comparable sales include e-commerce sales. There may be variations in the way in which some of our competitors and other retailers calculate comparable or same store sales.

Measuring comparable sales allows us to evaluate the performance of our store base as well as several other aspects of our overall strategy. Several factors could positively or negatively impact our comparable sales results:

- the general national, regional, and local economic conditions and corresponding impact on guest spending levels;
- the introduction of new products or brands;
- the location of new stores in existing store markets;
- competition;
- our ability to respond on a timely basis to changes in consumer preferences;
- the effectiveness of our various merchandising and marketing activities; and
- the number of new stores opened and the impact on the average age of all of our comparable stores.

Cost of sales includes:

- the cost of merchandise sold (retail stores and e-commerce), including substantially all vendor allowances, which are treated as a reduction of merchandise costs;
- distribution costs including labor and related benefits, freight, rent, depreciation and amortization, real estate taxes, utilities and insurance;
- shipping and handling costs;
- retail stores occupancy costs including rent, depreciation and amortization, real estate taxes, utilities, repairs and maintenance, insurance, licenses and cleaning expenses;
- salon services payroll and benefits; and
- shrink and inventory valuation reserves.

Our cost of sales may be negatively impacted as we open an increasing number of stores. Changes in our merchandise mix may also have an impact on cost of sales. This presentation of items included in cost of sales may not be comparable to the way in which our competitors or other retailers compute their cost of sales.

Selling, general and administrative expenses include:

- payroll, bonus, and benefit costs for retail stores and corporate employees;
- advertising and marketing costs;
- occupancy costs related to our corporate office facilities;
- stock-based compensation expense;
- depreciation and amortization for all assets, except those related to our retail stores and distribution operations, which are included in cost of sales; and

- legal, finance, information systems, and other corporate overhead costs.

This presentation of items in selling, general and administrative expenses may not be comparable to the way in which our competitors or other retailers compute selling, general and administrative expenses.

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Pre-opening expenses include non-capital expenditures during the period prior to store opening for new, remodeled, and relocated stores including rent during the construction period for new and relocated stores, store set-up labor, management and employee training, and grand opening advertising.

Interest income, net includes both interest income and expense. Interest income represents interest from cash equivalents and short-term investments with maturities of twelve months or less from the date of purchase. Interest expense includes interest costs and facility fees associated with our credit facility, which is structured as an asset-based lending instrument. Our credit facility interest is based on a variable interest rate structure, which can result in increased cost in periods of rising interest rates.

Income tax expense reflects the federal statutory tax rate and the weighted average state statutory tax rate for the states in which we operate stores.

Results of operations

Our quarterly periods are the 13 weeks ending on the Saturday closest to April 30, July 31, October 31, and January 31. The Company's second quarter in fiscal 2018 and 2017 ended on August 4, 2018 and July 29, 2017, respectively. Our quarterly results of operations have varied in the past and are likely to do so again in the future. As such, we believe that period-to-period comparisons of our results of operations should not be relied upon as an indication of our future performance.

The following table presents the components of our consolidated results of operations for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | 13 Weeks Ended | | 26 Weeks Ended | |
|---|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | August 4, 2018 | July 29, 2017 | August 4, 2018 | July 29, 2017 |
| Net sales | \$ 1,488,221 | \$ 1,289,854 | \$ 3,031,888 | \$ 2,604,733 |
| Cost of sales | 952,760 | 820,528 | 1,935,714 | 1,659,399 |
| Gross profit | 535,461 | 469,326 | 1,096,174 | 945,334 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 337,142 | 283,427 | 682,766 | 566,872 |
| Pre-opening expenses | 4,504 | 6,099 | 9,751 | 10,257 |
| Operating income | 193,815 | 179,800 | 403,657 | 368,205 |
| Interest income, net | (1,143) | (555) | (2,468) | (893) |
| Income before income taxes | 194,958 | 180,355 | 406,125 | 369,098 |
| Income tax expense | 46,635 | 66,162 | 93,406 | 126,682 |
| Net income | \$ 148,323 | \$ 114,193 | \$ 312,719 | \$ 242,416 |
| Other operating data: | | | | |
| Number of stores end of period | 1,124 | 1,010 | 1,124 | 1,010 |
| Comparable sales increase: | | | | |
| Retail stores and salon services comparable sales | 4.0% | 8.3% | 4.3% | 9.6% |
| E-commerce comparable sales | 37.9% | 72.3% | 43.2% | 71.6% |
| Total comparable sales increase | 6.5% | 11.7% | 7.3% | 13.0% |

