

AMERICAN APPAREL, INC
Form 10-K
March 05, 2013
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

Annual report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012

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 001-32697

American Apparel, Inc.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State of Incorporation)
747 Warehouse Street
Los Angeles, California 90021-1106
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)
Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (213) 488-0226

20-3200601
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

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

Common Stock, par value \$0.0001 per share
(Title of Each Class)

NYSE MKT
(Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered)

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

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes No

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 Website, 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 if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of "large accelerated filer", "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act:

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

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

The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of June 29, 2012 was approximately \$50,685,487 based upon the closing price of the common stock on such date as reported by the NYSE MKT.

The number of shares of the registrant's common stock issued and outstanding as of February 28, 2013 was approximately 110,111,193 and 107,596,241.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the proxy statement for the registrant's 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "2013 Proxy Statement"), to be filed within 120 days of the end of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, are incorporated by reference into Part III herein. If the 2013 Proxy Statement is not filed in the 120-day period, the Items comprising the Part III information will be filed as an amendment to this Form 10-K not later than the end of the 120-day period. Except with respect to the information specifically incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K, the 2013 Proxy Statement is not deemed to be filed as part of this Form 10-K.

Table of Contents

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Annual Report on Form 10-K, including the documents incorporated by reference herein, contains forward-looking statements within the “safe harbor” provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. All statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K other than statements of historical fact are “forward-looking statements” for purposes of these provisions. Statements that include the use of terminology such as “may,” “will,” “expects,” “believes,” “plans,” “estimates,” “potential,” or “continue,” or the negative thereof or other and similar expressions are forward-looking statements. In addition, in some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by words or phrases such as “trend,” “potential,” “opportunity,” “believe,” “comfortable,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “current,” “intention,” “es,” “position,” “assume,” “outlook,” “continue,” “remain,” “maintain,” “sustain,” “seek,” “achieve,” and similar expressions. Any statements that refer to projections of our future financial performance, our anticipated growth and trends in our business, our goals, strategies, focuses and plans, and other characterizations of future events or circumstances, including statements expressing general expectations or beliefs, whether positive or negative, about future operating results or the development of our products, and any statement of assumptions underlying any of the foregoing are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements in this report may include, without limitation, statements about:

- future financial condition and operating results;
- our ability to remain in compliance with financial covenants under our financing arrangements;
- our ability to extend, renew or refinance our existing debt;
- our liquidity and projected cash flows;
- our plan to make continued investments in advertising and marketing;
- our growth, expansion and acquisition prospects and strategies, the success of such strategies, and the benefits we believe can be derived from such strategies;
- the outcome of investigations, enforcement actions and litigation matters, including exposure which could exceed expectations;
- our intellectual property rights and those of others, including actual or potential competitors;
- our personnel, consultants, and collaborators;
- operations outside the United States;
- trends in raw material costs and other costs both in the industry and specific to the Company;
- the supply of raw materials and the effects of supply shortages on our financial condition and results of operations;
- economic and political conditions;
- overall industry and market performance;
- the impact of accounting pronouncements;
- our ability to improve manufacturing efficiency at our production facilities;
- management's goals and plans for future operations; and
- other assumptions described in this Annual Report on Form 10-K underlying or relating to any forward-looking statements.

The forward-looking statements in this report speak only as of the date of this report and caution should be taken not to place undue reliance on any such forward-looking statements, which are qualified in their entirety by this cautionary statement. Forward-looking statements are subject to numerous assumptions, events, risks, uncertainties and other factors, including those that may be outside of our control and that change over time. As a result, actual results and/or the timing of events could differ materially from those expressed in or implied by the forward-looking statements and future results could differ materially from historical performance. Such assumptions, events, risks, uncertainties and other factors include, among others, those described under Part I, Item 1A and elsewhere in this report, as well as in other reports and documents we file with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") and include, without limitation, the following:

- our ability to generate or obtain from external sources sufficient liquidity for operations and debt service;
- changes in the level of consumer spending or preferences or demand for our products;
- our financial condition, operating results and projected cash flows;

Table of Contents

• disruptions in the global financial markets;
• consequences of our significant indebtedness, including our relationships with our lenders and our ability to comply with our debt agreements and generate cash flow to service our debt;
• our ability to maintain compliance with the exchange rules of the NYSE MKT, LLC;
• the highly competitive and evolving nature of our business in the U.S. and internationally;
• our ability to effectively carry out and manage our strategy, including growth and expansion both in the U.S. and internationally;
• loss of U.S. import protections or changes in duties, tariffs and quotas and other risks associated with international business;
• intensity of competition, both domestic and foreign;
• technological changes in manufacturing, wholesaling, or retailing;
• risks that our suppliers or distributors may not timely produce or deliver our products;
• loss or reduction in sales to our wholesale or retail customers or financial nonperformance by our wholesale customers;
• the adoption of new accounting standards or changes in interpretations of accounting principles;
• our ability to pass on the added cost of raw materials to our wholesale and retail customers;
• the availability of store locations at appropriate terms and our ability to identify and negotiate new store locations effectively and to open new stores and expand internationally;
• our ability to attract customers to our stores;
• seasonality and fluctuations in comparable store sales and margins;
• our ability to successfully implement our strategic, operating, financial and personnel initiatives;
• our ability to maintain the value and image of our brand and protect our intellectual property rights;
• changes in the cost of materials and labor, including increases in the price of raw materials in the global market;
• our ability to improve manufacturing efficiency at our production facilities;
• location of our facilities in the same geographic area;
• risks associated with our foreign operations and foreign supply sources, such as disruption of markets, changes in import and export laws, currency restrictions and currency exchange rate fluctuations;
• adverse changes in our credit ratings and any related impact on financial costs and structure;
• continued compliance with U.S. and foreign government regulations, legislation and regulatory environments, including environmental, immigration, labor and occupational health and safety laws and regulations;
• the risk that information technology systems changes and the transition to our new distribution center in La Mirada, California (as described herein) may disrupt our supply chain or operations and our ability to upgrade our information technology infrastructure and other risks associated with the systems that operate our online retail operations;
• litigation and other inquiries and investigations, including the risks that we or our officers will not be successful in defending any proceedings, lawsuits, disputes, claims or audits, and that exposure could exceed expectations or insurance coverages;
• our ability to effectively manage inventory levels;
• changes in key personnel, our ability to hire and retain key personnel, and our relationship with our employees;
• general economic conditions, including increases in interest rates, geopolitical events, other regulatory changes and inflation or deflation;
• disruptions due to severe weather or climate change; and
• disruptions due to earthquakes, flooding, tsunamis or other natural disasters.

All forward-looking statements included in this document are made as of the date hereof, based on information available to us as of the date hereof, and we assume no obligation to update any forward-looking statement.

Table of Contents

American Apparel, Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|----------|---|-----------|
| | PART I | <u>5</u> |
| Item 1. | <u>Business</u> | <u>5</u> |
| Item 1A. | <u>Risk Factors</u> | <u>12</u> |
| Item 2. | <u>Properties</u> | <u>22</u> |
| Item 3. | <u>Legal Proceedings</u> | <u>27</u> |
| Item 4. | Mine Safety Disclosures | <u>30</u> |
| | PART II | <u>30</u> |
| Item 5. | <u>Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u> | <u>30</u> |
| Item 6. | <u>Selected Financial Data</u> | <u>33</u> |
| Item 7. | <u>Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation</u> | <u>34</u> |
| Item 7A. | <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures and Market Risks</u> | <u>54</u> |
| Item 8. | <u>Financial Statements</u> | <u>57</u> |
| Item 9. | <u>Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosures</u> | <u>93</u> |
| Item 9A. | <u>Controls and Procedures</u> | <u>94</u> |
| Item 9B. | Other Information | <u>96</u> |
| | PART III | <u>96</u> |
| Item 10. | <u>Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u> | <u>96</u> |
| Item 11. | <u>Executive Compensation</u> | <u>96</u> |
| Item 12. | <u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u> | <u>96</u> |
| Item 13. | <u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions and Director Independence</u> | <u>96</u> |

| | | |
|----------|---|-----------|
| Item 14. | <u>Principal Accountant Fees and Services</u> | <u>96</u> |
| | PART IV | <u>96</u> |
| Item 15. | <u>Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules</u> | <u>96</u> |

Table of Contents

PART I

Item 1. Business

Unless the context indicates otherwise, when we refer to “we”, “us”, “our”, “American Apparel” or the “Company” in this Form 10-K, we are referring to American Apparel, Inc. and its subsidiaries on a consolidated basis. Our year ends on December 31 and references to fiscal 2012, fiscal 2011 and fiscal 2010 refer to the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively. In addition, all amounts in this Form 10-K are presented in thousands, except for per share items and unless otherwise specified.

Overview

We are a vertically integrated manufacturer, distributor, and retailer of branded fashion basic apparel and accessories for women, men, children and babies. We are based in downtown Los Angeles, California. As of January 31, 2013, we had approximately 10,000 employees and operated 251 retail stores in 20 countries: the United States, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, United Kingdom, Ireland, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Israel, Australia, Japan, South Korea, and China. We also operate an e-commerce site that serves over 60 countries worldwide at www.americanapparel.com. In addition, American Apparel operates a leading wholesale business that supplies high quality T-shirts and other casual wear to distributors and the imprintable industry. We conduct our primary apparel manufacturing operations out of an 800,000 square foot facility in the warehouse district of downtown Los Angeles, California. The facility houses our executive offices, as well as cutting, sewing, warehousing, and distribution operations. We conduct knitting operations in Los Angeles and Garden Grove, California, which produce a majority of the fabric we use in our products. We also operate dye houses that currently provide dyeing and finishing services for nearly all of the raw fabric used in production. We operate a fabric dyeing and finishing facility in Hawthorne, California. We also operate a cutting, sewing and garment dyeing and finishing facility located in South Gate, California. We operate a fabric dyeing and finishing facility located in Garden Grove, California, which also includes cutting, sewing and knitting operations. In February 2013 we began to transition our distribution operation out of our facilities in downtown Los Angeles, California to a leased facility in La Mirada, California. Because we manufacture domestically and are vertically integrated, we believe this enables us to more quickly respond to customer demand and to changing fashion trends and to closely monitor product quality. Our products are noted for their quality and fit, and together with our distinctive branding these attributes have differentiated our products in the marketplace. “American Apparel®” is a registered trademark of American Apparel (USA), LLC.

American Apparel was founded in 1998. Since inception, we have operated a wholesale business that supplies high quality T-shirts and other casual wear to distributors and the imprintable industry. In October 2003, we opened our first retail store in Los Angeles. In 2004, we began our online retail operations, and opened our first retail stores in Canada and Europe. Since 2005, we have opened stores in Asia, Australia, Israel, Latin America, and have further expanded throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia. All of our retail stores sell the Company's apparel products directly to consumers.

Business Segments

We report the following four operating segments: U.S. Wholesale, U.S. Retail, Canada, and International. We believe this method of segment reporting reflects both the way our business segments are managed and the way the performance of each segment is evaluated. The U.S. Wholesale segment consists of our wholesale operations of sales of undecorated apparel products to distributors and third party screen printers in the United States, as well as our online consumer sales to U.S. customers. The U.S. Retail segment consists of our retail store operations in the United States, which were comprised of 140 retail stores as of December 31, 2012. The Canada segment consists of our retail, wholesale and online consumer operations in Canada. As of December 31, 2012, the retail operations in the Canada segment were comprised of 35 retail stores. The International segment consists of our retail, wholesale and online consumer operations outside of the United States, and Canada. As of December 31, 2012, the retail operations in the International segment were comprised of 76 retail stores in the following 18 countries: the United Kingdom, Ireland,

Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Israel, Australia, Brazil, Mexico, Japan, South Korea, and China.

The results of the respective business segments exclude corporate expenses, which consist of shared overhead costs. These costs are presented separately and generally include information technology, human resources, accounting and finance, executive management and legal. Financial information by segment, together with certain geographical information, for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 is included in Note 17 - Business Segment and Geographic Area Information to our consolidated financial statements under Part II, Item 8.

Table of Contents

Core Business Strengths

American Apparel has relied on a number of core business strengths that we believe have contributed to our past success and will contribute to our future growth:

Design Vision

American Apparel's design vision and aesthetic are intended to appeal to young, metropolitan adults by providing them with a core line of iconic, timeless styles which are offered year-round in a wide variety of colors at reasonable prices. Since our founding, American Apparel has operated with the belief that there is a large potential market among young adults, for well-designed, high-quality fashion essentials. Led by Dov Charney, our founder and chief executive officer, our in-house creative team has carefully developed the product line based on this core belief.

Advertising and Branding

American Apparel attracts customers through internally-developed, edgy, high-impact, visual advertising campaigns which use print, outdoor, in-store, and electronic communication vehicles. These advertising campaigns communicate a distinct brand image that differentiates us from our competitors and seek to establish a connection with our customers. Our retail stores are an important part of the American Apparel branding and convey a modern, internationalist lifestyle. At various times, we have also drawn attention to the "Made in USA" nature of our products and the "Sweatshop Free" environment in which our garments are produced.

Speed to Market

Our vertically integrated business model, with manufacturing and various other elements of our business processes centered in downtown Los Angeles, allows us to play a role in originating and defining new and innovative trends in fashion, while enabling us to quickly respond to market and customer demand for classic styles and new products. For our wholesale operations, being able to fulfill orders of any size with quick turn-around allows American Apparel to capture business. The ability to swiftly respond to the market means that our retail operations can deliver on-trend apparel in a timely manner and maximize sales of popular styles by replenishing product that would have otherwise sold out.

Quality

American Apparel prides itself on its use of quality fabrics with quality construction. We have an active quality control department that oversees the in-house production of fabric at our knitting facilities, the outside knitting contractors who work to our strict specifications, and the cutting, sewing, dyeing and finishing of our garments at our Los Angeles area facilities. Because cutting and sewing operations are conducted mostly in-house, we believe we have the ability to exercise greater control over clothing manufacturing than competitors who use contract sewing facilities.

Broad Appeal

While our marketing and products initially targeted young, metropolitan adults in the U.S., the clean, simple styles and quality of our garments creates a product that appeals to various demographics around the world. We believe that our product appeal has been augmented by, and should continue to benefit from, the growing trends toward casual attire and higher quality apparel.

Growth Strategy

We have developed a growth strategy that is designed to capitalize on our core business strengths. The principal elements contributing to the success of this growth strategy are:

Store Expansion

Our long-term growth strategy and the success of our business depends in part on opening new American Apparel retail stores, the renewal of existing store leases on favorable terms that meet our financial targets, the remodeling of existing stores in a timely manner and the operation of these stores in a cost-efficient manner. We opened ten new stores and closed eight stores in 2012. We plan to expand our presence in the U.S. and increase our store footprint in markets throughout Europe and Asia.

We evaluate potential store sites based on traffic patterns, co-tenancies, average sales per square foot achieved by neighboring stores, lease economics, demographic characteristics and other factors considered important regarding the

specific location.

New Merchandise Introduction

As we have expanded beyond our original product offering of T-shirts, we have increased the variety of products available to our growing customer base. We have strategically expanded our product offerings to include denim, sweaters, jackets and accessories, to name a few such categories. We also intend to judiciously introduce new merchandise to complement our

6

Table of Contents

existing products in order to attract new customers and increase the frequency of customer visits and the size of customer purchases.

Web Business Refinement

Our website operation represents a growth opportunity for American Apparel as it has the potential to not only increase online sales but also in-store sales. Improvements to the online shopping experience have contributed to our financial growth. In order to remain competitive, we intend to continue refining our online stores with improved functionality, personalized offers, increased service levels and visually optimized content as well as expanding our web presence in more countries and channels. We currently operate 12 e-commerce portals in seven languages that serve customers from thirty countries around the world.

Continue In-Sourcing Manufacturing Activities

We believe that having certain elements of our production process in-house affords us the opportunity to exert higher quality control while simultaneously lowering production costs. In the past we have made strategic acquisitions to consolidate our manufacturing operations and continue to produce high quality products. We may pursue strategic opportunities to further consolidate our operations while maintaining production in the United States; however, we have no such strategic opportunities identified and will not make any such strategic investments until we see a substantial improvement in our financial performance and financial condition.

New Distribution Center

In June 2012 we entered into a new operating lease agreement for a new distribution center located in La Mirada, California and expect to fully transition our distribution operations into this new facility in 2013. We believe that the new distribution center will contribute to processing efficiencies and effectiveness and will reduce operating expenses and cost of sales. We began transitioning shipment operations to this facility in February 2013. Related to these efforts, we installed the High Jump warehouse management system for all distribution activities that will be implemented in conjunction with the transition to our new distribution center.

Enhance Information Systems Infrastructure

We successfully completed the first phase of an enterprise resources planning (“ERP”) system in 2008. This phase included the conversion of our systems for manufacturing and warehouse operations, inventory management and control and wholesale operations. The second phase of the ERP implementation, which included upgrading the financial accounting and control systems for our U.S. operations, was completed in 2009. In 2010 and 2011, we continued to refine and enhance these systems. In January 2012, we completed a financial system consolidation for our European operations and in March 2012, we upgraded the financial accounting and control systems for our Canada operations. As planned, in 2012, we upgraded our production forecasting and allocation systems. We raised our forecast accuracy with Logility's demand planning solution.

In 2011 we completed the implementation of workforce and labor scheduling optimization systems in all of our retail and manufacturing locations.

Throughout 2012, we continued to install sales conversion tracking devices and radio frequency identification (RFID). As of the end of February 2013, we implemented RFID systems at approximately 213 stores worldwide. We expect full implementation in 2013. We believe that these systems enhance sales through improvements in stock positions and replenishment activities.

Additionally, during 2012, we replaced our web and e-commerce systems with Oracle's ATG Web Commerce application for our U.S. website. We intend to implement this system on a world-wide basis in 2013. The new system offers a complete e-commerce software platform that speeds response times and enables us to deliver a personalized customer buying experience.

During the past year, we successfully replaced our existing payment processing system with new electronic payment services from CyberSource. In addition, we implemented a payment fraud detection solution.

To help maximize our server resources, during 2012 we successfully completed virtualization of 300 servers, including all our key servers.

To improve operational flexibility and optimize warehouse processes, during the first quarter of 2013, we plan to finalize the implementation of a new warehouse management solution.

Execution of the Strategy

The execution of our growth strategy and internal initiatives may result in material additional costs. Store expansion initiatives will require the opening of new retail locations and additional retail personnel. Investments in additional sales personnel to service new geographic territories will also be necessary to grow our wholesale distribution channel. Both of these initiatives will increase our occupancy and payroll expenses.

7

Table of Contents

New merchandise introductions will require expenditures to design new products in existing and new categories, as well as incremental manufacturing costs associated with new products.

To support these and other initiatives, ongoing infrastructure investments may be required. This may include expenditures for machinery and equipment, upgraded information systems and additions to our management team. In order to reduce the impact of these additional costs, we will continue to identify ways to improve the efficiency of our current manufacturing operations and enhance other operating processes and will continue to employ return on investment measures to financially justify any such expenditures.

Manufacturing Operations

We conduct all of our manufacturing operations in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, and principally at our cutting and sewing facility in downtown Los Angeles. We also have knitting, garment dyeing, cutting and sewing operations at our South Gate and Garden Grove, California facilities.

Purchased yarn is sent to knitters to be knit into “greige” fabric, which is fabric that is not dyed or processed. We operate circular and flat knitting machines, which use jersey, piqué, fleece and ribbing to produce fabric using cotton and cotton/polyester yarns. We also utilize third-party commissioned knitters. As of December 31, 2012, our knitting facilities knit approximately 73% of the total fabric used in our garments and had approximately 78 employees.

Knitted greige fabric produced by our Los Angeles and Garden Grove facilities or by other commissioned knitters is batched for bleaching and dyeing and transported to our dyeing and finishing facilities, or other commissioned dye houses. In some cases, dyed fabric is transferred to subcontractors for fabric laundering. As of December 31, 2012, our dyeing and finishing facilities in the Los Angeles metropolitan area dye approximately 99% of the dyed fabric used in our garments and had approximately 238 employees.

Most fabric is shipped to our primary manufacturing facility in downtown Los Angeles, where it is inspected and then cut on manual and automated cutting tables, and subsequently sewn into finished garments. Approximately 27% of our fabric is purchased directly from third parties, along with all trims. Garments are sewn by teams of sewing operators typically ranging from ten to thirty operators, depending on the complexity of a particular garment. Each sewing operator performs a different sewing operation on a garment before passing it to the next operator. Sewing operators are compensated on a modified piece-rate basis. Quality control personnel inspect finished garments for defects and reject any defective product. We also manufacture certain hosiery products in-house at the downtown Los Angeles facility, where we do knitting and inspection. Washing, boarding and packaging is performed at our South Gate facility. As of December 31, 2012, approximately 3,474 employees were directly involved in the cutting, sewing, and hosiery operations at the downtown Los Angeles facility, as well as our South Gate and Garden Grove facilities. We purchase yarn, certain fabrics and other raw materials from a variety of vendors during the course of a year. The inputs that we use are produced competitively by a large number of potential suppliers.

In addition to the warehouse and distribution center at our downtown Los Angeles facility, we maintain two other warehouses in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, where we store fabric rolls, trims, and finished goods. We also maintain a warehouse in Montreal, Quebec.

Retail

As of December 31, 2012, our retail operations consisted of 251 retail stores in 20 countries, including the United States, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, United Kingdom, Ireland, Austria, Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Israel, Australia, Japan, South Korea and China. Our retail operations principally target young adults aged 18 to 35 via our unique assortment of fashionable clothing, accessories and compelling in-store experience. We have established a reputation with our customers who are culturally sophisticated, creative, and independent-minded. Our product offerings include basic apparel and accessories for men and women, as well as apparel for children. Stores average approximately 2,500-3,000 square feet of selling space. Our stores are located in large metropolitan areas, emerging neighborhoods, and select university communities.

We strive to instill enthusiasm and dedication in our store managers and sales associates through regular communication with the stores.

Wholesale

Our wholesale operations sell to over a dozen authorized distributors and approximately 10,000 screen printers and advertising specialty companies. These screen printers and advertising specialty companies decorate our blank product with corporate

8

Table of Contents

logos, brands and other images. Our wholesale customers sell imprinted sportswear and accessories to a highly diversified range of end-consumers, including corporations, sporting venues, concert promoters, athletic leagues, and educational institutions, among others. In order to better serve customers, we allow customers to order products by the piece, by the dozen, or in full case quantities. We also, to a lesser extent, fulfill custom and private-label orders. We do not have any major customers that account for ten percent or more of our total consolidated net sales.

To serve our wholesale customers, we operate a call center out of our Los Angeles headquarters. The call center is staffed with approximately 48 customer service representatives initiating sales calls, answering incoming phone calls, emails and faxes, and assisting customers in placing orders, checking stock levels, looking for price quotes or requesting adjustments. During the second half of 2012, we moved one of our call centers from Neuss, Germany to Montreal, Canada.

While we operate primarily on a “make-to-stock” basis, manufacturing and maintaining a sufficient inventory of products to meet demand, our in-house manufacturing capacity also allows us to fulfill orders rapidly. Credit approved orders to be shipped by ground service are generally shipped the same day if the order is received before 7:30 pm Eastern time while those to be shipped by air are generally shipped the same day when received by 6:30 pm Eastern time. The majority of our wholesale and internet customer orders are processed within these parameters. For these reasons, we do not typically maintain a large backlog of orders.

Online Consumer Sales

We currently have twelve different online stores in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Continental Europe, Switzerland, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Mexico, Brazil, Singapore and Hong Kong. All online stores can be accessed at www.americanapparel.com. For segment reporting purposes, U.S. online consumer sales are included in the U.S. Wholesale business segment. Canada online consumer sales are included in the Canada business segment, and international online consumer sales are included in the International business segment.

Brand, Advertising, and Marketing

Our advertising and direct marketing initiatives have been developed to elevate brand awareness, facilitate customer acquisition and retention and support key growth strategies. Our in-house creative team works to create edgy, high-impact, provocative ads which are produced year-round and are sometimes featured in leading national and local lifestyle publications, on billboards, and on specialty online websites. We maintain a photo studio at our headquarters. Content for our website and online store are also generated in-house. While the primary intent of this advertising is to support our retail and online e-commerce operations, the wholesale business also benefits from the greater overall brand awareness generated by this advertising.

For our wholesale operations, we utilize industry trade shows to expand and enhance customer relationships, exhibit product offerings and share new promotions with customers. We participate in approximately two dozen trade shows annually. We also produce print catalogs of our wholesale products, designed to be of the standard of high-end consumer retail catalogs with attractive models, appealing photographs and a clear display of products.

Product Development

We employ an in-house staff of designers and creative professionals to develop updated versions of timeless, iconic styles. Led by our chief executive officer, Dov Charney, this team takes its inspiration from classic styles of the past, as well as the latest emerging fashion trends. Our design team will often continue to update or renew a style long after its launch.

Intellectual Property

Our trademarks and service marks, and certain other trademarks, have been registered, or are the subject of pending trademark applications with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and with the registries of many foreign countries and/or are protected by common law. In the United States, we are the registered owner of the “American Apparel®,” “Classic Girl®,” “Standard American®,” “Classic Baby®” and “Sustainable Edition®” trademarks, among others. We have

licensed certain logos and designs from third-parties for use in products featuring those logos and designs, but there is no

licensed intellectual property which accounts for a material portion of our products or revenues.

Competition

The specialty retail, online retail and wholesale apparel businesses are each highly competitive. The apparel industry is characterized by rapid shifts in fashion, consumer demand, and competitive pressures, resulting in both price and demand volatility. We believe that our emphasis on quality fashion essentials mitigates these factors. Our retail operations compete on the basis of store location, the breadth, quality, style, and availability of merchandise, the level of customer service offered, and the price of goods for similar brand name quality. While we believe that the fit and quality of

Table of Contents

our garments as well as the broad variety of colors and styles of casual fashion essentials that we offer help differentiate us, we compete against a wide variety of smaller, independent specialty stores, as well as department stores and national and international specialty chains. Companies that operate in this space include, but are not limited to: The Gap, Urban Outfitters, H&M, Uniqlo and Forever 21. Many of these companies have greater financial, marketing, and other resources when compared to American Apparel.

The wholesale business competes with numerous wholesale companies based on the quality, fashion, availability, and price of our wholesale product offering. These companies include Gildan Activewear, HanesBrands, Russell Athletic and Fruit of the Loom. Many of these companies have greater name recognition than American Apparel in the wholesale market. Many of these companies also have greater financial and other resources when compared to American Apparel.

Along with the competitive factors noted above, other key competitive factors for American Apparel's online e-commerce operations include the success or effectiveness of customer mailing lists, social media acceptance, advertising response rates, merchandise delivery, web site design and web site availability. The online e-commerce operations compete against numerous web sites, many of which may have a greater volume of web traffic, and greater financial, marketing, and other resources.

Seasonality

We experience seasonality in our operations. Historically, sales during the third and fourth fiscal quarters have generally been the highest, with sales during the first fiscal quarter the lowest. This reflects the combined impact of the seasonality of the wholesale and retail segments. Generally, our retail segment has not experienced the same pronounced sales seasonality as other retailers.

Employees

As of December 31, 2012, we employed a work force of approximately 10,000 employees worldwide. To ensure our long-term success, we must attract, hire, develop, and retain skilled manufacturing, retail, sales, creative, and administrative employees, as well as executives. Competition for such employees can be intense.

We view our employees as long-term investments and adhere to a philosophy of providing employees with good working conditions in a technology-driven environment which allows us to attain improved efficiency, while promoting employee loyalty. We provide a compensation structure and benefits package for manufacturing employees that includes above-market wages, company-subsidized health insurance, free massage, free parking, as well as other benefits. We also provide for a well-lit working environment that is properly ventilated and heated or cooled in our manufacturing facilities. We believe these factors are key elements in achieving our desire to be an "employer of choice" in the Los Angeles area. None of our employees are covered by a collective bargaining agreement. We believe that our relations with our employees are excellent. We make diligent efforts to comply with all employment and labor regulations, including immigration laws, in the many jurisdictions in which we conduct operations. See "Risk Factors—We are subject to customs, advertising, consumer protection, zoning and occupancy and labor and employment laws that could require us to modify our current business practices and incur increased costs." and "Risk Factors—Litigation exposure could exceed expectations and have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations." in Part I, Item 1A.

Information Technology

We are committed to utilizing technology to enhance our competitive position. Our information systems provide data for production, merchandising, distribution, retail stores and financial systems. Our core business systems, which consist of both purchased and, to a much lesser degree, internally developed software, are accessed over a company-wide network providing corporate employees with access to key business applications. We dedicate a significant portion of our information technology resources to web services, which include the operation of our corporate website at www.americanapparel.net and our online retail site at www.americanapparel.com.

To support continued growth, we have initiated a strategic review of our information systems. We implemented an ERP system that replaced, enhanced and integrated many elements of our existing information systems. In 2012, we completed a financial system consolidation for our European operations, upgraded the financial accounting and control systems for our Canada office and upgraded our production forecasting and allocation system.

Environmental Regulation

Our operations are subject to various environmental and occupational health and safety laws and regulations. Because we monitor, control and manage environmental issues, we believe we are in compliance in all material respects with the regulatory requirements of those jurisdictions in which our facilities are located. In line with our commitment to the environment as well as to the health and safety of our employees, we will continue to make expenditures to comply with these requirements, and do

Table of Contents

not believe that compliance will have a material adverse effect on our business. See "Risk Factors - Current environmental laws, or laws enacted in the future, may harm our business." in Part I, Item 1A.

Available Information

We will make available on our website, www.americanapparel.net, under "Investor Relations" free of charge, our annual reports on Form 10-K, as well as the latest quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, the latest reports on Form 8-K, the latest proxy statements and amendments to those documents as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file or furnish such materials to the SEC. You can also obtain copies of these materials at prescribed rates by writing to the Public Reference Section of the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You can obtain information on the operation of the public reference facilities by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC also maintains a website at www.sec.gov that makes available reports, proxy statements and other information regarding American Apparel that we file electronically with it. By referring to our corporate website, www.americanapparel.net, and our online retail website, www.americanapparel.com, we do not incorporate these websites or their contents into this Form 10-K.

Table of Contents

Item 1A. Risk Factors

We have substantial indebtedness, which could have adverse consequences to us, and we may not be able to generate significant cash flow in the future to service our indebtedness.

As of December 31, 2012, we had substantial indebtedness. Our level of indebtedness has important consequences to us and you and your investment. For example, our level of indebtedness may:

require us to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to pay interest and principal on our debt, which would reduce the funds available to use for operations, investments, future business opportunities and other general corporate purposes;

make it more difficult for us to satisfy our debt obligations, and any failure to comply with such obligations, including financial and other restrictive covenants, could result in an event of default or an inability to borrow under the agreements governing such indebtedness;

in the case of a default or an event of default, as applicable, lead to, among other things, cross-defaults with our other indebtedness, an acceleration of our indebtedness or foreclosure on the assets securing our indebtedness, which could have a material adverse effect on our business or financial condition;

limit our ability to obtain additional financing, or to sell assets to raise funds, if needed, for working capital, capital expenditures, expansion plans and other investments, which may limit our ability to implement our business strategy;

result in higher interest expense if interest rates increase on our floating rate borrowings;

place us at a competitive disadvantage relative to others in the industry as it is not common for companies involved in the retail apparel business to operate with such high leverage;

heighten our vulnerability to downturns in our business, the industry or in the general economy and limit our flexibility in planning for or reacting to changes in our business and the retail industry; or

reduce our ability to carry out our plans to expand our store base, product offerings and sales channels.

Our ability to service our indebtedness is dependent on our ability to generate cash from internal operations sufficient to make required payments on such indebtedness, which is, to a significant extent, subject to general economic, financial, competitive, legislative, regulatory and other factors that are beyond our control, some of which factors are further described in this “Risk Factors” section. While our cash flows from operating activities for the year ended December 31, 2012 were slightly positive, we have experienced negative cash flows from operating activities in the past, and our business may not generate sufficient cash flow from operations to enable us to service our indebtedness or to fund our other liquidity needs. Such event could have a material adverse effect on us and we may need to take various actions which also could have material adverse consequences to us, including seeking to refinance all or a portion of our indebtedness, seeking additional debt or equity financing or reducing or delaying capital expenditures, strategic acquisitions or investments, and we may not be able to do so on commercially reasonable terms or at all. The terms of our indebtedness contain various covenants that may limit our business activities, and our failure to comply with these covenants could have material adverse consequences to us.

The terms of our indebtedness contain, and our future indebtedness may contain, various restrictive covenants that limit our management's discretion in operating our business. In particular, these agreements include, or may include, covenants relating to limitations on:

dividends on, and redemptions and repurchases of, capital stock;

payments on subordinated debt;

liens and sale-leaseback transactions;

loans and investments;

debt and hedging arrangements;

mergers, acquisitions and asset sales;

transactions with affiliates;

disposals of assets;

changes in business activities conducted by us and our subsidiaries; and

capital expenditures, including to fund future store openings.

In addition, our indebtedness contains certain financial and maintenance covenants, including covenants relating to our capital expenditures, fixed charge coverage, availability under our revolving credit facility and minimum Consolidated EBITDA as defined in the applicable debt agreements.

Such restrictive and other covenants could limit our ability to respond to market conditions, to provide for unanticipated capital investments or to take advantage of business or acquisition opportunities.

In addition, our failure to comply with the various covenants under our indebtedness could have material adverse consequences to us. Such failure may result in our being unable to borrow under our revolving credit facility, which we utilize to access our

Table of Contents

working capital, and as a result may adversely affect our ability to finance our operations or pursue our expansion plans. Our credit agreements contain cross-default provisions by which non-compliance with covenants under any of our credit facilities could also constitute an event of default under our other credit facilities. Such a failure could also result in the acceleration of all of our outstanding debt, and may adversely affect our ability to obtain financing that may be necessary to effectively operate our business and grow the business going forward. In addition, substantially all of our assets are used to secure our indebtedness, including loans under our credit agreements and certain equipment leasing agreements. In the event of a default on these agreements, substantially all of our assets could be subject to liquidation by the creditors, which liquidation could result in no assets being left for the stockholders after the creditors receive their required payment.

Fluctuations in our results of operations from quarter to quarter could have a disproportionate effect on our overall financial condition and results of operations.

We experience seasonal fluctuations in revenues and operating income. Historically, sales during the third and fourth fiscal quarters have generally been the highest, with sales during the first fiscal quarter being the lowest. Any factors that harm our third or fourth quarter operating results, including adverse weather or unfavorable economic conditions, could have a disproportionate effect on our results of operations for the entire fiscal year.

In order to prepare for our peak selling season, we must produce and keep in stock more merchandise than we would carry at other times of the year. Any unanticipated decrease in demand for our products during our peak selling season could require us to sell excess inventory at a substantial markdown, which could reduce our net sales and gross profit. A variety of factors affect comparable store sales, including fashion trends, competition, current economic conditions, pricing, inflation, the timing of release of new merchandise and promotional events, changes in our merchandise mix, the success of marketing programs, timing and level of markdowns and weather conditions. These factors may cause our comparable store sales results to differ materially from prior periods and from our expectations, which could cause a decrease in our earnings.

Significant fluctuations in exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and foreign currencies may adversely affect our revenues, operating income, net income and earnings per share, as well as future cash flows.

We face exposure to adverse movements in foreign currency exchange rates as a result of our international operations. These exposures may change over time, and they could have a material adverse impact on our financial results and cash flows. An increase in the value of the U.S. dollar relative to foreign currencies could make our products more expensive and therefore potentially less competitive in foreign markets. Conversely, lowering our price in local currency may result in lower U.S.-based revenue. A decrease in the value of the U.S. dollar relative to foreign currencies could increase the cost of local operating expenses.

Our stock price may be volatile.

Our stock price may fluctuate substantially as a result of quarter to quarter variations in our actual or anticipated financial results or the financial results of other companies in the retail and apparel industries. In addition, the stock market has experienced price and volume fluctuations that have affected the market price of many retail and other stocks and that have often been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of these companies. Failure to meet the expectations of investors, security analysts or credit rating agencies in one or more future periods could reduce the market price of our common stock and cause our credit ratings to decline. In addition, the fluctuation of our stock price also could cause us to fail to meet listing standards on the NYSE MKT if our stock price trades at a low price per share for a substantial period of time and we fail to effect a reverse split of our shares.

There will be a substantial number of shares of our common stock available for issuance or sale in the future that would result in dilution to existing public stockholders, may increase the volume of common stock available for sale in the open market and may cause a decline in the market price of our common stock.

Dov Charney and our warrant-holders currently own or have the right to acquire a substantial number of shares of our common stock. As of December 31, 2012, Mr. Charney owned 45.8 million shares of our common stock and has the contractual right to receive, upon the satisfaction of certain performance conditions or stock price thresholds, up to an additional 30.0 million shares of our common stock. We also have outstanding warrants exercisable to purchase an aggregate of 22.6 million shares of our common stock, of which 21.6 million shares are issuable at an exercise price lower than our current common stock price. In addition, pursuant to the Lion Credit Agreement, in the event of certain

other issuances and sales of common or preferred stock (including securities convertible, exercisable or exchangeable for common stock and including the shares issuable to Mr. Charney as described above) or a debt-for-equity exchange by the Company prior to the repayment of obligations under the Lion Credit Agreement, the Company is required to issue additional warrants to Lion exercisable for a number of shares sufficient to prevent the dilution of Lion's fully-diluted beneficial ownership of common stock as a result of such transaction at an initial exercise price less than our current common stock price. Mr. Charney and Lion also have certain registration rights with respect to their shares of common stock (in the case of Lion, the shares underlying its warrants).

Table of Contents

As of December 31, 2012 assuming (i) issuance in full of the shares of common stock that Mr. Charney has a right to purchase or receive as described above, (ii) exercise in full of the warrants described above (including new warrants issuable to Lion if such shares are issued to Mr. Charney), (iii) exercise in full of currently outstanding employee options to purchase, vesting of unvested restricted stock awards, including issuance of contingent employee restricted stock awards and options, with respect to a total of 30.0 million shares of common stock and (iv) no other issuances of common stock or securities convertible, exercisable or exchangeable for common stock, the percentage ownership of stockholders other than Mr. Charney, the Investors (as defined below), and holders of outstanding warrants as described above would be reduced from approximately 30% to approximately 20%.

Voting control by our executive officers, directors, lenders and other affiliates may limit your ability to influence the outcome of director elections and other matters requiring stockholder approval.

As of December 31, 2012, Mr. Charney beneficially owned approximately 45% of our outstanding common stock, Lion beneficially owned approximately 16% of our outstanding common stock, and a group of Investors beneficially owned in the aggregate approximately 16% of our outstanding common stock. Mr. Charney and Lion also have the right to acquire additional beneficial ownership under certain circumstances as described above.