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| (Percentage of net sales) | 13 Weeks Ended | | 26 Weeks Ended | |
|--|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | August 4, 2018 | July 29, 2017 | August 4, 2018 | July 29, 2017 |
| Net sales | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Cost of sales | 64.0% | 63.6% | 63.8% | 63.7% |
| Gross profit | 36.0% | 36.4% | 36.2% | 36.3% |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 22.7% | 22.0% | 22.5% | 21.8% |
| Pre-opening expenses | 0.3% | 0.5% | 0.3% | 0.4% |
| Operating income | 13.0% | 14.0% | 13.3% | 14.2% |
| Interest income, net | 0.1% | 0.0% | 0.1% | 0.0% |
| Income before income taxes | 13.1% | 14.0% | 13.4% | 14.2% |
| Income tax expense | 3.1% | 5.1% | 3.1% | 4.9% |
| Net income | 10.0% | 8.9% | 10.3% | 9.3% |

Comparison of 13 weeks ended August 4, 2018 to 13 weeks ended July 29, 2017

Net sales

Net sales increased \$198.4 million or 15.4%, to \$1,488.2 million for the 13 weeks ended August 4, 2018, compared to \$1,289.9 million for the 13 weeks ended July 29, 2017. E-commerce sales increased \$36.5 million or 37.9%, to \$132.8 million compared to \$96.3 million in the second quarter of 2017. Salon service sales increased \$6.0 million or 8.8%, to \$74.0 million compared to \$68.0 million in the second quarter of 2017. The net sales increases are due to comparable stores driving an increase of \$83.4 million, non-comparable store increases of \$105.0 million, and other revenue increases of \$10.0 million compared to the second quarter of 2017.

The 6.5% comparable sales increase consisted of a 4.0% increase in retail stores and salon services and a 37.9% increase in e-commerce sales. The inclusion of e-commerce sales resulted in an increase of approximately 250 basis points to the Company's consolidated same store sales calculation for the 13 weeks ended August 4, 2018, compared to 340 basis points for the 13 weeks ended July 29, 2017. The total comparable sales increase included a 3.1% increase in transactions and a 3.4% increase in average ticket. We attribute the increase in comparable sales to our successful marketing and merchandising strategies.

Gross profit

Gross profit increased \$66.1 million or 14.1%, to \$535.5 million for the 13 weeks ended August 4, 2018, compared to \$469.3 million for the 13 weeks ended July 29, 2017. Gross profit as a percentage of net sales decreased 40 basis points to 36.0% for the 13 weeks ended August 4, 2018, compared to 36.4% for the 13 weeks ended July 29, 2017. The decrease in gross profit margin was due to deleverage from category and channel mix shifts and investments in our salon services and supply chain operations, partially offset by leverage from the impact of new revenue recognition accounting.

Selling, general and administrative expenses

Selling, general and administrative (SG&A) expenses increased \$53.7 million or 19.0%, to \$337.1 million for the 13 weeks ended August 4, 2018, compared to \$283.4 million for the 13 weeks ended July 29, 2017. SG&A as

a percentage of net sales increased 70 basis points to 22.7% for the 13 weeks ended August 4, 2018, compared to 22.0% for the 13 weeks ended July 29, 2017. The increase is due to deleverage from the impact of new revenue recognition accounting and investments in store labor to support growth initiatives, partially offset by leverage in corporate overhead.

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Pre-opening expenses

Pre-opening expenses decreased \$1.6 million to \$4.5 million for the 13 weeks ended August 4, 2018, compared to \$6.1 million for the 13 weeks ended July 29, 2017. During the 13 weeks ended August 4, 2018, we opened 19 new stores, remodeled seven stores, and relocated one store, compared to the 13 weeks ended July 29, 2017, when we opened 20 new stores, remodeled four stores, and relocated one store.

Interest income, net

Interest income, net was \$1.1 million for the 13 weeks ended August 4, 2018 compared to \$0.6 million for the 13 weeks ended July 29, 2017. Interest income results from cash equivalents and short-term investments with maturities of twelve months or less from the date of purchase. Interest expense represents interest on borrowings and fees related to the credit facility. We did not have any outstanding borrowings on our credit facility as of August 4, 2018 and July 29, 2017.

Income tax expense

Income tax expense of \$46.6 million for the 13 weeks ended August 4, 2018 represents an effective tax rate of 23.9%, compared to \$66.2 million of tax expense representing an effective tax rate of 36.7% for the 13 weeks ended July 29, 2017. The lower tax rate is primarily due to tax reform.

Net income

Net income increased \$34.1 million or 29.9%, to \$148.3 million for the 13 weeks ended August 4, 2018, compared to \$114.2 million for the 13 weeks ended July 29, 2017. The increase in net income is primarily related to the \$66.1 million increase in gross profit and a \$19.5 million decrease in income tax expense, partially offset by a \$53.7 million increase in SG&A expenses.

Comparison of 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018 to 26 weeks ended July 29, 2017

Net sales

Net sales increased \$427.2 million or 16.4%, to \$3,031.9 million for the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018, compared to \$2,604.7 million for the 26 weeks ended July 29, 2017. E-commerce sales increased \$86.6 million or 43.2%, to \$287.2 million compared to \$200.6 million in the first 26 weeks of fiscal 2017. Salon service sales increased \$12.9 million or 9.4%, to \$149.7 million compared to \$136.8 million in the first 26 weeks of fiscal 2017. The net sales increases are due to comparable stores driving an increase of \$189.5 million, non-comparable store increases of \$215.6 million, and other revenue increases of \$22.1 million compared to the first 26 weeks of fiscal 2017.

The 7.3% comparable sales increase consisted of a 4.3% increase in retail stores and salon services and a 43.2% increase in e-commerce sales. The inclusion of e-commerce sales resulted in an increase of approximately 300 basis points to the Company's consolidated same store sales calculation for the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018, compared to 340 basis points for the 26 weeks ended July 29, 2017. The total comparable sales increase included a 4.1% increase in transactions and a 3.2% increase in average ticket. We attribute the increase in comparable sales to our successful marketing and merchandising strategies.

Gross profit

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Gross profit increased \$150.8 million or 16.0%, to \$1,096.2 million for the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018, compared to \$945.3 million for the 26 weeks ended July 29, 2017. Gross profit as a percentage of net sales decreased 10 basis points to 36.2% for the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018, compared to 36.3% for the 26 weeks ended July 29, 2017. The decrease in gross profit margin was due to deleverage from category and channel mix shifts and investments in our salon services, partially offset by leverage from the impact of new revenue recognition accounting.

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Selling, general and administrative expenses

SG&A expenses increased \$115.9 million or 20.4%, to \$682.8 million for the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018, compared to \$566.9 million for the 26 weeks ended July 29, 2017. SG&A as a percentage of net sales increased 70 basis points to 22.5% for the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018, compared to 21.8% for the 26 weeks ended July 29, 2017. The increase is due to deleverage from the impact of new revenue recognition accounting and investments in store labor to support growth initiatives, partially offset by leverage in corporate overhead.

Pre-opening expenses

Pre-opening expenses decreased \$0.5 million to \$9.8 million for the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018, compared to \$10.3 million for the 26 weeks ended July 29, 2017. During the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018, we opened 53 new stores, remodeled nine stores, and relocated one store, compared to the 26 weeks ended July 29, 2017, when we opened 38 new stores, remodeled five stores, and relocated three stores.

Interest income, net

Interest income, net was \$2.5 million for the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018 compared to \$0.9 million for the 26 weeks ended July 29, 2017. Interest income results from cash equivalents and short-term investments with maturities of twelve months or less from the date of purchase. Interest expense represents interest on borrowings and fees related to the credit facility. We did not have any outstanding borrowings on our credit facility as of August 4, 2018 and July 29, 2017.