In addition, Mr. Charney and Lion are parties to an investment agreement pursuant to which Lion has the right to designate up to two directors on our Board of Directors and a board observer (or, if we increase our board size to 12, up to three directors and no board observers), subject to maintaining certain minimum ownership thresholds of common stock or shares of common stock issuable under Lion's warrants. The investment agreement also restricts us from increasing the size of our Board of Directors to more than 10 directors (or 13 directors in the event we elect to increase the size of our Board of Directors to 12 directors as described above). The two Lion designees on our board of directors and Lion's board observer resigned on March 30, 2011. Lion has indicated that it will retain its ability to re-designate directors to our board of directors and a board observer at the appropriate time in the future, pursuant to its designation rights under the investment agreement.

Mr. Charney and Lion also are parties to an investment voting agreement which provides that, for so long as Lion has the right to designate any person or persons to the Board of Directors, Mr. Charney will vote his shares of common stock in favor of Lion's designees, and Lion will vote its shares of common stock in favor of Mr. Charney and each other designee of Mr. Charney, in each case subject to Mr. Charney maintaining certain minimum ownership thresholds of common stock.

This concentration of share ownership and agreements may adversely affect the trading price for the common stock because investors often perceive disadvantages in owning stock in companies with controlling stockholders. Also, some or all of our significant stockholders, if they were to act together, would be able to control our management and affairs and matters requiring stockholder approval, including the election of directors and the approval of significant corporate transactions, such as mergers, consolidations or the sale of substantially all of our assets. Consequently, this concentration of ownership may have the effect of delaying or preventing a change of control, including a merger, consolidation or other business combination involving us, or discouraging a potential acquirer from making a tender offer or otherwise attempting to obtain control, even if that change of control would benefit our other stockholders and may prevent our stockholders from realizing a premium over the current market price for their shares of common stock. Furthermore, our significant stockholders may also have interests that differ from yours and may vote their shares of common stock in a way with which you disagree and which may be adverse to your interests.

Purchases of retail apparel merchandise are generally discretionary and economic conditions may cause a decline in consumer spending which could adversely affect our business and financial performance.

Our operations and performance depend significantly on worldwide economic conditions and their impact on levels of consumer spending, particularly in discretionary areas such as fashion apparel, in the United States and many other countries and regions and may remain depressed for the foreseeable future. Our business and financial performance, including our sales and the collection of our accounts receivable, may be adversely affected by any future decreases in economic activity in the United States or in other regions of the world in which we do business that could potentially cause a decline in consumer spending, including a reduction in the availability of credit, increased unemployment levels, higher fuel and energy costs, rising interest rates, adverse conditions in the housing markets, financial market volatility, recession, decreased access to credit, reduced consumer confidence in future economic conditions and

political conditions, acts of terrorism, consumer perceptions of personal well-being and security and other macroeconomic factors affecting consumer spending behavior. Consumers are generally more willing to make discretionary purchases, including purchases of fashion products, during periods in which favorable economic conditions prevail. A decrease in consumer discretionary spending as a result of economic conditions may decrease the demand for our products. In addition, reduced consumer spending may cause us to lower prices, suffer significant product returns from our customers or drive us to offer additional products at promotional prices, any of which would have a negative impact on gross profit.

Table of Contents

Our ability to meet customers' demands depends, in part, on our ability to obtain timely and adequate delivery of materials, parts and components from our suppliers. The current global financial crisis may materially and adversely affect the ability of our suppliers to obtain financing for significant purchases and operations. If certain key suppliers were to become capacity constrained or insolvent as a result of the financial crisis, it could result in a reduction or interruption in supplies or a significant increase in the price of supplies and adversely impact consumer spending and our financial results. As a consequence, American Apparel's operating results for a particular period are difficult to predict, and, therefore, prior results are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected in future periods. Any of the foregoing effects could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, and financial condition and could adversely affect our stock price.

If we are unable to gauge fashion trends and react to changing consumer preferences in a timely manner, our sales will decrease.

Our success is largely dependent upon our ability to gauge the fashion tastes of our customers and to provide merchandise that satisfies customer demand in a timely manner. The retail apparel business fluctuates according to changes in consumer preferences dictated, in part, by fashion and season. To the extent we misjudge the market for our merchandise or the products suitable for our market, our sales will be adversely affected. Merchandise misjudgments could have a material adverse effect on our image with our customers and on our operating results. Fluctuations in the apparel retail market affect the inventory owned by apparel retailers, since merchandise usually must be manufactured in advance of the season and frequently before fashion trends are evidenced by customer purchases. In addition, the cyclical nature of the retail apparel business requires us to carry a significant amount of inventory, especially prior to peak selling seasons when we build up our inventory levels. As a result, we will be vulnerable to demand and pricing shifts and to suboptimal selection and timing of merchandise production. If sales do not meet expectations, too much inventory may lower planned margins. Our brand image may also suffer if customers believe we are no longer able to offer the latest fashion. The occurrence of these events could adversely affect our financial results by decreasing sales.

Our failure to adequately protect our trademarks and other intellectual property rights could diminish the value of our brand and reduce demand for our merchandise.

Our trademarks and service marks, and certain other intellectual property, have been registered, or are the subject of pending applications with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and with the registries of many foreign countries and/or are protected by common law. Our products are noted for their quality and fit, and our edgy, distinctive branding has differentiated it in the marketplace. As such, the trademark and variations thereon are valuable assets that are critical to our success. We intend to continue to vigorously protect our trademark and brand against infringement, but we may not be successful in doing so. In addition, the laws of certain foreign countries may not protect proprietary rights to the same extent as do the laws of the United States. The unauthorized reproduction or other misappropriation of our trademark would diminish the value of our brand, which could reduce demand for our products or the prices at which we can sell our products.

If we fail to maintain the value and image of our brand, our sales are likely to decline.

Our success depends on the value and image of our brand. Our name is integral to our business as well as to the implementation of our strategies for expanding our business. Maintaining, promoting and positioning our brand depend largely on the success of our marketing and merchandising efforts and our ability to provide a consistent, high quality customer experience. Our brand could be adversely affected if we fail to achieve these objectives or if our public image or reputation or those of our senior personnel were to be tarnished by negative publicity. Any of these events could result in decreases in sales.

Our ability to attract customers to our stores depends heavily on the success of the shopping areas in which they are located.

In order to generate customer traffic, we locate many of our stores in prominent locations within successful shopping areas. Net sales at these stores are partly dependent on the volume of traffic in those shopping areas. Our stores benefit from the ability of a shopping area's other tenants to generate consumer traffic in the vicinity of our stores and the continuing popularity of the shopping areas. We cannot control the availability or cost of appropriate locations within existing or new shopping areas, competition with other retailers for prominent locations or the success of individual

shopping areas. In addition, factors beyond our control impact shopping area traffic, such as economic conditions nationally or in a particular area, competition from internet retailers, changes in consumer demographics in a particular market, the closing or decline in popularity of other stores in the shopping areas where our stores are located, deterioration in the financial conditions of the operators of the shopping areas or developers and consumer spending levels. A significant decrease in shopping area traffic could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations. Furthermore, in pursuing our growth strategy, we will be competing with other retailers for prominent locations within the same successful shopping areas. If we are unable to secure these locations or unable to renew store leases on acceptable terms as they expire from time-to-time we may not be able to continue to attract the number or quality of customers we normally have attracted or would need to attract to sustain our projected growth. All these factors may also impact our ability to meet our growth targets and could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations.

Table of Contents

Our growth strategy relies in part on the opening of new stores, the remodeling of existing stores and expanding our business internationally, which may strain our resources, adversely impact the performance of our existing store base and delay or prevent successful penetration into international markets.

Our growth strategy and the success of our business depends in part on the opening of new retail stores, both domestically and internationally, the renewal of existing store leases on terms that meet our financial targets, the remodeling of existing stores in a timely manner, and the operation of these stores in a cost-efficient manner. Successful implementation of this portion of our growth strategy depends on a number of factors including, but not limited to, our ability to:

- identify and obtain suitable store locations and negotiate acceptable leases for these locations;
- complete store design and remodeling projects on time and on budget;
- manage and expand our infrastructure to accommodate growth;
- generate sufficient operating cash flows or secure adequate capital on commercially reasonable terms to fund our expansion plan and remain in compliance with the capital expenditure covenant and other relevant covenants in our credit facilities that may limit our ability to fund such expansion plans;
- manage inventory effectively to meet the needs of new and existing stores on a timely basis;
- avoid construction delays and cost overruns in connection with the build-out of new stores;
- hire, train and retain qualified store managers and sales people.
- gain acceptance from foreign customers;
- manage foreign exchange risks effectively;
- address existing and changing legal, regulatory and political environments in target foreign markets; and
- manage international growth, if any, in a manner that does not unduly strain our financial, operating and management resources.

Our plans to expand our store base and to remodel certain existing stores may not be successful and the implementation of these plans may not result in an increase in our revenues even though they increase our costs. Additionally, new stores that we open may place increased demands on our existing financial, operational, managerial and administrative resources, which could cause us to operate less effectively.

Our ability to obtain real estate to open new stores in desirable locations depends upon the availability of real estate that meets our criteria, which includes, among other items, projected foot traffic, square footage, demographics and whether we are able to negotiate lease terms that meet our operating budget. In addition, we must be able to effectively renew our existing store leases from time to time. Failure to secure real estate in desirable locations on economically beneficial terms or to renew leases on existing store locations on economically beneficial terms could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

Further, our ability to fund expansion in the future and other capital expenditures will depend on our ability to generate sufficient cash from internal operations (after taking into account our debt service obligations and subject to the covenants in our debt agreements) or to access financing, which ability is, to a significant extent, subject to general economic, financial, competitive, legislative, regulatory and other factors that are beyond our control and which financing may not be available on commercially reasonable terms or at all.

Furthermore, it is possible that by opening a new store in an existing market, we could adversely affect the previously existing stores in that market by drawing away traffic from the previously existing stores. Our new stores may not be immediately profitable and, as such, we may incur losses until these stores become profitable. Any failure to successfully open and operate new stores would adversely affect our results of operations.

We anticipate that we will incur significant costs related to starting up and maintaining additional foreign operations. Costs may include, and will not be limited to, setting up foreign offices and distribution facilities and hiring experienced management. These increased demands may cause us to operate our business less effectively, which in turn could cause deterioration in the performance of our stores. Furthermore, our ability to conduct business in international markets may be affected by legal, regulatory, political and economic risks.

Our plans to expand our product offerings and sales channels may not be successful, and implementation of these plans may divert our operational, managerial and administrative resources, which could impact our competitive position.

Our ability to grow our existing brand and develop or identify new growth opportunities depends in part on our ability to appropriately identify, develop and effectively execute strategies and initiatives. Failure to effectively identify, develop and execute strategies and initiatives may lead to increased operating costs without offsetting benefits and could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations. These plans involve various risks discussed elsewhere in these risk factors, including:

- implementation of these plans may be delayed or may not be successful;
- if our expanded product offerings and sales channels fail to maintain and enhance our distinctive brand identity, our brand image may be diminished and our sales may decrease;

Table of Contents

implementation of these plans may divert management's attention from other aspects of our business and place a strain on our management, operational and financial resources, as well as our information systems.

In addition, our ability to successfully carry out our plans to expand our product offerings may be affected by, among other things, economic and competitive conditions, changes in consumer spending patterns and changes in consumer preferences and fashion trends. Our expansion plans could be delayed or abandoned, could cost more than anticipated and could divert resources from other areas of our business; any of which could impact our competitive position and reduce our revenue and profitability.

We depend on key personnel, and our ability to grow and compete will be harmed if we do not retain the continued services of such personnel, or we fail to identify, hire and retain additional qualified personnel.

We depend on the efforts and skills of our management team, and the loss of services of one or more members of this team, each of whom have substantial experience in the apparel industry, could have an adverse effect on our business.

Our senior officers closely supervise all aspects of our business, in particular the design and production of merchandise and the operation of our stores. If we are unable to hire and retain qualified management or if any member of our management leaves, such departure could have an adverse effect on our operations and could adversely affect our ability to design new products and to maintain and grow the distribution channels for our products. In particular, we believe we have benefited substantially from the leadership and strategic guidance of Dov Charney. The loss of Dov Charney would be particularly harmful as he is considered intimately connected to our brand identity and is the principal driving force behind our core concepts, designs and growth strategy.

Our ability to anticipate and effectively respond to changing fashion trends depends in part on our ability to attract and retain key personnel in our design, merchandising and marketing areas, and other functions. In addition, if we experience material growth, we will need to attract and retain additional qualified personnel. The market for qualified and talented design and marketing personnel in the apparel industry is intensely competitive, and we cannot be sure that we will be able to attract and retain a sufficient number of qualified personnel in future periods. If we are unable to attract or retain qualified personnel as needed, our growth will be hampered and our operating results could be materially adversely affected.

Unionization of employees at our facilities could result in increased risk of work stoppages and high labor costs.

Our employees are not party to any collective bargaining agreement or union. If employees at our manufacturing or distribution facilities were to unionize, our relationship with our employees could be adversely affected. We would also face an increased risk of work stoppages and higher labor costs. Accordingly, unionization of our employees could have a material adverse impact on our operating costs and financial condition and could force us to raise prices on our products, curtail operations and/or relocate all or a portion of our operations overseas.

Cost increases in, or shortages of, the materials or labor used to manufacture our products could negatively impact our business and financial condition.

The manufacture of our products is labor intensive and utilizes raw materials supplied by third parties. An important part of American Apparel branding and marketing is that our products are made in the United States. The Federal Trade Commission has stated that for a product to be called "Made in USA", or claimed to be of domestic origin without qualifications or limits on the claim, the product must be "all or virtually all" made in the United States. The term "United States" includes the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories and possessions. "All or virtually all" means that all significant parts and processing that go into the product must be of U.S. origin. That is, the product should contain no - or negligible - foreign content. We meet the FTC's "Made in USA" standard and from the knitting process to the final sewing of a garment, all of the processes are conducted in the United States, either directly by us in our knitting, manufacturing, dyeing and finishing facilities located in Los Angeles or through commission knitters, dyers and sewers in the Los Angeles metropolitan area and other regions in the United States. If the cost of labor materially increases, our financial results could be materially adversely affected and our ability to compete against companies with lower labor costs could be hampered. Material increases in labor costs in the United States could also force us to move all or a portion of our manufacturing overseas, which could adversely affect our brand identity.

Similarly, increases in the prices of raw materials or the prices we pay to the suppliers of the raw materials used in the manufacturing of our products, and shortages in such materials, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. For example, the price of yarn and the cost of certain related fabrics has

historically fluctuated and been subject to periodic shortages. Such shortages may result in an increase in our manufacturing costs and could result in a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations, and we are unable to predict whether we will be able to successfully pass on the added cost of raw materials to our wholesale and retail customers. In addition, increases in the cost of, or shortages in, our raw material inputs could adversely affect our ability to compete. Further, we could be forced to seek to offset any increased raw material costs by relocating all or a portion of our manufacturing overseas to locations with lower labor costs.

Table of Contents

Our manufacturing operations are located and will be located in higher-cost geographic locations, placing us at a possible disadvantage to competitors that have a higher percentage of their manufacturing operations overseas. Despite the general industry-wide migration of manufacturing operations to lower-cost locations, such as Central America, the Caribbean Basin and Asia, our textile manufacturing operations are still located in the United States, which is a higher-cost location relative to these offshore locations. In addition, our competitors generally source or produce a greater portion of their textiles from regions with lower costs than we, which also places us at a cost disadvantage. Our competitor's lower costs of production may allow them to offer their products at a lower price than our selling prices for similar products. This could force us to lower our margins or to compete more vigorously with non-price competitive strategies to preserve our margins and sales volume.

Our reliance on operational facilities located in the same vicinity makes our business susceptible to disruptions or adverse conditions affecting the location of our facilities.

We conduct all of our manufacturing operations in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. Specifically, we operate principally out of an 800,000 square foot facility in downtown Los Angeles, which houses our executive offices, as well as our cutting, sewing, and distribution operations. We also operate the following: a knitting facility in Los Angeles, California; a cutting, sewing, garment dyeing and finishing facility in South Gate, California; a fabric dyeing and finishing facility in Hawthorne, California; a cutting, sewing, fabric dyeing and finishing facility in Garden Grove, California; as well as a warehouse facility in Commerce, California and Los Angeles, California. As a result of geographic concentration, our operations are susceptible to local and regional factors, such as accidents, system failures, economic and weather conditions, natural disasters, and demographic and population changes, as well as other unforeseen events and circumstances.

Southern California is particularly susceptible to earthquakes. Any significant interruption in the operation of any of these facilities could reduce our ability to receive and process orders and provide products and services to our stores and customers, which could result in lost sales, canceled sales and a loss of loyalty to our brand. Furthermore, if there were a major earthquake, we may have to cease operations for a significant portion of time due to possible damage to our factory or inability to deliver products to our distribution centers.

The process of upgrading our information technology infrastructure may disrupt our operations.

We are increasingly dependent on information systems to operate our website, process transactions, respond to customer inquiries, manage inventory and production, purchase, sell and ship goods on a timely basis and maintain cost-efficient operations. We have performed an evaluation of our information technology systems and requirements and have implemented upgrades to our information technology systems supporting the business. These upgrades involve replacing legacy systems with successor systems, making changes to legacy systems or acquiring new systems with new functionality. There are inherent risks associated with replacing and changing these systems, including accurately capturing data and system disruptions. We may experience operational problems with our information systems as a result of system failures, viruses, computer "hackers" or other causes. Any material disruption or slowdown of our systems, including a disruption or slowdown caused by our failure to successfully upgrade our systems could cause information, including data related to customer orders, to be lost or delayed which could-especially if the disruption or slowdown occurred during the holiday season-result in delays in the delivery of merchandise to our stores and customers or lost sales, which could reduce demand for our merchandise and cause our sales to decline. Moreover, we may not be successful in developing or acquiring technology that is competitive and responsive to the needs of our customers and might lack sufficient resources to make the necessary investments in technology to compete with our competitors. Accordingly, if changes in technology cause our information systems to become obsolete, or if our information systems are inadequate to handle our growth, we could lose customers.

A failure in our Internet operations could significantly disrupt our business and lead to reduced sales and reputational damage.

Our online retail operations accounted for approximately 9% of net sales for the year ended December 31, 2012 and are subject to numerous risks that could have a material adverse effect on our operational results. Risks to online revenue include, but are not limited to, the following:

- changes in consumer preferences and buying trends relating to Internet usage;
- changes in required technology interfaces;

• web site downtime;
• difficulty in recreating the in-store experience on a web site; and
risks related to the failure of the systems that operate the web sites and their related support systems, including
• computer viruses, theft of customer information, telecommunication failures and electronic break-ins and similar
disruptions.

18

Table of Contents

Our failure to successfully respond to these risks and uncertainties could reduce Internet sales and damage our brand's reputation.

We operate in the highly competitive retail and apparel industries and our market share may be adversely impacted at any time by the significant number of competitors in our industries that may compete more effectively than we can. The apparel industry is characterized by rapid shifts in fashion, consumer demand and competitive pressures, resulting in both price and demand volatility. The retail apparel industry, in general, and the imprintable apparel market, specifically, is fragmented and highly competitive. Prices of certain products we manufacture, particularly T-shirts, are determined based on market conditions, including the price of raw materials. There can be no assurance that we will be able to compete successfully in the future. We compete with national and local department stores, specialty and discount store chains, independent retail stores and Internet businesses that market similar lines of merchandise. Many of our competitors are, and many of our potential competitors may be, larger, have substantially greater name recognition than American Apparel and have greater financial, marketing and other resources and, therefore, may be able to adapt to changes in customer requirements more quickly, devote greater resources to the marketing and sale of their products, generate greater national brand recognition or adopt more aggressive pricing policies than we can. We also face competition in European, Asian and Canadian markets from established regional and national chains. Our success in these markets depends on determining a sustainable profit formula to build brand loyalty and gain market share in these challenging retail environments. If our international business is not successful our results of operations could be adversely affected.

The wholesale business competes with numerous wholesale companies based on the quality, fashion, availability, and price of our wholesale product offerings. Many of these companies have greater name recognition than American Apparel in the wholesale market. Many of these companies also have greater financial and other resources when compared to American Apparel. If we cannot successfully compete with these companies, our results of operations could be adversely affected.

Elimination or scaling back of U.S. import protections would weaken an important barrier to the entry of foreign competitors who produce their merchandise in lower labor cost locations. This could place us at a disadvantage to those competitors.

Our products are subject to foreign competition. Foreign producers of apparel often have significant labor cost advantages, which can enable them to sell their products at relatively lower prices. However, foreign competitors have faced significant U.S. government import restrictions in the form of tariffs and quotas. The extent of import protection afforded to domestic apparel producers has been, and is likely to remain, subject to political considerations, and is therefore unpredictable. Given the number of foreign low cost producers, the substantial elimination or scaling back of the import protections that protect domestic apparel producers such as American Apparel could have a material adverse effect on our business and the financial condition and results of operation.

Because we utilize foreign suppliers and sell into foreign markets, we are subject to numerous risks associated with international business that could increase our costs or disrupt the supply of our products, resulting in a negative impact on our business and financial condition.

Our international operations subject us to risks, including:

- economic and political instability;
- restrictive actions by foreign governments;
- greater difficulty enforcing intellectual property rights and weaker laws protecting intellectual property rights;
- changes in import duties or import or export restrictions;
- fluctuations in currency exchange rates, which could negatively affect profit margins;
- timely shipping of product;
- complications complying with the laws and policies of the United States affecting the exportation of goods, including duties, quotas, and taxes; and
- complications in complying with trade and foreign tax laws.

These and other factors beyond our control could disrupt the supply of our products, influence the ability of our suppliers to export our products cost-effectively or at all, inhibit our suppliers' ability to procure certain materials and increase our expenses, any of which could harm our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We rely heavily on immigrant labor, and changes in immigration laws or enforcement actions or investigations under such laws could significantly adversely affect our labor force, manufacturing capabilities, operations and financial results.

We rely heavily on immigrant labor. Adverse changes to existing laws and regulations applicable to employment of immigrants, enforcement requirements or practices under those laws and regulations, and inspections or investigations by

19

Table of Contents

immigration authorities or the prospects or rumors of any of the foregoing, even if no violations exist, could negatively impact the availability and cost of personnel and labor to us. As a result, we could experience very substantial turnover of employees on short or no notice, which could result in manufacturing and other delays. We may also have difficulty attracting or hiring new employees in a timely manner, resulting in further delays. These delays could materially adversely affect our revenues and ability to complete. If we are not able to continue to attract and retain sufficient employees, our manufacturing capabilities, operations and financial results would be adversely affected.

We are subject to customs, advertising, consumer protection, zoning and occupancy and labor and employment laws that could require us to modify our current business practices and incur increased costs.

We are subject to numerous regulations, including customs, truth-in-advertising, consumer protection and zoning and occupancy laws and ordinances that regulate retailers generally and/or govern the importation, promotion and sale of merchandise and the operation of retail stores and warehouse facilities. We also are subject to numerous federal and state labor laws, such as minimum wage laws and other laws relating to employee benefits. If these regulations were to change or were violated by our management, employees, suppliers, buying agents or trading companies, the costs of certain goods could increase, or we could experience delays in shipments of our goods, be subject to fines or penalties, or suffer reputational harm, which could reduce demand for our merchandise and hurt our business and results of operations. In addition, changes in federal and state minimum wage laws and other laws relating to employee benefits could cause us to incur additional wage and benefits costs, which could adversely affect our profitability. We are currently defending five wage and hour suits. Should these matters be decided against us, we could incur substantial liability, experience an increase in similar suits, and suffer reputational harm. We are unable to predict the financial outcome of these matters at this time, and any views we form as to the viability of these claims or the financial exposure in which they could result may change. No assurance can be made that these matters will not result in material financial exposure, which together with the potential for similar suits and reputational harm, could have a material adverse effect upon our financial condition and results of operations. See the section entitled "Item 3. Legal Proceedings" for a more detailed discussion of our pending litigation.

Legal requirements are frequently changed and subject to interpretation, and we are unable to predict the ultimate cost of compliance with these requirements or their effect on our operations. We may be required to make significant expenditures or modify our business practices to comply with existing or future laws and regulations, which may increase our costs and materially limit our ability to operate our business.

Current environmental laws, or laws enacted in the future, may harm our business.

We are subject to federal, state and local laws, regulations and ordinances that govern activities or operations that may have adverse environmental effects (such as emissions to air, discharges to water, and the generation, handling, storage and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes). We are also subject to laws, regulations and ordinances that impose liability for the costs of clean up or other remediation of contaminated property, including damages from spills, disposals or other releases of hazardous substances or wastes, in certain circumstances without regard to fault. Certain of our operations routinely involve the handling of chemicals and wastes, some of which are or may become regulated as hazardous substances. Our product design and procurement operations must comply with new and future requirements relating to the materials composition of our products. If we fail to comply with the rules and regulations regarding the use and sale of such regulated substances, we could be subject to liability. The costs and timing of costs under environmental laws are difficult to predict.

As is the case with manufacturers in general, if a release of hazardous substances occurs on or from our properties or any associated offsite disposal locations, or if contamination from prior activities is discovered at any of our properties, we may be held liable. The amount of such liability could be material.

Litigation exposure could exceed expectations and have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

We are subject to regulatory inquiries, investigations, claims and suits. We are currently defending a consolidated putative shareholder class action, two consolidated shareholder derivative actions proceeding in federal and state court, respectively, five wage and hour suits, and numerous employment related claims and suits. In the event one or more of these matters are decided against us, we may incur substantial liability, experience an increase in similar suits

or suffer reputational harm. We are unable to predict the financial outcome that could result from these matters at this time and any views we form as to the viability of these claims or the financial exposure in which they could result could change from time to time as the matters proceed through their course, as facts are established and various judicial determinations are made. No assurance can be made that these matters will not result in material financial exposure, which together with the potential for similar suits and reputational harm, could have a material adverse effect upon our financial condition and results of operations. See the section entitled "Item 3. Legal Proceedings" for a more detailed discussion of American Apparel's pending litigation.

Table of Contents

We are currently being audited by government tax agencies regarding our operating activities in previous periods which may result in an assessment of a material amount, the payment of which may adversely impact our financial conditions and operations.

As of December 31, 2012, we are being audited by Government agencies in various jurisdictions in regards to sales, VAT, income, and other taxes and customs duties for certain previous years. In connection with one such audit, the German customs has issued retroactive assessments on the Company's imports totaling €3,634 or \$4,802 at the December 31, 2012 exchange rates. Although we believe that we properly assess and remit all required sales, VAT, income, and other taxes and customs duties in Germany and other applicable jurisdictions, and we account for any uncertain tax position or tax contingency in accordance with the provisions of ASC 740-“Income Taxes” or ASC 450-“Contingencies”. No assurance can be made that these matters will not have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. In particular, disruptions in our operations in Germany as a result of customs enforcement actions or otherwise could have a material adverse effect on our E.U. business and operations. Third party failure to deliver merchandise to stores and customers could result in lost sales or reduced demand for our merchandise.

The efficient operation of our stores and wholesale business depends on the timely receipt of merchandise from our distribution centers. Independent third party transportation companies deliver a substantial portion of our merchandise to our stores. These shippers may not continue to ship our products at current pricing or terms. These shippers may employ personnel represented by labor unions. Disruptions in the delivery of merchandise or work stoppages by employees or contractors of these third parties could delay the timely receipt of merchandise, which could result in canceled sales, a loss of loyalty to our brand and excess inventory. There can be no assurance that such stoppages or disruptions will not occur in the future. Any failure by these third parties to respond adequately to our distribution needs would disrupt our operations and could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Timely receipt of merchandise by our stores and our customers may also be affected by factors such as inclement weather, natural disasters and acts of terrorism. We may respond by increasing markdowns or initiating marketing promotions, which would decrease our gross profits and net income.

We have potentially adverse exposure to credit risks on our wholesale sales.

We are exposed to the risk of financial non-performance by our customers, primarily in our wholesale business. Sales to wholesale customers represented approximately 28% of our net sales for the year ended December 31, 2012. Our extension of credit involves considerable use of judgment and is based on an evaluation of each customer's financial condition and payment history. We monitor our credit risk exposure by periodically obtaining credit reports and updated financials of our customers. We maintain an allowance for doubtful accounts for potential credit losses based upon historical trends and other available information. However, delays in collecting or the inability to collect on sales to significant customers or a group of customers could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

Table of Contents

Item 2. Properties

The following table sets forth the location and use of each of American Apparel's principal non-retail properties, which are all leased each of which is used in connection with all of our operating segments, with the exception of our foreign offices,

which are used solely in connection with our Canada and International segments respectively:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Los Angeles, California | Headquarters, Sewing, Cutting, and Distribution |
| Los Angeles, California | Knitting Facility |
| Los Angeles, California | Warehouse Facility |
| Hawthorne, California | Fabric Dyeing and Finishing Facility |
| South Gate, California | Cutting, Sewing, Garment Dyeing and Finishing Facility |
| Garden Grove, California | Cutting, Sewing, Knitting, Fabric Dyeing and Finishing Facility |
| Commerce, California | Warehouse Facility |
| La Mirada, California | Distribution Center |
| Montreal, Quebec | Offices, Distribution |
| London, England | Offices |
| Tokyo, Japan | Offices |
| Seoul, South Korea | Offices |

All of our retail stores are leased, well maintained and in good operating condition. Our retail stores are typically leased for a term of five to ten years with renewal options for an additional five to ten years. Most of these leases provide for base rent, as well as maintenance and common area charges, real estate taxes and certain other expenses. Selling space of opened stores will sometimes change due to store renovations that modify space utilization, use of staircases, the configuration of cash registers, and other factors. As well, a number of our store locations have undergone expansions in the past several years.

Table of Contents

The following tables set forth American Apparel's existing retail stores by geographic region, as of December 31, 2012:

Domestic Locations (140)

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Arizona (2) | | Florida (7) | Massachusetts (4) |
| Scottsdale | | Boca Raton | Boston— |
| Tucson | | Miami Beach— | Back Bay |
| | | Lincoln Road | Newbury Street |
| | | Sunset Drive | Cambridge |
| California (38) | | Washington Ave. | Wrentham |
| Arcadia | Napa | Orlando | |
| Berkeley | Palo Alto | St. Augustine | Michigan (3) |
| Camarillo | Pasadena | Wellington | Ann Arbor |
| Claremont | Rancho Cucamonga | | East Lansing |
| Commerce | San Diego— | Georgia (2) | Royal Oak |
| Costa Mesa | Fashion Valley | Atlanta— | |
| Gilroy | Hillcrest | Lenox Mall | Minnesota (2) |
| Huntington Beach | Pacific Beach | Little Five Points | Bloomington |
| Irvine Spectrum | San Francisco— | | Minneapolis |
| Los Angeles— | China Gate | Hawaii (1) | |
| Echo Park | Haight Ashbury | Honolulu— | Missouri (1) |
| Factory Store | Union Street | Ala Moana | Kansas City |
| Hollywood | Santa Barbara | | |
| Little Tokyo | Santa Clara | Illinois (7) | Nebraska (1) |
| Los Feliz | Santa Cruz | Chicago— | Omaha |
| Melrose | Santa Monica— | Belmont & Clark | |
| Robertson | Main Street | Gold Coast | Nevada (3) |
| Westwood Village | Third Street Promenade | Lincoln Park | Las Vegas— |
| West Hollywood | Studio City | State St. | Boca Park |
| Malibu | Venice | Wicker Park | Miracle Mile |
| Manhattan Beach | Ventura | Evanston | Premium Outlets |
| | | Schaumburg | |
| Colorado (2) | | | New Jersey (4) |
| Boulder | | Louisiana (1) | Cherry Hill |
| | | New Orleans | Edison |
| Denver | | | Hoboken |
| | | Maryland (4) | Paramus |
| Connecticut (2) | | Annapolis | |
| New Haven | | Baltimore | |
| South Norwalk | | Bethesda | |
| | | Silver Spring | |
| District of Columbia (2) | | | |
| Georgetown | | | |
| Lincoln Square | | | |

Table of Contents

Domestic Locations (140) (cont'd.)

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| New York (23) | Pennsylvania (4) | Wisconsin (2) |
| Brooklyn— | King of Prussia | Madison |
| Carroll Gardens | Philadelphia— | Milwaukee |
| Court Street | Sansom Common | |
| Park Slope | Walnut Street | |
| Williamsburg | Pittsburgh— | |
| Central Valley | Shadyside | |
| Garden City | | |
| Manhattan— | South Carolina (1) | |
| Bleecker Street | Charleston | |
| Chelsea | | |
| Columbia University | Tennessee (2) | |
| Columbus Circle | Memphis | |
| FIT | Nashville | |
| Flatiron | | |
| Gramercy Park | Texas (7) | |
| Harlem | Austin— | |
| Hell's Kitchen | Congress Ave | |
| Lower Broadway | Guadalupe Street | |
| Lower East Side | Dallas— | |
| Noho | Mockingbird | |
| Soho | NorthPark Center | |
| Tribeca | Houston | |
| Upper East Side | Round Rock | |
| Upper West Side | San Antonio— | |
| White Plains | La Cantera | |
| | | |
| North Carolina (1) | Utah (1) | |
| Charlotte— | Salt Lake City | |
| SouthPark Mall | | |
| | Vermont (1) | |
| Ohio (3) | Burlington | |
| Cincinnati | | |
| Cleveland | Virginia (1) | |
| Columbus | Richmond | |
| | | |
| Oregon (4) | Washington (4) | |
| Eugene | Lynnwood | |
| Portland— | Seattle— | |
| Hawthorne Blvd. | Capitol Hill | |
| Stark Street | Downtown Seattle | |
| Tigard | University Way | |

Table of Contents

Canada (35)

Alberta (4)

Calgary—
17th Avenue
Market Mall
Edmonton—
82nd Avenue
West Edmonton Mall

British Columbia (7)

Burnaby
Kelowna
Vancouver—
Granville
Robson Street
South Granville
West 4th Street
Victoria

Manitoba (1)

Winnipeg

Newfoundland (1)

St. John's

Nova Scotia (1)

Halifax

Ontario (12)

Kingston
London
Ottawa—
Rideau Centre
Thornhill
Toronto—
Bloor Street
Queen Street
Sherway Gardens
Yonge & Dundas
Yonge & Eglinton
Yorkdale Shopping Centre
Vaughan
Waterloo

Quebec (8)

Laval
Montreal—
Cours Mont-Royal
Mont-Royal Est
St-Denis
Ste-Catherine West
Pointe-Claire
Quebec—
Rue St-Jean
Westmount

Saskatchewan (1)

Saskatoon

Table of Contents

International Locations (76)

Europe (55)

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Austria (1) | Germany (9) | United Kingdom (20) | Spain (2) |
| Vienna | Berlin— | Birmingham | Barcelona |
| | Bayreuther Strasse | Brighton | Madrid |
| Belgium (1) | Münzstrasse | Bristol | |
| Antwerp | Düsseldorf | Glasgow | Sweden (2) |
| | Frankfurt | Leeds | Stockholm— |
| France (12) | Hamburg— | Liverpool | Götgatan |
| Aix-en-Provence | Jungfernstieg | London— | Kungsgatan |
| Lille | Schanzenstrasse | Camden High Street | |
| Paris— | Köln | Carnaby Street | Switzerland (2) |
| Marais | Munich— | Covent Garden | Zurich— |
| Vielle du Temple | Sendlinger Strasse | Kensington High Street | Josefstrasse |
| Beaurepaire | Stuttgart | King's Cross | Rennweg |
| Avenue Victor Hugo | | Oxford Street | |
| Saint-Germain | Ireland (1) | Portobello Road | |
| Saint-Honore (2) | Dublin | Selfridges | |
| Galleries Lafayette | | Shoreditch | |
| La Defense | Italy (3) | Westfield | |
| Toulouse | Milan | Manchester (3) | |
| | Padova | Nottingham | |
| | Rome | | |
| | Netherlands (2) | | |
| | Amsterdam— | | |
| | Noordermarkt | | |
| | Utrechtsestraat | | |

Asia (13)

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| China (4) | South Korea (5) | Other International (8) | |
| Beijing— | Busan | Israel (1) | Australia (5) |
| Nali Mall | Seoul— | Tel Aviv | Adelaide |
| PVG | Chungdam | Mexico (1) | Melbourne |
| Joy City | Hong Dae | Mexico City— | Myer Melbourne |
| Shanghai | Kangnam | Polanco | Myer Sydney |
| | Myung-dong | | Sydney |
| Japan (4) | | Brazil (1) | |
| Osaka— | | São Paulo | |
| Shinsaibashi | | | |
| Tokyo— | | | |
| Daikanyama | | | |
| Shibuya (2) | | | |

Table of Contents

Item 3. Legal Proceedings

We are subject to various claims and contingencies in the ordinary course of business, including those related to litigation, business transactions, employee-related matters and taxes, and others. When we are aware of a claim or potential claim, we assess the likelihood of any loss or exposure. If it is probable that a loss will result and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated, we will record a liability for the loss. In addition to the estimated loss, the recorded liability includes probable and estimable legal costs associated with the claim or potential claim. There is no assurance that such matters will not materially and adversely affect our business, financial position, and results of operations or cash flows.

Individual Actions

On February 7, 2006, Sylvia Hsu, a former employee of American Apparel, filed a Charge of Discrimination with the Los Angeles District Office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (“EEOC”) (Hsu v. American Apparel: Charge No. 480- 2006-00418), alleging that she was subjected to sexual harassment by a co-worker and constructively discharged as a result of the sexual harassment and a hostile working environment. On March 9, 2007, the EEOC expanded the scope of its investigation to other employees of American Apparel who may have been sexually harassed. On August 9, 2010, the EEOC issued a written determination finding that reasonable cause exists to believe we discriminated against Ms. Hsu and women, as a class, on the basis of their female gender, by subjecting them to sexual harassment. No finding was made on the issue of Ms. Hsu's alleged constructive discharge. In its August 19, 2010 written determination, the EEOC has invited the parties to engage in informal conciliation. If the parties are unable to reach a settlement which is acceptable to the EEOC, the EEOC will advise the parties of the court enforcement alternatives available to Ms. Hsu, aggrieved persons, and the EEOC. We have not recorded a provision for this matter and are working cooperatively with the EEOC to resolve the claim in a manner acceptable to all parties. We do not believe at this time that any settlement will involve a payment of damages in an amount that would be material to and adversely affect our business, financial position, and results of operations or cash flows.

On November 5, 2009, Guillermo Ruiz, a former employee of American Apparel, filed suit against us on behalf of putative classes of all current and former non-exempt California employees (Guillermo Ruiz, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated v. American Apparel, Inc., Case Number BC425487) in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles, alleging we failed to pay certain wages due for hours worked, to provide meal and rest periods or compensation in lieu thereof and to pay wages due upon termination to certain of our employees. The complaint further alleges that we failed to comply with certain itemized employee wage statement provisions and violations of unfair competition law. The plaintiff is seeking compensatory damages and economic and/or special damages in an unspecified amount, premium pay, wages and penalties, injunctive relief and restitution, and reimbursement for attorneys' fees, interest and the costs of the suit. This matter is now proceeding in arbitration.