Income tax expense

Income tax expense of \$93.4 million for the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018 represents an effective tax rate of 23.0%, compared to \$126.7 million of tax expense representing an effective tax rate of 34.3% for the 26 weeks ended July 29, 2017. The lower tax rate is primarily due to tax reform.

Net income

Net income increased \$70.3 million or 29.0%, to \$312.7 million for the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018, compared to \$242.4 million for the 26 weeks ended July 29, 2017. The increase in net income is primarily related to the \$150.8 million increase in gross profit and a \$33.3 million decrease in income tax expense, partially offset by a \$115.9 million increase in SG&A expenses.

Liquidity and capital resources

Our primary cash needs are for rent, capital expenditures for new, remodeled, relocated, and refreshed stores, increased merchandise inventories related to store expansion and new brand additions, in-store boutiques (sets of custom-designed fixtures configured to prominently display certain prestige brands within our stores), supply chain improvements, share repurchases, and for continued improvement in our information technology systems.

Our primary sources of liquidity are cash and cash equivalents, short-term investments, cash flows from operations, including changes in working capital and tax reform, and borrowings under our credit facility. The most significant component of our working capital is merchandise inventories reduced by related accounts payable and accrued expenses.

Our working capital needs are greatest from August through November each year as a result of our inventory build-up during this period for the approaching holiday season. This is also the time of year when we are at maximum investment levels in our new store class and may not have collected all of the landlord allowances due to us as part of our lease agreements. Based on past performance and current expectations, we believe that cash and cash equivalents, short-term investments, cash generated from operations, and borrowings under the credit facility will satisfy the Company's working capital needs, capital expenditure needs, commitments, and other liquidity requirements through at least the next 12 months.

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The following table presents a summary of our cash flows for the periods indicated:

| (In thousands) | 26 Weeks Ended | |
|---|-------------------|------------------|
| | August 4, 2018 | July 29, 2017 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | \$ 388,003 | \$ 219,993 |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (170,691) | (343,210) |
| Net cash used in financing activities | (257,650) | (168,933) |
| Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents | \$ (40,338) | \$ (292,150) |

Operating activities

Operating activities consist of net income adjusted for certain non-cash items, including depreciation and amortization, non-cash stock-based compensation, realized gains or losses on disposal of property and equipment, and the effect of working capital changes.

Merchandise inventories were \$1,219.7 million at August 4, 2018, compared to \$1,144.7 million at July 29, 2017, representing an increase of \$75.0 million or 6.6%. The increase in inventory is primarily due to the addition of 114 net new stores opened since July 29, 2017 and the opening of the Company's distribution center in Fresno, California, partially offset by inventory productivity benefits from supply chain investments in new systems and merchandise planning tools. Average inventory per store decreased 4.3% compared to prior year.

Deferred rent liabilities were \$422.5 million at August 4, 2018, an increase of \$34.8 million compared to \$387.7 million at July 29, 2017. Deferred rent includes deferred construction allowances, future rental increases, free rent, and rent holidays, which are all recognized on a straight-line basis over their respective lease term. The increase is primarily due to the addition of 114 net new stores opened since July 29, 2017.

Investing activities

We have historically used cash primarily for new, remodeled, and refreshed stores (prestige boutique and related in-store merchandising upgrades), supply chain investments, short-term investments, and investments in information technology systems. Investment activities for capital expenditures were \$141.7 million during the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018, compared to \$193.2 million during the 26 weeks ended July 29, 2017. As of August 4, 2018, we had \$149.0 million of short-term investments, which consist of certificates of deposit with maturities of twelve months or less from the date of purchase.

Financing activities

Financing activities in fiscal 2018 and 2017 consist principally of capital stock transactions and our stock repurchase program. Purchases of treasury shares represent the fair value of common shares repurchased from plan participants in connection with shares withheld to satisfy minimum statutory tax obligations upon the vesting of restricted stock.

We had no borrowings outstanding under our credit facility as of August 4, 2018, February 3, 2018, and July 29, 2017. The zero outstanding borrowings position is due to a combination of factors including strong sales growth and overall performance of management initiatives including expense control. We may require borrowings under the credit facility from time to time in future periods to support our new store program, capital expenditures, or seasonal inventory needs.

Share repurchase plan

On March 9, 2017, we announced that the Board of Directors authorized a share repurchase program (the 2017 Share Repurchase Program) pursuant to which the Company could repurchase up to \$425.0 million of the Company's common stock. The 2017 Share Repurchase Program authorization revoked the previously authorized but unused amount of \$79.9 million from the earlier share repurchase program. The 2017 Share Repurchase Program did not have an expiration date but provided for suspension or discontinuation at any time.

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On March 15, 2018, we announced that the Board of Directors authorized a new share repurchase program (the 2018 Share Repurchase Program) pursuant to which the Company may repurchase up to \$625.0 million of the Company's common stock. The 2018 Share Repurchase Program authorization revoked the previously authorized but unused amount of \$41.3 million from the 2017 Share Repurchase Program. The 2018 Share Repurchase Program does not have an expiration date and may be suspended or discontinued at any time.

During the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018, we purchased 1,130,694 shares of common stock for \$260.5 million. During the 26 weeks ended July 29, 2017, we purchased 647,088 shares of common stock for \$178.1 million.

Credit facility

On August 23, 2017, we entered into a Second Amended and Restated Loan Agreement (the Loan Agreement) with Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Administrative Agent, Collateral Agent and a Lender thereunder, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Lead Arrangers and Bookrunners, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Syndication Agent and a Lender, PNC Bank, National Association, as Documentation Agent and a Lender, and the other lenders party thereto. The Loan Agreement matures on August 23, 2022, provides maximum revolving loans equal to the lesser of \$400.0 million or a percentage of eligible owned inventory (which borrowing base may, at the election of the Company and satisfaction of certain conditions, include a percentage of eligible owned receivables and qualified cash), contains a \$20.0 million subfacility for letters of credit and allows the Company to increase the revolving facility by an additional \$50.0 million, subject to the consent by each lender and other conditions. The Loan Agreement contains a requirement to maintain a fixed charge coverage ratio of not less than 1.0 to 1.0 during such periods when availability under the Loan Agreement falls below a specified threshold. Substantially all of the Company's assets are pledged as collateral for outstanding borrowings under the Loan Agreement. Outstanding borrowings will bear interest at either a base rate or the London Interbank Offered Rate plus 1.25%, and the unused line fee is 0.20% per annum.

As of August 4, 2018, February 3, 2018, and July 29, 2017, we had no borrowings outstanding under the credit facility and we were in compliance with all terms and covenants of the Loan Agreement.

Off-balance sheet arrangements

As of August 4, 2018, we have not entered into any "off-balance sheet" arrangements, as described by the SEC. We do, however, have off-balance sheet operating leases and purchase obligations incurred in the ordinary course of business.

Contractual obligations

Our contractual obligations consist of operating lease obligations, purchase obligations, and our revolving line of credit. No material changes outside the ordinary course of business have occurred in our contractual obligations during the 26 weeks ended August 4, 2018.

Critical accounting policies and estimates

Management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations is based upon our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. The preparation of these consolidated financial statements required the use of estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of our assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenses. Management bases estimates on historical experience and other assumptions it believes to be reasonable under the circumstances and evaluates these estimates on an ongoing basis. Actual results may differ from these estimates. Other than adoption of the new revenue accounting standard as discussed in Note 3 to our consolidated financial statements, "Revenue", there have been no

significant changes to the critical accounting policies and estimates included in our Annual Report on Form 10 K for the fiscal year ended February 3, 2018.

Recent accounting pronouncements not yet adopted

See Note 2 to our consolidated financial statements, “Summary of significant accounting policies – Recent accounting pronouncements not yet adopted.”

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Recently adopted accounting pronouncements

See Note 2 to our consolidated financial statements, “Summary of significant accounting policies – Recently adopted accounting pronouncements.”

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Market risk represents the risk of loss that may impact our financial position due to adverse changes in financial market prices and rates. Our market risk exposure is primarily the result of fluctuations in interest rates. We do not hold or issue financial instruments for trading purposes.