On June 21, 2010, Antonio Partida, a former employee of American Apparel, filed suit against us on behalf of putative classes of current and former non-exempt California employees (Antonio Partida, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated v. American Apparel (USA), LLC, Case No. 30-2010-00382719-CU-OE-CXC) in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Orange, alleging we failed to pay certain wages for hours worked, to provide meal and rest periods or compensation in lieu thereof, and to pay wages due upon separation. The complaint further alleges that we failed to timely pay wages, unlawfully deducted wages and failed to comply with certain itemized employee wage statement provisions and violations of unfair competition law. The plaintiff is seeking compensatory damages and economic and/or special damages in an unspecified amount, premium pay, wages and penalties, injunctive relief and restitution, and reimbursement of attorneys' fees, interest and the costs of the suit. This matter is now proceeding in arbitration.

On or about December 2, 2010, Emilie Truong, a former employee of American Apparel, filed suit against us on behalf of putative classes of current and former non-exempt California employees (Emilie Truong, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated v. American Apparel, Inc. and American Apparel LLC, Case No. BC450505) in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles, alleging we failed to timely provide final paychecks upon separation. Plaintiff is seeking unspecified premium wages, attorneys' fees and costs, disgorgement of profits, and an injunction against the alleged unlawful practices. This matter is now proceeding in arbitration.

On or about February 9, 2011, Jessica Heupel, a former retail employee filed suit on behalf of putative classes of current and former non-exempt California employees (Jessica Heupel, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated v. American Apparel Retail, Inc., Case No. 37-2011-00085578-CU-OE-CTL) in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of San Diego, alleging we failed to pay certain wages for hours worked, to provide meal and rest periods or compensation in lieu thereof, and to pay wages due upon separation. The plaintiff is seeking monetary damages as follows: (1) for alleged meal and rest period violations; (2) for alleged failure to timely pay final wages, as well as for punitive damages for the same; and (3) unspecified damages for unpaid minimum wage and overtime. In addition, Plaintiff seeks premium pay, wages and penalties, injunctive relief and restitution, and reimbursement of attorneys' fees, interest and the costs of the suit.

Table of Contents

This matter is now proceeding in arbitration. On or about September 9, 2011, Anthony Heupel, a former retail employee initiated arbitration proceedings on behalf of putative classes of current and former non-exempt California employees, alleging we failed to pay certain wages for hours worked, to provide meal and rest periods or compensation in lieu thereof, and to pay wages due upon separation. The plaintiff is seeking monetary damages in an amount in excess of \$3,600, as follows: (1) for alleged meal and rest period violations; (2) for alleged failure to timely pay final wages, as well as for punitive damages for the same; and (3) unspecified damages for unpaid minimum wage and overtime. In addition, Plaintiff seeks premium pay, wages and penalties, injunctive relief and restitution, and reimbursement of attorneys' fees, interest and the costs of the suit. This matter is now proceeding in arbitration. We do not have insurance coverage for the above matters. We have accrued an estimate for the loss contingency for each of the above matters (excluding the Hsu case as noted above) in our accompanying consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2012. We may have an exposure to loss in excess of the amounts accrued, however, an estimate of such potential loss cannot be made at this time. Moreover, no assurance can be made that these matters either individually or together with the potential for similar suits and reputational harm, will not result in a material financial exposure, larger than our estimate, which could have a material adverse effect upon our financial condition and results of operations.

Additionally, we are currently engaged in other employment-related claims and other matters incidental to our business. We believe that all such claims against us are without merit or not material, and we intend to vigorously dispute the validity of the plaintiffs' claims. While the ultimate resolution of such claims cannot be determined, based on information at this time, we believe, but we cannot provide assurance that, the amount, and ultimate liability, if any, with respect to these actions will not materially affect our business, financial position, results of operations, or cash flows. Should any of these matters be decided against us, we could not only incur liability but also experience an increase in similar suits and suffer reputational harm.

Derivative Matters

Two shareholder derivative lawsuits (Case No. CV106576 GAF (JCx) and Case No. CV107518 RSWL (FFMx)) were filed in the United States District Court for the Central District of California which were subsequently consolidated for all purposes into a case entitled In re American Apparel, Inc. Shareholder Derivative Litigation, Lead Case No. CV106576 (the "Federal Derivative Action"). Plaintiffs in the Federal Derivative Action allege a cause of action for breach of fiduciary duty arising out of (i) our alleged failure to maintain adequate accounting and internal control policies and procedures; (ii) our alleged violation of state and federal immigration laws in connection with the previously disclosed termination of over 1,500 employees following an Immigration and Customs Enforcement inspection; and (iii) our alleged failure to implement controls sufficient to prevent a sexually hostile and discriminatory work environment. We do not maintain any direct exposure to loss in connection with these shareholder derivative lawsuits. Our status as a "Nominal Defendant" in the actions reflects the fact that the lawsuits are maintained by the named plaintiffs on behalf of American Apparel and that plaintiffs seek damages on our behalf. We filed a motion to dismiss the Federal Derivative Action which was granted with leave to amend on July 31, 2012. Plaintiffs did not amend the complaint and subsequently filed a motion to dismiss each of their claims, with prejudice, for the stated purpose of taking an immediate appeal of the Court's July 31, 2012 order. On October 16, 2012, the Court granted the Plaintiffs' motion to dismiss and entered judgment accordingly. On November 12, 2012, Plaintiffs filed a Notice of Appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals where the case is currently pending.

Four shareholder derivative lawsuits (Case No. BC 443763, Case No. BC 443902, Case No. BC 445094, and Case No. BC 447890) were filed in fall of 2010 in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles which were subsequently consolidated for all purposes into a case entitled In re American Apparel, Inc. Shareholder Derivative Litigation, Lead Case No. BC 443763 (the "State Derivative Action").

Three of the matters comprising the State Derivative Action allege causes of action for breach of fiduciary duty arising out of (i) our alleged failure to maintain adequate accounting and internal control policies and procedures; and (ii) our alleged violation of state and federal immigration laws in connection with the previously disclosed termination of over 1,500 employees following an Immigration and Customs Enforcement inspection. The fourth matter alleges seven causes of action for breach of fiduciary duty, unjust enrichment, abuse of control, gross mismanagement, and waste of corporate assets also arising out of the same allegations. On April 12, 2011, the Court

issued an order granting a stay (which currently remains in place) of the State Derivative Action on the grounds that the case is duplicative of the Federal Derivative Action, as well as the Federal Securities Action currently pending in the United States District Court for the Central District of California (see below).

Both the Federal Derivative Action and State Derivative Actions are covered under our Directors and Officers Liability insurance policy, subject to a deductible and a reservation of rights.

Table of Contents

Other Proceedings

Four putative class action lawsuits, (Case No. CV106352 MMM (RCx), Case No. CV106513 MMM (RCx), Case No. CV106516 MMM (RCx), and Case No. CV106680 GW (JCGx)) were filed in the United States District Court for the Central District of California in the Fall of 2010 against American Apparel and certain of our officers and executives on behalf of American Apparel shareholders who purchased our common stock between December 19, 2006 and August 17, 2010. On December 3, 2010, the four lawsuits were consolidated for all purposes into a case entitled In re American Apparel, Inc. Shareholder Litigation, Lead Case No. CV106352 MMM (JCGx) (the “Federal Securities Action”). The lead plaintiff alleges two causes of action for violations of Section 10(b) and 20(a) of the 1934 Act, and Rule 10b-5 promulgated under Section 10(b), arising out of alleged misrepresentations contained in our press releases, public filings with the SEC, and other public statements relating to (i) the adequacy of our internal and financial control policies and procedures; (ii) our employment practices; and (iii) the effect that the dismissal of over 1,500 employees following an Immigration and Customs Enforcement inspection would have on us. Plaintiff seeks damages in an unspecified amount, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, and equitable relief as the Court may deem proper. We filed two motions to dismiss the Federal Securities Action which the court granted with leave to amend. Plaintiffs filed a Second Amended Complaint on February 15, 2013 to which we must respond by April 1, 2013. The Federal Securities Action is covered under our Directors and Officers Liability insurance policy, subject to a deductible and a reservation of rights.

Should any of the above matters (i.e., the Federal Derivative Action, the State Derivative Action, or the Federal Securities Action) be decided against us in an amount that exceeds our insurance coverage, or if liability is imposed on grounds which fall outside the scope of our insurance coverage, we could not only incur a substantial liability, but also experience an increase in similar suits and suffer reputational harm. We are unable to predict the financial outcome of these matters at this time, and any views formed as to the viability of these claims or the financial exposure which could result may change from time to time as the matters proceed through their course. However, no assurance can be made that these matters, either individually or together with the potential for similar suits and reputational harm, will not result in a material financial exposure, which could have a material adverse effect upon our financial condition and results of operations.

The Company has previously disclosed an arbitration filed by the Company on February 17, 2011, related to cases filed in the Supreme Court of New York, County of Kings (Case No. 5018-1) and Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles (Case Nos. BC457920 and BC460331) against American Apparel, Dov Charney and certain members of the Board of Directors asserting claims of sexual harassment, assault and battery, impersonation through the internet, defamation and other related claims. The Company recently settled one of these cases with no monetary liability to the Company. The Company recently prevailed on the sexual harassment claims in another of these cases. While the ultimate resolution of the remaining claims cannot be determined, in light of the favorable ruling in one of these cases, the amount of settlement in the other of these cases, and based on information available at this time regarding the remaining cases, we believe, but we cannot provide assurances that, the amount and ultimate liability, if any, with respect to these remaining actions will not materially affect our business, financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.

Table of Contents

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

Not applicable.

PART II

Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

(a) Market Information

The principal market on which our common stock is traded is the NYSE MKT. Our common stock is traded under the symbol APP.

The following table sets forth the range of high and low sales prices for our common stock and for the periods indicated:

| | Common Stock | |
|----------------|--------------|--------|
| | High | Low |
| 2011 | | |
| Fourth Quarter | \$0.98 | \$0.52 |
| Third Quarter | 1.21 | 0.75 |
| Second Quarter | 1.69 | 0.70 |
| First Quarter | 1.72 | 0.88 |
| 2012 | | |
| Fourth Quarter | \$1.61 | \$0.83 |
| Third Quarter | 1.70 | 0.82 |
| Second Quarter | 1.09 | 0.75 |
| First Quarter | 1.21 | 0.63 |

(b) Holders

On February 28, 2013 there were 1,267 record holders and approximately 9,000 beneficial holders of our common stock.

(c) Dividends

As a public company, we have not paid any cash dividends. We intend to continue to retain earnings for use in the operation and expansion of our business and therefore do not anticipate paying any cash dividends in the foreseeable future. In addition, restrictions imposed by our debt agreements significantly restrict us from making dividends or distributions to stockholders.

(d) Authorization of Common Stock

On June 21, 2011 the Company's stockholders approved an amendment to the Company's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of the Common Stock from 120,000 to 230,000 with par value of \$0.0001 per share.

(e) Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans

See Note 14, Share-Based Compensation to the consolidated financial statements included in Part II, Item 8, Financial Statements and Supplementary Data, of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

(f) Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities

Share numbers (but not dollar amounts) below are shown in thousands.

Issuance of Lion Warrants - On each of March 13, 2009, March 24, 2011, April 26, 2011, July 7, 2011 and July 12, 2011, we issued warrants to Lion to purchase a total of 16,000, 760, 3,063, 1,445, and 338, respectively, shares of common stock. Each of the warrants was issued to Lion in a private placement exempt from registration pursuant to Section 4(2) of the Securities Act of 1933 (Securities Act), in connection with entering into the Lion Credit Agreement and the Investment Agreement. We did not receive any proceeds from the issuance of the warrants to Lion.

Issuance of Shares to Investors - On April 26, 2011, we (1) issued a total of 15,777 initial shares of common stock to a group of Investors (as defined below) at a price of \$0.90 per share in cash, for net cash proceeds of approximately

\$12.4 million, and

30

Table of Contents

(2) granted to such Investors rights to purchase a total of up to 27,443 additional shares of common stock at a price of \$0.90 per share in cash, subject to adjustment in certain circumstances. On July 7, 2011, we issued a total of 6,667 shares of common stock to the Investors upon exercise of their purchase rights at a price of \$0.90 per share in cash and on July 12, 2011, we issued a total of 1,740 shares of common stock to the Investors upon exercise of their purchase rights at a price of \$0.90 per share in cash. The July 7, 2011 and July 12, 2011 transactions resulted in net cash proceeds of approximately \$6.6 million. All of these shares and the purchase rights were issued in private placements exempt from registration pursuant to Section 4(2) of the Securities Act. We used the proceeds from the issuance and sale of the shares for working capital and general corporate purposes. On October 23, 2011, the remaining 19,036 Investors' right to purchase shares of common stock expired.

Issuance of Shares to Dov Charney - On November 26, 2010, we sold 1,130 treasury shares of common stock to Dov Charney, our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, at a price of \$1.48 per share in cash, for total cash consideration of \$1.65 million. These shares were issued in a private placement exempt from registration pursuant to Section 4(2) of the Securities Act. Proceeds of the sale were used to facilitate equity grants to certain of our employees and to fund the payment of the related withholding taxes for such grants.

On March 24, 2011, we sold to Mr. Charney 1,802 shares of common stock at a price of \$1.11 per share in cash, for total consideration of approximately \$2.0 million. These shares were issued in a private placement exempt from registration pursuant to Section 4(2) of the Securities Act. We used the proceeds from the issuance and sale of these shares for working capital and general corporate purposes.

Also on March 24, 2011, the three promissory notes issued by two subsidiaries of the Company to Mr. Charney, which as of March 24, 2011 had an aggregate outstanding balance of \$4.7 million, including principal and accrued and unpaid interest (to but not including March 24, 2011), were canceled in exchange for an issuance by the Company to Mr. Charney of an aggregate of 4,223 shares of common stock at a price of \$1.11 per share, with 50% of such shares being issued on March 24, 2011 and the remaining shares issuable to Mr. Charney only if prior to March 24, 2014, (1) the closing sale price of common stock exceeds \$3.50 for 30 consecutive trading days or (2) there is a change of control of the Company. These shares were issued or are issuable to Mr. Charney, in exchange for the three promissory notes owed by the Company to Mr. Charney, pursuant to the exemption under Section 3(a)(9) of the Securities Act (See Note 12-Related Party Transactions, to the Consolidated Financial Statements).

On April 27, 2011, subject to receipt of stockholder approval, we (1) agreed to issue to Mr. Charney 778 initial shares of common stock at a price of \$0.90 per share in cash, (2) granted to Mr. Charney the right to purchase a total of up to 1,556 additional shares of common stock, subject to adjustment in certain circumstances, and (iii) granted to Mr. Charney the right to receive up to 37,980 shares of common stock as anti-dilution protection if the market price of the common stock meets certain thresholds during certain measurement periods. On July 7, 2011, Mr. Charney purchased the 778 initial shares of common stock for total cash consideration of \$0.7 million. The shares, the purchase rights and the right to receive the anti-dilution protection were issued in a private placement exempt from registration pursuant to Section 4(2) of the Securities Act. We used the proceeds from the issuance and sale of the shares for working capital and general corporate purposes.

On October 23, 2011, the number of shares Mr. Charney would have the right to receive as anti-dilution protection, as described above, was reduced from 37,980 shares to 20,416 shares, as the Investors' right to purchase additional shares of common stock expired on such date. On October 24, 2011, Mr. Charney's right to purchase 1,556 additional shares of common stock shares expired without having been exercised.

(g) Stock Price Performance Graph

The graph below compares the cumulative total return of our common stock from December 31, 2008 through December 31, 2012 with the cumulative total return of companies comprising the Dow Jones Industrial Average, the S&P Retail Index, and the S&P500. The graph plots the growth in value of an initial investment of \$100 in each of our common stock, the Dow Jones Industrial Average, the S&P Retail Index, and the S&P500 over the indicated time periods, assuming reinvestment of all dividends, if any, paid on the securities. We have not paid any cash dividends and, therefore, the cumulative total return calculation for us is based solely upon stock price appreciation and not upon reinvestment of cash dividends. The stock price performance shown on the graph is not necessarily indicative of future price performance.

Table of Contents

| Dates | American Apparel | S&P Retail | S&P 500 | Dow |
|-------------------|------------------|------------|---------|--------|
| December 31, 2007 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| December 31, 2008 | 13.27 | 68.12 | 61.51 | 66.16 |
| December 31, 2009 | 20.67 | 100.29 | 75.94 | 78.61 |
| December 31, 2010 | 11.07 | 124.01 | 85.65 | 87.28 |
| December 31, 2011 | 4.80 | 127.63 | 85.65 | 92.10 |
| December 31, 2012 | 6.73 | 159.31 | 97.13 | 97.79 |

Table of Contents

Item 6. Selected Financial Data

The selected historical financial data presented below under the heading “Consolidated Statement of Operations Data” and “Per Share Data” for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 and the selected historical financial data presented below under the heading “Consolidated Balance Sheet Data” as of December 31, 2012 and 2011 have been derived from, and are qualified by reference to, our audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. The selected historical financial data presented below under the heading “Consolidated Statement of Operations Data” and “Per Share Data” for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 and the selected historical financial data presented below under the heading “Consolidated Balance Sheet Data” as of December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 have been derived from, and are qualified by reference to, our audited consolidated financial statements which are not included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

The data set forth below should be read in conjunction with “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” and our audited consolidated financial statements and the related notes thereto included elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

| | Year Ended December 31, | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
| | (In Thousands Except Per Share Data) | | | | |
| Consolidated Statements of Operations Data: | | | | | |
| Net sales | \$617,310 | \$547,336 | \$532,989 | \$558,775 | \$545,050 |
| Gross profit | \$327,383 | \$294,900 | \$279,909 | \$319,912 | \$294,421 |
| Income (loss) from operations | \$962 | \$(23,293) | \$(50,053) | \$24,415 | \$36,064 |
| Net (loss) income | \$(37,272) | \$(39,314) | \$(86,315) | \$1,112 | \$14,112 |
| Per Share Data: | | | | | |
| Net (loss) earnings per common share - basic | \$(0.35) | \$(0.42) | \$(1.21) | \$0.02 | \$0.20 |
| Net (loss) earnings per common share - diluted | \$(0.35) | \$(0.42) | \$(1.21) | \$0.01 | \$0.20 |
| Weighted average number of common shares outstanding: | | | | | |
| Basic | 105,980 | 92,599 | 71,626 | 71,026 | 69,490 |
| Diluted | 105,980 | 92,599 | 71,626 | 76,864 | 70,317 |
| Consolidated Balance Sheets Data: | | | | | |
| Total assets | \$328,212 | \$324,721 | \$327,950 | \$327,579 | \$333,609 |
| Working capital ⁽¹⁾ | \$80,022 | \$97,013 | \$3,379 | \$121,423 | \$83,069 |
| Total long-term debt less current maturities ⁽²⁾ | \$112,856 | \$98,868 | \$5,597 | \$71,372 | \$72,328 |
| Stockholders’ equity | \$22,084 | \$48,130 | \$75,024 | \$157,341 | \$136,412 |

(1) Excludes fair value of warrants of \$17,241, \$9,633, and \$993 as of December 31, 2012, 2011, and 2010, respectively.

(2) Includes capital leases.

Table of Contents

34

Table of Contents

Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

You should read the following discussion together with Part II, Item 6 "Selected Financial Data" and our audited consolidated financial statements and the related notes thereto included in Part II, Item 8 "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data." In addition to historical consolidated financial information, this discussion contains forward-looking statements that reflect our plans, estimates and beliefs. Actual results could differ from these expectations as a result of factors including those described under Item 1A "Risk Factors" and "Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" in Part I and elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. In addition, all dollar and share amounts in this Form Item 7 are presented in thousands, except for per share items and unless otherwise specified.

Overview

We are a vertically integrated manufacturer, distributor, and retailer of branded fashion basic apparel and accessories for women, men, children and babies. We are based in downtown Los Angeles, California. As of January 31, 2013, we had approximately 10,000 employees and operated 251 retail stores in 20 countries, including the United States, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, United Kingdom, Ireland, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Israel, Australia, Japan, South Korea, and China. We also operate a global e-commerce site that serves over 60 countries worldwide at www.americanapparel.com. In addition, American Apparel operates a leading wholesale business that supplies high quality T-shirts and other casual wear to distributors and the imprintable industry

We conduct our primary apparel manufacturing operations out of an 800,000 square foot facility in the warehouse district of downtown Los Angeles, California. The facility houses our executive offices, as well as cutting, sewing, warehousing, and distribution operations. We conduct knitting operations in Los Angeles and Garden Grove, California, which produce a majority of the fabric we use in our products. We also operate dye houses that currently provide dyeing and finishing services for nearly all of the raw fabric used in production. We operate a fabric dyeing and finishing facility in Hawthorne, California. We also operate a cutting, sewing and garment dyeing and finishing facility located in South Gate, California. We operate a fabric dyeing and finishing facility located in Garden Grove, California, which also includes cutting, sewing and knitting operations. During the first half of 2013 we are transitioning our distribution operations to a distribution center in La Mirada, California.

Because we manufacture domestically and are vertically integrated, we believe this enables us to more quickly respond to customer demand and to changing fashion trends and to closely monitor product quality. Our products are noted for their quality and fit, and together with our distinctive branding these attributes have differentiated our products in the marketplace. "American Apparel®" is a registered trademark of American Apparel (USA), LLC.

We report the following four operating segments: U.S. Wholesale, U.S. Retail, Canada, and International. We believe this method of segment reporting reflects both the way our business segments are managed and the way the performance of each segment is evaluated. The U.S. Wholesale segment consists of our wholesale operations and our online consumer operations in the U.S. The U.S. Retail segment consists of our retail store operations in the United States, which were comprised of 140 retail stores as of December 31, 2012. The Canada segment consists of our retail, wholesale and online consumer operations in Canada. As of December 31, 2012, the retail operations in the Canada segment were comprised of 35 retail stores. The International segment consists of our retail, wholesale and online consumer operations outside of the United States and Canada. As of December 31, 2012, the retail operations in the International segment comprised of 76 retail stores in the following 18 countries: the United Kingdom, Ireland, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Israel, Australia, Brazil, Mexico, Japan, South Korea, and China.

The results of the respective business segments exclude unallocated corporate expenses, which consist of our shared overhead costs. These costs are presented separately and generally include corporate costs such as human resources, legal, finance, information technology, accounting, and executive management.

Table of Contents

The following table details, by segment, the change in retail store count during the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010:

Stores Opened by Year

| | United States | Canada | International | Total |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------|---------------|-------|
| Stores open as of December 31, 2009 | 160 | 40 | 81 | 281 |
| 2010 | | | | |
| Opened | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Closed | (4 |) (2 |) (8 |) (14 |
| Stores open as of December 31, 2010 | 157 | 40 | 76 | 273 |
| 2011 | | | | |
| Opened | 1 | — | 4 | 5 |
| Closed | (15 |) (3 |) (11 |) (29 |
| Stores open as of December 31, 2011 | 143 | 37 | 69 | 249 |
| 2012 | | | | |
| Opened | 1 | — | 9 | 10 |
| Closed | (4 |) (2 |) (2 |) (8 |
| Stores open as of December 31, 2012 | 140 | 35 | 76 | 251 |

Comparable Store Sales

The table below shows the increase (decrease) in comparable store sales for our retail and online stores, by quarter, for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011, and 2010 and the number of retail stores included in the comparison at the end of each period. Comparable store sales are defined as the percentage change in sales for stores that have been open for more than twelve full months. Remodeled and expanded stores are excluded from the determination of comparable stores for the following twelve month period if the remodel or expansion results in a change of greater than 20% of selling square footage. Closed stores are excluded from the base of comparable stores following their last full month of operation.

In calculating constant currency amounts, we convert the results of our foreign operations both in the current period and the prior year comparable period using the weighted-average foreign exchange rate for the prior comparable period to achieve a consistent basis for comparison.

| | For the Quarter Ended | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| | March 31 | June 30 | September 30 | December 31 | Full year |
| 2012 | 16% | 16% | 20% | 11% | 15% |
| Number of Stores | 243 | 242 | 240 | 238 | |
| 2011 | (5)% | 1% | 3% | 8% | 2% |
| Number of Stores | 249 | 248 | 244 | 241 | |
| 2010 | (10)% | (15)% | (15)% | (11)% | (13)% |
| Number of Stores | 249 | 257 | 261 | 260 | |

Executive Summary

Results of Operations

Net sales for the year ended December 31, 2012 increased \$69,974, or 12.8%, to \$617,310 from \$547,336 reported for the year ended December 31, 2011 due to higher sales across all of our segments.

Net sales at our U.S. Wholesale segment increased by \$26,324, or 16.8%, driven by higher sales order volume from a significant number of existing and new customers. We improved our service levels through better inventory planning, which helped facilitate new account generation as well as grow business with our existing client roster. The launch of a new wholesale catalog and the addition of new products to our wholesale offering attracted a more diversified customer base. We continue our focus on increasing our customer base by targeting direct sales, particularly to third party screen printers. Online consumer net sales increased primarily as a result of the implementation of a new e-commerce platform, which improved web store functionality, as well as a result of targeted online advertising and

promotion efforts.

36

Table of Contents

Net sales at our U.S. Retail, Canada and International segments increased by \$43,650, or 11.2%, due to strong performance across categories, particularly women's denim and other apparel and accessories, as well as better inventory composition driven by improvement in distribution operations and allocation efforts.

Gross margin for the year ended December 31, 2012 was 53.0% compared to 53.9% for the year ended December 31, 2011. The decrease in gross margin was due to the impact of planned promotional activities and the effect of warehouse type clearance sales as part of our overall inventory reduction strategy.

Operating expenses include selling, general and administrative costs, and retail store impairment charges, and as a percentage of sales decreased from 58.1% in 2011 to 52.9% in 2012. Operating expenses were \$326,421 as compared to \$318,193 for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. Excluding the effects of depreciation, amortization, impairment charges and share-based compensation expenses between the two periods, operating expenses as a percentage of sales decreased from 52.3% to 47.9%. The decrease as a percentage of sales was primarily due to a reduction in corporate overhead expenses and the fixed cost leverage as a result of increased sales.

Consequently, we generated income from operations of \$962 for the year ended December 31, 2012 as compared to loss from operations of \$23,293 for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Net loss for the year ended December 31, 2012 was \$37,272 as compared to \$39,314 for the year ended December 31, 2011. In 2012, the net loss included interest expense of \$41,559 and unrealized loss of \$4,126 on change in fair value of our warrants liability, offset by a \$11,588 gain on extinguishment of debt related to a first quarter 2012 amendment to the Lion Credit Agreement (as defined below). In 2011, the net loss included interest expense of \$33,167, a loss of \$3,114 on extinguishment of debt related to a first quarter 2011 amendment to the Lion Credit Agreement. This was offset by an unrealized gain of \$23,467 on change in fair value of our warrant and purchase rights liability. The higher interest expense is due to a higher average balance of debt outstanding and higher interest rates related to the Crystal Credit Agreement (as defined below). See "Results of Operations - Year ended December 31, 2012 compared to Year ended December 31, 2011" for further details.

Liquidity Trends

We generate cash primarily through the sale of products manufactured by us at our retail stores and through our wholesale operations. Primary uses of cash are for the purchase of raw materials, payroll for our manufacturing and retail employees, retail store operating expenses and rent for retail stores.

As of December 31, 2012, we had approximately \$12,853 in cash and \$9,177 of availability for additional borrowings under the Crystal Credit Agreement and Bank of Montreal Credit Agreement (as defined below). We had \$26,113 outstanding on a \$50,000 revolving credit facility under the Crystal Credit Agreement with Crystal Financial LLC ("Crystal"), \$30,000 of term loans outstanding under the Crystal Credit Agreement, \$4,387 outstanding on a C\$11,000 revolving credit facility under the Bank of Montreal Credit Agreement, and \$109,680 of term loans outstanding under the Lion Credit Agreement with Lion Capital LLP ("Lion"). See Note 7, Revolving Credit Facilities and Current Portion of Long-Term Debt and Note 8, Long-Term Debt to our consolidated financial statements under Part II, Item 8.

On March 13, 2012, we replaced our existing revolving credit facility of \$75,000 with Bank of America ("BofA") with a three year \$80,000 senior secured credit facility with Crystal and other lenders. Among other provisions, the Crystal Credit Agreement requires that we maintain an arrangement similar to a traditional lockbox and contains certain subjective acceleration clauses. In addition, Crystal may at its discretion, adjust the advance restriction and criteria for eligible inventory and accounts receivable. Proceeds from the Crystal Credit Agreement were used to repay the existing revolving credit facility with BofA, fees and expenses related to the transaction, and for general working capital purposes. See Note 7, Revolving Credit Facilities and Current Portion of Long-Term Debt to our consolidated financial statements under Part II, Item 8.

On December 29, 2012, the Company's wholly-owned subsidiaries, American Apparel Canada Wholesale, Inc. and American Apparel Canada Retail Inc. (collectively, the "CI Companies"), entered into a third amendment to the Bank of Montreal Credit Agreement that extended the maturity date to December 31, 2013.

Over the past years, our operations have been funded through a combination of borrowings from related and unrelated parties, bank debt and lease financing, proceeds from the exercise of purchase rights and issuance of common stock. Our principal liquidity requirements are for working capital and capital expenditures and to fund operating losses. We

fund our liquidity requirements primarily through cash on hand, cash flow from operations, borrowings from revolving credit facilities and term loans under the Crystal and Lion Credit Agreements. Those credit agreements contain financial covenants requiring us to meet specified targets and our inability to achieve such financial targets or to obtain a waiver of compliance would negatively impact the availability of credit under those credit facilities or result in an event of default.

We continue to evaluate other alternative sources of capital for ongoing cash needs, however, there can be no assurance we will be successful in those efforts.

Table of Contents

As a result of these financing transactions described above, we believe that we will have sufficient financing commitments to meet funding requirements for the next twelve months.

Management Plan

We are in the process of executing a plan, which we commenced in 2010, to improve our operating performance and our financial position. This plan includes optimizing production levels at our manufacturing facilities including raw material purchases and labor; reducing inventories; streamlining our logistics operations; web platform refinement; reducing corporate expenses; merchandise price rationalization in the wholesale and retail channels; store renovations; and improving merchandise distribution and allocation procedures. Some of our key initiatives in 2012 include:

New production forecasting system - In September 2012 we implemented a new production forecasting and inventory allocation system that integrates our sales forecasts with our retail inventory tracking system and therefore allows us to better manage our production schedule. It also gives us greater visibility into seasonal and other trends, which will enable a faster reaction to changes in demand.

Refined promotion and inventory allocation strategy - The second and the third quarter of 2012 benefited from an adjustment to the global promotional strategy and improvements to our in-stock position at stores. We leveraged targeted promotions, which established pricing incentives for customers to buy multiple items in volume driving categories. Unit sales increased as a result of this change as well as from improvements to our allocation and logistics processes. During this period, we also ran successful markdowns on aged and seasonal merchandise. We believe this helped decrease inventory levels in slower turning goods, increase foot traffic, and improve sales on items on markdown as well as full price items.

New e-commerce platform - In September 2012 we implemented a new online store platform for our U.S. online store that resulted in functional improvements to our website and fulfillment processes and will allow us to tailor the look and feel of the online store to enhance the customer online shopping experience. The new store platform will also enable faster deployment of online stores to new international regions. We believe that these improvements will contribute to our continued financial growth as our website has the potential to not only increase online sales but also in-store sales.

As a result of the above initiatives, we were able to reduce our inventory unit levels by approximately 20%, or 4,500 units.

Reduced corporate expenses - During 2012, our general and administrative expenses decreased by 6%, or \$6,758, and as a percentage of sales decreased from 19.0% in 2011 to 15.8% in 2012. This decrease was achieved primarily as a result of a \$6,482 reduction in professional fees.

Continued RFID implementation - Throughout 2012, we continued to enhance our stores by installing sales conversion tracking device and radio frequency identification (RFID) tracking systems. As of the end of February 2013, we have implemented RFID systems at approximately 213 stores worldwide. We believe that these systems will enhance sales through improvements in stock positions and replenishment activities.

New distribution center - In June 2012 we entered into a new operating lease agreement for a new distribution center located in California and expect to fully transition our distribution operations into this new facility in the first half 2013. We believe that the new distribution center will contribute to processing efficiencies and effectiveness and will reduce operating expenses and cost of sales.

We continue to develop other initiatives intended to either increase sales, reduce costs or improve liquidity.

Although we have made significant improvements under this plan, there can be no assurance that further planned improvement will be successful.

Table of Contents

Results of Operations

Year Ended December 31, 2012 compared to Year Ended December 31, 2011

(Amounts in thousands)

| | For the Years Ended December 31, | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|----|--|
| | 2012 | % of net sales | 2011 | % of net sales | | |
| U.S. Wholesale | \$182,778 | 29.6 | % \$156,454 | 28.6 | % | |
| U.S. Retail | 198,886 | 32.2 | % 174,837 | 31.9 | % | |
| Canada | 63,669 | 10.3 | % 61,865 | 11.3 | % | |
| International | 171,977 | 27.9 | % 154,180 | 28.2 | % | |
| Total net sales | 617,310 | 100.0 | % 547,336 | 100.0 | % | |
| Cost of sales | 289,927 | 47.0 | % 252,436 | 46.1 | % | |
| Gross profit | 327,383 | 53.0 | % 294,900 | 53.9 | % | |
| Selling expenses | 227,447 | 36.8 | % 209,841 | 38.3 | % | |
| General and administrative expenses | 97,327 | 15.8 | % 104,085 | 19.0 | % | |
| Retail store impairment | 1,647 | 0.3 | % 4,267 | 0.8 | % | |
| Income (loss) from operations | 962 | 0.2 | % (23,293 |) (4.3 |)% | |
| Interest expense | 41,559 | | 33,167 | | | |
| Foreign currency transaction loss | 120 | | 1,679 | | | |
| Unrealized loss (gain) on change in fair value of warrants and purchase rights | 4,126 | | (23,467 |) | | |
| (Gain) loss on extinguishment of debt | (11,588 |) | 3,114 | | | |
| Other expense (income) | 204 | | (193 |) | | |
| Loss before income tax | (33,459 |) | (37,593 |) | | |
| Income tax provision | 3,813 | | 1,721 | | | |
| Net loss | \$(37,272 |) | \$(39,314 |) | | |

U.S. Wholesale: Total net sales for the U.S. Wholesale segment increased \$26,324, or 17%, to \$182,778 for the year ended December 31, 2012 as compared to \$156,454 for the year ended December 31, 2011. Wholesale net sales, excluding online consumer net sales, increased \$17,476, or 13%, to \$149,611 for the year ended December 31, 2012 as compared to \$132,135 for the year ended December 31, 2011, driven by higher sales order volume from a significant number of existing and new customers. We improved our service levels through better inventory planning, which helped facilitate new account generation as well as grow business with our existing client roster. The launch of a new wholesale catalog and the addition of new products to our wholesale offering attracted a more diversified customer base. We continue our focus on increasing our customer base by targeting direct sales, particularly to third party screen printers.

Online consumer net sales increased \$8,848, or 36%, to \$33,167 for the year ended December 31, 2012 as compared to \$24,319 for the year ended December 31, 2011, as a result of the implementation of a new e-commerce platform, which improved web store functionality, as well as a result of targeted online advertising and promotion efforts.

U.S. Retail: Net sales for the U.S. Retail segment increased \$24,049, or 14%, to \$198,886 for the year ended December 31, 2012 as compared to \$174,837 for the year ended December 31, 2011. Net sales growth was generated by a stronger inventory position in high volume categories, improvements to distribution operations, strategic promotions to drive volume in key basics, success in new women's and unisex fashion, including women's denim, and improved presentation of our floor sets. Throughout the period, improvements to logistics and the speed of allocation helped to support a buying strategy that is faster and more proactive.

Comparable store sales for the year ended December 31, 2012 increased by \$24,233, or 15%, while warehouse sales consisting primarily of discounted merchandise contributed an incremental \$4,288 increase from 2011 to 2012. The sales increase was partially offset by a \$1,710 sales decrease as a result of a reduction in the number of stores in operation from 143 at December 31, 2011 to 140 stores at December 31, 2012.

Table of Contents

Canada: Net sales for the Canada segment increased \$1,804, or 3%, to \$63,669 for the year ended December 31, 2012 as compared to \$61,865 for the year ended December 31, 2011. The increase is primarily due to higher net sales in the wholesale channel. Holding foreign currency exchange rates constant to those prevailing in the comparable period in fiscal 2011, total net sales for the Canada segment for 2012 would have been approximately \$64,357, or 4% higher when compared to 2011.

Retail net sales for the year ended December 31, 2012 was \$48,499 and was essentially unchanged from the prior year. Comparable store sales for the year ended December 31, 2012 increased by \$2,747, or 6%. Since December 31, 2011, the number of retail stores in the Canada segment in operation decreased from 37 to 35. Holding foreign currency exchange rates constant to those prevailing in fiscal 2011, total retail net sales for the Canada segment for 2012 would have been approximately \$49,023, or 1% higher when compared to 2011.

Wholesale net sales increased \$1,514, or 13%, to \$13,006 for the year ended December 31, 2012 as compared to \$11,492 for the year ended December 31, 2011. The increase in net sales is due to better focus on key customers and an improved pricing strategy. Holding foreign currency exchange rates constant to those prevailing in the comparable period in 2011, total wholesale net sales for the Canada segment for 2012 would have been approximately \$13,147, or 14% higher when compared to 2011.

Online consumer net sales increased \$318, or 17%, to \$2,164 for the year ended December 31, 2012 as compared to \$1,846 for the year ended December 31, 2011. Foreign currency effects were minimal.

International: Total net sales for the International segment increased \$17,797, or 12%, to \$171,977 for the year ended December 31, 2012 as compared to \$154,180 for the year ended December 31, 2011. The increase is due to higher sales in the retail and online sales channels. Holding foreign currency exchange rates constant to those prevailing in the comparable period in 2011, total revenue for the International segment for 2012 would have been approximately \$178,700, or 16% higher when compared to 2011.

Retail net sales increased \$14,870, or 12%, to \$141,738 for the year ended December 31, 2012 as compared to \$126,868 for the year ended December 31, 2011. The change is mainly due to higher sales in the U.K. of \$7,655, Japan of \$6,159 and Australia of \$2,478 offset by lower sales in Continental Europe of \$1,269 primarily due to the closure of two stores during 2012. Comparable store sales for the year ended December 31, 2012 increased by \$17,026, or 15% as compared to the year ended December 31, 2011. Since December 31, 2011, the number of retail stores in the International segment increased from 69 to 76 at December 31, 2012. Holding foreign currency exchange rates constant to those prevailing in the comparable period in 2011, retail net sales for 2012 would have been approximately \$147,349, or 16% higher when compared to 2011.

Wholesale net sales decreased \$128, or 1%, to \$10,278 for the year ended December 31, 2012 as compared to \$10,406 for the year ended December 31, 2011. The decrease is due to unfavorable exchange rates. Holding foreign currency exchange rates constant to those prevailing in the comparable period in 2011, sales for the current period would have been approximately \$10,802, or 4% higher during 2012 when compared to 2011.

Online consumer net sales increased \$3,055, or 18%, to \$19,961 for the year ended December 31, 2012 as compared to \$16,906 for the year ended December 31, 2011. Holding foreign currency exchange rates constant to those prevailing in the comparable period in 2011, sales for the current period would have been approximately \$20,549, or 21% higher when compared to 2011.

Gross margin: Gross margin as a percentage of net sales was 53.0% and 53.9% for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. The decrease in gross margin was due to the net sales impact of planned promotional activities and the effect of warehouse type clearance sales as part of our overall inventory reduction strategy, as well as reduced production in connection with our inventory turn improvement efforts.

Selling expenses: Selling expenses increased \$17,606, or 8%, to \$227,447 for the year ended December 31, 2012 from \$209,841 for the year ended December 31, 2011. The increase was a result of improving sales. Additionally, we increased our spending on print, outdoor and online advertising to \$22,114 for the year ended December 31, 2012 from \$15,194 for the comparable period in 2011 in order to continue the sales momentum. As a percentage of sales, selling expenses decreased to 36.8% for the year ended December 31, 2012 from 38.3% for the year ended December 31, 2011.

General and administrative expenses: General and administrative expenses decreased \$6,758, or 6%, to \$97,327 for the year ended December 31, 2012 as compared to \$104,085 for the year ended December 31, 2011. As a percentage of sales, general and administrative expenses decreased to 15.8% during the year ended December 31, 2012 from 19.0% during the year ended December 31, 2011. The decrease in general and administrative expenses was primarily due a \$6,482 reduction in professional fees (primarily consulting, accounting and legal related fees), a decrease of \$1,878 in medical benefit costs in the U.S., a decrease of \$1,694 in depreciation and amortization expenses and certain other items, offset by an increase of \$3,033 in share-based compensation expense and \$2,284 higher salaries, wages and bonus expenses.

Table of Contents

Retail store impairment charges: At December 31, 2012, we performed a recoverability test and an impairment test of our long lived assets at our retail stores and determined that the fair value of the assets at eleven retail stores was less than their carrying value at December 31, 2012 based on sales performance, and we projected future cash flows over the respective remaining lease terms for these retail stores. We recorded impairment charges relating primarily to certain retail store leasehold improvements of \$1,647 and \$4,267 for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

Interest expense: Interest expense increased \$8,392 to \$41,559 for the year ended December 31, 2012 from \$33,167 for the year ended December 31, 2011 primarily due to a higher average balance of debt outstanding and higher interest rates related to the Crystal Credit Agreement. Interest rates on our various debt facilities and capital leases ranged from 0.4% to 18.0% for the year ended December 31, 2012 and 5% to 18% for the year ended December 31, 2011. Interest expense for the year ended December 31, 2012 mainly consisted of interest on the Lion Credit Agreement of \$22,561, interest on the Crystal Credit Agreement of \$5,278, interest on the BofA Credit Agreement of \$512 and amortization of debt discount and deferred financing cost of approximately \$10,261. Interest paid in cash was \$10,954 for the year ended December 31, 2012.

Foreign currency transaction loss: Foreign currency transaction loss was \$120 for the year ended December 31, 2012, as compared to a loss of \$1,679 for the year ended December 31, 2011. The change related to a lower valuation of the U.S. dollar relative to functional currencies used by our subsidiaries.

Unrealized (gain) loss on change in fair value of warrants and purchase rights: We recorded a \$4,126 loss in fair value of warrants for the year ended December 31, 2012 associated with the fair value measurements of the Lion and SOF warrants. We recorded a \$23,467 gain in the fair value of warrants and purchase rights for the year ended December 31, 2011 associated with the fair value measurement of purchase rights to an investor group and Mr. Charney, and additional warrants to Lion at December 31, 2011. There were no purchase rights outstanding in 2012. See Note 13, Stockholders' Equity to our consolidated financial statements under Part II, Item 8.

(Gain) loss on extinguishment of debt: During the year ended December 31, 2012, we recorded a gain on extinguishment of debt relating to an amendment to the Lion Credit Agreement of approximately \$11,588. During the year ended December 31, 2011, we recorded a loss on extinguishment of debt pertaining to an amendment to the Lion Credit Agreement of approximately \$3,114. See Note 8, Long-Term Debt to our consolidated financial statements under Part II, Item 8.

Income tax provision: The provision for income tax increased to \$3,813 for the year ended December 31, 2012 as compared to \$1,721 for the year ended December 31, 2011. In 2012, we recorded valuation allowances against a majority of our deferred tax assets, including 100% of the U.S. deferred tax assets and certain foreign deferred tax assets. Similarly, we recognized no tax benefits on our loss before income taxes in 2012. See Note 11, Income Taxes to our consolidated financial statements under Part II, Item 8.

Table of Contents

Year Ended December 31, 2011 compared to Year Ended December 31, 2010

(Amounts in thousands)

| | For the Years Ended December 31, | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|--|----|
| | 2011 | % of net sales | 2010 | % of net sales | | |
| U.S. Wholesale | \$156,454 | 28.6 | % \$148,997 | 28.0 | | % |
| U.S. Retail | 174,837 | 31.9 | % 177,610 | 33.3 | | % |
| Canada | 61,865 | 11.3 | % 65,638 | 12.3 | | % |
| International | 154,180 | 28.2 | % 140,744 | 26.4 | | % |
| Total net sales | 547,336 | 100.0 | % 532,989 | 100.0 | | % |
| Cost of sales | 252,436 | 46.1 | % 253,080 | 47.5 | | % |
| Gross profit | 294,900 | 53.9 | % 279,909 | 52.5 | | % |
| Selling expenses | 209,841 | 38.3 | % 218,198 | 40.9 | | % |
| General and administrative expenses | 104,085 | 19.0 | % 103,167 | 19.4 | | % |
| Retail store impairment | 4,267 | 0.8 | % 8,597 | 1.6 | | % |
| Loss from operations | (23,293 |) (4.3 |)% (50,053 |) (9.4 | |)% |
| Interest expense | 33,167 | | 23,752 | | | |
| Foreign currency transaction loss (gain) | 1,679 | | (686 |) | | |
| Unrealized (gain) loss on change in fair value of warrants and purchase rights | (23,467 |) | 993 | | | |
| Loss on extinguishment of debt | 3,114 | | — | | | |
| Other (income) expense | (193 |) | 39 | | | |
| Loss before income taxes | (37,593 |) | (74,151 |) | | |
| Income tax provision | 1,721 | | 12,164 | | | |
| Net loss | \$(39,314 |) | \$(86,315 |) | | |

U.S. Wholesale: Total net sales for the U.S. Wholesale segment increased \$7,457, or 5%, to \$156,454 for the year ended December 31, 2011 as compared to \$148,997 for the year ended December 31, 2010. Wholesale net sales, excluding online consumer net sales, increased \$4,386, or 3%, to \$132,135 for the year ended December 31, 2011 as compared to \$127,749 for the year ended December 31, 2010, primarily due to the launch of a new wholesale catalog and focused effort on expanding our wholesale customer base, specifically, to imprintable wholesale customers. We also added new products to our wholesale offering that attracted a more diversified customer base.

Online consumer net sales increased \$3,071, or 14%, to \$24,319 for the year ended December 31, 2011 as compared to \$21,248 for the year ended December 31, 2010, primarily as a result of functional improvements to our website and fulfillment process, and as well as a targeted online advertising and promotion effort.

U.S. Retail: Net sales for the U.S. Retail segment decreased \$2,773, or 2%, to \$174,837 for the year ended December 31, 2011 as compared to \$177,610 for the year ended December 31, 2010. The decline is due to store closures, partially offset by an increase in average sales prices, warehouse sales in major cities and a modest improvement in our comparable store sales. Although we experienced improvements in comparable store sales throughout the latter half of 2011, these improvements were offset by lower comparable store sales in the first half of the year.

The number of U.S. Retail stores in operation decreased from 157 at December 31, 2010 to 143 at December 31, 2011, which resulted in a \$7,449 sales decrease. Warehouse sales contributed \$3,165 in 2011 as compared with \$509 in 2010. In addition, comparable store sales for the year ended December 31, 2011 increased by 1%, or \$981 over the prior year.

Canada: Net sales for the Canada segment decreased \$3,773, or 6%, to \$61,865 for the year ended December 31, 2011 as compared to \$65,638 for the year ended December 31, 2010. The decrease is primarily due to lower sales in

the retail sales channel. Holding foreign currency exchange rates constant to those prevailing in fiscal 2010, total net sales for the Canada segment for 2011 would have been approximately \$59,380, or 10% lower when compared to 2010.

Retail net sales decreased \$3,442, or 7%, to \$48,527 for the year ended December 31, 2011 as compared to \$51,969 for the year ended December 31, 2010. The decrease is due to lower comparable store sales and lost sales from store closures, partially

Table of Contents

offset by favorable foreign currency exchange rates. Comparable store sales for the year ended December 31, 2011 decreased by 12%, or \$6,110. From December 31, 2010 to December 31, 2011, the number of retail stores in operation in the Canada segment decreased from 40 to 37, which resulted in a \$536 sales decrease. Holding foreign currency exchange rates constant to those prevailing in fiscal 2010, total retail net sales for the Canada segment for 2011 would have been approximately \$46,577, or 10% lower when compared to 2010.

Wholesale net sales decreased \$423, or 4%, to \$11,492 for the year ended December 31, 2011 as compared to \$11,915 for the year ended December 31, 2010. Holding foreign currency exchange rates constant to those prevailing in fiscal 2010, total wholesale net sales for the Canada segment for 2011 would have been approximately \$11,030, or 7% lower when compared to 2010.

Online consumer net sales for the years ended December 31, 2011 was \$1,846, essentially flat when compared to the prior year.

International: Net sales for the International segment increased \$13,436, or 10%, to \$154,180 for the year ended December 31, 2011 as compared to \$140,744 for the year ended December 31, 2010. The increase is due to higher sales in both the retail and online sales channels. Holding foreign currency exchange rates constant to those prevailing in fiscal 2010, total net sales for the international segment for 2011 would have been approximately \$146,012, or 4% higher when compared to 2010.

Retail net sales increased \$10,068, or 9%, to \$126,868 for the year ended December 31, 2011 as compared to \$116,800 for the year ended December 31, 2010. The increase is due to higher comparable store sales and favorable foreign currency exchange rates, partially offset by lost sales from store closures. Comparable store sales for the year ended December 31, 2011 increased by 6%, or \$6,494. Holding foreign currency exchange rates constant to those prevailing in fiscal 2010, total retail net sales for the international segment for 2011 would have been approximately \$120,176, or 3% higher when compared to 2010. From December 31, 2010 to December 31, 2011, the number of international retail segment stores in operation decreased from 76 to 69, which resulted in a \$4,200 sales decrease. Wholesale net sales decreased \$1,068, or 9%, to \$10,406 for the year ended December 31, 2011 as compared to \$11,474 for the year ended December 31, 2010. The decrease is primarily due to a reduction in customer demand in Germany, partially offset by more sales from new wholesale customers in the U.K. Holding foreign currency exchange rates constant to those prevailing in fiscal 2010, total wholesale net sales for the international segment for 2011 would have been approximately \$9,952, or 8% lower when compared to 2010.

Online consumer net sales increased \$4,436, or 36%, to \$16,906 for the year ended December 31, 2011 as compared to \$12,470 for the year ended December 31, 2010. The increase is attributable to higher online sales in the U.K. and Japan as a result of improvements to the online shopping experience and promotional campaigns. Holding foreign currency exchange rates constant to those prevailing in fiscal 2010, total online consumer net sales for the international segment for 2011 would have been approximately \$15,884, or 21% higher when compared to 2010.

Cost of sales: Cost of goods sold for the year ended December 31, 2011 was \$252,436 and was essentially unchanged from the prior year. As a percentage of net sales, cost of goods sold decreased by 1.4% to 46.1% from 47.5% for the years ended December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, respectively. The decrease in cost of goods sold as a percentage of sales was primarily due to an improvement in our manufacturing labor productivity, partially offset by lower production volumes and the resulting lower absorption of our fixed overhead costs and the effect of higher yarn prices on our cost of sales.

During 2010 and throughout the first half of 2011, we experienced continual increases in the costs of cotton and fabric used in our manufacturing processes. Cotton prices reached a high in the second quarter of 2011 and started to decrease in the third quarter of 2011. While we believe cotton and fabric prices have now stabilized, the impact of cotton price decreases is not expected to be reflected in our operating results until the second half of 2012.

Selling expenses: Selling expenses decreased \$8,357, or 4%, to \$209,841 for the year ended December 31, 2011 from \$218,198 for the year ended December 31, 2010. The change was attributable to decreases of \$7,576 in facility-related expenses (primarily rent) and \$3,139 in advertising, partially offset by an increase of \$535 for a new wholesale catalog. As a percentage of sales, selling expenses decreased to 38.3% in the year ended December 31, 2011 from 40.9% in the year ended December 31, 2010.

General and administrative expenses: General and administrative expenses increased \$918, or 1%, to \$104,085 the year ended December 31, 2011 as compared to \$103,167 for the year ended December 31, 2010. As a percentage of sales, general and administrative expenses decreased to 19.0% in 2011 from 19.4% in 2010. The change was primarily due to increases of \$3,095 in stock-based compensation and \$2,180 in salaries and wages, offset by decreases of \$3,034 in depreciation expense and \$2,756 in professional fees (primarily legal and accounting fees). The increase in stock-based compensation is primarily due to expenses associated with anti-dilution provisions for Dov Charney related to the company's financing transactions in the

Table of Contents

second and third quarter of 2011 and the accelerated vesting of restricted shares related to the departure of an executive officer (see Notes 13 and 14, Stockholders' Equity and Share Based Compensation to our consolidated financial statements under Part II, Item 8). The increase in salaries is primarily due to the addition of new senior management positions.

Retail store impairment charges: At December 31, 2011, we performed a recoverability test and an impairment test of our long lived assets at our retail stores and determined that the fair value of the assets at eleven retail stores were less than their carrying value at December 31, 2011 based on sales performance through the date of issuance of the financial statements, and projected future cash flows over the respective remaining lease terms for these retail stores. We recorded impairment charges relating primarily to certain retail store leasehold improvements in the U.S. Retail, Canada and International segments of \$4,267 and \$8,597 for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

Interest expense: Interest expense increased \$9,415 to \$33,167 for the year ended December 31, 2011 from \$23,752 for the year ended December 31, 2010 primarily from an increase in the average balance of debt outstanding. Interest rates on our various debt facilities and capital leases ranged from 5% to 18.0% for the year ended December 31, 2011 and 3.4% to 18.0% for the year ended December 31, 2010. Interest expense for the year ended December 31, 2011 primarily consisted of amortization of debt discount and deferred financing cost of approximately \$9,024, interest on the Lion Credit Agreement of approximately \$18,711, of which approximately \$17,550 was paid in kind, and interest on borrowings under our revolving credit facilities. Interest paid in cash was \$5,535.

Foreign currency transaction loss (gain): Foreign currency transaction loss was \$1,679 for the year ended December 31, 2011, as compared to a gain of \$686 for the year ended December 31, 2010. The change related to a lower valuation of the U.S. dollar relative to foreign currencies with which we transact our business.

Unrealized (gain) loss on change in fair value of warrants and purchase rights: The \$23,467 unrealized gain in the fair value of warrants and purchase rights for the year ended December 31, 2011 relates primarily to the issuance of purchase rights to a group of investors in April 2011 and the subsequent decrease in the fair value of both the warrants and the purchase rights. See Note 13, Stockholders' Equity to our consolidated financial statements under Part II, Item 8.

Loss on extinguishment of debt: During the year ended December 31, 2011, we recorded a loss of \$3,114 on extinguishment of debt associated with the amended terms of the Lion Credit Agreement. See Note 8, Long-Term Debt to our consolidated financial statements under Part II, Item 8.

Income tax provision: Income tax provision was \$1,721 for the year ended December 31, 2011 as compared to \$12,164 for the year ended December 31, 2010. In 2010, we recorded valuation allowances against a majority of our deferred tax assets, including 100% of the U.S. deferred tax assets and certain foreign deferred tax assets. Similarly, we recognized no tax benefits on our loss before income taxes in 2011. See Note 11, Income Taxes to our consolidated financial statements under Part II, Item 8.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Summary

As of December 31, 2012, we had approximately \$12,853 in cash and \$9,177 of availability for additional borrowings under the \$80,000 Crystal Credit Agreement and the C\$11,000 Bank of Montreal Credit Agreement. We had outstanding \$26,113 on the \$50,000 revolving credit facility under the Crystal Credit Agreement, \$30,000 of term loans outstanding under the Crystal Credit Agreement, \$4,387 outstanding under the Bank of Montreal Credit Agreement, and \$109,680 (including paid-in-kind interest of \$16,469 and net of discount of \$27,929) of term loans outstanding under the Lion Credit Agreement. Income from operations was \$962 for the year ended December 31, 2012. See Note 7, Revolving Credit Facilities and Current Portion of Long-Term Debt and Note 8, Long-Term Debt to our consolidated financial statements under Part II, Item 8.

On March 13, 2012, we replaced our \$75,000 senior secured revolving credit facility with BofA with the Crystal Credit Agreement, a three year \$80,000 senior secured credit facility with Crystal. In addition, during 2012, the initial borrowing base under the revolving credit facility was increased by \$12,500 for the value associated with the

American Apparel brand name. This initial increase was ratably reduced to \$0 during the period from April 13, 2012 through January 1, 2013.

In connection with the Crystal Credit Agreement, we entered into a seventh amendment to the Lion Credit Agreement, which among other things: (i) consented to the Crystal Credit Agreement, (ii) extends the maturity date of the term loan with Lion Capital LLP ("Lion") to December 31, 2015, (iii) reduced the minimum Consolidated EBITDA amounts for any twelve consecutive months as determined at the end of each fiscal quarter (Quarterly Minimum Consolidated EBITDA), (iv) modified certain financial covenants and covenants related to capital expenditures and (v) required a minimum of 5% of each interest payment on the outstanding principal in cash starting on September 1, 2012.

Table of Contents

On February 6, 2013, we entered into amendments to both the Crystal Credit Agreement (the "Crystal Fifth Amendment") and the Lion Credit Agreement (the "Lion Eleventh Amendment"). The Crystal Fifth Amendment, among other things, (i) allows us to borrow up to \$7,500 (with quarterly step downs in availability to December 31, 2013) based on the American Apparel brand name and for such loans to remain outstanding until January 1, 2014; (ii) extends the applicability of the existing minimum EBITDA covenant for the remainder of 2013, (iii) adds a minimum excess availability covenant for the period of December 16, 2013 through February 1, 2014, and (iv) raises the amount of capital expenditures that we are allowed to make in 2012 from \$17,000 to \$18,000. The Lion Eleventh Amendment, among other things, conforms the minimum EBITDA covenant to the revised minimum EBITDA covenant under the Crystal Credit Agreement.

On December 29, 2012, our wholly-owned subsidiaries, American Apparel Canada Wholesale, Inc. and American Apparel Canada Retail Inc., entered into a third amendment to the Bank of Montreal Credit Agreement that extended the maturity date to December 31, 2013.

As a result of our improved operating performance and the attendant added financial flexibility, we believe that we will have sufficient financing commitments to meet funding requirements for the next twelve months.

Over the past years, our operations have been funded through a combination of borrowings from related and unrelated parties, bank debt and lease financing, proceeds from the exercise of purchase rights and issuance of common stock. Our principal liquidity requirements are for working capital interest payments, capital expenditures and to fund operations. We fund our liquidity requirements primarily through cash on hand, cash flow from operations and borrowings under our existing credit facilities. Those credit agreements contain covenants requiring us to meet specified targets for minimum consolidated EBITDA and our inability to achieve such targets or to obtain a waiver of compliance would negatively impact the availability of credit under those credit facilities or result in an event of default.

We are in the process of executing a plan to improve the operating performance and our financial position. During 2012, we improved our distribution operations and timing of store replenishments, implemented a new e-commerce platform, refined our promotion and inventory allocation strategy and implemented a new production forecasting system. These initiatives allowed us to reduce our unit inventory levels and thereby improve working capital. We also continued to reduce corporate expenses and enhance store inventory management by installing RFID tracking systems in our stores worldwide. Finally, we are in the process of transitioning our distribution operations into a new modern distribution center located in California.

For 2013, we intend to complete the installation of RFID tracking systems in all of our stores, rationalize merchandise pricing in the wholesale and retail channels, continue to renovate our stores and continue to develop other initiatives intended to either increase sales, reduce costs or improve liquidity.

Although our plan reflects improvements in these trends, there can be no assurance that our plan to improve the operating performance and our financial position will be successful.

Cash Flow Overview

Cash Flow Overview for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 is as follows (dollars in thousands):

| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
|---|----------|----------|------------|
| Net cash provided by (used in): | | | |
| Operating activities | \$23,589 | \$2,305 | \$(32,370) |
| Investing activities | (24,853) | (10,759) | (15,662) |
| Financing activities | 4,214 | 12,582 | 48,172 |
| Effect of foreign exchange rate changes on cash | (390) | (1,491) | (1,530) |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash | \$2,560 | \$2,637 | \$(1,390) |

Year Ended December 31, 2012

Cash provided by operating activities was \$23,589. This was a result of a net loss of \$37,272 offset by non-cash expenses of \$56,608 and a decrease in working capital of \$4,253.

Non-cash expenses during the year relate primarily to depreciation, amortization and impairment charges, a decrease in the fair value of our warrant liability, stock-based compensation expense, non-cash interest expense from the amortization of deferred financing costs, loan discounts and paid-in-kind interest. These non-cash charges were offset

by a gain on extinguishment of debt.

The decrease in working capital was primarily due to a decrease in inventories of \$13,949. The decrease in inventory is due to a year-over-year 20% decrease in units as a result of improvements in our sales and improvements in inventory planning. This

45

Table of Contents

was partially offset by an increase in other assets of \$8,455 as a result of higher deposits required for our self-insured workers compensation policy.

Cash used in investing activities was \$24,853. This consisted primarily of \$21,607 in capital expenditures and \$3,720 in restricted cash used as collateral to secure our standby letters of credit associated with the worker's compensation self-insurance program and other liabilities. Net investments in property and equipment in the U.S. Wholesale segment consisted mostly of expenditures for manufacturing equipment and computer hardware and software. We upgraded our production forecasting and allocation systems and significantly enhanced our online web store capabilities with a new back office web platform. We also invested in our new distribution center in La Mirada, California. Net investments in the U.S. Retail segment were primarily to upgrade and remodel certain existing stores. Additionally, we continued implementing radio frequency identification (RFID) tracking systems at our stores. As of the end of February 2013, we had implemented RFID systems at approximately 213 stores worldwide.

Cash provided by financing activities was \$4,214. This consisted primarily of proceeds from borrowings of \$28,451 under the new revolving credit facility and \$29,987 for a term loan, both under the Crystal Credit Agreement, partially offset by the repayment of the previous revolving credit facility for \$48,324 with BofA. Borrowings are primarily used to fund our operating and working capital needs.

Year Ended December 31, 2011

Cash provided by operating activities was \$2,305. This was a result of non-cash expenses of \$43,278 offset by a net loss of \$39,314 and an increase in working capital requirements of \$1,659.

Non-cash expenses include depreciation, amortization, loss on disposal of property and equipment, foreign exchange transaction gain, allowance for inventory shrinkage and obsolescence, change in fair value of warrant liability, loss on extinguishment of debt, accrued interest-in-kind, impairment charges, stock-based compensation, bad debt expense, deferred income taxes, and deferred rent.

The increase in working capital was due primarily to an increase in inventory of \$6,771. Although our unit inventory levels declined 7% at December 31, 2011 compared to December 31, 2010, the increase in yarn and fabric prices beginning in 2010, and continuing throughout the first half of 2011, resulted in an increase to the cost of our inventory, despite overall reductions to the other direct costs in our manufacturing processes. In addition, our production planning and scheduling methodology calls for maintaining normal production levels throughout the year, regardless of seasonality in demand. This approach allows us to have efficient inventory levels in stock and to be well positioned in anticipation of key selling seasons.

Cash used by investing activities was \$10,759 and related primarily to capital expenditures. Net investments in property and equipment were \$3,638 for the U.S. Wholesale segment, \$4,889 for the U.S. Retail segment, \$407 for the Canada segment and \$2,136 for the International segment. During this period, four new retail stores were opened in the International segment. Investments in the U.S. Wholesale segment consisted mostly of expenditures for manufacturing equipment, computer hardware and software. Investments in the U.S. Retail segment were primarily to upgrade and remodel certain existing stores.

Cash provided by financing activities was \$12,582. This consisted primarily of proceeds of \$21,710 from the sale of common stock and purchase rights and \$3,100 in proceeds from a sale-leaseback financing transaction for manufacturing equipment, partially offset by the repayment of \$6,874 under our revolving credit facilities.

Year Ended December 31, 2010

Cash used by operating activities was \$32,370. This was a result of non-cash expenses of \$78,421 offset by net losses of \$86,315 and a decrease in working capital requirements of \$24,476.

Non-cash expenses include depreciation, amortization, loss on disposal of property and equipment, foreign exchange transaction gain, allowance for inventory shrinkage and obsolescence, change in fair value of warrant liability, accrued interest-in-kind, impairment charges, stock-based compensation, bad debt expense, deferred income taxes, and

deferred rent and cash used by changes in operating assets and liabilities.

The decrease in working capital was due to an increase in trade receivables of \$1,746, increases in inventory of \$37,239, a decreases in prepaid expenses and other current assets of \$624, increase in other long-term assets of \$629, an increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses and other liabilities of \$13,725 and an increase in income taxes of \$789. The increase in inventory was due to higher levels of production during fiscal 2010, increased manufacturing costs, and introduction of new product styles.

Table of Contents

Cash used by investing activities was \$15,662. This consisted of increased net investment in property and equipment of \$4,696 for the U.S. Wholesale segment, \$7,584 for the U.S. Retail segment, \$1,456 for the Canada segment and \$1,965 for the International segment. During this period, one new retail store was opened in the United States, two new retail store were opened in Canada, and three new retail stores were opened in the International segment. Investments in the U.S. Wholesale segment consisted mostly of expenditures for manufacturing equipment, computer hardware and software. Investments in the U.S. Retail segment were primarily to upgrade and remodel certain existing stores.

Cash provided by financing activities was \$48,172. This consisted primarily from net borrowings of \$50,852 under our revolving credit facilities, offset by net cash overdraft, stock-based compensation expense and the repayments of capital lease obligations. Borrowings were used primarily to fund our working capital needs required for higher production levels.

Debt Agreements and Other Capital Resources

Revolving Credit Facilities

Crystal Credit Facility - On March 13, 2012, we replaced our \$75,000 senior secured revolving credit facility with BofA with a \$80,000 senior credit facility with Crystal and other lenders. The Crystal Credit Agreement calls for the \$80,000 to be allocated between an asset-based revolving credit facility of \$50,000 and term loan of \$30,000. The Crystal Credit Agreement matures on March 13, 2015.

Borrowings under the Crystal Credit Agreement, as amended, are subject to certain borrowing reserves based on eligible inventory and accounts receivable as established by Crystal and are collateralized by substantially all of our U.S. and U.K. assets and equity interests in certain of our foreign subsidiaries. Our available borrowing capacity at December 31, 2012 was \$8,029.

Interest under the agreement was at the 90-day LIBOR plus 9.0%, and also included an unused facility fee ranging from 0.375% to 1.00% on the unused portion of the revolving credit facility, payable monthly. Additionally, the interest rate with respect to the brand name portion of the outstanding principal amount was at the 90-day LIBOR plus 19.75%.

The Crystal Credit Agreement also includes an early termination fee, if the term loan is prepaid or if the commitments under the revolving credit facility is permanently reduced, of 3.00% if such payment or reduction occurs the second anniversary of the agreement and 2.00% if such payment or reduction occurs in the third year.

Proceeds from the Crystal Credit Agreement were used to repay our existing BofA Credit Facility, fees and expenses related to the transaction, and for general working capital purposes. See Financial Covenants below and Note 7, Revolving Credit Facilities and Current Portion of Long-Term Debt to our consolidated financial statements under Part II, Item 8.

Bank of Montreal Credit Facility - On December 29, 2012, we entered into an amendment to our existing revolving credit facility with Bank of Montreal (the "Bank of Montreal Credit Agreement") that extended the maturity date to December 31, 2013. The Bank of Montreal Credit Facility bears interest at the bank's prime rate (3.0% at December 31, 2012) plus 4.0% per annum payable monthly. The revolving credit facility is secured by liens on personal property on all present and future movable property of our Canadian operations. See Financial Covenants below and Note 7, Revolving Credit Facilities and Current Portion of Long-Term Debt to our consolidated financial statements under Part II, Item 8. Borrowings under the Bank of Montreal Credit Agreement are subject to certain advance provisions established by BofM. Our available borrowing capacity at December 31, 2012 was \$1,148.

Lion Credit Agreement

We have a loan agreement with Lion Capital, LLC ("Lion" and the "Lion Credit Agreement", respectively) that provided us with term loans in an aggregate principal amount equal to \$80,000. The term loan, as amended, matures on December 31, 2015 and bears interest at a range between 15% and 18% per annum, depending on certain financial covenants, payable quarterly in arrears. For the year end December 31, 2012, the interest rate was 18% per annum. Additionally, for the period from October 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012, the interest rate was increased by 0.52%.

Beginning with the interest accruing from and after September 1, 2012, the Lion Credit Agreement provides for interest at a rate of 5% per annum to be paid in cash. The remainder of the interest, including the additional 0.52% interest, may be payable in kind or in cash at our option.

As of December 31, 2012, we had outstanding approximately \$109,680 of second lien debt, net of discount and including accrued paid-in-kind interest, payable to Lion.

Table of Contents

The Lion Credit Agreement is subordinated to the Crystal Credit Agreement and contains customary representations, and warranties, events of default, affirmative covenants, negative covenants (which impose restrictions and limitations on, among other things, dividends, investments, asset sales, capital expenditures, and the ability to incur additional debt and liens), and other financial covenants. We are permitted to prepay the loans in whole or in part at any time at our option, with no prepayment penalty. See Financial Covenants below and Note 8, Long-Term Debt to our consolidated financial statements under Part II, Item 8.

Lion Warrants

As of December 31, 2012, Lion held warrants to purchase 21,606 shares of our common stock, with an exercise price of \$0.75 per share. These warrants expire on February 18, 2022. The estimated fair value of \$17,222 at December 31, 2012 is recorded as a current liability in our consolidated balance sheets under Part II, Item 8.

The Lion Warrants also contain certain anti-dilution protections in favor of Lion providing for proportional adjustment of the warrant price and, under certain circumstances, the number of shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of the Lion Warrant, in connection with, among other things, stock dividends, subdivisions and combinations and the issuance of additional equity securities at less than fair market value, as well as providing for the issuance of additional warrants to Lion in the event of certain equity sales or debt for equity exchanges. See Note 13, Stockholders' Equity to our consolidated financial statements under Part II, Item 8.

SOF Warrants - As of December 31, 2012, SOF Investments, L.P. ("SOF") held warrants to purchase 1,000 shares of our common stock, with an exercise price of \$2.148 per share, subject to adjustment under certain circumstances.

These warrants expire on December 19, 2013. As of December 31, 2012, the estimated fair value of \$19 is recorded as a current liability in our consolidated balance sheets. See Note 13, Stockholders' Equity to our consolidated financial statements under Part II, Item 8.

Investor Purchase Rights - On April 26, 2011 and in connection with the February 18, 2011 amendment to the Lion Credit Agreement, we entered into a purchase and investment agreement with a group of investors ("Investors") and sold approximately 15,777 shares of common stock at a price of \$0.90 per share and purchase rights to acquire additional shares of common stock for the aggregate net cash purchase price of approximately \$12,417. The purchase rights gave the Investors the right to purchase up to an aggregate of approximately 27,443 additional shares of common stock at a price of \$0.90 per share.

We also entered into a purchase agreement with Dov Charney that, among other things, allowed Mr. Charney to purchase 778 initial shares and up to 1,556 additional shares of common stock on the same terms as the purchase agreement with the Investors ("Charney Purchase Rights").

In July 2011, the Investors exercised their purchase rights and acquired 8,407 shares of our common stock for \$0.90 per share. These transactions resulted in \$6,593 in aggregate proceeds, net of transaction costs.

In October 2011, the remaining 19,036 Investor Purchase Rights and the 1,556 Charney Purchase Rights expired without being exercised. See Note 13, Stockholders' Equity to our consolidated financial statements under Part II, Item 8.

Related Party Debt and Sale of Stock to CEO

Related-Party Debt - On March 24, 2011, we entered into an agreement with Mr. Charney which canceled our \$4,688 promissory notes payable to Mr. Charney in exchange for 4,223 shares of our common stock at a price of \$1.11 per share, with 50% of these shares issued at closing and the remaining shares issuable to Mr. Charney only if prior to March 24, 2014, the closing sale price of our common stock exceeds \$3.50 for 30 consecutive trading days or there is a change of control of American Apparel.

Sale of Common Stock to CEO - On July 7, 2011, we sold 778 shares of our common stock to Dov Charney, pursuant to his purchase agreement described above, at \$0.90 per share, for total proceeds of \$700. On March 24, 2011, we entered into an agreement to sell to Mr. Charney approximately 1,802 shares of our common stock at a price of \$1.11 per share for proceeds of \$2,000.

Sale of Treasury Stock to CEO - On November 26, 2010, we authorized the sale to Mr. Charney of approximately 1,130 treasury shares of our common stock at a price of \$1.48 per share for proceeds of \$1,650.

See Notes 12 and 13, Related Party Transactions and Stockholders' Equity to our consolidated financial statements under Part II, Item 8.

Table of Contents

Summary of Debt

The following is an overview of our total debt as of December 31, 2012 (dollars in thousands):

| Description of Debt | Lender Name | Interest Rate | December 31, 2012 | Covenant Violations |
|--|--|--|-------------------|---------------------|
| Revolving credit facility | Crystal Financial LLC | (a) 90-day LIBOR of 0.31% plus 9.0% plus unused facility fee ranging (0.375% -1.00%) and for the brand name: (b) 90-day LIBOR of 0.31% plus 19.75% | \$26,113 | No |
| Term loan | Crystal Financial LLC | 90-day LIBOR of 0.31% plus 9.0% plus unused facility fee ranging (0.375% -1.00%) | 30,000 | No |
| Revolving credit facility (Canada) | Bank of Montreal | Bank's prime rate of 3% plus 4% | 4,387 | No |
| Term loan, net of discount and including interest paid-in-kind | Lion | From 15.0% to 18.0% | 109,680 | No |
| Other | | | 388 | N/A |
| Capital lease obligations | 15 individual leases ranging between \$1-\$5,217 | From 0.4% to 18.0% | 4,547 | N/A |
| Total debt | | | \$175,115 | |

Financial Covenants

Our credit agreements impose certain restrictions regarding capital expenditures and limit our ability to: incur additional indebtedness, dispose of assets, make repayment of indebtedness or amendments of debt instruments, pay distributions, create liens on assets, and enter into sale and leaseback transactions, investments, loans or advances and acquisitions. Significant covenants are summarized below.

Lion Credit Agreement - Significant covenants in the Lion Credit Agreement include an annual limitation of our capital expenditures to \$30,000 for fiscal 2012.

The Lion Credit Agreement also requires a minimum Consolidated EBITDA amount (as specified in the credit agreement) for any twelve consecutive months as determined at the end of each fiscal quarter (Quarterly Minimum Consolidated EBITDA). Additionally, beginning with the twelve consecutive months ended July 31, 2012 through the remainder of 2013, the Lion Credit Agreement includes a second minimum Consolidated EBITDA covenant to be determined at the end of each month (Monthly Minimum Consolidated EBITDA) that conforms to the Crystal minimum Consolidated EBITDA covenant.

As of December 31, 2012, we were in compliance with the required financial covenants of the Lion Credit Agreement. Crystal Credit Agreement - Significant covenants in the Crystal Credit Agreement include a minimum excess availability covenant that requires us to maintain minimum excess availability of the the greater of \$8,000, or 10.0% of the borrowing base. If the excess availability falls below this minimum, we will be required to maintain a fixed charge coverage ratio of not less than 1.00 to 1.00 to be calculated monthly on a consolidated trailing twelve-month basis and continuing until the excess availability exceeds this minimum for sixty consecutive days. Additionally, the Crystal Credit Agreement, as amended, added a new minimum excess availability covenant that required the

Company to maintain minimum excess availability to be no less than \$5,000 during the period from December 17, 2012 to February 1, 2013 and also added a minimum monthly Consolidated EBITDA covenant for the remainder of 2013 to be determined at the end of each month. Furthermore, the Crystal Credit Agreement included an annual limitation of our capital expenditures at the Company's domestic subsidiaries to no more than \$18,000 for the year ended December 31, 2012 and \$25,000 for each year thereafter.

During the year ended December 31, 2012, our excess availability was below the minimum amount and, as a result, we were required to maintain the fixed charge coverage ratio.

Table of Contents

As of December 31, 2012, we were in compliance with the required financial covenants of the Crystal Credit Agreement, as amended.

Bank of Montreal Credit Agreement - Significant covenants in the Bank of Montreal Credit Agreement include a restriction on our Canadian subsidiaries from entering into operating leases over a specified threshold. The credit agreement also requires our Canadian subsidiaries to maintain minimum excess availability of 5% of the revolving credit commitment under the facility.

As of December 31, 2012, we were in compliance with the financial covenants of the Bank of Montreal Credit Agreement. Each of the credit agreements with Lion Capital, Crystal and Bank of Montreal contain cross-default provisions, whereby an event of default occurring under any of the other credit agreements would cause an event of default.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements and Contractual Obligations

Our material off-balance sheet contractual commitments are operating lease obligations and certain letters of credit. These items were excluded from the balance sheet in accordance with GAAP.

Operating lease commitments consist principally of leases for our retail stores, manufacturing facilities, main distribution center and corporate office. These leases frequently include options which permit us to extend the terms beyond the initial fixed lease term. With respect to most of those leases, we intend to renegotiate the leases as they expire. Issued and outstanding letters of credit were \$3,147 at December 31, 2012, and were related primarily to workers' compensation insurance and rent deposits.

Contractual Obligations Summary

The following table summarizes our contractual commitments as of December 31, 2012, which relate to future minimum payments due under non-cancelable licenses, leases, revolving credit facilities, long-term debt and advertising commitments. Future minimum rental payment on operating lease obligations presented below do not include any related property insurance, taxes, maintenance or other related costs required by operating leases. Operating lease rent expenses, including some related real estate taxes and maintenance costs, are included in the cost of sales and general and administrative expenses in our consolidated financial statements and amounted to approximately \$77,390 for the year ended December 31, 2012.

| Contractual Obligations | Total | Payments due by period | | | |
|---|------------|------------------------|------------|-----------|----------------------|
| | | Less than 1 year | 1-3 years | 4-5 years | More than 5 years |
| Long-term debt, including interest | \$ 110,068 | \$ 7,280 | \$ 102,788 | \$— | \$— |
| Current debt, including interest | 60,500 | 60,500 | — | — | — |
| Capital lease obligations, including interest | 5,536 | 2,291 | 3,240 | 5 | — |
| Operating lease obligations | 334,318 | 71,150 | 118,848 | 81,837 | 62,483 |
| Advertising commitments | 4,456 | 4,044 | 412 | — | — |
| Self-insurance reserves | 16,132 | 5,438 | 5,249 | 2,749 | 2,696 |
| Total contractual obligations | \$ 531,010 | \$ 150,703 | \$ 230,537 | \$ 84,591 | \$ 65,179 |

Seasonality

We experience seasonality in our operations. Historically, sales during the third and fourth fiscal quarters have generally been the highest, with sales during the first fiscal quarter the lowest. This reflects the combined impact of the seasonality of our wholesale and retail sales channels. Generally, our retail sales channel has not experienced the same pronounced sales seasonality as other retailers.

Inflation

Inflation affects the cost of raw materials, goods and services used in our operations. In 2010, the price of yarn and the cost of certain related fabrics began to increase as a result of the compounding effect of added demand, and supply shortages primarily from the effect of severe weather conditions in certain cotton producing countries, and a ban on

cotton exports imposed by the government of India. Prices continued to increase throughout 2010 and through the first quarter of 2011. During the first half of 2012, we experienced lower cost of yarn as opposed to sharply rising costs that took place during the first half of 2011. We cannot predict if this decline in the cost of cotton is sustainable. In addition, high oil costs can affect the cost of all raw materials and components. The competitive environment can limit the ability of American Apparel to recover higher costs resulting from inflation by raising prices. Although we cannot precisely determine the effects of inflation on our business, we

Table of Contents

believe that the effects on revenues and operating results have not been significant. We seek to mitigate the adverse effects of inflation primarily through improved productivity and strategic buying initiatives. We do not believe that inflation has had a material impact on our results of operations for the periods presented. We are unable to predict if we will be able to successfully pass on the added cost of any future raw material cost increases by further increasing the price of our products to our wholesale and retail customers.

Critical Accounting Estimates and Policies

Complete descriptions of our significant accounting policies are outlined in Note 2, Summary of Significant Accounting Policies to our consolidated financial statements under Item 8—Financial Statements and Supplementary Data. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Management bases its estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources.

Our critical estimates and policies include:

- revenue recognition;

- inventory valuation, obsolescence;

- fair value calculations including, derivative liabilities such as the Lion warrants;

- valuation and recoverability of long-lived assets including the values assigned to acquired intangible assets, goodwill, and property and equipment;

- income taxes;

- accruals for the outcome of current litigation; and

- self-insurance liabilities.

In general, estimates are based on historical experience, on information from third party professionals and on various other sources and assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the facts and circumstances at the time such estimates are made. On a continual basis, management reviews its estimates utilizing currently available information, changes in facts and circumstances, historical experience and reasonable assumptions. After such reviews, and if deemed appropriate, those estimates are adjusted. Actual results may vary from these estimates and assumptions under different and/or future circumstances. Our management considers an accounting estimate to be critical if:

- it requires assumptions to be made that were uncertain at the time the estimate was made; and

- changes in the estimate, or the use of different estimating methods that could have been selected, could have a material impact on our consolidated results of operations or financial condition.

Revenue Recognition

We recognize product sales when title and risk of loss have transferred to the customer, there is persuasive evidence of an arrangement, the sales price is fixed or determinable and collectability is reasonably assured. Wholesale product sales are recorded at the time the product is either picked up by or shipped to the customer. Online product sales are recorded at the time the products are received by the customers. Retail store sales are recorded as revenue upon the sale of product to retail customers. Our net sales represent gross sales invoiced to customers, less certain related charges for discounts, returns, and other promotional allowances and are recorded net of sales or value added tax.

Allowances provided for these items are presented in the consolidated financial statements primarily as reductions to sales and cost of sales (see Sales Returns and Allowances discussed below for further information).

We recognize revenues from gift cards, gift certificates and store credits as they are redeemed for product. Prior to redemption, we maintain an unearned revenue liability for gift cards, gift certificates and store credits until we are released from such liability or when we determine that some portion of gift cards will not be redeemed. See Gift Cards below.

Table of Contents

Sales Returns and Allowances

We analyze sales returns in order to make reasonable and reliable estimates of product returns for our wholesale, online product sales and retail store sales based upon historical experience. We also monitor the buying patterns of the end-users of our products based on sales data received by our retail outlets. Estimates for sales returns are based on a variety of factors including actual returns based on expected return data communicated to us by our customers. Accordingly, we believe that our historical returns analysis is an accurate basis for our allowance for sales returns. We regularly review the factors that influence our estimates and, if necessary, make adjustments when we believe that actual product returns and credits may differ from established reserves. If actual or expected future returns and claims are significantly greater or lower than the allowance for sales returns established, we would record a reduction or increase to net revenues in the period in which we made such determination.

Shipping and Handling Costs

We incur shipping and handling costs in our operations. These costs consist primarily of freight expenses incurred for third-party shippers to transport products to our retail stores and distribution centers and to our wholesale and online retail customers. These costs are included in cost of sales and amounts billed to customers for shipping are included in net sales.

Gift Cards

Upon issuance of a gift card a liability is established for its cash value. The liability is relieved and net sales are recorded upon redemption by the customer. Over time, some portion of gift cards is not redeemed ("breakage"). We determine breakage income for gift cards based on historical redemption patterns. Breakage income is recorded as a credit to selling expenses, which is a component of operating expenses in the consolidated statements of operations. Currently, we record breakage when gift cards remain unredeemed after two years. Our gift cards, gift certificates and store credits do not have expiration dates.

We do not believe there is a reasonable likelihood that there will be a material change in the future estimates or assumptions we use to calculate breakage. However, if the actual rate of redemption of gift cards increases significantly, our operating results could be negatively affected.

Trade Receivables and Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

Accounts receivable primarily consists of trade receivables, including amounts due from credit card companies, net of allowances. On a periodic basis, we evaluate our trade receivables and establish an allowance for doubtful accounts based on our history of past bad debt expense, collections and current credit conditions.

We perform on-going credit evaluations of our customers and adjust credit limits based upon payment history and the customer's current credit worthiness, as determined by our review of their current credit information. Collections and payments from customers are continuously monitored. We maintain an allowance for doubtful accounts, which is based upon historical experience as well as specific customer collection issues that have been identified. While such bad debt expenses have historically been within expectations and allowances established, we cannot guarantee that we will continue to experience the same credit loss rates that we have in the past. If the financial condition of customers were to deteriorate, resulting in an impairment of their ability to make payments, additional allowances may be required.

Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market. Cost is primarily determined on the first-in, first-out ("FIFO") method. We identify potential excess and slow-moving inventories by evaluating turn rates, inventory levels and other factors. Excess quantities are identified through evaluation of inventory aging, review of inventory turns and historical sales experiences.

We have evaluated the current level of inventories considering historical sales and other factors and, based on this evaluation, we record adjustments to cost of goods sold to reflect inventories at net realizable value. These adjustments are estimates, which could vary significantly, either favorably or unfavorably, from actual results if future

economic conditions, customer demand or competition differ from expectations.

Long-Lived Assets

We follow the provisions of ASC 360 “Property, Plant and Equipment”, which requires evaluation of the need for an impairment charge relating to long-lived assets whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. The estimated future undiscounted cash flows associated with the asset would be compared to the asset’s carrying amount to determine if a write down to a new depreciable basis is required. If required, an impairment charge is recorded based on an estimate of future discounted cash flows.

Table of Contents

We consider the following to be some examples of important indicators that may trigger an impairment review:

(i) significant under-performance or losses of retail stores relative to expected historical or projected future operating results; (ii) significant changes in the manner or use of the assets or in our overall strategy with respect to the manner or use of the acquired assets or changes in our overall business strategy; (iii) significant negative industry or economic trends; (iv) increased competitive pressures; (v) a significant decline in American Apparel's stock price for a sustained period of time; and (vi) regulatory changes.

We evaluate acquired assets and our retail stores for potential impairment indicators at least annually and more frequently upon the occurrence of certain events. Judgment regarding the existence of impairment indicators is based on market conditions and operational performance of businesses. Future events could cause us to conclude that impairment indicators exist, and therefore long lived assets could be impaired. Such evaluations are significantly impacted by estimates of future revenues, costs and expenses and other factors. A significant change in cash flows in the future could result in an impairment of long lived assets.

Income Taxes

We recognize deferred tax assets and liabilities for the expected future tax consequences of events that have been included in the financial statements. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are determined based on the differences between the financial statements and tax basis of assets and liabilities using the enacted tax rates in effect for the year in which the differences are expected to reverse. The effect of a change in tax rates on deferred tax assets and liabilities is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date.

We record net deferred tax assets to the extent we believe these assets will more likely than not be realized. During the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, we recorded a valuation allowance against deferred tax assets of \$77,578 and \$73,773. In making such determination, we consider all available positive and negative evidence, including future reversals of existing taxable temporary differences, projected future taxable income, tax planning strategies and recent financial operations. In the event we were to determine that we would be able to realize our deferred income tax assets in the future in excess of their net recorded amount, we would make an adjustment to the valuation allowance, which would reduce the provision for income taxes.

Contingencies

Certain conditions may exist as of the date the consolidated financial statements are issued, which may result in a loss to the Company but which will only be resolved when one or more future events occur or fail to occur. The Company assesses such contingent liabilities, and such assessment inherently involves an exercise of judgment. In assessing loss contingencies related to legal proceedings that are pending against the Company or unasserted claims that may result in such proceedings, the Company evaluates the perceived merits of any legal proceedings or unasserted claims as well as the perceived merits of the amount of relief sought or expected to be sought therein.

If the assessment of a contingency indicates that it is probable that a material loss has been incurred and the amount of the liability can be estimated, then the estimated liability would be accrued in the Company's consolidated financial statements. If the assessment indicates that a potentially material loss contingency is not probable but is reasonably possible, or is probable but cannot be estimated, then the nature of the contingent liability, and an estimate of the range of possible losses, if determinable and material, would be disclosed. Legal fees are expensed as incurred.

Loss contingencies considered remote are generally not disclosed unless they involve guarantees, in which case the guarantees would be disclosed. There can be no assurance that such matters will not materially and adversely affect the Company's business, financial position, and results of operations or cash flows.

We are subject to proceedings, lawsuits and other claims related to various matters. We assess the likelihood of any adverse judgments or outcomes to these matters as well as potential ranges of probable losses. We determine the amount of reserves needed, if any, for each individual issue based on our knowledge and experience and discussions with legal counsel. The required reserves may change in the future due to new developments in each matter, the ultimate resolution of each matter or changes in approach, such as a change in settlement strategy, in dealing with these matters. We currently do not believe, based upon information available at this time, that these matters will have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows. There is no assurance that such matters will not materially and adversely affect our business, financial position, and results of operations or cash flows. See Notes 15 and 18, Commitments and Contingencies and Litigation to our consolidated

financial statements under Part II, Item 8.

53

Table of Contents

Self-Insurance Liabilities

We maintain self-insurance programs for our estimated commercial general liability, workers' compensation, and employees medical risks. Under these programs, we maintain insurance coverage for losses in excess of specified per-occurrence amounts. Estimated costs under these programs, including incurred but not reported claims, are recorded as expense based upon historical experience, trends of paid and incurred claims, deductibles, and other actuarial assumptions. If actual claims trends under these programs, including the severity or frequency of claims, differ from our estimates, our financial results may be significantly impacted. Our estimated self-insurance liabilities are classified in our balance sheet as accrued expenses or other long-term liabilities based upon whether they are expected to be paid during or beyond our normal operating cycle of 12 months from the date of our consolidated financial statements.

Other Matters

Accounting Standards Updates

Beginning in the quarter ended March 31, 2012, the Company enhanced its fair value measurement application and disclosures as a result of adopting new requirements issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") in May 2011. The new rules include revisions to the standards for the use of fair value measurements and additional disclosures for: (i) all transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy; (ii) Level 3 measurements; and (iii) hierarchy classifications used for assets and liabilities whose fair value is disclosed only in the footnotes. The new rules did not have a material impact on the Company.

Accounting standards updates effective after December 31, 2012, are not expected to have a material effect on our consolidated financial statements.

Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risks (amounts in thousands)

Our exposure to market risk is limited to interest rate risk associated with our credit facilities and foreign currency exchange risk associated with our foreign operations.

Interest Rate Risk

Based on our interest rate exposure on variable rate borrowings at December 31, 2012, a 1% increase in average interest rates on our borrowings would increase future interest expense by approximately \$50 per month. We determined this amount based on approximately \$60,500 of variable rate borrowings at December 31, 2012. We are currently not using any interest rate collars or hedges to manage or reduce interest rate risk. As a result, any increase in interest rates on the variable rate borrowings would increase interest expense and reduce net income. Our primary exposure to variable interest rates is through the effect of fluctuations in LIBOR on the interest rate under the Crystal Credit Agreement.

Foreign Currency Risk

The majority of our operating activities are conducted in U.S. dollars. Approximately 38.2% of our net sales for the year ended December 31, 2012 were denominated in other currencies such as Euros, British Pounds Sterling or Canadian Dollars. Nearly all of our production costs and material costs are denominated in U.S. dollars although the majority of the yarn is sourced from outside the United States. If the U.S. dollar were to appreciate by 10% against other currencies it could have a significant adverse impact on our earnings. Since an appreciated U.S. dollar makes goods produced in the United States relatively more expensive to overseas customers, other things being equal, we would have to lower our retail margin in order to maintain sales volume overseas. A lower retail margin overseas would adversely affect net income assuming sales volume remains the same. Functional currencies of our foreign operations consist of the Canadian dollar for operations in Canada, the Australian dollar for operations in Australia, the pound Sterling for operations in the U.K., the Euro for operations in the European Union, the Franc for operations in Switzerland, the New Israeli Shekel for operations in Israel, the Yen for the operations in Japan, the Won for operations in South Korea, the Renminbi or Hong Kong dollar for operations in China, the Real for operations in Brazil and the Peso for operations in Mexico, as well as other local currencies for other foreign operations

Table of Contents

American Apparel, Inc.

INDEX TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULE

| | Page |
|--|-----------|
| Consolidated Financial Statements | |
| <u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u> | <u>56</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2012 and 2011</u> | <u>57</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Loss For the Years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010</u> | <u>58</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity For the Years Ended December 31, 2012, 2011, 2010</u> | <u>59</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows For the Years Ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010</u> | <u>60</u> |
| <u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements For the Years Ended December 31, 2012, 2011, and 2010</u> | <u>62</u> |
| Financial Statement Schedule | |
| <u>Schedule II—Valuation and Qualifying Accounts</u> | <u>92</u> |
| <u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm on Internal Controls over Financial Reporting</u> | <u>94</u> |

Table of Contents

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Audit Committee of the
Board of Directors and Stockholders of
American Apparel, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of American Apparel, Inc. and Subsidiaries (the “Company”) as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, and the related consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive loss, stockholders' equity and cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010. Our audits also included the financial statement schedule as of and for the years listed in the index at Item 15. These consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule based on our audits.

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

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of American Apparel, Inc. and Subsidiaries as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, and the consolidated results of its operations and its cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Also, in our opinion, the related financial statement schedule, when considered in relation to the basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole presents fairly, in all material respects, the information set forth therein.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012, based on the criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated March 5, 2013 expressed an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

/s/ Marcum LLP
Marcum LLP
Melville, NY
March 5, 2013

Table of Contents

Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data

American Apparel, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Balance Sheets

(Amounts and shares in thousands, except per share amounts)

| | December 31, | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Cash | \$12,853 | \$10,293 |
| Trade accounts receivable, net of allowances of \$2,085 and \$2,195 at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively | 22,962 | 20,939 |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | 9,589 | 7,631 |
| Inventories, net | 174,229 | 185,764 |
| Restricted cash | 3,733 | — |
| Income taxes receivable and prepaid income taxes | 530 | 5,955 |
| Deferred income taxes, net of valuation allowance of \$12,760 and \$12,003 at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively | 494 | 148 |
| Total current assets | 224,390 | 230,730 |
| PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, net | 67,778 | 67,438 |
| DEFERRED INCOME TAXES, net of valuation allowance of \$64,818 and \$61,770 at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively | 1,261 | 1,529 |
| OTHER ASSETS, net | 34,783 | 25,024 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$328,212 | \$324,721 |
| LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Cash overdraft | \$— | \$1,921 |
| Revolving credit facilities and current portion of long-term debt | 60,556 | 50,375 |
| Accounts payable | 38,160 | 33,920 |
| Accrued expenses and other current liabilities | 41,516 | 43,725 |
| Fair value of warrant liability | 17,241 | 9,633 |
| Income taxes payable | 2,137 | 2,445 |
| Deferred income tax liability, current | 296 | 150 |
| Current portion of capital lease obligations | 1,703 | 1,181 |
| Total current liabilities | 161,609 | 143,350 |
| LONG-TERM DEBT, net of unamortized discount of \$27,929 and \$20,183 at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively | 110,012 | 97,142 |
| CAPITAL LEASE OBLIGATIONS, net of current portion | 2,844 | 1,726 |
| DEFERRED TAX LIABILITY | 262 | 96 |
| DEFERRED RENT, net of current portion | 20,706 | 22,231 |
| OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES | 10,695 | 12,046 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 306,128 | 276,591 |
| COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES | | |
| STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY | | |
| Preferred stock, \$0.0001 par value per share, authorized 1,000 shares; none issued | — | — |
| Common stock, \$0.0001 par value per share, authorized 230,000 shares; 110,111 shares issued and 107,181 shares outstanding at December 31, 2012 and 108,870 shares issued and 105,588 shares outstanding at December 31, 2011 | 11 | 11 |

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN APPAREL, INC - Form 10-K

| | | |
|--|------------|------------|
| Additional paid-in capital | 177,081 | 166,486 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (2,725) | (3,356) |
| Accumulated deficit | (150,126) | (112,854) |
| Less: Treasury stock, 304 shares at cost | (2,157) | (2,157) |
| TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY | 22,084 | 48,130 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY | \$ 328,212 | \$ 324,721 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

57

Table of Contents

American Apparel, Inc. and Subsidiaries
 Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Loss
 (Amounts and shares in thousands, except per share amounts)

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|--|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
| Net sales | \$617,310 | \$547,336 | \$532,989 |
| Cost of sales | 289,927 | 252,436 | 253,080 |
| Gross profit | 327,383 | 294,900 | 279,909 |
| Selling expenses | 227,447 | 209,841 | 218,198 |
| General and administrative expenses (including related party charges of \$1,090, \$919 and \$912 for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively) | 97,327 | 104,085 | 103,167 |
| Retail store impairment | 1,647 | 4,267 | 8,597 |
| Income (loss) from operations | 962 | (23,293) | (50,053) |
| Interest expense | 41,559 | 33,167 | 23,752 |
| Foreign currency transaction loss (gain) | 120 | 1,679 | (686) |
| Unrealized loss (gain) on change in fair value of warrants and purchase rights | 4,126 | (23,467) | 993 |
| (Gain) loss on extinguishment of debt | (11,588) | 3,114 | — |
| Other expense (income) | 204 | (193) | 39 |
| Loss before income taxes | (33,459) | (37,593) | (74,151) |
| Income tax provision | 3,813 | 1,721 | 12,164 |
| Net loss | \$(37,272) | \$(39,314) | \$(86,315) |
| Basic and diluted loss per share | \$(0.35) | \$(0.42) | \$(1.21) |
| Weighted average basic and diluted shares outstanding | 105,980 | 92,599 | 71,626 |
| Net loss (from above) | \$(37,272) | \$(39,314) | \$(86,315) |
| Other comprehensive (loss) income item: | | | |
| Foreign currency translation, net of tax | 631 | (188) | (1,085) |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax | 631 | (188) | (1,085) |
| Comprehensive loss | \$(36,641) | \$(39,502) | \$(87,400) |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

American Apparel, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity
(Amounts in thousands)

| | Number of Common Shares Issued | Par Value Amount | Treasury Stock | Additional Paid-in Capital | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss | Accumulated Deficit | Total Stockholders' Equity |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|---|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| BALANCE, January 1, 2010 | 72,467 | \$7 | \$(10,044) | \$150,449 | \$ (2,083) | \$19,012 | \$157,341 |
| Sale of treasury stock | — | — | 7,887 | — | — | (6,237) | 1,650 |
| Issuance of common stock for stock-based compensation | 6,725 | 1 | — | 3,239 | — | — | 3,240 |
| Issuance of stock options for stock-based compensation | — | — | — | 193 | — | — | 193 |
| Net loss | — | — | — | — | — | (86,315) | (86,315) |
| Foreign currency translation, net of tax | — | — | — | — | (1,085) | — | (1,085) |
| BALANCE, December 31, 2010 | 79,192 | \$8 | \$(2,157) | \$153,881 | \$ (3,168) | \$(73,540) | \$75,024 |
| Stock-based compensation, net | 801 | — | — | 7,107 | — | — | 7,107 |
| Conversion of debt to equity | 2,113 | — | — | 4,688 | — | — | 4,688 |
| Sale of common stock, net of fees | 26,764 | 3 | — | 9,292 | — | — | 9,295 |
| Reclassification of warrants from equity to debt | — | — | — | (11,339) | — | — | (11,339) |
| Reclassification of purchase rights upon exercise | — | — | — | 2,857 | — | — | 2,857 |
| Net loss | — | — | — | — | — | (39,314) | (39,314) |
| Foreign currency translation, net of tax | — | — | — | — | (188) | — | (188) |
| BALANCE, December 31, 2011 | 108,870 | \$11 | \$(2,157) | \$166,486 | \$ (3,356) | \$(112,854) | \$48,130 |
| Stock-based compensation, net | 1,241 | — | — | 10,595 | — | — | 10,595 |
| Net loss | — | — | — | — | — | (37,272) | (37,272) |
| Foreign currency translation, net of | — | — | — | — | 631 | — | 631 |

tax
BALANCE,
December 31, 2012 110,111 \$11 \$(2,157) \$177,081 \$ (2,725) \$(150,126) \$22,084
See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

American Apparel, Inc. and Subsidiaries
 Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
 (Amounts in thousands)

| | For the Years ended December 31, | | |
|---|----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Cash received from customers | \$615,342 | \$542,930 | \$532,601 |
| Cash paid to suppliers, employees and others | (580,685) | (534,497) | (559,386) |
| Income taxes (paid) refunded | (10) | (866) | 698 |
| Interest paid | (10,954) | (5,535) | (6,456) |
| Other | (104) | 273 | 173 |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities | 23,589 | 2,305 | (32,370) |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Capital expenditures | (21,607) | (11,070) | (15,701) |
| Proceeds from sale of fixed assets | 474 | 311 | 39 |
| Restricted cash | (3,720) | — | — |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (24,853) | (10,759) | (15,662) |
| CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Cash overdraft | (1,921) | (1,407) | (404) |
| (Repayments) borrowing under expired revolving credit facilities, net | (48,324) | (6,874) | 50,852 |
| Borrowings under current revolving credit facilities, net | 28,451 | — | — |
| Borrowings (repayments) under term loans and notes payable | 29,987 | (13) | (15) |
| Payment of debt issuance costs | (5,226) | (1,881) | — |
| Net proceeds from issuance of common stock and purchase rights | — | 21,710 | — |
| Payment of payroll statutory tax withholding on stock-based compensation associated with issuance of common stock | (393) | (759) | (2,051) |
| Proceeds from equipment lease financing | 4,533 | 3,100 | — |
| Proceeds (repayment) of capital lease obligations | (2,893) | (1,294) | (1,860) |
| Proceeds from sale of treasury stock | — | — | 1,650 |
| Net cash provided by financing activities | 4,214 | 12,582 | 48,172 |
| EFFECT OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATE CHANGES ON CASH | (390) | (1,491) | (1,530) |
| NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH | 2,560 | 2,637 | (1,390) |
| CASH, beginning of period | 10,293 | 7,656 | 9,046 |
| CASH, end of period | \$12,853 | \$10,293 | \$7,656 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
| RECONCILIATION OF NET LOSS TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Net loss | \$(37,272) | \$(39,314) | \$(86,315) |
| Depreciation and amortization of property and equipment and other assets | 22,989 | 24,980 | 28,130 |
| Retail store impairment | 1,647 | 4,267 | 8,597 |
| Loss on disposal of property and equipment | 102 | 80 | 212 |
| Stock-based compensation expense | 10,580 | 6,814 | 3,719 |
| Unrealized loss (gain) on change in fair value of warrants and purchase rights | 4,126 | (23,467) | 993 |
| Amortization of debt discount and deferred financing costs | 10,261 | 9,024 | 5,997 |
| (Gain) loss on extinguishment of debt | (11,588) | 3,114 | — |
| Accrued interest paid-in-kind | 20,344 | 18,711 | 11,299 |
| Foreign currency transaction loss (gain) | 120 | 1,679 | (686) |
| Allowance for inventory shrinkage and obsolescence | (1,331) | (1,652) | 1,051 |
| Bad debt expense | 99 | 996 | 1,357 |
| Deferred income taxes | 154 | 701 | 14,789 |
| Deferred rent | (895) | (1,969) | 2,963 |
| Changes in cash due to changes in operating assets and liabilities: | | | |
| Trade accounts receivables | (2,067) | (5,402) | (1,746) |
| Inventories | 13,949 | (6,771) | (37,239) |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | (1,829) | 1,770 | 624 |
| Other assets | (8,455) | (5,075) | (629) |
| Accounts payable | 1,779 | 3,944 | 10,057 |
| Accrued expenses and other liabilities | (4,223) | 9,701 | 3,668 |
| Income taxes receivable / payable | 5,099 | 174 | 789 |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities | \$23,589 | \$2,305 | \$(32,370) |
| NON-CASH INVESTING AND FINANCING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Property and equipment acquired under a capital lease | \$— | \$— | \$92 |
| Property and equipment acquired and included in accounts payable | 3,778 | 1,323 | 2,735 |
| Reclassification of Lion Warrant from equity to debt | — | 11,339 | — |
| Conversion of debt to equity | — | 4,688 | — |
| Issuance of warrants and purchase rights at fair value | — | 6,387 | — |
| Exercise of purchase rights | — | 2,857 | — |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

American Apparel, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(Amounts and Shares in thousands, except per share amounts)

For the Years Ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010

Note 1. Organization and Business

American Apparel, Inc. and its subsidiaries (collectively “the Company”) is a vertically-integrated manufacturer, distributor, and retailer of branded fashion basic apparel products and designs, manufactures and sells clothing and accessories for women, men, children and babies. The Company sells its products through the wholesale distribution channel supplying t-shirts and other casual wear to distributors and screen printers, as well as direct to customers through its retail stores located in the United States and internationally. In addition, the Company operates an online retail e-commerce website. At December 31, 2012, the Company operated a total of 251 retail stores in 20 countries: the United States, Canada and 18 other countries.

Liquidity and Management's Plan

As of December 31, 2012, the Company had approximately \$12,853 in cash, \$9,177 of availability for additional borrowings under the Crystal Credit Agreement and Bank of Montreal Credit Agreement (as defined in Note 7). Additionally, the Company had outstanding \$26,113 on the \$50,000 revolving credit facility under the Crystal Credit Agreement, \$30,000 of term loans outstanding under the Crystal Credit Agreement, \$4,387 outstanding on a C\$11,000 (Canadian dollars) revolving credit facility under the Bank of Montreal Credit Agreement, and \$109,680 (including paid-in-kind interest of \$16,469 and net of discount of \$27,929) of term loans outstanding under the Lion Credit Agreement (as defined in Note 8).

The Company believes that it will have sufficient financing commitments to meet funding requirements for the next twelve months.

The Company is in the process of executing a plan, which was commenced in late 2010, to improve its operating performance and financial position. During 2012, the Company improved its distribution operations and timing of store replenishments, implemented a new e-commerce platform, refined its promotion and inventory allocation strategy and implemented a new production forecasting system. These initiatives allowed the Company to reduce its unit inventory levels and thereby improve working capital. The Company also continued to reduce corporate expenses and enhance store inventory management by installing RFID tracking systems. Finally, the Company was in the process of transitioning its distribution operations into a new modern distribution center located in California. For 2013, the Company intends to complete the installation of RFID tracking systems in all of its stores, rationalize merchandise pricing in the wholesale and retail channels, continue to renovate its stores and continue to develop other initiatives intended to either increase sales, reduce costs or improve liquidity. There can be no assurance that plans to improve operating performance and financial position will be successful.

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Principles of Consolidation and Basis of Presentation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of American Apparel, Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. All intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated upon consolidation. Certain reclassifications have been made to the prior year consolidated financial statements and related footnotes to conform them to the 2012 presentation.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP") requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Management bases its estimates on historical experience and on various assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not

readily apparent from other sources. The most complex and subjective estimates include: inventory valuation and obsolescence; valuation and recoverability of long-lived assets, including the values assigned to goodwill, property and equipment; fair value calculations, including derivative liabilities such as the Lion warrants and purchase rights; contingencies, including accruals for the outcome of current litigation and self-insurance liabilities; and income taxes, including uncertain tax positions and recoverability of deferred income taxes.

On a regular basis, management reviews its estimates utilizing currently available information, changes in facts and circumstances, historical experience and reasonable assumptions. After such reviews, and if deemed appropriate, those estimates are adjusted accordingly. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Table of Contents

Restricted Cash

Restricted cash primarily represents cash collateral on standby letters of credit and certain other obligations. The standby letters of credit are predominantly used as collateral for the Company's workers' compensation program. See Note 16.

Concentration of Credit Risk

Financial instruments which potentially subject the Company to credit risk consist primarily of cash (the amounts of which may, at times, exceed Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation limits on insurable amounts) and trade accounts receivable (including credit card receivables), relating substantially to the Company's U.S. Wholesale segment. The Company mitigates its risk by investing through major financial institutions. The Company had approximately \$8,265 and \$9,549 held in foreign banks at December 31, 2012, and 2011, respectively.

The Company mitigates its risks related to trade receivables by performing on-going credit evaluations of its customers and adjusts credit limits based upon payment history and the customer's current credit worthiness, as determined by the review of their current credit information. The Company also maintains an insurance policy for certain customers based on a customer's credit rating and established limits. Collections and payments from customers are continuously monitored. One customer, in the U.S. Wholesale segment, accounted for 15.1% and 16.3% of the Company's total accounts receivables as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. The Company maintains an allowance for doubtful accounts, which is based upon historical experience and specific customer collection issues that have been identified. While bad debt expenses have historically been within expectations and allowances established, the Company cannot guarantee that it will continue to experience the same credit loss rates that it has in the past.

Fair Value Measurements

The Company's financial instruments are primarily composed of cash, restricted cash, accounts receivable (including credit card receivables), accounts payable, revolving credit borrowings and term loans. The fair value of cash, restricted cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and variable rate borrowings closely approximates their carrying value due to their short maturities. The fair value of the fixed-rate term note is estimated using a discounted cash flow analysis.

The valuation techniques utilized are based upon observable and unobservable inputs. Observable inputs reflect market data obtained from independent sources, while unobservable inputs reflect internal market assumptions. These two types of inputs create the following fair value hierarchy:

Level 1 – Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 – Observable inputs other than Level 1 prices such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the related asset or liabilities.

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

The Company utilizes observable market inputs (quoted market prices) when measuring fair value whenever possible. For fair value measurements categorized within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy, the Company's accounting and finance department, who report to the Chief Financial Officer, determine its valuation policies and procedures. The development and determination of the unobservable inputs for Level 3 fair value measurements and fair value calculations are the responsibility of the Company's accounting and finance department and are approved by the Chief Financial Officer.

As of December 31, 2012, there were no transfers in or out of Level 3 from other levels.

The fair value of the fixed rate term note is estimated using a projected discounted cash flow analysis based on unobservable inputs including interest payments, principal payments and discount rate, and is classified within Level 3 of the valuation hierarchy. An increase or decrease in the discount rate assumption, in isolation, can significantly decrease or increase the fair value of the term note. See Note 9.

The fair value of each warrant is estimated using either a Monte Carlo simulation model or the Binomial Lattice option valuation model. Significant observable and unobservable inputs include stock price, exercise price, annual risk

free rate, term, and expected volatility, and are classified within Level 3 of the valuation hierarchy. An increase or decrease in volatility, in isolation, can significantly increase or decrease the fair value of the warrant. See Notes 9 and 13.

The fair value of indefinite-lived assets, which consists exclusively of goodwill, is measured in connection with the Company's annual goodwill impairment test. The fair value of the reporting unit to which goodwill has been assigned, is determined using a projected discounted cash flow analysis based on unobservable inputs including gross profit, discount rate, working capital requirements, capital expenditures, depreciation and terminal value assumptions, and are classified within Level 3 of the

Table of Contents

valuation hierarchy. An increase or decrease in the discount rate assumption and/or the terminal value assumption, in isolation, can have a significant effect on the fair value of the reporting unit. See Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets below.

Retail stores that have indicators of impairment and whose carrying value of assets are greater than their related projected undiscounted future cash flows, are measured for impairment by comparing the fair value of the assets against their carrying value. Fair value of the assets is estimated using a projected discounted cash flow analysis based on unobservable inputs including gross profit and discount rate, and is classified within Level 3 of the valuation hierarchy. An increase or decrease in the discount rate assumption, in isolation, can significantly decrease or increase the fair value of the assets, which would have an effect on the impairment recorded. See Impairment of Long-Lived Assets below.

Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

Goodwill represents the excess of the purchase price over the fair value of identifiable net assets of companies acquired. Goodwill and other intangible assets acquired in a business combination and determined to have an indefinite useful life are not amortized, but are instead tested for impairment at least annually. The Company's annual impairment test date is December 31.

Based on the qualitative assessment provisions of ASC 350 "Intangibles-Goodwill and Other", the Company determined that based on an analysis of qualitative factors, the fair value of the reporting unit was more likely than not greater than its carrying amount, and therefore, a quantitative calculation of the reporting unit's fair value would not be needed. The Company has not historically had any goodwill impairment.

Other intangible assets consist of deferred financing costs (amortized over the term of the applicable debt facility) and key money, broker and finder fees and lease rights (amortized over the life of the respective lease).

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets

The Company evaluates long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. The estimated future undiscounted cash flows associated with the asset would be compared to the asset's carrying amount to determine if a write down to a new depreciable basis is required. If required, an impairment charge is measured by the difference between the carrying value and the estimated fair value of the assets, with such estimated fair values generally determined using the discounted future cash flows of the assets using a rate that approximates the Company's weighted average cost of capital. The Company considers the following to be some examples of important indicators that may trigger an impairment review:

(i) significant under-performance or losses of retail stores relative to expected historical or projected future operating results; (ii) significant changes in the manner or use of the assets or in the Company's overall strategy with respect to the manner or use of the acquired assets or changes in the Company's overall business strategy; (iii) significant negative industry or economic trends; (iv) increased competitive pressures; (v) a significant decline in American Apparel's stock price for a sustained period of time; and (vi) regulatory changes. The Company evaluates acquired assets and its retail stores for potential impairment indicators at least annually and more frequently upon the occurrence of such events.

The key assumptions used in management's estimates of projected cash flow at its retail stores deal largely with forecasts of sales levels, gross margins, and payroll costs. These forecasts are typically based on historical trends and take into account recent developments as well as management's plans and intentions. Any difficulty manufacturing or sourcing product on a cost effective basis would significantly impact the projected future cash flows of the Company's retail stores and potentially lead to an impairment charge for long-lived assets. Other factors, such as increased competition or a decrease in the desirability of the Company's products, could lead to lower projected sales levels, which would adversely impact cash flows. A significant change in cash flows in the future could result in an impairment of long lived assets.

For the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, the Company recognized impairment charges of \$1,647, \$4,267, and \$8,597, respectively, on assets to be held and used. The impairment charges, which primarily related to leasehold improvements and key money of certain U.S. and international retail stores, are included in operating expenses in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations.

Web Site Development

The Company capitalizes applicable costs incurred during the application and infrastructure website development stage and expenses costs incurred during the planning and operating stage. As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, the carrying value of the Company's capitalized website development costs were \$2,242 and \$691, respectively, and were included in property and equipment in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets.

Self-Insurance Accruals

The Company self-insures a significant portion of expected losses under workers' compensation and healthcare benefits programs. Estimated costs under the workers' compensation program, including incurred but not reported claims, are recorded as expense based upon historical experience, trends of paid and incurred claims, and other actuarial assumptions. If actual

Table of Contents

claims trends under these programs, including the severity or frequency of claims, differ from the Company's estimates, its financial results may be significantly impacted. The Company's estimated self-insurance liabilities are classified in its balance sheet as accrued expenses or other long-term liabilities based upon whether they are expected to be paid during or beyond the Company's normal operating cycle of 12 months from the date of its consolidated financial statements. Estimated costs under the Company's healthcare program are based on estimated losses for claims incurred, but not paid at the end of the period. Funding is made directly to the providers and/or claimants by the insurance company.

Income Taxes

The Company recognizes deferred tax assets and liabilities for the expected future tax consequences of events that have been included in the financial statements. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are determined based on the differences between the financial statements and tax basis of assets and liabilities using the enacted tax rates in effect for the year in which the differences are expected to reverse. The effect of a change in tax rates on deferred tax assets and liabilities is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date.

The Company records net deferred tax assets to the extent it believes these assets will more likely than not be realized. In making such determination, the Company considers all available positive and negative evidence, including future reversals of existing taxable temporary differences, projected future taxable income, tax planning strategies and recent financial operations. In the event the Company was to determine that we would be able to realize our deferred income tax assets in the future in excess of their net recorded amount, we would make an adjustment to the valuation allowance, which would reduce the provision for income taxes.

Management makes judgments as to the interpretation of the tax laws that might be challenged upon an audit and cause changes to previous estimates of tax liabilities. In addition, the Company operates within multiple taxing jurisdictions and is subject to audit in these jurisdictions. In management's opinion, adequate provisions for income taxes have been made for all years. If actual taxable income by tax jurisdiction varies from estimates, additional allowances or reversals of reserves may be necessary.

The Company's foreign domiciled subsidiaries are subject to foreign income taxes on earnings in their respective jurisdictions. The Company elected to have their foreign subsidiaries, except for its subsidiaries in Brazil, Canada, China, Spain, Italy, Ireland and Korea, consolidated in the Company's U.S. federal income tax return. The Company will generally be eligible to receive tax credits on its U.S. federal income tax return for most of the foreign taxes paid by the Company's entities included in the United States Federal income tax return.

The Company accounts for uncertain tax positions in accordance with ASC 740-“Income Taxes”, and gross unrecognized tax benefits at December 31, 2011 are included in other long term liabilities in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. The Company accrues interest and penalties, if incurred, on unrecognized tax benefits as components of the income tax provision in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations

Contingencies

Certain conditions may exist as of the date the consolidated financial statements are issued, which may result in a loss to the Company but which will only be resolved when one or more future events occur or fail to occur. The Company assesses such contingent liabilities, and such assessment inherently involves an exercise of judgment. In assessing loss contingencies related to legal proceedings that are pending against the Company or unasserted claims that may result in such proceedings, the Company evaluates the perceived merits of any legal proceedings or unasserted claims as well as the perceived merits of the amount of relief sought or expected to be sought therein.

If the assessment of a contingency indicates that it is probable that a material loss has been incurred and the amount of the liability can be estimated, then the estimated liability would be accrued in the Company's consolidated financial statements. If the assessment indicates that a potentially material loss contingency is not probable but is reasonably possible, or is probable but cannot be estimated, then the nature of the contingent liability, and an estimate of the range of possible losses, if determinable and material, would be disclosed. Legal fees are expensed as incurred. Loss contingencies considered remote are generally not disclosed unless they involve guarantees, in which case the guarantees would be disclosed. There can be no assurance that such matters will not materially and adversely affect

the Company's business, financial position, and results of operations or cash flows.

The Company is subject to proceedings, lawsuits and other claims related to various matters and assesses the likelihood of any adverse judgments or outcomes to these matters as well as potential ranges of probable losses.

Management determines the amount of reserves needed, if any, for each individual issue based on its knowledge and experience and discussions with legal counsel. The required reserves may change in the future due to new developments in each matter, the ultimate resolution of each matter or changes in approach, such as a change in settlement strategy, in dealing with these matters. The Company currently does not believe, based upon information available at this time, that these matters will have a material adverse effect

Table of Contents

on its consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows. There is no assurance that such matters will not materially and adversely affect the Company's business, financial position, and results of operations or cash flows. See Notes 15 and 18, Commitments and Contingencies and Litigation.

Revenue Recognition

The Company recognizes product sales when title and risk of loss have transferred to the customer, there is persuasive evidence of an arrangement, the sales price is fixed or determinable and collectability is reasonably assured.

Wholesale product sales are recorded at the time the product is either picked up by or shipped to the customer. Online product sales are recorded at the time the product is received by the customer. Retail store sales are recorded as revenue upon the sale of product to retail customers. The Company's net sales represent gross sales invoiced to customers, less certain related charges for discounts, returns, and other promotional allowances, and are recorded net of sales or value added tax. Allowances provided for these items are presented in the consolidated financial statements primarily as reductions to sales and cost of sales (see Sales Returns and Allowances below for further information).

The Company recognizes revenue from gift cards, gift certificates and store credits as they are redeemed for product or when it is determined that some portion of gift cards will not be redeemed. See Gift Cards below.

Sales Returns and Allowances

The Company analyzes sales returns in order to make reasonable and reliable estimates of product returns for our wholesale, online product sales and retail store sales based upon historical experience. The Company also monitors the buying patterns of the end-users of its products based on sales data received by its retail outlets. Estimates for sales returns are based on a variety of factors including actual returns based on expected return data communicated to the Company by its customers. Accordingly, the Company believes that its historical returns analysis is an accurate basis for its allowance for sales returns. The Company regularly reviews the factors that influence its estimates and, if necessary, makes adjustments when it believes that actual product returns and credits may differ from established reserves. If actual or expected future returns and claims are significantly greater or lower than the allowance for sales returns established, the Company would record a reduction or increase to net revenues in the period in which it made such determination.

Shipping and Handling Costs

We incur shipping and handling costs in its operations. These costs consist primarily of freight expenses incurred for third-party shippers to transport products to its retail stores and distribution centers and to its wholesale and online retail customers. These costs are included in cost of sales and amounts billed to customers for shipping are included in net sales.

Gift Cards

Upon issuance of a gift card a liability is established for its cash value. The liability is relieved and net sales are recorded upon redemption by the customer. Over time, some portion of gift cards is not redeemed ("breakage"). The Company determines breakage income for gift cards based on historical redemption patterns. Breakage income is recorded as a credit to selling expenses, which is a component of operating expenses in the consolidated statements of operations. Currently, the Company records breakage when gift cards remain unredeemed after two-years. The Company's gift cards, gift certificates and store credits do not have expiration dates. See Note 6.

The Company does not believe there is a reasonable likelihood that there will be a material change in the future estimates or assumptions we use to calculate breakage. However, if the actual rate of redemption of gift cards increases significantly, the Company's operating results could be negatively affected.

Trade Receivables and Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

Accounts receivable primarily consists of trade receivables, including amounts due from credit card companies, net of allowances. On a periodic basis, the Company evaluates its trade receivables and establishes an allowance for doubtful accounts based on its history of past bad debt expense, collections and current credit conditions.

The Company performs on-going credit evaluations of its customers and adjust credit limits based upon payment history and the customer's current credit worthiness, as determined by its review of their current credit information. Collections and payments from customers are continuously monitored. The Company maintains an allowance for doubtful accounts, which is based upon historical experience as well as specific customer collection issues that have

been identified. While such bad debt expenses have historically been within expectations and allowances established, the Company cannot guarantee that it will continue to experience the same credit loss rates that the Company has in the past. If the financial condition of customers were to deteriorate, resulting in an impairment of their ability to make payments, additional allowances may be required.

Table of Contents

Deferred Rent, Rent Expense and Tenant Allowances

The Company occupies its retail stores and combined corporate office, manufacturing, and distribution center under operating leases generally with terms of one to ten years. Some leases contain renewal options for periods ranging from five to fifteen years under substantially the same terms and conditions as the original leases but with rent adjustments based on various factors specific to each agreement. Many of the store leases require payment of a specified minimum rent, a contingent rent based on a percentage of the store's net sales in excess of a specified threshold, plus defined escalating rent provisions. The Company recognizes its minimum rent expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease (including probable lease renewals), plus the construction period prior to occupancy of the retail location, using a mid-month convention. Also included in rent expense are payments of real estate taxes, insurance and certain common area and maintenance costs in addition to the future minimum operating lease payments. Certain lease agreements provide for the Company to receive lease inducements or tenant allowances from landlords to assist in the financing of certain property. These inducements are recorded as a component of deferred rent and amortized as a reduction of rent expense over the term of the related lease.

Advertising, Promotion and Catalog

The Company expenses the production costs of advertising the first time the advertising takes place. Advertising, promotion and catalog expenses for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 amounted to \$22,114, \$15,194, and \$17,537 respectively, and are included in selling expenses in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations. The Company has cooperative advertising arrangements with certain vendors in its U.S. wholesale segment. For the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, cooperative advertising expenses were \$311, \$112, and \$243, respectively.

Share-Based Compensation

The Company recognizes compensation expense on a straight-line basis net of forfeitures over the vesting period for all share-based awards granted. The Company determines the fair value of restricted stock awards based on the market value at the grant date. The Company uses the Black-Scholes option pricing model to determine the fair value of stock option awards at the grant date. The Company calculates the expected volatility using the historical volatility over the most recent period equal to the expected term and evaluates the extent to which available information indicate that future volatility may differ from historical volatility. The risk-free rates for the expected terms of the stock options are based on the U.S. Treasury yield curve in effect at the time of the grant. Due to the lack of historical information, the Company determines the expected term of its stock option awards by using the simplified method, which assumes each vesting tranche of the award has a term equal to the midpoint between when the award vests and when the award expires. Estimated forfeitures are zero, as to date, actual forfeitures have been insignificant. The expected dividend yield is zero as the Company has not paid or declared any cash dividends on its Common Stock. Based on these valuations, the Company recognized share-based compensation expense of \$10,580, \$6,814, and \$3,719 for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

Preferred Stock

At December 31, 2012 and 2011, the Company was authorized to issue 1,000 shares of preferred stock with a par value of \$0.0001 with such designations, voting and other rights and preferences as may be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors. There were no shares issued or outstanding at December 31, 2012 and 2011. Shares may be issued in one or more series.

Earnings per Share

The Company presents earnings per share ("EPS") utilizing a dual presentation of basic and diluted EPS. Basic EPS includes no dilution and is computed by dividing net (loss) income available to common stockholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted EPS includes the potential dilution that could occur if securities or other contracts to issue common stock were exercised or converted into common stock.

At December 31, 2012, the calculations of net loss per share included the effect of 2,500 shares related to the CEO performance based-awards as the Company achieved the EBITDA targets and these shares were no longer contingently issuable. See Note 14.

The Company had common stock under various options, warrants and other agreements at December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010. The weighted average effects of 53,478, 49,270 and 23,050 shares at December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively, were excluded from the calculations of net loss per share for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, because their impact would have been anti-dilutive. See Note 13.

Table of Contents

Comprehensive Loss

Comprehensive loss represents the change in stockholders' equity resulting from transactions other than stockholder investments and distributions. Accumulated other comprehensive loss includes changes in equity that are excluded from the Company's net loss, specifically, unrealized gains and losses on foreign currency translation adjustments and is presented in the consolidated statements of stockholders' equity. The Company presents the components of comprehensive loss within the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive loss.

Accounting Standards Updates

Beginning in the quarter ended March 31, 2012, the Company enhanced its fair value measurement application and disclosures as a result of adopting new requirements issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") in May 2011. The new rules include revisions to the standards for the use of fair value measurements and additional disclosures for: (i) all transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy; (ii) Level 3 measurements; and (iii) hierarchy classifications used for assets and liabilities whose fair value is disclosed only in the footnotes. The new rules did not have a material impact on the Company.

Accounting standards updates effective after December 31, 2012, are not expected to have a material effect on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

Subsequent Events

The Company has evaluated events that occurred subsequent to December 31, 2012 and through the date the financial statements were issued.

Note 3. Inventories

The following table presents the components of inventories at December 31, 2012 and 2011:

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|--|------------|------------|
| Raw materials | \$ 22,301 | \$ 18,326 |
| Work in process | 2,197 | 2,468 |
| Finished goods | 152,384 | 168,902 |
| | 176,882 | 189,696 |
| Less: Reserve for inventory shrinkage and obsolescence | (2,653 |) (3,932 |
| | \$ 174,229 | \$ 185,764 |

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market. Cost is primarily determined on the first-in, first-out (FIFO) method. The cost elements of inventories include materials, labor and overhead. For the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, no one supplier provided more than 10% of the Company's raw material purchases.

The Company identifies potentially excess and slow-moving inventories by evaluating turn rates, inventory levels and other factors and provides reserves for lower of cost or market reserves for such identified excess and slow-moving inventories. At December 31, 2012 and 2011, the Company had a lower of cost or market reserve for excess and slow-moving inventories of \$2,140 and \$2,050, respectively.

The Company establishes a reserve for inventory shrinkage for each of its retail locations and its warehouse. The reserve is based on the historical results of physical inventory cycle counts. The Company has a reserve for inventory shrinkage in the amount of \$513 and \$1,882 at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

Table of Contents

Note 4. Property and Equipment

The following table presents the components of property and equipment at December 31, 2012 and 2011:

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Machinery and equipment | \$ 50,180 | \$ 48,251 |
| Furniture and fixtures | 42,430 | 39,789 |
| Computers and software | 37,556 | 30,410 |
| Automobiles and light trucks | 1,167 | 1,066 |
| Leasehold improvements | 86,623 | 81,078 |
| Buildings | 587 | 574 |
| Construction in progress | 5,293 | 382 |
| | 223,836 | 201,550 |
| Less: Accumulated depreciation and amortization | (156,058 |) (134,112 |
| Total | \$ 67,778 | \$ 67,438 |

Property and equipment is recorded on the basis of cost and depreciated over the estimated used useful lives of fixed assets. The useful lives of the Company's major classes of assets are as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Machinery and equipment | 5 to 7 years |
| Furniture and fixtures | 3 to 5 years |
| Computers and software | 3 to 5 years |
| Automobiles and light trucks | 3 to 5 years |
| Leasehold improvements | Shorter of lease term or useful life |
| Buildings | 25 years |

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the related assets. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs are charged to expense in the year incurred. Expenditures which significantly improve or extend the life of an asset are capitalized and depreciated over the asset's remaining useful life. Amortization of leasehold improvements is computed using the straight-line method over the shorter of the estimated useful lives of the related assets or the lease term. Upon sale or disposition, the related cost and accumulated depreciation are removed from the Company's financial statements and the resulting gain or loss, if any, is reflected in income from operations. Property plant and equipment acquired are recorded as construction in progress until placed in-service, at which time the asset is reclassified to the appropriate asset category and depreciation commences. For the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011, and 2010, depreciation and amortization expense relating to property and equipment was \$22,989, \$24,980 and \$28,130, respectively. At December 31, 2012 and 2011, property and equipment includes \$16,415 and \$12,063, for machinery and equipment held under capital leases, respectively. Accumulated amortization for these capital leases at December 31, 2012 and 2011 was \$12,093 and \$11,874.

The Company identified indicators of impairment present at certain retail stores within its U.S. Retail, Canadian and International segments, specifically related to under-performance or operating loss relative to expected historical or projected future operating results. The Company performed a recoverability test on these stores, and for the stores which failed the test, measured and recorded an impairment charge as applicable. The key assumptions used in the estimates of projected cash flows utilized in both the test and measurement steps of the impairment analysis were sales, gross margins, and payroll costs. These forecasts were based on historical trends and take into account recent developments as well as the Company's plans and intentions. These inputs are considered level 3 in the fair value hierarchy (See Note 2). Based upon the results of the discounted cash flow analysis, the Company recorded an impairment charge on certain retail store leasehold improvements and key money in the U.S. Retail, Canadian, and International segments of \$1,647, \$4,267 and \$8,597 for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011, and 2010, respectively.

On January 11, 2011, the Company entered an agreement to sell and simultaneously lease back all of the Company's unencumbered manufacturing equipment, for a term of four years and an interest rate of 14.8%. The sale price of the manufacturing equipment was \$3,100. The Company has an option, exercisable during the fourth year of the lease term, to repurchase the manufacturing equipment for \$310. On November 16, 2012, the Company renewed the lease

for a term of three years and an interest rate of 16%. The transaction is accounted for as a financing transaction and is recorded in the accompanying consolidated financial statements as a capital lease.

Table of Contents

Note 5. Goodwill, Intangible Assets and Other Assets

Goodwill of \$1,906 is assigned to the U.S. Wholesale segment and is related to the acquisition of American Apparel Dyeing & Finishing, Inc. on June 2, 2005 and American Apparel Garment and Dyeing, Inc. on May 9, 2008.

Based on the qualitative assessment provisions of ASC 350 "Intangibles-Goodwill and Other", the Company determined that the fair value of the reporting unit was more likely than not greater than its carrying amount, and therefore, a quantitative calculation of the reporting unit's fair value would not be needed. For the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, the Company had no goodwill impairment.

The following table presents the net carrying amounts of definite and indefinite lived intangible assets and other assets at December 31, 2012 and 2011:

| | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Deferred financing costs | \$4,101 | \$1,833 |
| Broker and finder fees | 1,486 | 1,488 |
| Lease rights | 213 | 274 |
| Key money store leases | 2,244 | 2,567 |
| Gross amortizable intangible assets | 8,044 | 6,162 |
| Accumulated amortization | (2,048 |) (1,577 |
| Total net amortizable intangible assets | 5,996 | 4,585 |
| Goodwill | 1,906 | 1,906 |
| Workers compensation deposit | 14,624 | 7,022 |
| Lease security deposits | 8,117 | 7,919 |
| Other | 4,140 | 3,592 |
| Total | \$34,783 | \$25,024 |

Deferred financing costs represent costs incurred in connection with the issuance of certain indebtedness and were capitalized as deferred costs and are being amortized over the term of the related indebtedness. The Company incurred related amortization expense of \$2,287, \$1,634, and \$1,473, for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively, which is recorded to interest expense.

Lease rights are costs incurred to acquire the right to lease a specific property. A majority of the Company's lease rights are related to premiums paid to landlords. Lease rights are recorded at cost and are amortized over the term of the respective leases. Property lease terms are generally for 10 years.

Key money is the amount of funds paid to a landlord or tenant to acquire the rights of tenancy under a commercial property lease for a certain property. Key money represents the "right to lease" with an automatic right of renewal. This right can be subsequently sold by the Company or can be recovered should the landlord refuse to allow the automatic right of renewal to be exercised. Key money is amortized over the respective lease terms.

Aggregate amortization expense of intangible assets and other assets (excluding deferred financing costs) is included in operating expenses in the consolidated statements of operations for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 and was approximately \$472, \$752, and \$990, respectively.

The following table presents the estimated amortization expense of deferred financing costs, broker and finder fees, lease rights and key money for each of the five succeeding years as of December 31, 2012:

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| | Amount |
| 2013 | \$2,346 |
| 2014 | 2,217 |
| 2015 | 757 |
| 2016 | 243 |
| 2017 and thereafter | 433 |

Table of Contents

Note 6. Accrued Expenses and Other Current Liabilities

The following table presents the components of accrued expenses and other current liabilities as of December 31, 2012 and 2011:

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|---|----------|----------|
| Compensation, bonuses and related taxes | \$11,524 | \$11,339 |
| Workers' compensation and other self-insurance reserves (Note 16) | 5,288 | 5,318 |
| Sales, value and property taxes | 4,751 | 3,721 |
| Gift cards and store credits | 5,964 | 6,939 |
| Loss contingencies | 752 | 1,575 |
| Accrued vacation | 1,055 | 790 |
| Deferred revenue | 590 | 892 |
| Deferred rent | 2,997 | 2,170 |
| Other | 8,595 | 10,981 |
| Total accrued expenses | \$41,516 | \$43,725 |

Note 7. Revolving Credit Facilities and Current Portion of Long-Term Debt

The following table presents revolving credit facilities and current portion of long-term debt as of December 31, 2012 and 2011:

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|---|----------|----------|
| Revolving credit facility (Crystal), maturing March 2015 | \$26,113 | \$— |
| Term loan (Crystal), maturing March 2015 | 30,000 | — |
| Revolving credit facility (Bank of America), replaced in March 2012 | — | 48,324 |
| Revolving credit facility (Bank of Montreal), maturing December 2013 | 4,387 | 1,995 |
| Current portion of long-term debt (Note 8) | 56 | 56 |
| Total revolving credit facilities and current portion of long-term debt | \$60,556 | \$50,375 |

The Company incurred interest charges of \$41,559, \$33,167 and \$23,752 for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively, for all outstanding borrowings. The interest charges subject to capitalization for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 were not significant.

Revolving Credit Facility and Term Loan - Crystal

On March 13, 2012, the Company replaced its existing revolving credit facility of \$75,000 with BofA with a \$80,000 senior credit facility with Crystal Financial LLC ("Crystal" and the credit facility the "Crystal Credit Agreement") and other lenders. The Crystal Credit Agreement calls for the \$80,000 to be allocated between an asset based revolving credit facility of \$50,000 and term loan of \$30,000. In connection with the financing from Crystal, the Company entered into an amendment to the Lion Credit Agreement. See Notes 8 and 13.

Borrowings under the Crystal Credit Agreement, as amended, are subject to certain borrowing reserves based on eligible inventory and accounts receivable. In addition, the initial availability under the revolving credit facility was increased by \$12,500 for the value associated with the brand name. This initial increase based on the brand name was ratably reduced to \$0 during the period from April 13, 2012 through January 1, 2013. The Crystal Credit Agreement matures on March 13, 2015 and is collateralized by substantially all of the Company's U.S. and U.K. assets and equity interest in certain of its foreign subsidiaries. At December 31, 2012, the Company had \$780 of outstanding letters of credit secured against the Crystal Credit Agreement. The amount available for additional borrowings as of December 31, 2012 was \$8,029.

As of December 31, 2012, the interest under the agreement was 9.31% (the 90-day LIBOR at 0.31% plus 9.0%) and also includes an unused facility fee ranging from 0.375% to 1.0% on the unused portion of the revolving credit facility, payable monthly. Additionally, the interest rate with respect to the brand name portion of the outstanding principal amount was 20.06% (the 90-day LIBOR at 0.31% plus 19.75%). The Crystal Credit Agreement also includes

an early termination fee, if the term loan is prepaid or if the commitments under the revolving credit facility is permanently reduced, of 3.0% if it occurs the second anniversary of the agreement (b) 2.00% if it occurs in the third year.

The Crystal Credit Agreement includes a minimum excess availability covenant that requires the Company to maintain minimum excess availability of the greater of \$8,000, or 10.0% of the borrowing base. If the excess availability falls below this

Table of Contents

minimum, the Company will be required to maintain a fixed charge coverage ratio of not less than 1.00 to 1.00 to be calculated monthly on a consolidated trailing twelve-month basis and continuing until the excess availability exceeds this minimum for sixty consecutive days. Additionally, the Crystal Credit Agreement, as amended, added a new minimum excess availability covenant that required the Company to maintain minimum excess availability to be no less than \$5,000 during the period from December 17, 2012 to February 1, 2013 and also added a minimum monthly Consolidated EBITDA covenant for the remainder of 2012 to be determined at the end of each month. Furthermore, the Crystal Credit Agreement included an annual limitation of capital expenditures at the Company's domestic subsidiaries to no more than \$18,000 for the year ended December 31, 2012 and \$25,000 for each year thereafter. On February 6, 2013, the Company entered into an amendment to the Crystal Credit Agreement ("Crystal Fifth Amendment"), that among other things, (i) allows the Company to borrow based on its trademarks and for such loans to remain outstanding until January 1, 2014; (ii) extends the applicability of the existing minimum EBITDA covenant for the remainder of 2013, (iii) adds a minimum excess availability covenant for the period of December 16, 2013 through February 1, 2014, (iv) amended the amount of capital expenditures limit in fiscal year 2012 from \$17,000 to \$18,000 and (v) provides the consent of the administrative agent and lenders to the Eleventh Amendment to the Lion Credit Agreement.

Among other provisions, the Crystal Credit Agreement requires that the Company maintain an arrangement similar to a traditional lockbox and contains certain subjective acceleration clauses. In addition, Crystal may at its discretion, adjust the advance restriction and criteria for eligible inventory and accounts receivable. Consequently, the amounts outstanding under the Crystal Credit Agreement are classified as a current liability.

During the year ended December 31, 2012, the Company's excess availability was below the minimum amount and as a result, it was required to maintain the fixed charge coverage ratio. As of December 31, 2012, the Company was in compliance with the required financial covenants of the Crystal Credit Agreement.

The Crystal Credit Agreement contains cross-default provisions with the Lion Credit Agreement and the Bank of Montreal Credit Agreement, whereby an event of default occurring under the Lion Credit Agreement or the Bank of Montreal Credit Agreement would cause an event of default under the Crystal Credit Agreement.

Revolving Credit Facility - Bank of America

The Company had a revolving credit facility of \$75,000 with BofA, which was replaced with the Crystal Credit Agreement on March 13, 2012. Borrowings under the BofA Credit Agreement were subject to certain advance provisions established by BofA, and were collateralized by substantially all of the Company's U.S. assets and shares in its foreign subsidiaries.

Interest under the BofA Credit Agreement was at either (1) the 2-month London Interbank Offered Rate ("LIBOR") (0.34% at December 31, 2011) plus 4.50% or (2) BofA's prime rate (which rate in no event could have been lower than LIBOR plus 4.50% per annum and was 3.25% at December 31, 2011) plus 2.50%, at the Company's option. At December 31, 2011 the Company had \$7,545 of outstanding letters of credit secured against the BofA Credit Agreement.

Revolving Credit Facility - Bank of Montreal

On December 29, 2012 the Company's wholly-owned subsidiaries, American Apparel Canada Wholesale, Inc. and American Apparel Canada Retail Inc. (collectively, the "CI Companies"), entered into an amendment to its existing line of credit with Bank of Montreal (the "Bank of Montreal Credit Agreement") that extended the maturity of the agreement to December 31, 2013. The agreement provides for borrowings up to C\$11,000, bearing interest at 7.0% (the bank's prime rate at 3.0% as of December 31, 2012 plus 4.0% per annum payable monthly.) This line of credit is secured by a lien on the CI Companies' accounts receivable, inventory and certain other tangible assets. Available

borrowing capacity at December 31, 2012 was \$1,148.

The Bank of Montreal Credit Agreement contains a fixed charge coverage ratio and restricts the Company's Canadian subsidiaries from entering into operating leases above a specified threshold. Additionally, the Bank of Montreal Credit Agreement imposes a minimum excess availability covenant, which requires the Company's Canadian subsidiaries to maintain at all times minimum excess availability of 5.0% of the revolving credit commitment under the facility.

The Bank of Montreal Credit Agreement contains cross-default provisions with the Crystal Credit Agreement and the Lion Credit Agreement, whereby an event of default occurring under the Crystal Credit Agreement and Lion Credit Agreement would cause an event of default under the Bank of Montreal Credit Agreement.

As of December 31, 2012, the Company was in compliance with all required financial covenants of the Bank of Montreal Credit Agreement.

Table of Contents

Note 8. Long-Term Debt

The following table presents the components of long-term debt as of December 31, 2012 and 2011:

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|--|------------|-----------|
| Long-term debt with Lion (a) | \$ 109,680 | \$ 96,760 |
| Other | 388 | 438 |
| Total long-term debt | 110,068 | 97,198 |
| Current portion of debt | (56 |) (56 |
| Long-term debt, net of current portion | \$ 110,012 | \$ 97,142 |

(a) Including accrued interest paid-in-kind of \$16,469 and \$17,550 and net of discount of \$27,929 and \$20,183 at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

Lion Credit Agreement

The Company has a loan agreement with Lion Capital, LLC ("Lion" and the "Lion Credit Agreement", respectively) and the other lenders party thereto, that provided the Company with term loans in an aggregate principal amount equal to \$80,000. The term loan, as amended, matures on December 31, 2015 and bears interest at a range between 15% and 18% per annum, depending on certain financial covenants, payable quarterly in arrears. For the year end December 31, 2012, the interest rate was 18% per annum. Additionally, for the period from October 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012, the interest rate was increased by 0.52%.

Beginning with the interest accruing from and after September 1, 2012, the Lion Credit Agreement provides for interest at a rate of 5% per annum to be paid in cash. The remainder of the interest, including the additional 0.52% interest, may be payable in kind or in cash at the option of the Company.

The Company's obligations under the Lion Credit Agreement are secured by a second lien on substantially all of the assets of the Company. The Lion Credit Agreement is subordinated to the Crystal Credit Agreement and contains customary representations, and warranties, events of default, affirmative covenants and negative covenants (which impose restrictions and limitations on, among other things, dividends, investments, asset sales, capital expenditures, and the ability of the Company to incur additional debt and liens), and certain financial covenants. The Company is permitted to prepay the loans in whole or in part at any time at its option, with no prepayment penalty.

Significant covenants in the Lion Credit Agreement include an annual limitation of capital expenditures to \$30,000 for fiscal 2012.

The Lion Credit Agreement contains certain cross-default provisions by which noncompliance with covenants under the Crystal Credit Agreement, the Bank of Montreal Credit Agreement and certain other existing and potential agreements also constitutes an event of default under the Lion Credit Agreement.

On March 13, 2012, in connection with the new credit agreement with Crystal Financial (see Note 7), the Company entered into a seventh amendment to the Lion Credit Agreement, which among other things: (i) consented to the Crystal Credit Agreement, (ii) extended the maturity date to December 31, 2015, (iii) reduced the minimum Consolidated EBITDA amounts for any twelve consecutive months as determined at the end of each fiscal quarter and, (iv) modified certain other financial covenants, including covenants related to capital expenditures. The amendment also required that the Lion Warrant be amended (see Note 13). In addition, the seventh amendment modified the Lion Credit Agreement to provide for interest at a rate of 5% per annum to be paid in cash commencing on the interest accruing from and after September 1, 2012 (with the remainder of the interest under the Lion Credit Agreement payable in kind or in cash at the option of the Company).

In connection with the March 13, 2012 amendment, the Company evaluated the change in cash flows in connection with the amendment to the Lion Credit Agreement. The Company determined that there was a greater than 10% change between the present values of the existing debt and the amended debt causing an extinguishment of debt. The Company recorded the modified debt and related warrant at its fair value and recognized a gain of \$11,588 on extinguishment of existing debt. This gain on extinguishment was determined by calculating the difference of the net carrying amount of the Lion debt of \$116,507 (which includes the principal, paid-in-kind interest, fair value of the Lion Warrant, unamortized discount and unamortized deferred financing cost immediately prior to the amendment) and the fair value of the modified debt of \$104,919 (which includes the fair value of modified debt, fair value of the

modified Lion Warrant and amendment related fees). The difference between the carrying net amount of the existing debt of \$121,140 and the fair value of the modified debt of \$86,898 was recorded as a discount to the modified debt, and will be recognized as interest expense using the effective interest method over the remaining term of the Lion Credit Agreement.

Table of Contents

The Lion Credit Agreement also requires a minimum Consolidated EBITDA amount (as specified in the credit agreement) for any twelve consecutive months as determined at the end of each fiscal quarter (Quarterly Minimum Consolidated EBITDA). Additionally, beginning with the twelve consecutive months ended July 31, 2012 through the remainder of 2013, the Lion Credit Agreement includes a second minimum Consolidated EBITDA covenant to be determined at the end of each month (Monthly Minimum Consolidated EBITDA) that conforms to the Crystal minimum Consolidated EBITDA covenant.

As of December 31, 2012, the Company is in compliance with the financial covenants under the Lion Credit Agreement.

Amortization of debt discount included in interest expense was \$8,130, \$7,390 and \$4,524 for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

On February 6, 2013, in connection with the Crystal Fifth Amendment, the Company entered into an eleventh amendment to the Lion Credit Agreement which, among other things, conformed the monthly minimum Consolidated EBITDA to the revised minimum EBITDA covenant under the Crystal Credit Agreement and provided for administrative agent and lender consent to the Crystal Fifth Amendment.

Note 9. Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The fair value of the Company's financial instruments are measured on a recurring basis. The carrying amount reported in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets for cash, accounts receivable (including credit card receivables), accounts payable and accrued expenses approximates fair value because of the short-term maturity of those instruments. The carrying amount for borrowings under the revolving credit facility with Crystal and Bank of Montreal and the term loan approximates fair value because of the variable market interest rate charged to the Company for these borrowings. The fair value of the term loan with Lion was estimated using a discounted cash flow analysis and a yield rate that was estimated using yield rates for publicly traded debt instruments of comparable companies with similar features. The fair value of each warrant was estimated using either a Monte Carlo simulation model or the Binomial Lattice option valuation model.

The Company did not have any assets or liabilities categorized as Level 1 or 2 as of December 31, 2012.

The following table presents carrying amounts and fair values of the Company's financial instruments as of December 31, 2012:

| Level 3 Liabilities | Carrying Amount | Fair Value |
|---|-----------------|------------|
| Long-term debt with Lion, net of discount of \$27,929 and including interest paid-in-kind of \$16,469 | \$ 109,680 | \$ 105,792 |
| Lion Warrant | — | (a) 17,222 |
| SOF Warrant | — | (a) 19 |
| | \$ 109,680 | \$ 123,033 |

(a) No cost is associated with these liabilities (see Note 13).

The following table presents carrying amounts and fair values of the Company's financial instruments as of December 31, 2011:

| Level 3 Liabilities | Carrying Amount | Fair Value |
|---|-----------------|------------|
| Long-term debt with Lion, net of discount of \$20,183 and including interest paid-in-kind of \$17,550 | \$ 96,760 | \$ 86,766 |
| Lion Warrant | — | (a) 9,462 |

| | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| SOF Warrant | — | (a) 171 |
| | \$96,760 | \$96,399 |
| (a) No cost is associated with these liabilities (see Note 13). | | |

Table of Contents

The following summarizes the activity of Level 3 inputs measured on a recurring basis for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011:

Fair Value Measurements Using Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)

| | Warrants | Purchase Rights | Total |
|---|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Balance at January 1, 2011 | \$993 | \$— | \$993 |
| Additions (see Note 13) | 22,547 | 15,605 | 38,152 |
| Exercises | — | (2,857) | (2,857) |
| Realized loss | — | (3,188) | (3,188) |
| Adjustment resulting from change in fair value recognized in earnings | (13,907) | (9,560) | (23,467) |
| Balance at January 1, 2012 | \$9,633 | \$— | \$9,633 |
| Adjustment resulting from change in fair value recognized in earnings | 4,126 | — | 4,126 |
| Gain on extinguishment of debt (see Note 8) | 3,482 | — | 3,482 |
| Balance at December 31, 2012 | \$17,241 | \$— | \$17,241 |

Realized loss is the difference between the net proceeds received and the fair value of the purchase rights acquired related to the April 26, 2011 Investor Purchase Agreement (see Note 13). The realized loss is recorded in unrealized (gain) loss on change in fair value of warrants and purchase rights in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations.

Adjustment resulting from change in fair value is the amount of total gains or losses for the period attributable to the change in unrealized gains or losses relating to liabilities held at the reporting date. The unrealized gain or loss is recorded in unrealized (gain) loss on change in fair value of warrants and purchase rights in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations.

Note 10. Capital Lease Obligations

The Company leases certain equipment under capital lease arrangements expiring at various times through 2017. The assets and liabilities under capital leases are recorded at the lower of the present values of the minimum lease payments or the fair values of the assets. The interest rates pertaining to these capital leases range from 0.4% to 18.0% (average interest rate is 10.9%).

Minimum future payments under these capital leases at December 31, 2012 are:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Year Ending December 31, | |
| 2013 | \$2,291 |
| 2014 | 1,866 |
| 2015 | 1,374 |
| 2016 | 3 |
| 2017 and thereafter | 2 |
| Total future minimum lease payments | 5,536 |
| Less: Amount representing interest | (989) |
| Net minimum lease payments | 4,547 |
| Current portion | 1,703 |
| Long-term portion | \$2,844 |

Table of Contents

Note 11. Income Taxes

The Company's net loss before income taxes includes the following components for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010:

| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| United States | \$ (38,365) | \$ (37,876) | \$ (76,807) |
| Foreign | 4,906 | 283 | 2,656 |
| | \$ (33,459) | \$ (37,593) | \$ (74,151) |

The following table presents the federal and state income tax provision (benefit) for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010:

| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
|----------------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| Current: | | | |
| Federal | \$— | \$— | \$ (2,669) |
| State | 134 | 228 | (355) |
| Foreign | 3,446 | 879 | 1,452 |
| | 3,580 | 1,107 | (1,572) |
| Deferred: | | | |
| Federal | — | — | 10,158 |
| State | — | — | 2,429 |
| Foreign | 233 | 614 | 1,149 |
| | 233 | 614 | 13,736 |
| Income tax provision | \$3,813 | \$1,721 | \$12,164 |

The following table presents a reconciliation of taxes at the U.S. federal statutory rate and the effective tax rate for the years ended December 31:

| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Taxes at the statutory federal tax rate of 35% | (11,711) | (13,158) | (25,953) |
| State tax, net of federal benefit | 4,913 | (18) | 5,411 |
| Change in valuation allowance | 5,123 | 21,794 | 31,522 |
| Federal general business tax credits | — | — | (39) |
| Foreign taxes | (618) | 533 | 1,863 |
| Unrealized loss (gain) on warrants and purchase rights | 4,809 | (8,213) | — |
| Uncertain tax positions | — | — | (342) |
| Other | 1,297 | 783 | (298) |
| Total income tax provision | 3,813 | 1,721 | 12,164 |

Deferred income taxes reflect the net tax effects of (a) temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for income tax purposes, and b) operating losses and tax credit carryforwards.

Table of Contents

The following table presents the tax effects of significant items comprising the Company's deferred taxes as of December 31:

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|--|----------|----------|
| Deferred tax assets: | | |
| Allowance for doubtful accounts | \$778 | \$811 |
| Deferred rent | 7,773 | 8,082 |
| Accrued liabilities and workers' compensation | 12,409 | 10,584 |
| Inventories | 6,731 | 4,885 |
| Federal and California tax credits | 12,067 | 16,205 |
| Net operating loss carryforward | 36,111 | 27,793 |
| Deferred gift card income | 1,866 | 1,978 |
| Fixed assets | 870 | — |
| Foreign tax credits | 8,335 | 5,662 |
| Other comprehensive income | 29 | 3 |
| Other | 848 | 1,654 |
| Total gross deferred tax assets | 87,817 | 77,657 |
| Less valuation allowance | (77,578) | (73,773) |
| Net deferred tax assets | 10,239 | 3,884 |
| Deferred tax liabilities: | | |
| Prepaid expenses | (1,004) | (820) |
| Fixed assets | — | (1,382) |
| Unrealized (gain) loss on warrants and purchase rights | (8,003) | — |
| Other | (35) | (251) |
| Total gross deferred tax liabilities | (9,042) | (2,453) |
| Net deferred tax assets and liabilities | \$1,197 | \$1,431 |

At December 31, 2012, the Company has federal net operating loss carryforwards of approximately \$95,647 expiring beginning in 2030, state net operating loss carryforwards of approximately \$65,390, expiring beginning in 2020 and foreign net operating loss carryforwards of \$7,400 with expiration dates starting in 2014 (certain foreign loss carryforwards do not expire). The Company has performed an analysis and determined it is more likely than not that ownership change has not occurred through December 31, 2012 pursuant to §382 of the I.R.C. and, accordingly, the net operating loss carryforwards through such date are not subject to an annual Section 382 limitation.

The California state tax credits do not expire. Management has determined that it is more likely than not that the tax credits will be unrealized due to the Company's ability to generate substantial credits in excess of credits utilized on an annual basis and has provided a full valuation allowance against the unused California credit carryforwards.

The Company accounts for its uncertain tax positions in accordance with ASC 740-10.

The following table presents a reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of unrecognized tax benefits:

| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
| Gross unrecognized tax benefits at January 1 | \$2,163 | \$1,311 | \$5,138 |
| Increases for tax positions in prior periods | — | 852 | 62 |
| Increases for tax positions in current period | — | — | — |
| Decreases for tax positions in prior period | (2,163) | — | (3,889) |
| Gross unrecognized tax benefits at December 31 | \$— | \$2,163 | \$1,311 |

Included in the balance of unrecognized tax benefits at December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 are \$0, \$1,329, and \$1,311, respectively, of tax benefits that, if recognized, would affect the effective tax rate.

The Company is currently open to audit under the statute of limitations by the Internal Revenue Service for the calendar years ended December 31, 2011 through December 31, 2012. The Company's state and foreign tax returns are open to audit under similar statute of limitations for the calendar years ended December 31, 2007 through 2012.

Table of Contents

The Company agreed to a settlement with the Canadian Revenue Agency (“CRA”) for audit of the years ended December 31, 2005 through December 31, 2007 representing \$830 in additional tax interest and penalty. As a result, the Company's unrecognized tax benefits were decreased by \$552 for the year ended December 31, 2012.

The Company concluded its audit by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service for the years ended December 31, 2008 through December 31, 2010 with no tax owed due to utilization of federal net operating loss carryback. As a result, the Company's unrecognized tax benefits were decreased by \$1,611. The Company is also currently being audited by various state jurisdictions. At this time, the Company does not anticipate these audits to result in a material impact on the Company.

During 2010, the Company filed applications for the change in accounting method resulting in audit protection for prior years for the Company's uncertain tax positions related to United States Federal and State income taxes. As a result, these uncertain tax positions are resolved and the Company's unrecognized tax benefits were decreased by \$3,889 for the year ended December 31, 2010, resulting in a benefit to income tax provision of \$700 for the reversal of a previously recorded valuation allowance and \$300 for accrued interest and penalties.

The Company does not provide for U.S. Federal income taxes on the undistributed earnings (\$30,046 at December 31, 2012) of its controlled foreign corporations which are considered permanently invested outside of the United States. Undistributed cash at controlled foreign corporations, which remains permanently reinvested at December 31, 2012 was \$3,422. Determination of the amount of U.S. income tax liability that would be incurred is not practicable because of the complexities associated with its hypothetical calculation, but would be substantially eliminated as the Company has U.S. net operating losses of approximately \$95,647 at December 31, 2012 and U.S. tax credits of approximately \$12,718 available to utilize to offset the tax effect of repatriation.

Note 12. Related Party Transactions

See Note 8, Long-Term Debt for a description of loans made by Lion to the Company and Note 13, Stockholders' Equity for a description of the warrants issued by the Company to Lion and a purchase agreement, dated April 27, 2011, between Mr. Charney and the Company.

Subordinated Notes Payable to Related Party

At December 31, 2010, the Company had three outstanding loans payable to its CEO for \$4,611. These loans bearing interest at 6% were due at various dates between December 2012 and January 2013. On March 24, 2011, the Company and its CEO entered into, and closed the transactions under, a purchase agreement pursuant to which (i) Mr. Charney purchased from the Company an aggregate of 1,802 shares of Common Stock at a price of \$1.11 per share, for aggregate cash consideration of approximately \$2,000 in cash, and (ii) the three outstanding loans payable, which as of March 24, 2011 had an aggregate book value of approximately \$4,688, including principal and accrued and unpaid interest outstanding, were canceled in exchange for an issuance by the Company of an aggregate of 4,223 shares of common stock at a price of \$1.11 per share with 50% of these shares issued at closing and the remaining shares issuable to Mr. Charney only if prior to March 24, 2014, the closing sale price of common stock exceeds \$3.50 for 30 consecutive trading days or there is a change of control of the Company, as defined in the purchase agreement. For the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 interest expense related to these loans was \$0, \$64, and \$266, respectively.

Personal Guarantees by the Company's CEO

As of December 31, 2012, the CEO of the Company has personally guaranteed the obligations of American Apparel under four property leases aggregating \$7,660 in obligations. Additionally, the CEO of the Company has personally guaranteed the obligations of the Company with one vendor aggregating \$600.

Lease Agreement Between the Company and Related Parties

In December 2005, the Company entered into an operating lease, which commenced on November 15, 2006, for its knitting facility with a related company (“American Central Plaza, LLC”), which is partially owned by the CEO and the Chief Manufacturing Officer (“CMO”) of the Company. The Company's CEO holds an 18.75% ownership interest in American Central Plaza, LLC, while the CMO holds a 6.25% interest. The remaining members of American Central Plaza, LLC are not affiliated with the Company. The lease expired in November 2011 and was subsequently extended

for the next five years on substantially the same terms. Rent expense (including property taxes and insurance payments) related to this lease was \$830, \$622 and \$712 for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

Table of Contents

Payments to Morris Charney

Morris Charney, (“Mr. M. Charney”), is the father of the Company's CEO and serves as a director of American Apparel Canada Wholesale Inc. and a director of American Apparel Canada Retail Inc. Day to day operations of these two Canadian subsidiaries are handled by management and other employees of these subsidiaries, none of whom performs any policy making functions for the Company. Management of American Apparel sets the policies for American Apparel and its subsidiaries as a whole. Mr. M. Charney does not perform any policy making functions for the Company or any of its subsidiaries. Instead, Mr. M. Charney only provides architectural consulting services primarily for stores located in Canada and, in limited cases, in the U.S. Mr. M. Charney was paid architectural consulting and director fees amounting to \$260, \$297 and \$200 for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

Registration Rights

Pursuant to a registration rights agreement between the Company and Dov Charney, entered into in connection with the 2006 reverse merger between American Apparel, Inc. and Endeavor Acquisition Corp, Mr. Charney has both demand and piggyback registration rights relating to the shares of the Company's common stock that he received from that transaction.

Employment Agreement with the Company's CEO

In March 2012 the Company's Board of Directors approved a three-year employment agreement with Mr. Charney commencing on April 1, 2012 that will automatically extend for successive one-year periods unless earlier terminated by the Company. The agreement provides for, among other things, a minimum annual base compensation of \$800 plus performance bonuses and the right to receive 7,500 shares of the Company's common stock, subject to performance hurdles and other terms, and conditions as described in the agreement. See Note 13.

Bonus to the Company's CEO

For the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, the Company recorded \$1,003, \$754 and \$0 in CEO bonus in operating expenses in the consolidated statements of operations.

Note 13. Stockholders' Equity

Authorization of Common Stock

On June 21, 2011 the Company's stockholders approved an amendment to the Company's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of the Common Stock from 120,000 to 230,000.

Common Stock Warrants

Lion Warrants

As of December 31, 2012, Lion held warrants to purchase 21,606 shares of the Company's common stock, with an exercise price of \$0.75 per share. These warrants expire on February 18, 2022.

The Lion Warrants, as amended, contain certain anti-dilution protections in favor of Lion providing for proportional adjustment of the warrant price and, under certain circumstances, the number of shares of the Company's common stock issuable upon exercise of the Lion Warrant, in connection with, among other things, stock dividends, subdivisions and combinations and the issuance of additional equity securities at less than fair market value, as well as providing for the issuance of additional warrants to Lion in the event of certain equity sales or debt for equity exchanges.

The fair value for the warrants at December 31, 2012 was estimated using the Binomial Lattice option valuation model. The fair value of the warrants at December 31, 2011 was estimated using the Monte Carlo simulation valuation model. The calculations as of December 31, 2012 assumed a contractual remaining term of 9.27 years, exercise price of \$0.75, stock price of \$1.01, interest rate of 1.63%, volatility of 73.87% and no dividends. As of December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the fair value of the Lion Warrants was estimated to be \$17,222 and \$9,462, respectively, and in accordance with ASC 815-40 "Derivatives and Hedging - Contracts in Entity's Own Equity", was recorded as a liability in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets.

On March 13, 2012, in connection with the new credit agreement with Crystal Financial, LLC, the Company entered into an amendment to the Lion Credit Agreement (see Note 8), which required that the warrants issued to Lion be

amended to, among other things, extend the term of the warrants to February 18, 2022 and add a provision pursuant to which, if American Apparel did not meet a certain quarterly EBITDA amount, the exercise price of the warrants would be reduced by \$0.25 (a one-time adjustment for the first violation of such covenant; subsequent violations would not result in further adjustment). As of March 31, 2012, the Company did not meet the EBITDA requirement, and, as a result, the exercise price of the existing Lion warrants was reduced by \$0.25 to \$0.75 per share.

Table of Contents

SOF Warrants

As of December 31, 2012, SOF Investments, L.P. ("SOF") held warrants to purchase 1,000 shares of the Company's common stock, with an exercise price of \$2.148 per share, subject to adjustment under certain circumstances. These warrants expire on December 19, 2013.

On March 31, 2012, as a result of the change in exercise price for the Lion Warrants discussed above, the exercise price of the SOF warrants were changed to \$2.148 per share.

The fair value for the warrants at December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011 was estimated using the Binomial Lattice option valuation model. The calculations as of December 31, 2012 assumed a contractual remaining term of 1.0 year, exercise price of \$2.148, stock price of \$1.01, interest rate of 0.16%, volatility of 50.82% and no dividends. As of December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the fair value of the warrants were estimated to be \$19 and \$171, respectively, and in accordance with ASC 815-40, was recorded as a liability in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets.

The following table summarizes common stock warrants issued, forfeited, expired and outstanding (shares in thousands):

| | Number of Shares | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Weighted Average Contractual Life (Years) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Outstanding - January 1, 2010 | 17,000 | \$ 2.05 | 6.1 |
| Issued | — | — | — |
| Forfeited | — | — | — |
| Expired | — | — | — |
| Outstanding - December 31, 2010 | 17,000 | 2.05 | 5.1 |
| Issued (1) | 41,366 | 1.14 | |
| Forfeited (2) | (35,760) |) 1.63 | — |
| Expired | — | — | — |
| Outstanding - December 31, 2011 | 22,606 | 1.05 | 6.0 |
| Issued (2) | 44,212 | 0.90 | |
| Forfeited (2) | (44,212) |) 1.03 | — |
| Expired | — | — | — |
| Outstanding - December 31, 2012 | 22,606 | \$ 0.81 | 8.8 |

Fair value - December 31, 2012 \$17,241

(1) Issued shares at December 31, 2011 include issuances and repriced shares.

(2) Represents repriced shares.

Common Stock and Purchase Rights

On April 26, 2011 and in connection with the February 18, 2011 amendment to the Lion Credit Agreement, the Company entered into a purchase and investment agreement with a group of investors ("Investors") and sold approximately 15,777 shares of common stock at a price of \$0.90 per share and purchase rights to acquire additional shares of common stock for the aggregate net cash purchase price of approximately \$12,417. The purchase rights gave the Investors the right to purchase up to approximately 27,443 additional shares of common stock at a price of \$0.90 per share.

In connection with the purchase agreement with the Investors, the Company entered into a purchase agreement with Mr. Charney that, among other things, allowed Mr. Charney to purchase from the Company 778 shares of common stock at \$0.90 per share, generating net proceeds of \$700, and granted to Mr. Charney a right to purchase up to 1,556 additional shares of common stock on substantially the same terms as the purchase agreement with the Investors (the "Charney Purchase Rights").

The Investor Purchase Rights and Charney Purchase Rights (collectively, the "Purchase Rights") had a fair value of \$15,605 at the date of the agreement. The Company recorded the Purchase Rights as a liability since they met the classification requirements for liability accounting in accordance with the ASC 815-40. The fair value was calculated using the Monte Carlo simulation pricing model, and assumed a stock price of \$1.58, exercise price of \$0.90, volatility of 99.08%, annual risk free rate of 0.11% and a term of 0.5 years. Net proceeds of \$12,417 were allocated entirely to the Purchase Rights. The difference between the net proceeds received and the fair value of the purchase rights aggregating \$3,188 were recorded in unrealized (gain) loss on change in fair value of warrants and purchase rights in the consolidated statements of operations.

Table of Contents

In July 2011, the Investors exercised their purchase rights and acquired 8,407 shares of the Company's common stock for \$0.90 per share, generating net proceeds of \$6,593. The fair value of these exercised rights aggregated \$2,857, which was reclassified in accordance with ASC 815-40 from a liability to stockholders' equity. As a result of the exercise of their purchase rights, the Investors have one remaining demand registration right with respect to their shares, subject to the terms and conditions of the relevant purchase agreement.

In October 2011, the remaining 19,036 Investor Purchase Rights and the 1,556 Charney Purchase Rights expired without being exercised.

The following table summarizes Purchase Rights issued, forfeited and expired (shares in thousands):

| | Number of Shares | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Weighted Average Contractual Life (Years) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Outstanding - January 1, 2011 | — | \$— | — |
| Issued | 28,999 | 0.90 | 0.5 |
| Forfeited | — | — | — |
| Exercised | (8,407 |) 0.90 | — |
| Expired | (20,592 |) — | — |
| Outstanding - December 31, 2011 | — | \$— | — |

The Company's CEO Anti-Dilution Rights

As a condition to the Investors purchasing the shares and as a result of the July 2011 exercises of the Investor Purchase Rights, the Company provided Mr. Charney with certain anti-dilution rights (the "Charney Anti-Dilution Rights"). The Charney Anti-Dilution Rights provided that Mr. Charney has a right to receive from the Company, subject to the satisfaction of certain average volume weighted closing price targets, and other terms and conditions set forth in the agreement, up to approximately 20,416 shares of the Company's common stock as anti-dilution protection. On October 16, 2012, the Company and Mr. Charney entered into an amendment to the anti-dilution provisions contained in the Purchase Agreement with Mr. Charney dated as of April 27, 2011. Subject to receipt of any required stockholder approval under the rules of the NYSE MKT, the amendment extends by one year the measurement periods for Mr. Charney's anti-dilution protection provisions and reduces the length of the corresponding stock price target periods from 60 days to 30 days. The fair value of these awards of \$13,192 was determined under the Monte Carlo simulation pricing model. The calculation was based on the exercise price of \$0, the stock price of \$1.3, annual risk free rate of 0.45%, volatility of 90.46% and a term of 3.5 years.

As amended, each of the shares associated with the anti-dilution provision is issuable in three equal installments, one per each measurement period set forth below, subject to meeting the applicable average volume weighted closing price ("VWAP") for 30 consecutive trading days, calculated as set forth in the purchase agreement with Mr. Charney as follows: (i) for the measurement period from April 16, 2012 to and including April 15, 2014, if the VWAP of the common stock during a period of 30 consecutive trading days exceeds \$3.25 per share; (ii) for the measurement period from but not including April 16, 2014 to and including April 15, 2015, if the VWAP of the common stock during a period of 30 consecutive trading days exceeds \$4.25 per share; and (iii) for the measurement period from but not including April 16, 2015 to and including April 15, 2016, the VWAP of the common stock during a period of 30 consecutive trading days exceeds \$5.25 per share.

The Company considered the shares to be awards with market conditions under ASC 718 "Stock Based Compensation," ("ASC 718"). The related service and amortization period for the shares occurs in three probability-weighted terms of 0.9, 1.8 and 2.7 years corresponding to the three measurement periods above. These awards expire after completion of each respective measurement period. See Note 14.

Sale of Treasury Stock to the Company's CEO

On November 26, 2010, the Board of Directors authorized the sale of 1,130 treasury shares of its common stock at approximately \$1.48 per share, for a total cost of \$1,650 to Mr. Charney.

Table of Contents

Sale of Common Stock to the Company's CEO

On July 7, 2011, the Company sold 778 shares of the Company's common stock to Mr. Charney at \$0.90 per share for total proceeds of \$700.

On March 24, 2011, the Company sold to Mr. Charney 1,802 shares of common stock at a price of \$1.11 per share in cash, for approximately \$2,000.

Also on March 24, 2011, the three promissory notes issued by two subsidiaries of the Company to Mr. Charney, which as of March 24, 2011 had an aggregate outstanding balance of \$4,688, including principal and accrued and unpaid interest (to but not including March 24, 2011), were canceled in exchange for an issuance by the Company to Mr. Charney of an aggregate of 4,223 shares of common stock at a price of \$1.11 per share, with 50% of such shares being issued on March 24, 2011 and the remaining shares issuable to Mr. Charney only if prior to March 24, 2014, (1) the closing sale price of common stock exceeds \$3.50 for 30 consecutive trading days or (2) there is a change of control of the Company.

Earnings Per Share

The Company presents earnings per share ("EPS") utilizing a dual presentation of basic and diluted EPS. Basic EPS includes no dilution and is computed by dividing net loss available to common stockholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted EPS includes the potential dilution that could occur if securities or other contracts to issue common stock were exercised or converted into common stock.

At December 31, 2012, the calculations of net loss per share included the effect of 2,500 shares related to the CEO performance based-awards as the Company achieved the EBITDA targets and these shares were no longer contingently issuable. See Note 14.

The Company had common stock under various options, warrants and other agreements at December 31, 2012 and 2011. The weighted average effects of 53,478, 49,270 and 23,050 shares at December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively, were excluded from the calculations of net loss per share for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, because their impact would have been anti-dilutive.

A summary of the potential stock issuances under various options, warrants and other agreements that could have a dilutive effect on the shares outstanding as of December 31, 2012 and 2011 are as follows:

| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|
| SOF Warrants | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Lion Warrants | 21,606 | 21,606 | 16,000 |
| Shares issuable to Mr. Charney based on market conditions (1) | 20,416 | 20,416 | — |
| Contingent shares issuable to Mr. Charney based on market conditions (2) | 2,112 | 2,112 | — |
| Contingent shares issuable to Mr. Charney based on performance factors (3) | 5,000 | — | — |
| Employee options & restricted shares | 3,344 | 4,136 | 6,050 |
| | 53,478 | 49,270 | 23,050 |

(1) Included Charney Anti-Dilution Rights pursuant to the April 26, 2011 Investor Purchase Agreement

(2) Pursuant to the March 24, 2011 conversion of debt to equity

(3) Pursuant to Mr. Charney's employment agreement commencing April 1, 2012

The table above does not include additional warrants that may be issuable to Lion pursuant to the anti-dilution provisions under the Lion Credit Agreement such as in the event anti-dilutive shares are issued to Mr. Charney pursuant to the Charney Anti-Dilution Rights.

Note 14. Share-Based Compensation

Plan Description - On June 21, 2011 the Company's Board of Directors and stockholders approved the American Apparel, Inc. 2011 Omnibus Stock Incentive Plan (the "2011 Plan"). The 2011 Plan authorizes the granting of a variety of incentive awards, the exercise or vesting of which would allow up to an aggregate of 10,000 shares of the Company's common stock to be acquired by the holders of such awards. In addition, the Board amended the 2007 Performance Equity Plan ("2007 Plan") to provide that as of the July 11, 2011 effective date of registration of the

2011 Plan shares, no new awards shall be made under the 2007 Plan, and any and all shares that would otherwise become available for issuance under the terms of the 2007 Plan by reason of the expiration, cancellation, forfeiture or termination of an outstanding award under such plan shall again be available for grant under the 2011 Plan as of the date of such expiration, cancellation, forfeiture or termination.

82

Table of Contents

The purpose of the 2011 Plan is to provide an incentive to selected employees, directors, independent contractors, and consultants of the Company or its affiliates, and provides that the Company may grant options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, and other stock-based and cash-based awards. As of December 31, 2012, there were approximately 9,251 shares available for future grants under the 2011 Plan.

Restricted Share Awards - The following table summarizes shares of restricted stock that were granted, vested, forfeited and outstanding (shares in thousands):

| | Number of Restricted Shares | Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value | Weighted Average Remaining Vesting Period (in years) |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Non-vested - January 1, 2010 | — | \$— | — |
| Granted | 6,533 | \$1.53 | |
| Vested | (1,263 |) 1.53 | |
| Forfeited | (220 |) 1.53 | |
| Non-vested - December 31, 2010 | 5,050 | \$1.53 | 3.9 |
| Granted | 1,006 | 0.88 | |
| Vested | (2,668 |) 1.38 | |
| Forfeited | (202 |) 1.53 | |
| Non-vested - December 31, 2011 | 3,186 | \$1.45 | 2.7 |
| Granted | 1,418 | 0.93 | |
| Vested | (1,783 |) 1.23 | |
| Forfeited | (177 |) 1.13 | |
| Non-vested - December 31, 2012 | 2,644 | \$1.33 | 1.3 |

Vesting of the restricted share awards to employees may be either immediately upon grant or over a period of four to five years of continued service by the employee in equal annual installments. Vesting is immediate in the case of members of the Board of Directors. Stock-based compensation is recognized over the vesting period based on the grant-date fair value.

Table of Contents

Stock Option Awards - The following table summarizes stock options granted, forfeited, expired and outstanding (shares in thousands):

| | Number of Shares | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Weighted Average Contractual Remaining Life (Years) | Aggregate Intrinsic Value |
|--|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Outstanding - January 1, 2010 | — | \$— | | |
| Granted | 1,000 | 1.75 | | |
| Forfeited | — | — | | |
| Expired | — | — | | |
| Outstanding - December 31, 2010 | 1,000 | \$1.75 | 9.8 | |
| Granted | 700 | 0.82 | | |
| Forfeited | (750) | 1.75 | | |
| Expired | — | — | | |
| Outstanding - December 31, 2011 | 950 | \$1.06 | 9.5 | |
| Granted | — | — | | |
| Forfeited | — | — | | |
| Expired | (250) | 1.75 | | |
| Outstanding - December 31, 2012 | 700 | \$0.82 | 8.8 | |
| Vested (exercisable) - December 31, 2012 | 350 | \$0.82 | 8.8 | \$— |
| Non-vested (exercisable) - December 31, 2012 | 350 | \$0.82 | 8.8 | \$— |

Stock-Based Compensation Expense - During the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, the Company recorded share-based compensation expense of \$10,580, \$6,814 and \$3,719, respectively, related to its share based compensation awards that are expected to vest. No amounts have been capitalized. As of December 31, 2012, unrecorded compensation cost related to non-vested awards was \$14,943 that is expected to be recognized through 2015.

CEO Anti-Dilution Rights - On October 16, 2012, the Company and Mr. Charney entered into an amendment to Mr. Charney's anti-dilution rights (see Note 13). As the amendment lengthened the requisite service period, the Company will recognize the unrecorded compensation cost from the original award of \$2,738 over its remaining service period and recognize the incremental compensation cost as a result of the modification of \$6,854 over the requisite service period of the modified award. During the year ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, the Company recorded share-based compensation expense (included in the above) associated with Mr. Charney's certain anti-dilution rights of \$5,440 and \$3,055, respectively. As of December 31, 2012, unrecorded compensation cost was \$8,444, which is expected to be recognized through 2015.

CEO Performance-Based Award - Pursuant to an employment agreement with Mr. Charney commencing on April 1, 2012, the Company provided to the CEO rights to 7,500 shares of the Company's stock (see Note 12). The shares are issuable in three equal installments, one per each measurement period, only upon the achievement of certain EBITDA targets for each of fiscal 2012, 2013 and 2014. For the fiscal 2012 measurement period, the Company achieved the target EBITDA and as a result, subject to approval by the compensation committee of the Board of Directors, the Company will issue 2,500 shares to Mr. Charney on April 1, 2013.

The grant date fair value of the award is based on the share price of \$0.75 and will be recognized over the related service and amortization period in three probability-weighted terms of 1.2, 2.1 and 3.1 years corresponding to the three measurement periods. During the year ended December 31, 2012, the Company recorded share-based compensation expense of \$2,578. As of December 31, 2012, unrecorded compensation cost was \$3,047, which is expected to be recognized through 2015.

Non-Employee Directors

On January 2, 2013, October 1, 2012, July 2, 2012 and April 1, 2012, the Company issued a quarterly stock grant to each non-employee director of approximately 9, 7, 11 and 12 shares of common stock, based upon the closing prices

of \$1.13, \$1.53, \$0.90 and \$0.82 per share, respectively. Additionally, Messrs. Danzinger and Igelman each received an additional 23 shares for services performed during the second half of 2011. On January 19, 2010, the Company issued the annual stock grant to each non-employee director of approximately 22 shares of common stock, based upon the closing price of \$3.45 per share. Messrs. Capps and Richardson, two former directors who were also representatives of Lion Capital, each agreed to forgo receipt of annual stock grant having an aggregate market value of \$75 at the time of grant. For the year ended December 31, 2011, a \$75

Table of Contents

cash award was paid to five non-employee directors in lieu of the annual stock grant. The share-based compensation is reflected in operating expenses in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations.

Note 15. Commitments and Contingencies

Operating Leases

The Company conducts retail operations under operating leases, which expire at various dates through September 2022. The Company's primary manufacturing facilities and executive offices are currently under a long-term lease which expires on July 31, 2019. Future minimum rental payments (excluding real estate tax and maintenance costs) for retail locations and other leases that have initial or non-cancelable lease terms in excess of one year at December 31, 2012 are as follows:

| | Amount |
|------------|-----------|
| 2013 | \$71,150 |
| 2014 | 65,947 |
| 2015 | 52,901 |
| 2016 | 44,707 |
| 2017 | 37,130 |
| Thereafter | 62,483 |
| Total | \$334,318 |

Operating lease rent expense (including some real estate taxes and maintenance costs) and leases on a month to month basis were approximately \$77,390, \$78,138, and \$86,708, for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011, and 2010, respectively. The Company did not incur any significant contingent rent during the same periods. Rent expense is allocated to cost of sales (for production-related activities) and selling expenses (primarily for retail stores) in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations.

Sales Tax

The Company sells its products through its wholesale business, retail stores and the internet. The Company operates these channels separately and accounts for sales and use tax accordingly. The Company is periodically audited by state taxing authorities and it is possible they may disagree with the Company's method of assessing and remitting these taxes. The Company believes that it properly assesses and remits all applicable state sales taxes in the applicable jurisdictions and has accrued approximately \$289 at both December 31, 2012 and 2011 for state sales tax contingencies.

Customs and duties

The Company is being audited by German customs authorities for the years ended December 31, 2009 through December 31, 2011. In connection with the audit, the German customs has issued retroactive assessments on the Company's imports totaling \$4,802 at the December 31, 2012 exchange rates (assessment was issued in Euros). The size of the retroactive assessments are largely due to member countries of the European Union ("E.U.") limited right to impose retaliatory duties on certain imports of U.S. origin goods into the E.U., based upon the World Trade Organization's ("WTO") Dispute Settlement procedures and the related WTO arbitrator rulings brought into place as a result of EU complaint against the U.S. "Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act of 2000" (the "CDSOA") usually referred to as "the Byrd Amendment". Consequently, the German customs are attempting to impose a substantially higher tariff rate than the original rate that the Company had paid on the imports, approximately doubling the amount of the tariff that the Company would have to pay.

The Company believes that it has valid arguments to challenge the merit of the German customs assessment and has filed litigation in German courts to contest such assessment. However, as the case is still in its preliminary stages, the Company is unable to reasonably estimate the financial outcome of the matter at this time as it cannot predict whether the outcome will be favorable or unfavorable to the Company, or if the Company will be required to advance material amounts during the pendency of the litigation, and accordingly has not recorded a provision for this matter. No assurance can be made that this matter will not result in a material financial exposure in connection with the audit, which could have a material effect on the Company's financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

Advertising

At December 31, 2012 and 2011, the Company had approximately \$4,456 and \$4,378, respectively, in open advertising commitments, which primarily relate to print advertisements in various newspapers, magazines, as well as outdoor advertising and other advertisements. The majority of these commitments are expected to be paid during the remainder of 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Table of Contents

Note 16. Workers' Compensation and Other Self-Insurance Reserves

The Company uses a combination of third-party insurance and/or self-insurance for a number of risks including workers' compensation, medical benefits provided to employees, and general liability claims. General liability costs relate primarily to litigation that arises from store operations. Self-insurance reserves include estimates of both filed claims carried at their expected ultimate settlement value and claims incurred but not yet reported. The Company's estimated claim amounts are discounted using a rate of 0.62% with a duration that approximates the duration of the Company's self-insurance reserve portfolio. As of December 31, 2012 the undiscounted liability amount was \$14,727. The Company's liability reflected on the accompanying consolidated balance sheets represents an estimate of the ultimate cost of claims incurred as of the balance sheet dates. In estimating this liability, the Company utilizes loss development factors based on Company-specific data to project the future development of incurred losses. Loss estimates are adjusted based upon actual claim settlements and reported claims. These projections are subject to a high degree of variability based upon future inflation rates, litigation trends, legal interpretations, benefit level changes and claim settlement patterns. Although the Company does not expect the amounts ultimately paid to differ significantly from its estimates, self-insurance reserves could be affected if future claim experience differs significantly from the historical trends and the assumptions applied.

The workers' compensation liability is based on estimate of losses for claims incurred, but not paid at the end of the period. Funding is made directly to the providers and/or claimants by the insurance company. To guarantee performance under the workers' compensation program, as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, the Company had issued standby letters of credit in the amounts of \$1,100 and \$5,492, respectively, with insurance companies being the beneficiaries, through a bank, and cash deposits of \$14,624 and \$7,022, respectively, in favor of insurance company beneficiaries. At December 31, 2012, the Company recorded a total reserve of \$14,472, of which \$3,778 is included in accrued expenses and \$10,694 is included in other long-term liabilities on the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. At December 31, 2011, the Company recorded a total reserve of \$14,189, of which, \$3,598 is included in accrued expenses and \$10,591 is included in other long-term liabilities on the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. These reserves for potential losses on existing claims are believed to be for potential losses which are probable and reasonably estimable.

In addition to the above workers' compensation liabilities, at December 31, 2012 and 2011, the Company also recorded an accrual of \$150 and \$646, respectively for the estimated liability associated with the ICE inspection. The Company self-insures its health insurance benefit obligations while the claims are administered through a third party administrator. The medical benefit liability is based on estimated losses for claims incurred, but not paid at the end of the period. Funding is made directly to the providers and/or claimants by the insurance company. At December 31, 2012 and 2011, the Company's total reserve of \$1,510 and \$1,720 was included in accrued expenses in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets.

Note 17. Business Segment and Geographic Area Information

The Company reports the following four operating segments: U.S. Wholesale, U.S. Retail, Canada, and International. The Company believes this method of segment reporting reflects both the way its business segments are managed and the way the performance of each segment is evaluated. U.S. Wholesale segment consists of the Company's wholesale operations of sales of undecorated apparel products to distributors and third party screen printers in the United States, as well as the Company's online consumer sales to U.S. customers. U.S. Retail segment consists of the Company's retail operations in the United States, which comprised 140 retail stores operating in the United States as of December 31, 2012. Canada segment includes retail, wholesale and online consumer operations in Canada. As of December 31, 2012, the retail operations in the Canada segment comprised 35 retail stores. The International segment includes retail, wholesale and online consumer operations outside of the United States and Canada. As of December 31, 2012, the retail operations in the International segment comprised 76 retail stores operating in 18 countries outside of the United States and Canada. All of the Company's retail stores sell the Company's apparel products directly to consumers.

The Company's management evaluates performance based on a number of factors; however, the primary measures of performance are net sales and income or loss from operations of each business segment, as these are the key performance indicators reviewed by management. Operating income or loss for each segment does not include unallocated corporate general and administrative expenses, interest expense and other miscellaneous income/expense items. Corporate general and administrative expenses include, but are not limited to: human resources, legal, finance, information technology, accounting, executive compensation and various other corporate level expenses.

Table of Contents

The following table represents key financial information of the Company's reportable segments before unallocated corporate expenses:

| | For the Year Ended December 31, 2012 | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------|---------------|--------------|
| | U.S. Wholesale | U.S. Retail | Canada | International | Consolidated |
| Wholesale net sales | \$149,611 | \$— | \$13,006 | \$10,278 | \$172,895 |
| Retail net sales | — | 198,886 | 48,499 | 141,738 | 389,123 |
| Online consumer net sales | 33,167 | — | 2,164 | 19,961 | 55,292 |
| Total net sales to external customers | 182,778 | 198,886 | 63,669 | 171,977 | 617,310 |
| Gross profit | 51,723 | 130,498 | 37,500 | 107,662 | 327,383 |
| Income (loss) from segment operations | 26,634 | 4,197 | (57 |) 11,929 | 42,703 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 6,322 | 10,909 | 1,543 | 4,215 | 22,989 |
| Capital expenditures | 9,791 | 6,626 | 1,607 | 3,583 | 21,607 |
| Retail store impairment | — | 243 | 130 | 1,274 | 1,647 |
| Deferred rent expense (benefit) | 523 | (706 |) (197 |) (515 |) (895 |
| | | | | |) |
| | For the Year Ended December 31, 2011 | | | | |
| | U.S. Wholesale | U.S. Retail | Canada | International | Consolidated |
| Wholesale net sales | \$132,135 | \$— | \$11,492 | \$10,406 | \$154,033 |
| Retail net sales | — | 174,837 | 48,527 | 126,868 | 350,232 |
| Online consumer net sales | 24,319 | — | 1,846 | 16,906 | 43,071 |
| Total net sales to external customers | 156,454 | 174,837 | 61,865 | 154,180 | 547,336 |
| Gross profit | 42,599 | 117,228 | 35,799 | 99,274 | 294,900 |
| Income (loss) from segment operations | 22,406 | (4,659 |) (3,695 |) 8,434 | 22,486 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 7,757 | 10,492 | 1,567 | 5,164 | 24,980 |
| Capital expenditures | 3,638 | 4,889 | 407 | 2,136 | 11,070 |
| Retail store impairment | — | 558 | 808 | 2,901 | 4,267 |
| Deferred rent expense (benefit) | 257 | (1,662 |) (121 |) (443 |) (1,969 |
| | | | | |) |
| | For the Year Ended December 31, 2010 | | | | |
| | U.S. Wholesale | U.S. Retail | Canada | International | Consolidated |
| Wholesale net sales | \$127,749 | \$— | \$11,915 | \$11,474 | \$151,138 |
| Retail net sales | — | 177,610 | 51,969 | 116,800 | 346,379 |
| Online consumer net sales | 21,248 | — | 1,754 | 12,470 | 35,472 |
| Total net sales to external customers | 148,997 | 177,610 | 65,638 | 140,744 | 532,989 |
| Gross profit | 32,007 | 117,496 | 43,309 | 87,097 | 279,909 |
| Income (loss) from segment operations | 11,200 | (18,455 |) 5,051 | (5,064 |) (7,268 |
| | | | | |) |
| Depreciation and amortization | 9,282 | 10,484 | 2,170 | 6,194 | 28,130 |
| Capital expenditures | 4,696 | 7,584 | 1,456 | 1,965 | 15,701 |
| Retail store impairment | — | 4,366 | 1,348 | 2,883 | 8,597 |
| Deferred rent expense (benefit) | 431 | 1,437 | (152 |) 1,247 | 2,963 |

Table of Contents

Reconciliation of reportable segments consolidated income (loss) from operations for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 to the consolidated loss before income taxes is as follows:

| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
|---|------------|------------|------------|
| Income (loss) from operations of reportable segments | \$42,703 | \$22,486 | \$(7,268) |
| Unallocated corporate expenses | (41,741) | (45,779) | (42,785) |
| Interest expense | 41,559 | 33,167 | 23,752 |
| Foreign currency transaction loss (gain) | 120 | 1,679 | (686) |
| Unrealized loss (gain) on change in fair value of warrant and purchase rights | 4,126 | (23,467) | 993 |
| (Gain) loss on extinguishment of debt | (11,588) | 3,114 | — |
| Other expense (income) | 204 | (193) | 39 |
| Consolidated loss before income taxes | \$(33,459) | \$(37,593) | \$(74,151) |

Net sales by each reportable segment's class of customer and geographic location of customer for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011, and 2010 consist of the following:

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
| Net sales by geographic location of customer: | | | |
| United States | \$381,664 | \$331,290 | \$326,607 |
| Canada | 63,669 | 61,866 | 65,638 |
| Europe (excluding United Kingdom) | 66,861 | 68,130 | 68,958 |
| United Kingdom | 47,694 | 40,039 | 32,535 |
| South Korea | 10,732 | 9,749 | 9,547 |
| China | 5,317 | 3,857 | 2,609 |
| Japan | 20,336 | 14,176 | 10,716 |
| Australia | 14,035 | 11,557 | 9,474 |
| Other foreign countries | 7,002 | 6,672 | 6,905 |
| Total consolidated net sales | \$617,310 | \$547,336 | \$532,989 |

Long-lived assets—property and equipment, net by geographic location, is summarized as follows as of December 31,:

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| United States | \$50,551 | \$49,906 |
| Canada | 5,079 | 5,041 |
| Europe (excluding the United Kingdom) | 3,987 | 4,134 |
| United Kingdom | 4,500 | 5,091 |
| South Korea | 433 | 308 |
| China | 358 | 110 |
| Japan | 1,097 | 1,141 |
| Australia | 1,057 | 1,146 |
| Other foreign countries | 716 | 561 |
| Total consolidated long-lived assets | \$67,778 | \$67,438 |

Identifiable assets by reportable segment:

| | | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| U.S. Wholesale | \$153,856 | \$141,732 |
| U.S. Retail | 76,709 | 84,840 |
| Canada | 28,586 | 30,129 |
| International | 69,061 | 68,020 |
| Total | \$328,212 | \$324,721 |

Table of Contents

Foreign subsidiaries accounted for the following percentages of total assets and total liabilities as of December 31,:

| | 2012 | 2011 | |
|-------------------|------|--------|---|
| Total assets | 29.8 | % 30.2 | % |
| Total liabilities | 10.9 | % 11.2 | % |

Note 18. Litigation

The Company is subject to various claims and contingencies in the ordinary course of business, including those related to litigation, business transactions, employee-related matters and taxes, and others. When the Company is aware of a claim or potential claim, it assesses the likelihood of any loss or exposure. If it is probable that a loss will result and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated, the Company will record a liability for the loss. In addition to the estimated loss, the recorded liability includes probable and estimable legal costs associated with the claim or potential claim. There is no assurance that such matters will not materially and adversely affect the Company's business, financial position, and results of operations or cash flows.

Individual Actions

On February 7, 2006, Sylvia Hsu, a former employee of American Apparel, filed a Charge of Discrimination with the Los Angeles District Office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") (Hsu v. American Apparel: Charge No. 480- 2006-00418), alleging that she was subjected to sexual harassment by a co-worker and constructively discharged as a result of the sexual harassment and a hostile working environment. On March 9, 2007, the EEOC expanded the scope of its investigation to other employees of American Apparel who may have been sexually harassed. On August 9, 2010, the EEOC issued a written determination finding that reasonable cause exists to believe the Company discriminated against Ms. Hsu and women, as a class, on the basis of their female gender, by subjecting them to sexual harassment. No finding was made on the issue of Ms. Hsu's alleged constructive discharge. In its August 19, 2010 written determination, the EEOC has invited the parties to engage in informal conciliation. If the parties are unable to reach a settlement which is acceptable to the EEOC, the EEOC will advise the parties of the court enforcement alternatives available to Ms. Hsu, aggrieved persons, and the EEOC. The Company has not recorded a provision for this matter and is working cooperatively with the EEOC to resolve the claim in a manner acceptable to all parties. The Company does not believe at this time that any settlement will involve a payment of damages in an amount that would be material to and adversely affect the Company's business, financial position, and results of operations or cash flows.

On November 5, 2009, Guillermo Ruiz, a former employee of American Apparel, filed suit against the Company on behalf of putative classes of all current and former non-exempt California employees (Guillermo Ruiz, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated v. American Apparel, Inc., Case Number BC425487) in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles, alleging the Company failed to pay certain wages due for hours worked, to provide meal and rest periods or compensation in lieu thereof and to pay wages due upon termination to certain of the Company's employees. The complaint further alleges that the Company failed to comply with certain itemized employee wage statement provisions and violations of unfair competition law. The plaintiff is seeking compensatory damages and economic and/or special damages in an unspecified amount, premium pay, wages and penalties, injunctive relief and restitution, and reimbursement for attorneys' fees, interest and the costs of the suit. This matter is now proceeding in arbitration.

On June 21, 2010, Antonio Partida, a former employee of American Apparel, filed suit against the Company on behalf of putative classes of current and former non-exempt California employees (Antonio Partida, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated v. American Apparel (USA), LLC, Case No. 30-2010-00382719-CU-OE-CXC) in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Orange, alleging the Company failed to pay certain wages for hours worked, to provide meal and rest periods or compensation in lieu thereof, and to pay wages due upon separation. The complaint further alleges that the Company failed to timely pay wages, unlawfully deducted wages and failed to comply with certain itemized employee wage statement provisions and violations of unfair competition law. The plaintiff is seeking compensatory damages and economic and/or special damages in an unspecified amount, premium pay, wages and penalties, injunctive relief and restitution, and reimbursement of attorneys' fees, interest and

the costs of the suit. This matter is now proceeding in arbitration.

On or about December 2, 2010, Emilie Truong, a former employee of American Apparel, filed suit against the Company on behalf of putative classes of current and former non-exempt California employees (Emilie Truong, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated v. American Apparel, Inc. and American Apparel LLC, Case No. BC450505) in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles, alleging the Company failed to timely provide final paychecks upon separation. Plaintiff is seeking unspecified premium wages, attorneys' fees and costs, disgorgement of profits, and an injunction against the alleged unlawful practices. This matter is now proceeding in arbitration.

Table of Contents

On or about February 9, 2011, Jessica Heupel, a former retail employee filed suit on behalf of putative classes of current and former non-exempt California employees (Jessica Heupel, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated v. American Apparel Retail, Inc., Case No. 37-2011-00085578-CU-OE-CTL) in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of San Diego, alleging the Company failed to pay certain wages for hours worked, to provide meal and rest periods or compensation in lieu thereof, and to pay wages due upon separation. The plaintiff is seeking monetary damages as follows: (1) for alleged meal and rest period violations; (2) for alleged failure to timely pay final wages, as well as for punitive damages for the same; and (3) unspecified damages for unpaid minimum wage and overtime. In addition, Plaintiff seeks premium pay, wages and penalties, injunctive relief and restitution, and reimbursement of attorneys' fees, interest and the costs of the suit. This matter is now proceeding in arbitration. On or about September 9, 2011, Anthony Heupel, a former retail employee initiated arbitration proceedings on behalf of putative classes of current and former non-exempt California employees, alleging the Company failed to pay certain wages for hours worked, to provide meal and rest periods or compensation in lieu thereof, and to pay wages due upon separation. The plaintiff is seeking monetary damages in an amount in excess of \$3,600, as follows: (1) for alleged meal and rest period violations; (2) for alleged failure to timely pay final wages, as well as for punitive damages for the same; and (3) unspecified damages for unpaid minimum wage and overtime. In addition, Plaintiff seeks premium pay, wages and penalties, injunctive relief and restitution, and reimbursement of attorneys' fees, interest and the costs of the suit. This matter is now proceeding in arbitration.

The Company does not have insurance coverage for the above matters. The Company has accrued an estimate for the loss contingency for each of the above matters (excluding the Hsu case as noted above) in the Company's accompanying consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2012. The Company may have an exposure to loss in excess of the amounts accrued, however, an estimate of such potential loss cannot be made at this time. Moreover, no assurance can be made that these matters either individually or together with the potential for similar suits and reputational harm, will not result in a material financial exposure, larger than the Company's estimate, which could have a material adverse effect upon the Company's financial condition and results of operations.

Additionally, the Company is currently engaged in other employment-related claims and other matters incidental to the Company's business. The Company believes that all such claims against the Company are without merit or not material, and the Company intends to vigorously dispute the validity of the plaintiffs' claims. While the ultimate resolution of such claims cannot be determined, based on information at this time, the Company believes, but the Company cannot provide assurance that, the amount, and ultimate liability, if any, with respect to these actions will not materially affect the Company's business, financial position, results of operations, or cash flows. Should any of these matters be decided against the Company, the Company could not only incur liability but also experience an increase in similar suits and suffer reputational harm.

Derivative Matters

Two shareholder derivative lawsuits (Case No. CV106576 GAF (JCx) and Case No. CV107518 RSWL (FFMx)) were filed in the United States District Court for the Central District of California which were subsequently consolidated for all purposes into a case entitled In re American Apparel, Inc. Shareholder Derivative Litigation, Lead Case No. CV106576 (the "Federal Derivative Action"). Plaintiffs in the Federal Derivative Action allege a cause of action for breach of fiduciary duty arising out of (i) the Company's alleged failure to maintain adequate accounting and internal control policies and procedures; (ii) the Company's alleged violation of state and federal immigration laws in connection with the previously disclosed termination of over 1,500 employees following an Immigration and Customs Enforcement inspection; and (iii) the Company's alleged failure to implement controls sufficient to prevent a sexually hostile and discriminatory work environment. The Company does not maintain any direct exposure to loss in connection with these shareholder derivative lawsuits. The Company's status as a "Nominal Defendant" in the actions reflects the fact that the lawsuits are maintained by the named plaintiffs on behalf of American Apparel and that plaintiffs seek damages on the Company's behalf. The Company filed a motion to dismiss the Federal Derivative Action which was granted with leave to amend on July 31, 2012. Plaintiffs did not amend the complaint and subsequently filed a motion to dismiss each of their claims, with prejudice, for the stated purpose of taking an immediate appeal of the Court's July 31, 2012 order. On October 16, 2012, the Court granted the Plaintiffs' motion to dismiss and entered judgment accordingly. On November 12, 2012, Plaintiffs filed a Notice of Appeal to the Ninth

Circuit Court of Appeals where the case is currently pending.

Four shareholder derivative lawsuits (Case No. BC 443763, Case No. BC 443902, Case No. BC 445094, and Case No. BC 447890) were filed in fall of 2010 in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles which were subsequently consolidated for all purposes into a case entitled In re American Apparel, Inc. Shareholder Derivative Litigation, Lead Case No. BC 443763 (the "State Derivative Action").

Three of the matters comprising the State Derivative Action allege causes of action for breach of fiduciary duty arising out of (i) the Company's alleged failure to maintain adequate accounting and internal control policies and procedures; and (ii) the Company's alleged violation of state and federal immigration laws in connection with the previously disclosed termination

Table of Contents

of over 1,500 employees following an Immigration and Customs Enforcement inspection. The fourth matter alleges seven causes of action for breach of fiduciary duty, unjust enrichment, abuse of control, gross mismanagement, and waste of corporate assets also arising out of the same allegations. On April 12, 2011, the Court issued an order granting a stay (which currently remains in place) of the State Derivative Action on the grounds that the case is duplicative of the Federal Derivative Action, as well as the Federal Securities Action currently pending in the United States District Court for the Central District of California (see below).

Both the Federal Derivative Action and State Derivative Actions are covered under the Company's Directors and Officers Liability insurance policy, subject to a deductible and a reservation of rights.

Other Proceedings

Four putative class action lawsuits, (Case No. CV106352 MMM (RCx), Case No. CV106513 MMM (RCx), Case No. CV106516 MMM (RCx), and Case No. CV106680 GW (JCGx)) were filed in the United States District Court for the Central District of California in the Fall of 2010 against American Apparel and certain of the Company's officers and executives on behalf of American Apparel shareholders who purchased the Company's common stock between December 19, 2006 and August 17, 2010. On December 3, 2010, the four lawsuits were consolidated for all purposes into a case entitled In re American Apparel, Inc. Shareholder Litigation, Lead Case No. CV106352 MMM (JCGx) (the "Federal Securities Action"). The lead plaintiff alleges two causes of action for violations of Section 10(b) and 20(a) of the 1934 Act, and Rule 10b-5 promulgated under Section 10(b), arising out of alleged misrepresentations contained in the Company's press releases, public filings with the SEC, and other public statements relating to (i) the adequacy of the Company's internal and financial control policies and procedures; (ii) the Company's employment practices; and (iii) the effect that the dismissal of over 1,500 employees following an Immigration and Customs Enforcement inspection would have on the Company. Plaintiff seeks damages in an unspecified amount, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, and equitable relief as the Court may deem proper. The Company filed two motions to dismiss the Federal Securities Action which the court granted with leave to amend. Plaintiffs filed a Second Amended Complaint on February 15, 2013 to which the Company must respond by April 1, 2013. The Federal Securities Action is covered under the Company's Directors and Officers Liability insurance policy, subject to a deductible and a reservation of rights.

Should any of the above matters (i.e., the Federal Derivative Action, the State Derivative Action, or the Federal Securities Action) be decided against the Company in an amount that exceeds the Company's insurance coverage, or if liability is imposed on grounds which fall outside the scope of the Company's insurance coverage, the Company could not only incur a substantial liability, but also experience an increase in similar suits and suffer reputational harm. The Company is unable to predict the financial outcome of these matters at this time, and any views formed as to the viability of these claims or the financial exposure which could result may change from time to time as the matters proceed through their course. However, no assurance can be made that these matters, either individually or together with the potential for similar suits and reputational harm, will not result in a material financial exposure, which could have a material adverse effect upon the Company's financial condition and results of operations.

The Company has previously disclosed an arbitration filed by the Company on February 17, 2011, related to cases filed in the Supreme Court of New York, County of Kings (Case No. 5018-1) and Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Los Angeles (Case Nos. BC457920 and BC460331) against American Apparel, Dov Charney and certain members of the Board of Directors asserting claims of sexual harassment, assault and battery, impersonation through the internet, defamation and other related claims. The Company recently settled one of these cases with no monetary liability to the Company. The Company recently prevailed on the sexual harassment claims in another of these cases. While the ultimate resolution of the remaining claims cannot be determined, in light of the favorable ruling in one of these cases, the amount of settlement in the other of these cases, and based on information available at this time regarding the remaining cases, the Company believes, but the Company cannot provide assurances that, the amount and ultimate liability, if any, with respect to these remaining actions will not materially affect the Company's business, financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.

Table of Contents

Schedule II

American Apparel, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Valuation and Qualifying Accounts

(Amounts in thousands)

| Description | Balance at Beginning of Year | Charged to Costs and Expenses | Deductions (Recoveries) | Other | Balance at End of Year |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Allowance for trade accounts receivable: | | | | | |
| For the year ended December 31, 2012 | \$2,195 | \$99 | \$— | \$(209) | \$2,085 |
| For the year ended December 31, 2011 | \$2,630 | \$996 | \$— | \$(1,431) | \$2,195 |
| For the year ended December 31, 2010 | \$1,763 | \$1,357 | \$— | \$(490) | \$2,630 |

| Description | Balance at Beginning of Year | Charged to Costs and Expenses | Deductions (Recoveries) | Other | Balance at End of Year |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Reserve for inventory shrinkage and obsolescence: | | | | | |
| For the year ended December 31, 2012 | \$3,932 | \$690 | \$— | \$(1,969) | \$2,653 |
| For the year ended December 31, 2011 | \$5,853 | \$(1,652) | \$— | \$(269) | \$3,932 |
| For the year ended December 31, 2010 | \$4,802 | \$1,033 | \$— | \$18 | \$5,853 |

| Description | Balance at Beginning of Year | Increase in Allowance | Deductions to Allowance | Other | Balance at End of Year |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------|------------------------|
| Valuation allowance of deferred tax assets: | | | | | |
| For the year ended December 31, 2012 | \$73,773 | \$4,720 | \$(915) | \$— | \$77,578 |
| For the year ended December 31, 2011 | \$51,979 | \$21,794 | \$— | \$— | \$73,773 |
| For the year ended December 31, 2010 | \$20,457 | \$31,522 | \$— | \$— | \$51,979 |

Table of Contents

Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosures

None.

93

Table of Contents

Item 9A. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

As of the end of the period covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K, we performed an evaluation under the supervision and with the participation of management, including our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer, of the design and effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) or 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as amended (the "Exchange Act"). Based upon that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded, as of the end of the period covered by this Annual Report that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective.

Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as is defined in the Exchange Act. Internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of our financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external reporting purposes in accordance with GAAP.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Our management conducted an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting based on the framework in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Based on this evaluation, and the opinion expressed by our external auditor's attestation report, our management concluded that our internal controls over financial reporting were operating effectively as of December 31, 2012.

Based on the COSO criteria, management remediated control deficiencies that constituted a material weakness in our prior reported financial statements. A "material weakness" is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting, such that there is more than a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Company's annual or interim financial statements will not be prevented or detected on a timely basis.

Remediation of Previously Identified Material Weakness & Other Remediation Activities

We implemented certain internal controls to remediate the weakness in our internal controls over financial reporting and inventory during 2012. Our remediated material weakness as of December 31, 2012 represented a continuing material weakness identified as of December 31, 2008. The following describes the remediation activities performed during 2012 for the completed remediation of the material weakness over financial reporting and inventory as disclosed in the annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Over the course of 2012, we implemented the following activities to fully remediate the material weakness: 1) We implemented a continuing professional education training system for our financial reporting and consolidation team. 2) We performed adequate independent reviews and maintained effective controls related to the preparation of consolidated financial statements. 3) We improved our internal controls over forecasting and inventory demand planning performed by our production planning and forecasting department. 4) We streamlined our inventory costing process and analysis which facilitated timelier and more accurate reporting. 5) We refreshed and updated our standard costing systems to reflect the recent trends in raw material costs, labor rates, and manufacturing overhead absorption rates. 6) We implemented a reoccurring update process for our standard costing system to ensure standard cost continually reflects timely updates. 7) We completed the process to review and improve internal controls related to cost accounting and established procedures for cost data validation and enhanced historical cost reporting, including implementation of inventory control and checklist procedures. 8) We simplified specific accounting analysis reducing the potential for error in accruals. 9) We substantially improved the procedures related to analysis of inventory reserve accounts. 10) We continued to enhance our international cost accounting procedures for intercompany inventory transfers and inventory valuation. 11) We implemented improved controls over analysis of budget to actual results. 12) We implemented monthly financial statement detailed review meetings with all divisional controllers to further improve our review controls over detail trial balance reviews and supporting documentation.

Changes in Internal Controls over Financial Reporting

There have been no changes (other than those described above) in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act) during the most recent fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2012 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Table of Contents

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

To the Audit Committee of the
Board of Directors and Stockholders of
American Apparel, Inc.

We have audited American Apparel, Inc. and Subsidiaries' (the "Company") internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012, based on criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying "Management Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting". Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audit also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, American Apparel, Inc. and Subsidiaries maintained, in all material aspects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2012 and 2011 and the related consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive loss, stockholders' equity, and cash flows and the related financial statement schedule

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN APPAREL, INC - Form 10-K

for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 of the Company and our report dated March 5, 2013 expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements and financial statement schedule.

/s/ Marcum LLP
Marcum LLP
Melville, NY
March 5, 2013

Table of Contents

Item 9B. Other Information

Not applicable.

PART III

Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance

The information required by this item will be included under the following captions in the 2013 Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference: “Directors and Executive Officers,” “Corporate Governance and Board Matters” and “Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance.”

Item 11. Executive Compensation

The information required by this item will be included under the following captions in the 2013 Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference: “Process and Procedures for Determination of Executive and Director Compensation,” “Compensation of Directors,” “Director Compensation—Fiscal 2012,” “Compensation Discussion and Analysis,” “Compensation Committee Report on Executive Compensation,” “Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation,” “Summary Compensation Table,” and “Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table.”

Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters

The information required by this item will be included under the following captions in the 2013 Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference: “Equity Compensation Plan Information” and “Beneficial Ownership of Shares.”

Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions and Director Independence

The information required by this item will be included under the following captions in the 2013 Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference: “Certain Relationships and Related Transactions” and “Corporate Governance and Board Matters.”

Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services

The information required by this item will be included under the caption “Relationship with Independent Auditors” in the 2013 Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

PART IV

Item 15. Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules

a. Documents filed as part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K:

1. Financial Statements: See “Index to Consolidated Financial Statements” in Part II, Item 8 of this Form 10-K.
2. Financial Statement Schedule: The following consolidated financial statement schedule of American Apparel, Inc. and its subsidiaries is included in Part II, Item 8:

Schedule II—Valuation and Qualifying Accounts

Schedules other than those listed above are omitted because of an absence of the conditions under which they are required or because the required information is shown in the consolidated financial statements and/or notes thereto.

b.

Exhibits: The exhibits listed in the accompanying index to exhibits are filed or incorporated by reference as part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

In reviewing the agreements included as exhibits to this Annual Report on Form 10-K, please remember they are included to provide you with information regarding their terms and are not intended to provide any other factual or disclosure information about our or the other parties to the agreements. The agreements contain representations and warranties by each of the parties to the applicable agreement. These representations and warranties have been made solely for the benefit of the other parties to the applicable agreement and:

Table of Contents

• should not in all instances be treated as categorical statements of fact, but rather as a way of allocating the risk to one of the parties if those statements prove to be inaccurate;

• have been qualified by disclosures that were made to the other party in connection with the negotiation of the applicable agreement, which disclosures are not necessarily reflected in the agreement;

• may apply standards of materiality in a way that is different from what may be viewed as material to you or other investors; and

• were made only as of the date of the applicable agreement or such other date or dates as may be specified in the agreement and are subject to more recent developments.

Accordingly, these representations and warranties may not describe the actual state of affairs as of the date they were made or at any other time. Additional information about our may be found elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K and in our other public filings, which are available without charge through the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

Table of Contents

| Exhibit No. | Description |
|-------------|---|
| 2.1 | Acquisition Agreement, dated as of December 18, 2006 and amended and restated on November 7, 2007, by and among American Apparel, Inc., AAI Acquisition LLC, American Apparel, Inc., a California corporation, American Apparel, LLC, each of American Apparel Canada Wholesale Inc. and American Apparel Canada Retail Inc. (together the “CI companies”), Dov Charney, Sam Lim, and the stockholders of each of the CI companies (included as Annex A of the Definitive Proxy Statement (File No. 001-32697) filed November 28, 2007 and incorporated by reference herein). |
| 3.1 | Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of American Apparel, Inc. (included as Exhibit 3.1 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed December 18, 2007 and incorporated by reference herein). |
| 3.2 | Certificate of Amendment to the Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of American Apparel, Inc. (included as Exhibit 3.1 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed June 27, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein). |
| 3.3 | Bylaws of American Apparel, Inc. (included as Exhibit 4.1 of the Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 333-175430) filed July 7, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein). |
| 3.4 | Certificate of Amendment to Certificate of Formation of American Apparel (USA), LLC (included as Exhibit 3.3 to Form 10-K (File No 001-32697) filed March 17, 2008 and incorporated by reference herein). |
| 4.1 | Specimen Common Stock Certificate (included as Exhibit 4.2 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed December 18, 2007 and incorporated by reference herein). |
| 4.2 | Registration Rights Agreement, dated December 12, 2007, by and among American Apparel, Inc. and the stockholders listed on the signature page therein (included as Annex H of the Definitive Proxy Statement (File No. 001-32697) filed November 28, 2007 and incorporated by reference herein). |
| 4.3 | Lock-Up Agreement, dated December 12, 2007, between American Apparel, Inc. and Dov Charney (included as Annex D of the Definitive Proxy Statement (File No. 001-32697), filed November 28, 2007 and incorporated by reference herein). |
| 4.4 | Letter Agreement Re: Extension of Lock-Up Agreement, dated March 13, 2009, among Dov Charney, Lion Capital (Guernsey) II Limited and American Apparel, Inc. (included as Exhibit 10.5 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No 001-32697) filed March 16, 2009 and incorporated by reference herein). |
| 4.5 | Warrants to Purchase Shares of Common Stock of American Apparel, Inc., dated December 19, 2008, issued to SOF Investments, L.P.-Private IV (included as Exhibit 10.2 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed December 19, 2008 and incorporated by reference herein). |
| 4.6 | Warrants to Purchase Shares of Common Stock of American Apparel, Inc., dated March 13, 2009, issued to Lion Capital (Guernsey) II Limited (included as Exhibit 10.3 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No 001-32697) filed March 13, 2009 and incorporated by reference herein). |
| 4.7 | Investment Agreement, dated March 13, 2009, between American Apparel, Inc. and Lion Capital (Guernsey) II Limited (included as Exhibit 10.2 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No 001-32697) filed March 16, 2009 and incorporated by reference herein). |

- 4.8 Investment Voting Agreement, dated March 13, 2009, between American Apparel, Inc. and Lion Capital (Guernsey) II Limited (included as Exhibit 10.4 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No 001-32697) filed March 16, 2009 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 4.9 Voting Agreement, dated as of February 18, 2011, between Dov Charney, an individual, and Lion/Hollywood L.L.C., in its capacity as a lender under the Lion Credit Agreement (included as Exhibit 10.2 of the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 22, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 4.10 Warrant to Purchase Shares of Common Stock of American Apparel, Inc., dated March 24, 2011, issued to Lion/Hollywood L.L.C (included as Exhibit 10.2 of the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 28, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 4.11 Amendment No. 1, dated March 24, 2011, to the Warrant to Purchase Shares of Common Stock of American Apparel, Inc., dated March 13, 2009 (included as Exhibit 10.3 of the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 28, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 4.12 Form of Voting Agreement, dated as of April 26, 2011, between Dov Charney and the other persons signatory thereto (included as Exhibit 10.3 of the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 28, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein).

Table of Contents

- 4.13 Warrant to Purchase Shares of Common Stock of American Apparel, Inc., dated April 26, 2011, issued to Lion/Hollywood L.L.C. (included as Exhibit 10.6 of the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 28, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 4.14 Amendment No. 1, dated April 26, 2011, to the Warrant to Purchase Shares of Common Stock of American Apparel, Inc., dated March 24, 2011, issued to Lion/Hollywood L.L.C. (included as Exhibit 10.7 of the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 28, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 4.15 Amendment No. 2, dated April 26, 2011, to the Warrant to Purchase Shares of Common Stock of American Apparel, Inc., dated March 13, 2009, issued to Lion/Hollywood L.L.C. (included as Exhibit 10.8 of the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 28, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 4.16 Warrant to Purchase Shares of Common Stock of American Apparel, Inc., dated July 7, 2011, issued to Lion/Hollywood L.L.C. (included as exhibit 10.1 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed July 13, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 4.17 Warrant to Purchase Shares of Common Stock of American Apparel, Inc., dated July 12, 2011, issued to Lion/Hollywood L.L.C. (included as exhibit 10.2 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed July 13, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 4.18 Amendment No. 1, dated March 13, 2012, to the Warrant to Purchase Shares of Common Stock of of American Apparel, Inc., dated July 12, 2011 (included as exhibit 10.5 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed March 19, 2012 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 4.19 Amendment No. 1, dated March 13, 2012, to the Warrant to Purchase Shares of Common Stock of of American Apparel, Inc., dated July 7, 2011 (included as exhibit 10.6 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed March 19, 2012 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 4.20 Amendment No. 1, dated March 13, 2012, to the Warrant to Purchase Shares of Common Stock of of American Apparel, Inc., dated April 26, 2011 (included as exhibit 10.7 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed March 19, 2012 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 4.21 Amendment No. 2, dated March 13, 2012, to the Warrant to Purchase Shares of Common Stock of of American Apparel, Inc., dated March 24, 2011 (included as exhibit 10.8 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed March 19, 2012 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 4.22 Amendment No. 2, dated March 13, 2012, to the Warrant to Purchase Shares of Common Stock of of American Apparel, Inc., dated March 13, 2009 (included as exhibit 10.7 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed March 19, 2012 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.1.+ American Apparel, Inc. 2007 Performance Incentive Equity Plan (included as Annex C of the Definitive Proxy Statement (File No. 001-32697) filed November 28, 2007 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.2.+ First Amendment to the 2007 Performance Equity Plan (included as Exhibit 10.1 of Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed October 30, 2008 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.3.+ American Apparel, Inc. Incentive Compensation Plan (included as Appendix A of the Revised Definitive Proxy Statement (No. 001-32697), filed September 11, 2009 and incorporated by reference herein).

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN APPAREL, INC - Form 10-K

- 10.4.+ American Apparel, Inc. 2011 Omnibus Stock Incentive Plan (included as Annex B of the Definitive Proxy Statement (File No. 001-32697) filed on May 20, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.5.+ Employment Agreement, dated December 12, 2007, between American Apparel, Inc., American Apparel, LLC and Dov Charney (included as Annex J of the Definitive Proxy Statement (File No. 001-32697) filed November 28, 2007 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.6.+ Employment Agreement, dated January 27, 2009, by and between Glenn A. Weinman and American Apparel, Inc. (included as Exhibit 10.1 of Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed February 2, 2009 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.7.+ Employment Agreement, dated October 7, 2010, by and between Thomas M. Casey and American Apparel, Inc. (included as Exhibit 10.1 of Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed February 8, 2010 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.8.+ Employment Agreement, dated February 7, 2011 by and between John Luttrell and American Apparel, Inc. (included as Exhibit 10.1 of the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 3, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein).

Table of Contents

- 10.9.+ Employment Agreement, dated March 17, 2011 by and between Martin Staff and American Apparel, Inc. (included as Exhibit 10.1 of the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 23, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.10. Separation Agreement and Full Mutual Release of All Claims, dated October 7, 2011, by and between Adrian Kowalewski and American Apparel, Inc. (included as Exhibit 10.1 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed October 11, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.11. Separation Agreement and Full Mutual Release of All Claims, dated October 24, 2011, by and between Martin Staff and American Apparel, Inc. (included as Exhibit 10.1 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed October 28, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.12. Separation Agreement and Mutual Release of Claims, dated November 18, 2011 by and between Thomas M. Casey and American Apparel, Inc. (included as Exhibit 10.1 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed November 18, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.13. Lease, dated as of January 1, 2004, by and between Alameda Produce Market, Inc. and AAI (included as Exhibit 10.21 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed December 18, 2007 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.14. Lease, dated as of May 12, 2004, by and between Alameda Produce Market, Inc. and AAI (included as Exhibit 10.22 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed December 18, 2007 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.15. Lease, dated June 9, 2004, by and between Titan Real Estate Investment Group, Inc., and Textile Unlimited Corp., E&J Textile Group, Inc., and Johnester Knitting, Inc. (jointly and severally) (included as Exhibit 10.15 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed December 18, 2007 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.16. Assignment of Lessee's Interest in Lease and Assumption Agreement, dated as of June 2, 2005, by and between Textile Unlimited Corp., E&J Textile Group, Inc., and Johnester Knitting, Inc. (jointly and severally) and American Apparel Dyeing and Finishing, Inc. (included as Exhibit 10.16 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed December 18, 2007 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.17. Lease, dated December 13, 2005, by and between American Central Plaza and AAI (included as Exhibit 10.17 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed December 18, 2007 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.18. Lease Amendment, effective as of November 15, 2006, by and between American Central Plaza and AAI (included as Exhibit 10.18 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed December 18, 2007 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.19. Lease Amendment, effective as of March 22, 2007, by and between American Central Plaza and AAI (included as Exhibit 10.19 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed December 18, 2007 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.20. Lease, dated as of July 30, 2009, by and between Alameda Produce Market, LLC and AAI (included as Exhibit 10.21 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed December 18, 2007 and incorporated by reference herein).

- 10.21. Purchase Agreement, dated as of March 24, 2011, between American Apparel, Inc. and Dov Charney (included as Exhibit 10.1 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed on March 28, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.22. Form of Purchase and Investment Agreement, dated as of April 21, 2011, by and among American Apparel, Inc. and the purchasers signatory thereto (included as Exhibit 10.1 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed on April 28, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.23. Purchase Agreement, dated as of April 27, 2011, between American Apparel, Inc. and Dov Charney (included as Exhibit 10.2 of the Current Report on Form 8-K/A (File No. 001-32697) filed on April 28, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.24. Asset Purchase Agreement, dated as of December 1, 2007, by and between PNS Apparel, Inc., Blue Man Group, Inc., Allen S. Yi and American Apparel, Inc. (included as Exhibit 10.24 of Amendment No. 1 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K/A (File No. 001-32697) filed March 28, 2008 and incorporated by reference herein).

Table of Contents

- 10.25. Credit facilities agreement, dated December 3, 2007, among The Toronto-Dominion Bank and American Apparel Canada Wholesale Inc./American Apparel Canada Grossiste Inc. and Les Boutiques American Apparel Canada Inc./American Apparel Canada Retail Inc. (included as Exhibit 10.20 of Amendment No. 1 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K/A (File No. 001-32697) filed March 28, 2008 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.26. Promissory Note, dated December 11, 2007, between American Apparel Canada Wholesale Inc. and Dov Charney (included as Exhibit 10.26 of Amendment No. 1 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K/A (File No. 001-32697) filed March 28, 2008 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.27. Severance Agreement and Release, dated May 22, 2008, by and between American Apparel, Inc., AAUSA and all of its subsidiaries and Ken Cieply, former Chief Financial Officer (included as Exhibit 10.5 of Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 001-32697) filed August 15, 2008 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.28. Promissory Note, dated March 13, 2009 (amending and restating Promissory Note dated December 19, 2008), between AAUSA, as maker, and Dov Charney, as payee (included as Exhibit 10.4 of Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed December 19, 2008 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.29. Promissory Note, dated March 13, 2009 (amending and restating Promissory Note dated February 10, 2009), between AAUSA, as maker, and Dov Charney, as payee (included as Exhibit 10.1 of Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed February 12, 2009 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.30. Letter Agreement Re: Extension of Non-Competition and Non-Solicitation Covenants in Section 5.27(a) of the Merger Agreement, dated March 13, 2009, among Dov Charney, Lion Capital (Guernesey) II Limited and American Apparel, Inc. (included as Exhibit 10.6 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No 001-32697) filed March 16, 2009 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.31. Amendment and Agreement, dated as of April 10, 2009, by and between American Apparel, Inc. and Lion/Hollywood L.L.C. (included as Exhibit 10.1 of Current Report on Form 8-K (File No 001-32697) filed April 16, 2009 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.32. Second Amendment and Agreement, dated as of June 17, 2009, by and between American Apparel, Inc. and Lion/Hollywood L.L.C. (included as Exhibit 10.1 of Current Report on Form 8-K (File No 001-32697) filed June 19, 2009 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.33. Third Amendment and Agreement, dated as of August 18, 2009, by and between American Apparel, Inc. and Lion/Hollywood L.L.C. (included as Exhibit 10.1 of Current Report on Form 8-K (File No 001-32697) filed August 20, 2009 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.34. Letter Agreement Re: Pledging of Restricted Securities, dated October 28, 2009, among Dov Charney, Lion/Hollywood L.L.C. and American Apparel, Inc. (included as Exhibit 10.1 of Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed November 3, 2009 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.35. Credit Agreement, dated as of December 30, 2009, between American Apparel Canada Wholesale Inc. and American Apparel Canada Retail Inc. and Bank of Montreal (included as Exhibit 10.1 of Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed January 6, 2010 and incorporated by reference herein).

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN APPAREL, INC - Form 10-K

- 10.36. Credit Agreement, dated as of March 13, 2009, among American Apparel, Inc., in its capacity as Borrower, certain subsidiaries of American Apparel, Inc., in their capacity as Facility Guarantors, Lion Capital LLP, in its capacity as administrative agent and collateral agent, Lion Capital (Guernsey) II Limited, as Initial Lender, and the other lenders from time to time party thereto (included as Exhibit 10.1 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No 001-32697) filed March 16, 2009 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.37. Waiver to Credit Agreement, dated as of September 30, 2009, among American Apparel, Inc., the facility guarantors from time to time party thereto, Wilmington Trust FSB, as the administrative agent and the collateral agent, Lion Capital (Americas) Inc., as a lender, Lion/Hollywood L.L.C., as a lender, and other lenders from time to time party thereto (included as Exhibit 10.1 of Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed October 6, 2009 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.38. First Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated as of December 30, 2009, among American Apparel, Inc., the facility guarantors from time to time party thereto, Wilmington Trust FSB, as the administrative agent and collateral agent, Lion Capital (Americas) Inc., as a lender, Lion/Hollywood L.L.C., as a lender, and other lenders from time to time party thereto (included as Exhibit 10.3 of Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed January 6, 2010 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.39. Second Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated as of March 31, 2010, among American Apparel, Inc., the facility guarantors from time to time party thereto, Wilmington Trust FSB, as the administrative agent and collateral agent, Lion Capital (Americas) Inc., as a lender, Lion/Hollywood L.L.C., as a lender, and other lenders from time to time party thereto (included as Exhibit 10.1 of Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed April 1, 2010 and incorporated by reference herein).

Table of Contents

- 10.40. Third Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated as of June 23, 2010, among American Apparel, Inc., the facility guarantors from time to time party thereto, Wilmington Trust FSB, as the administrative agent and collateral agent, Lion Capital (Americas) Inc., as a lender, Lion/Hollywood L.L.C., as a lender, and other lenders from time to time party thereto (included as Exhibit 10.1 of Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed June 24, 2010 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.41. Fourth Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated as of September 30, 2010, among American Apparel, Inc., the facility guarantors from time to time party thereto, Wilmington Trust FSB, as the administrative agent and collateral agent, Lion Capital (Americas) Inc., as a lender, Lion/Hollywood L.L.C., as a lender, and other lenders from time to time party thereto (included as Exhibit 10.1 of Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed October 1, 2010 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.42. Waiver to Credit Agreement, dated as of January 31, 2011, among American Apparel, Inc., the facility guarantors from time to time party thereto, Wilmington Trust FSB, as the administrative agent and the collateral agent, Lion Capital (Americas) Inc., as a lender, Lion/Hollywood L.L.C., as a lender, and other lenders from time to time party thereto (included as Exhibit 10.1 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed on February 1, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.43. Fifth Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated as of February 18, 2011, among American Apparel, Inc., the facility guarantors from time to time party thereto, Wilmington Trust FSB, as the administrative agent and the collateral agent, Lion Capital (Americas) Inc., as a lender, Lion/Hollywood L.L.C., as a lender, and other lenders from time to time party thereto (included as Exhibit 10.1 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed on February 22, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.44. Waiver and Sixth Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated as of April 26, 2011, among American Apparel, Inc., the facility guarantors from time to time party thereto, Wilmington Trust FSB, as the administrative agent and the collateral agent, Lion Capital (Americas) Inc., as a lender, Lion/Hollywood L.L.C., as a lender, and other lenders from time to time party thereto (included as Exhibit 10.5 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed on April 28, 2011 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.45. Seventh Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated as of March 13, 2012, among American Apparel, Inc. and the other Credit Parties as the facility guarantors from time to time party thereto, Wilmington Trust N.A., as the administrative agent and the collateral agent, Lion Capital (Americas) Inc., as a lender, Lion/Hollywood L.L.C., as a lender, and other lenders from time to time party thereto (included as Exhibit 10.3 of the Amendment filed on June 21, 2012 to the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed on March 19, 2012 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.46. Eighth Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated August 30, 2012, among American Apparel, Inc. and the other Credit Parties as the facility guarantors from time to time party thereto, Wilmington Trust N.A., as the administrative agent and the collateral agent, Lion Capital (Americas) Inc., as a lender, Lion/Hollywood L.L.C., as a lender, and other lenders from time to time party thereto (included as Exhibit 10.3 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed on September 11, 2012 and incorporated by reference herein).
- 10.47. Ninth Amendment and Waiver to Credit Agreement, dated September 28, 2012, among American Apparel, Inc. and the other Credit Parties as the facility guarantors from time to time party thereto, Wilmington Trust N.A., as the administrative agent and the collateral agent, Lion Capital (Americas) Inc., as a lender, Lion/Hollywood L.L.C., as a lender, and other lenders from time to time party thereto

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN APPAREL, INC - Form 10-K

(included as Exhibit 10.3 of the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 001-32697) filed on November 14, 2012 and incorporated by reference herein).

10.48. Tenth Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated November 12, 2012, among American Apparel, Inc. and the other Credit Parties as the facility guarantors from time to time party thereto, Wilmington Trust N.A., as the administrative agent and the collateral agent, Lion Capital (Americas) Inc., as a lender, Lion/Hollywood L.L.C., as a lender, and other lenders from time to time party thereto (included as Exhibit 10.5 of the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 001-32697) filed on November 14, 2012 and incorporated by reference herein).

10.49. Eleventh Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated February 6, 2013, among American Apparel, Inc. and the other Credit Parties as the facility guarantors from time to time party thereto, Wilmington Trust N.A., as the administrative agent and the collateral agent, Lion Capital (Americas) Inc., as a lender, Lion/Hollywood L.L.C., as a lender, and other lenders from time to time party thereto (included as Exhibit 10.2 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed on February 11, 2013 and incorporated by reference herein).

10.50. Intercreditor Agreement, dated as of March 13, 2012, among American Apparel, Inc. and certain of its Subsidiaries party thereto, Crystal Financial, LLC as first lien administrative agent and collateral agent (included as Exhibit 10.2 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed on March 19, 2012 and incorporated by reference herein).

Table of Contents

| | |
|---------|---|
| 10.51. | Credit Agreement dated as of March 13, 2012, among American Apparel, Inc., American Apparel (USA), LLC, the other Credit Parties party thereto, Crystal Financial LLC and other signatories thereto (included as Exhibit 10.1 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed on March 19, 2012 and incorporated by reference herein). |
| 10.52. | Amendment No. 2, dated August 30, 2012, among American Apparel, Inc., American Apparel (USA), LLC, the other Borrowers and Credit Parties party thereto, Crystal Financial LLC and other signatories thereto (included as Exhibit 10.1 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed on September 11, 2012 and incorporated by reference herein). |
| 10.53. | Amendment No. 3, dated November 12, 2012, among American Apparel, Inc., American Apparel (USA), LLC, the other Borrowers and Credit Parties party thereto, Crystal Financial LLC and other signatories thereto (included as Exhibit 10.1 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed on November 15, 2012 and incorporated by reference herein). |
| 10.54. | Amendment No. 5, dated February 6, 2013, among American Apparel, Inc., American Apparel (USA), LLC, the other Borrowers and Credit Parties party thereto, Crystal Financial LLC and other signatories thereto (included as Exhibit 10.1 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed on February 11, 2013 and incorporated by reference herein). |
| 14.1 | American Apparel, Inc. Code of Ethics (included as Exhibit 14.1 of the Current Report for 8-K (File No. 001-32697) filed December 18, 2007 and incorporated by reference herein). |
| 21.1* | List of subsidiaries as of December 31, 2012 |
| 23.1* | Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm |
| 31.1* | Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 31.2* | Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 32.1* | Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 32.2* | Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |
| 101.INS | XBRL Instance Document |
| 101.SCH | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document |
| 101.CAL | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document |
| 101.LAB | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document |
| 101.PRE | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document |
| 101.DEF | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document |

* Filed herewith.

+Management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

103

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

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

AMERICAN APPAREL, INC.

March 5, 2013

By: /s/ DOV CHARNEY
 Dov Charney
 Chief Executive Officer
 (Principal Executive Officer)

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

| Signature | Title | Date |
|--|--|---------------|
| /s/ DOV CHARNEY Dov Charney | Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer) | March 5, 2013 |
| /s/ JOHN LUTTRELL John Luttrell | Chief Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer | March 5, 2013 |
| /s/ ALBERTO CHEHEBAR Alberto Chehebar | Director | March 5, 2013 |
| /s/ DAVID DANZIGER David Danziger | Director | March 5, 2013 |
| /s/ ROBERT GREENE Robert Greene | Director | March 5, 2013 |
| /s/ MARVIN IGELMAN Marvin Igelman | Director | March 5, 2013 |
| /s/ WILLIAM MAUER William Mauer | Director | March 5, 2013 |
| /s/ ALLAN MAYER Allan Mayer | Director | March 5, 2013 |