Interest rate sensitivity

We are exposed to interest rate risks primarily through borrowings under our credit facility. Interest on our borrowings is based upon variable rates. We did not have any outstanding borrowings on our credit facility as of August 4, 2018 and July 29, 2017. Interest income from cash equivalents and short-term investments with maturities of twelve months or less from the date of purchase is partially offset by interest expense, which represents interest from borrowings and various fees associated with the credit facility.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures over Financial Reporting

We have established disclosure controls and procedures to ensure that material information relating to the Company is made known to the officers who certify our financial reports and to the members of our senior management and Board of Directors.

Based on management’s evaluation as of August 4, 2018, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, are effective to ensure that the information required to be disclosed by us in our reports that we file or submit under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, 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 the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There were no changes to our internal controls over financial reporting during the 13 weeks ended August 4, 2018 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal controls over financial reporting.

Part II - Other Information

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

See Note 4 to our consolidated financial statements, “Commitments and contingencies – General litigation,” for information on legal proceedings.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

In addition to the other information set forth in this report, you should carefully consider the factors discussed in Part I, “Item 1A. Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10 K for the year ended February 3, 2018, which could materially affect our business, financial condition, financial results, or future performance. There have been no material changes from the risk factors previously disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10 K for the year ended February 3, 2018.

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

The following table sets forth repurchases of our common stock during the second quarter of 2018:

| Period | Total number of shares purchased (1) | Average price paid per share | Total number of shares purchased as part of publicly announced plans or programs (2) | Approximate dollar value of shares that may yet to be purchased under plans or programs (in thousands) (2) |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|---|
| May 6, 2018 to June 2, 2018 | 252,166 | \$ 251.01 | 251,874 | \$ 465,983 |
| June 3, 2018 to June 30, 2018 | 113,028 | 247.09 | 113,028 | 438,055 |
| July 1, 2018 to August 4, 2018 | 150,416 | 245.98 | 147,241 | 401,800 |
| 13 weeks ended August 4, 2018 | 515,610 | 248.68 | 512,143 | 401,800 |

(1) There were 512,143 shares repurchased as part of our publicly announced share repurchase program during the 13 weeks ended August 4, 2018 and there were 3,467 shares transferred from employees in satisfaction of minimum statutory tax withholding obligations upon the vesting of restricted stock during the period.

(2) On March 15, 2018, we announced the 2018 Share Repurchase Program pursuant to which the Company may repurchase up to \$625.0 million of the Company's common stock. The 2018 Share Repurchase Program authorization revoked the previously authorized but unused amounts of \$41.3 million from the 2017 Share Repurchase Program. As of August 4, 2018, \$401.8 million remained available under the \$625.0 million 2018 Share Repurchase Program.

Item 3.Defaults Upon Senior Securities

None

Item 4.Mine Safety Disclosures

None

Item 5.Other Information

None

Item 6.Exhibits

The exhibits listed in the Exhibit Index below are filed as part of this Quarterly Report on Form 10 Q.

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EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit Number | Description of document | Filed Herewith | Incorporated by Reference File | | |
|-------------------|--|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | | | Form | Exhibit Number | Number Filing Date |
| 3.1 | <u>Certificate of Incorporation of Ulta Beauty, Inc.</u> | | 8 K | 3.1 | 001 337641/30/2017 |
| 3.2 | <u>Certificate of Designations of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock of Ulta Beauty, Inc.</u> | | 8 K | 3.2 | 001 337641/30/2017 |
| 3.3 | <u>Bylaws of Ulta Beauty, Inc.</u> | | 8 K | 3.3 | 001 337641/30/2017 |
| 31.1 | <u>Certification of the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002</u> | X | | | |
| 31.2 | <u>Certification of the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002</u> | X | | | |
| 32 | <u>Certification of the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002</u> | X | | | |
| 101.INS | XBRL Instance | X | | | |
| 101.SCH | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema | X | | | |
| 101.CAL | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation | X | | | |
| 101.LAB | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Labels | X | | | |
| 101.PRE | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation | X | | | |
| 101.DEF | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition | X | | | |

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on August 30, 2018 on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

ULTA BEAUTY, INC.

By: /s/ Mary N. Dillon
Mary N. Dillon
Chief Executive Officer and Director

By: /s/ Scott M. Settersten
Scott M. Settersten
Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary