SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549



Notice of 1999 Annual Meeting and
Proxy Statement dated April 19, 1999

Part III, Items 10, 11, 12 and 13

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For Year Ended January 29, 1999
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## Item 1. Business

Lands' End, Inc., is a leading direct marketer of traditionally styled, casual clothing for men, women and children, accessories, domestics, shoes and soft luggage. The company strives to provide products of exceptional quality at prices representing honest value, enhanced by a commitment to excellence in customer service and an unconditional guarantee. The company offers its products through multiple distribution channels consisting of regular mailings of its monthly primary catalogs, prospecting catalogs, specialty catalogs (including Kids, Corporate Sales and Coming Home) as well as through the Internet, and its international businesses.

The company's growth strategy has three key elements. First, the company seeks to increase sales from its regular catalogs in the United States both by expanding its customer base and by increasing sales to its existing customers through improvements in its merchandise offerings and creative presentations. Second, the company endeavors to generate additional sales by making targeted
mailings of its specialty catalogs to existing and prospective customers, and by offering its products on the Internet. Third, the company is actively pursuing opportunities to apply its merchandising, marketing and order fulfillment skills abroad by continuing its efforts in Japan, the United Kingdom and Germany.

Date of Incorporation
The Registrant was incorporated in Illinois in 1963 and became a Delaware corporation in 1986.

Catalogs and Marketing
Lands' End views each catalog issue as a unique opportunity to communicate with its customers. Products are described in visual and editorial detail in which the company shares its view of the benefits and features of its merchandise. The catalogs use such techniques as background stories, editorials, monthly publication and distinctive covers to stimulate the reader's interest, combining a consistent theme with varying monthly features.

Core, Specialty and International Segments
The company organizes and manages its businesses based on type of catalog, which focuses on specific customer needs and markets served. The company has three operating segments consisting of core, specialty and international. Worldwide, the company mailed approximately 259 million full-price catalogs, including specialty catalogs, abridged issues and international catalogs. Company catalogs are mailed to customers throughout the world, and products are exported to more than 175 countries. Fulfillment for these export sales is handled through the company's Wisconsin facilities in the United States.

Core Segment (U.S. Based Operations)
The core business segment consists of adult apparel offered through the company's regular monthly and prospecting catalogs and its two tailored catalogs - "First Person Singular" for women and "Beyond Buttondowns" for men. During fiscal 1999, the company mailed 12 issues of its regular monthly (primary) catalog with an average of 163 pages per issue from its U.S. based operations.

Each issue of the regular catalog offers certain basic product lines for adult men and women (including knit shirts, sweaters, dress and sport shirts, casual pants, dresses, skirts, accessories, and soft luggage) that customers have come to expect. The regular catalog also offers seasonal merchandise, such as swimsuits, outerwear and holiday gifts. In addition to the mailings of the regular catalog, each year Lands' End generally mails two end-of-season clearance catalogs, an interim catalog, and two additional holiday catalogs. The company mails an abridged version of its regular catalog to prospective customers who are identified based on lists of magazine subscribers and customers of other direct marketers and on lists compiled of households meeting certain demographic criteria. In addition, the company identifies prospective new customers through its national advertising campaign.

The company mails two tailored catalogs, Beyond Buttondowns and First Person Singular. Beyond Buttondowns was introduced in fiscal 1991, and offers fine tailored clothing and accessories for men. In fiscal 1994, the company introduced Textures, which was revamped as First Person Singular in fiscal 1997. First Person Singular features women's finely tailored clothing and accessories suitable for the workplace. In fiscal 1999, the company mailed six issues of its Beyond Buttondowns catalog and five issues of its First Person Singular catalog.

## Specialty Segment

The specialty business segment consists of Kids, Corporate Sales, Coming Home and the Willis \& Geiger catalogs. The specialty catalogs have been developed over the years to target specific needs for additional merchandise identified by customers. Since fiscal 1991, the Kids catalog has offered a collection of comfortable, casual clothing for children. In fiscal 1998 a Kids uniform catalog was introduced that targets the growing trend in many public and private schools. In fiscal 1999, the company mailed seven issues of its Kids
catalog and two issues of its Kids uniform catalog.

In fiscal 1994, Corporate Sales, the company's business-to-business catalog, was introduced. Corporate Sales offers quality products to groups, teams and clubs or to companies that use Lands' End's merchandise for corporate premiums or incentive programs. The company's embroidery capabilities allow for the design and monogram of unique logos or emblems for groups. In fiscal 1999, the company mailed five issues of its Corporate Sales catalog.

Since fiscal 1991, the Coming Home catalog offers domestic products, primarily bedding and bath items. In fiscal 1999, the company mailed six issues of its Coming Home catalog.

The Willis \& Geiger catalog offers apparel and related products targeted to the outdoor enthusiast. There were four issues of Willis \& Geiger catalog mailed in fiscal 1999. The company began to liquidate the Willis \& Geiger business in the fourth quarter of fiscal 1999.

> International Segment (Foreign Based Operations)

The international business segment is represented by operations in Japan, the United Kingdom, and Germany. Catalogs mailed in these countries are written in the local languages and denominated in local currencies.

In September 1991, the company launched its first United Kingdom (U.K.) catalog. In August 1993, the company opened a leased telephone order and distribution center in Oakham, England, which allowed the company to fill orders locally and greatly reduce delivery time to U.K. customers. Construction of a new phone and distribution center in Oakham was completed in the summer of 1998. Seven issues of the U.K. catalog were mailed in fiscal 1999.

In fall 1994, the company launched operations in Japan, and in fiscal 1999, the company mailed eight issues of the Japanese catalog. During fiscal 1998, the company's phone center and administrative office moved to a larger facility in Yokohama. The distribution center moved to Fujieda from Maebashi in fiscal 1997 to accommodate future growth. Packages are delivered from this warehouse in Fujieda which is managed by Lands' End's employees.

In August 1996, the company launched its first German catalog. Seven issues were mailed during fiscal 1999. The company's phone center and administrative functions operate from its Mettlach, Germany, offices. Orders are packed and shipped from the Lands' End distribution center in Oakham, England.

Financial Information about business segments

See Note 12 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 for segment financial data.

The Internet
Lands' End offers its customers a variety of shopping options, including shopping from its catalogs via toll-free telephone, mail, fax and through its Internet site. The Internet has allowed the company to attract new customers and better serve existing customers. The company offers online shopping, featuring more than 1,000 products, engaging editorials and other services to its customers on its user-friendly Web site at www.landsend.com. On its Web site, the company added a personalization feature which stores customers shipping and credit card information for ease of future shopping. The company is striving to make every customer visit to its Web site a personalized one. The online shopper can expect the same high degree of customer service, whether the customer converses by telephone, fax, mail, e-mail or over the Internet

During fiscal 1999, the company introduced two new shopping tools, Your Personal ModelTM and Oxford ExpressTM, on its Web site to further meet
customers' needs for a personalized and interactive shopping experience. Your Personal Model enables women to build and store a 3-D model of their body type. The model recommends outfits that flatter their body profiles and suggest sizes based upon the measurement data supplied by the customer. Similar to a helpful sales person, the Oxford Express prompts the online shopper to provide sizes, fabrics, styles, collars, and cuff preferences. A digital image of the shirt appears, and customers can then order the shirt or change any feature to view new options.

The company will continue to explore the development of interactive shopping to meet its customers expectations. However, marketing the company's products through regular and specialty catalogs is expected to remain the primary means of communicating with customers.

## Customers

A principal factor in the company's success to date has been the development of its own list of active customers, many of whom have been identified through their response to the company's advertising. At the end of fiscal 1999, the company's mailing list consisted of about 29.5 million persons, approximately 6.1 million of whom are viewed as "current customers" because they have made at least one purchase from the company within the last 12 months. Also, 10.1 million customers have made at least one purchase from the company within the last 36 months. The company routinely updates and refines this list prior to individual catalog mailings to monitor customer interest as reflected in criteria such as the recency, frequency, dollar amount, and product type of purchases.

The company believes that its customer list has desirable demographic characteristics and is well-suited to the products offered in the company's catalogs. A customer research survey conducted by the company in the United States as of January 1999 indicated that approximately 54 percent of its customers were in the 35-54 age group and had median incomes of $\$ 60,000$. research indicated that approximately 88 percent of Lands' End customers attended or graduated from college.

The company conducts a national advertising campaign intended to build the company's reputation and to attract new customers. In fiscal 1999, this advertising appeared in about 30 national magazines, as well as on national television and radio. In addition, the company advertises in approximately 30 national, regional and local publications in the U.K., Japan, Germany, the Middle East, and in Pacific Rim countries.

The company is not dependent upon any single customer, or upon any single group of customers, the loss of which would have a material effect on the company.

Product Development

Lands' End concentrates on traditional clothing and other products that are classically inspired, simply styled and quality crafted to meet the changing tastes of the company's customers rather than to mimic the changing fads of the fashion world. At the same time, the company seeks to maintain customer interest by developing new product offerings, improving existing core products and reinforcing its value positioning.

The company continues to incorporate innovations in fabric, construction and detail that add value and excitement and differentiate Lands' End from the competition. In order to ensure that products are manufactured to the company's quality standards at reasonable prices, product managers, designers and quality assurance specialists develop the company's own product. They also specify the fibers, fabric construction and manufacturing source for each item and are responsible for the styling and quality features of the products.

As part of its "direct merchant" philosophy, Lands' End seeks to deal directly with its suppliers and to avoid intermediaries. All goods are produced by independent manufacturers, except for a portion of our soft luggage which is assembled at the company's own facilities. During fiscal 1999, the company purchased merchandise from about 520 domestic and foreign manufacturers, with
one manufacturer accounting for about 13 percent of company purchases in fiscal 1999. The company would be subject to minimal risk to the extent of finding alternative sourcing if this manufacturer experiences prolonged work stoppages or economic problems. In fiscal 1999, about 55 percent of our merchandise was imported, mainly from Asia, Central America, South America and

Europe. The remaining 45 percent of our merchandise was made in the United States. The company will continue to take advantage of worldwide sourcing without sacrificing customer service or quality standards. The availability and cost of certain foreign products may be affected by United States trade policies, economic events and the value of the United States dollar relative to foreign currencies.

Order Entry and Fulfillment

The company attempts to simplify catalog shopping as much as possible and believes that its fulfillment systems are among the best in the United States. Lands' End utilizes toll-free telephone numbers which may be called 24 hours a day, seven days a week (except Christmas Day) to place orders, to request a catalog or to seek assistance. Approximately 85 - 90 percent of catalog orders are placed by telephone. Telephone calls are answered by as many as 3,000 well-trained sales representatives who utilize on-line computer terminals to enter customer orders and to retrieve information about product characteristics and availability. Additional services are provided through the company's Web site, the use of AT\&T language lines to serve foreign customers and TDD (telephone device for the deaf). The company's three U.S. telephone centers are located in Dodgeville, Cross Plains and Reedsburg, Wisconsin. International telephone centers are located in Oakham, England, Yokohama, Japan and Mettlach, Germany.

The company has achieved efficiencies in order entry and fulfillment that permits the shipment of in-stock orders on the following day, except orders requiring monogramming or inseaming, which typically require one or two extra days. The company's sales representatives enter orders into an on-line order entry and inventory control system. Computer processing of orders is performed each night on a batch basis, at which time picking tickets are printed with bar codes for optical scanning. Inventory is picked based on the location of individual products rather than orders, followed by computerized sorting and transporting of goods to multiple packing stations and shipping zones. The computerized inventory control system also handles the receipt of shipments from manufacturers, permitting faster access to newly arrived merchandise, as well as the handling of items returned by customers.

Orders are generally shipped by United Parcel Service (UPS) at various tiered rates dependent upon the total dollar value of each customer's order. Other expedited delivery services are available at additional charges. The company utilizes a two-day UPS service at standard rates, enhancing its customer service.

Merchandise Liquidation

Liquidations, sales of overstocks and end-of-season merchandise at reduced prices, were approximately 10 percent, 8 percent and 9 percent of net sales in fiscal 1999, 1998 and 1997, respectively. A majority of liquidation sales were made through catalogs and other print media. The balance was sold principally through the company's outlet and inlet retail stores, and the company's Web site.

## Competition

The company's principal competitors are other catalog companies and retail stores, including specialty shops and department stores. The company may also face increased competition from other retailers as the number of television shopping channels and the variety of merchandise offered through electronic media increase. The apparel retail business in general is intensely competitive. Lands' End competes principally on the basis of merchandise
value (quality and price), its established customer list and customer service, including fast order fulfillment, its unqualified guarantee, and its services and information provided at its user-friendly Web site.

The company is one of the leading catalog companies in the U.S. The company attributes the growth in the catalog industry to many factors including customer convenience, widespread use of credit cards, the use of toll-free telephone lines, customers having less time to shop in stores, and purchasing of product online through various computer networks. At the same time, the catalog business is subject to uncertainties in the economy, which result in fluctuating levels of overall consumer spending. Due to the lead times required for catalog production and distribution and product development, catalog retailers may not be able to respond as quickly as traditional retailers in an environment of rapidly changing prices. In the future, e-commerce growth should reduce lead times that are required by catalogs and decrease operating costs incurred in creating, printing and mailing catalogs.

Trademarks

The company uses the trademarks of "Lands' End" and "Coming Home" on products and catalogs. Some of the trademarks used in the catalogs include "Super-T" shirts, "Squall" jackets and "Drifter" sweaters. "Oxford Express" and "Your Personal Model" are trademarks associated with personalized customer services offered through the company's Web site. With the exception of "Lands' End" and "Coming Home," the company believes that loss or abandonment of any particular trademark would not significantly affect its business.

Seasonality of Business
The company's business is highly seasonal. Historically, a disproportionate amount of the company's net sales and a majority of its profits have been realized during the fourth quarter. If the company's sales were materially different from seasonal norms during the fourth quarter, the company's annual operating results could be materially affected. In addition, as the company continues to refine its marketing efforts by experimenting with the timing of its catalog mailings, quarterly results may fluctuate. Accordingly, results for the individual quarters are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the entire year.

Employees
The company believes that its skilled and dedicated workforce is one of its key resources. Employees are not covered by collective bargaining agreements, and the company considers its employee relations to be very positive. As a result of the highly seasonal nature of the company's business, the size of the company's workforce varies, ranging from approximately 7,200 to 9,700
individuals in fiscal 1999. During the peak winter season of fiscal 1999, nearly 4,900 of the company's approximately 9,700 employees were temporary employees.

Executive Officers of the Registrant
The following are the executive officers of the company:
David F. Dyer, 49, is President, Chief Executive Office and member of the board of directors since rejoining the company in October 1998. In 1989, Mr. Dyer entered the employ of the company as Managing Director of Home Furnishings, became Executive Vice President of Merchandising in 1990, and was named Vice Chairman, Merchandising and Sales in 1993. He was a director of the company from 1991 until August 1994. Mr. Dyer was president and chief operating officer of the Home Shopping network from August 1994 until August 1995, at which time he became an independent catalog/retail consultant, most recently with the Texas Pacific Group and the J. Crew Group. From 1972 to 1989, Mr. Dyer was employed at Burdine's a specialty retail chain, where he served as Senior Vice President of Marketing and General Merchandising Manager of Women's Apparel, Accessories and Cosmetics.

Lee Eisenberg, 52, is Executive Vice President and Creative Director. Since May 1995, Mr. Eisenberg was with TIME Magazine as Editor/Creative Development. In this capacity, he was involved in the launch of TIME for Kids. Mr. Eisenberg began his career at Esquire magazine in 1970, and went on to serve as their top editor.

Mindy Meads, 47, is Executive Vice President of Merchandising and Design. Ms. Meads originally joined the company in 1991 as Vice President and Group Merchandising Manager for the women's apparel division and, in 1994, the men's and coed groups were added to her responsibilities. In January 1995, she was named Senior Vice President, Merchandising and Design. She left the company in 1996 to join Gymboree Corporation in San Francisco as their Senior Vice President and General Merchandise Manager. Before first joining Lands' End, Ms. Meads was Merchandise Manager for The Limited. Before The Limited, she had a 12 -year tenure with R. H. Macy \& Company of New York where she rose to Senior Vice President, Merchandise.

Stephen A. (Chip) Orum, 53, is currently Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Orum joined the company as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in June 1991, was appointed Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in February 1993, and became Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer in addition to Chief Financial Officer in October 1994. From 1994 until January 1999, Mr. Orum served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Prior to joining Lands' End, Mr. Orum was employed by Jos. A. Bank Clothiers, Inc. since 1982 in various capacities, reaching the position of Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

Francis P. Schaecher, 51, is Senior Vice President of Operations. Mr. Schaecher joined the company in 1982 as Operations Manager. He served as Vice President of Operations from 1983 until 1990, at which time he assumed his present position.

All executive officers serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.
There is no family relationship between any of the executive officers of the company. None of the company's directors or executive officers were involved in any criminal proceeding (excluding traffic violations or similar misdemeanors) nor was any such person a party to any civil proceeding of a judicial or administrative body of competent jurisdiction as a result of which such person was or is subject to a judgment decree or final order enjoining future violations of or prohibiting or mandating activities subject to federal or state securities laws or finding any violation with respect to such laws.

## Item 2. Properties

The following table sets forth certain information of the company and its subsidiaries relating to their principal facilities as of January 29, 1999. None of these properties is subject to mortgage or collateral assignment.

| Location |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Domestic Properties: | Type of |
| Wisconsin: | Interest |
| Warehouses in Dodgeville and Reedsburg |  |
| Phone centers and offices in Dodgeville, |  |
| Cross Plains and Reedsburg | Owned |
| Activity Center in Dodgeville | Owned |
| Hangars in Madison and Mineral Point | Owned |
| Inlet (B) stores in Brookfield, Fox Point | Owned |
| and Madison | Leased |
| Outlet stores in Madison, Oshkosh, and Dodgeville | Leased |
| Offices in Madison | Leased |
| Iowa: |  |

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            Vernon Hills (A), Champaign, Springfield, and
            Rockford (A)
                                    Leased
        Minnesota:
            Inlet (B) stores in Richfield and Minnetonka
                and Woodbury
                    Leased
            Travelers Inlet Store (C) at the Minneapolis/
                St. Paul International Airport Leased
    New York:
    Inlet (B)-store in Rochester Leased
International Properties:
    United Kingdom:
        Warehouse, phone center, outlet store, and offices
                in Oakham
        Outlet store in Bicester Village Leased
        Sourcing office in London Leased
    Japan:
        Warehouse in Fujieda City Leased
        Offices and phone center in Yokohama Leased
    Germany:
            Offices and phone center in Mettlach Leased
    Portugal:
            Sourcing office in Maia Leased
    Hong Kong: Sourcing Office Leased
The company believes that its facilities are in good condition, well
maintained and suitable for their intended uses.
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(A) Outlet stores will be closing in the first quarter of fiscal 2000.
(B) The company introduced its "inlet" (originally known only as outlet) concept during fiscal 1997. The "inlet" store enhances the traditional outlet "overstock" store and offers face-to-face catalog shopping within a store. The "inlet" stores carry a limited selection of Lands' End signature items at regular catalog prices, along with expanded customer service that catalog customers have come to expect.
(C) The Traveler's Inlet is located at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport and carries only full-price merchandise and offers special services to travelers.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings
There are no material legal proceedings presently pending, except for routine litigation incidental to the business, to which the company is a party or of which any of its property is the subject.

Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders
No matters were submitted to a vote of security holders during the fourth quarter of the fiscal year ended January 29, 1999.

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Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity and Related Shareholder
Matters
Market Information
The common stock of the company is listed and traded on the New York Stock
Exchange. The stock tables in most daily newspapers list the company as
"LandsE". Ticker symbol: LE. See Note 13 "Consolidated quarterly analysis"
for information on the high and low stock prices of the company's common
stock. The closing price of the company's stock on the New York Stock
Exchange on March 26, 1999, (the record date) was $32 9/16 per share.
Shareholders
As of March 26, 1999, the number of shareholders of record of common stock
of the company was 2,348. This number excludes shareholders whose stock is
held in nominee or street name by brokers.
Dividends
See Item 7 "Liquidity and capital resources" of Management's Discussion and
Analysis for the company's decision not to pay cash dividends during fiscal
years 1999, 1998 and 1997.
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Item 6. Selected Consolidated Financial Data
FIVE-YEAR CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL SUMMARY (unaudited)
Lands' End, Inc. \& Subsidiaries
(In thousands, except for share data)

| Fiscal Year | 1999 | 1998 | 1997 | 1996 | 1995 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Income statement data: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Net sales \$1, | \$1,371,375 | \$1,263,629 | \$1,118,743 | \$1,031,548 | \$992,106 |
| Pretax income | 49,500 | 101,825 | 84,919 | 50,925 | 59,663 |
| Percent to net sales | 3.6\% | 8.1\% | 7.6\% | 4.9\% | 6.0\% |
| Net income | 31,185 | 64,150 | 50,952 | 30,555 | 36,096 |
| Per share of common stock:1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Basic earnings per share | \$1.02 | \$2.01 | \$1.54 | \$0.89 | \$1.03 |
| Diluted earnings per share | re \$1.01 | \$2.00 | \$1.53 | \$0.89 | \$1.02 |
| Cash dividends per share | - | - |  | - | - |
| Common shares outstanding | g 30,142 | 30,979 | 32,442 | 33,659 | 34,826 |
| Balance sheet data: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Current assets \$2 | \$294,303 | \$299,146 | \$272,039 | \$222,089 | \$198,168 |
| Current liabilities | 205,283 | 182,013 | 145,566 | 114,744 | 102,717 |
| Property, plant, equipment <br> and intangibles, net |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total assets | 455,919 | 433,472 | 378,045 | 323,497 | 297,612 |
| Noncurrent liabilities | 8,133 | 8,747 | 9,474 | 7,561 | 5,767 |
| Shareholders' |  |  |  |  |  |
| investment | 242,503 | 242,712 | 223,005 | 201,192 | 189,128 |
| Other data: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Net working capital \$ | \$ 89,020 | \$117,133 | \$126,473 | \$107,345 | \$ 95,451 |
| Capital expenditures | 46,750 | 48,228 | 17,992 | 14,780 | 27,005 |
| Depreciation and amortization expense | 18,731 | 15,127 | 13,558 | 12,456 | 10,311 |
| Return on average shareholders' |  |  |  |  |  |
| investment | 13\% | 28\% | 24\% | 16\% | 20\% |
| Return on average assets | 7\% | 16\% | 15\% | 10\% | 13\% |

1. Net income per share was computed after giving retroactive effect on the two-for-one stock split in May 1994.


Net sales grew by 8.5 percent
Net sales for the year just ended totaled $\$ 1.371$ billion, compared with $\$ 1.264$ billion in the prior year, an increase of 8.5 percent. The increase in sales was due primarily to additional catalogs and pages mailed to customers. The growth in sales came from all of the company's operating segments. In fiscal 1999, our company expanded the number of reported operating segments to three: core, specialty and international. Prior to this, only domestic and foreign segments were disclosed. (See Note 12.)

Within the core operating segment, sales from the monthly and prospecting full-price catalogs were down from the prior year despite an increase in pages circulated. The specialty segment has a higher operating profit compared with the core and international segments, due principally to higher gross profit margins and relatively lower costs of catalog advertising.

Year-end inventory was $\$ 220$ million, down 9 percent from $\$ 241$ million in
fiscal 1998. Inventory throughout most of the year was higher as we experienced softening sales, especially in the third quarter. To correct this, we instituted price rollbacks, price reductions and some promotional pricing in the fourth quarter. This helped increase sales, but also had a negative effect on the gross profit margin.

Gross profit margin decreased

Gross profit for the year just ended was $\$ 617$ million, or 45.0 percent of net sales, compared with $\$ 588$ million, or 46.6 percent of net sales, for the prior year. The decrease in gross profit margin was due primarily to more steep markdowns on higher sales of liquidated merchandise, especially in the fourth quarter when we aggressively addressed our overstock situation, as well as from lower initial markups. Liquidations were about 10 percent of total net sales in fiscal 1999, compared with 8 percent in the prior year.

In fiscal 1999, inflationary pressure was low, and costs of inventory purchases increased 0.5 percent, compared with 1.2 percent in fiscal 1998.

Selling, general and administrative expenses

Selling, general and administrative (SG\&A) expenses rose 11.1 percent to $\$ 544$ million in fiscal 1999, compared with $\$ 490$ million in the prior year. As a percentage of sales, SG\&A was 39.7 percent in fiscal 1999 and 38.8 percent in fiscal 1998. The increase in the SG\&A percentage was mainly the result of lower productivity in the catalogs due to an increase in pages and catalogs mailed and a weaker response from customers. Additional factors increasing the SG\&A percentage were relatively higher salaries and benefits, higher Year 2000 expenses, and increased investment in the Internet site. This was partially offset by lower bonus and profit-sharing expense due to lower profitability. The number of full-price catalogs mailed totaled 259 million in fiscal 1999, up 12 percent from the prior year, while the total number of pages mailed increased by about 10 percent.

Over the past two years, catalog circulation has increased 22 percent and page circulation by 38 percent. This level of circulation was due in part to our efforts to clear excess inventory in the fourth quarter. Starting this fall, we will circulate fewer catalogs and pages to reduce less profitable mailings. This will have a negative effect on sales growth, but is expected to have a positive impact on operating profit margins by increasing catalog productivity, or sales per page.

The cost of producing and mailing catalogs represented about 43 percent and 41 percent of total SG\&A in fiscal 1999 and 1998, respectively.

Depreciation and amortization expense was $\$ 18.7$ million, up 23.8 percent from the prior year, primarily because of additional equipment, computer hardware and software, and buildings. Rental expense was $\$ 15.6$ million, up 15.7 percent, due mainly to increased computer-related rentals.

In fiscal 1999, we recorded a non-recurring charge of $\$ 12.6$ million. This charge includes costs associated with severance payments due to organizational changes, liquidation of the Willis \& Geiger division, closing of three outlet stores and the termination of a licensing agreement with MontBell Co. Ltd. (See Note 9.)

Utilization of credit lines increased
Because of higher inventory levels and lower profits throughout the year, there was additional borrowing under our short-term lines of credit, increasing our interest expense to $\$ 7.7$ million in fiscal 1999. In addition, we spent $\$ 47$ million in capital expenditures and purchased about $\$ 36$ million in treasury stock. Our lines of credit peaked at $\$ 257$ million in October 1998, compared with a peak of $\$ 118$ million in the prior year. At January 29, 1999, the company's foreign subsidiaries had short-term debt outstanding of $\$ 17.1$ million and domestic operations had borrowings of $\$ 21.8$ million. No long-term debt was outstanding at fiscal year-end 1999.

Net income decreased

Net income for fiscal 1999 was $\$ 31.2$ million, down 51 percent from the $\$ 64.2$ million earned in fiscal 1998. Diluted earnings per share for the year just ended were $\$ 1.01$, compared with $\$ 2.00$ per share for the prior year. The
diluted weighted average number of common shares outstanding was 30.8 million for fiscal 1999 and 32.1 million for fiscal 1998.

The fiscal 1999 results include an after-tax non-recurring charge of $\$ 7.9$ million, or $\$ 0.26$ per share. In the first quarter of fiscal 1998 the company had an after-tax gain of $\$ 4.9$ million, or $\$ 0.15$ per share, from the sale of its majority interest in The Territory Ahead. Before the effect of these adjustments, net income for fiscal 1999 was $\$ 39.1$ million, or $\$ 1.27$ per share, compared with $\$ 59.2$ million, or $\$ 1.85$ per share in fiscal 1998.

Fiscal 1998, compared with fiscal 1997
Sales growth was strong throughout fiscal 1998. Gross profit margin improved, mainly due to higher initial margins, while selling, general and administrative expenses rose due primarily to a higher number of pages mailed, which reduced productivity, or sales per page. In fiscal 1997, inventory levels were too low, and we disappointed more customers than in prior years. Higher inventory levels in the last half of fiscal 1998 increased our firsttime fulfillment rate and resulted in fewer lost sales and backorders. Sales in the United States from our core monthly and prospecting catalogs accounted for about 53 percent of total net sales in fiscal 1998. Sales from our foreign-based operations in Japan, the United Kingdom and Germany accounted for just above 10 percent of total net sales. Net income increased 25.9 percent this year compared to last year. Net income in fiscal 1998 included an after-tax gain of $\$ 4.9$ million from the sale of our majority interest in The Territory Ahead.

Net sales grew by 13 percent
Net sales for the year just ended totaled $\$ 1.264$ billion, compared with $\$ 1.119$ billion in the prior year, an increase of 13.0 percent. Our sales increase in fiscal 1998 came mainly from growth in our specialty businesses, as well as from our core business, represented by the monthly and prospecting catalogs, and from our foreign-based operations. Our sales growth can be attributed to increases in the number of pages and catalogs mailed. In fiscal 1998, worldwide, we mailed 230 million full-price catalogs, compared to the prior year's 211 million. The total number of pages mailed increased about 26 percent. The company had a majority interest in The Territory Ahead for the first two months of fiscal 1998 and throughout all of fiscal 1997. Net sales for fiscal 1998 and 1997 included $\$ 5.1$ million and $\$ 30.1$ million, respectively, from The Territory Ahead. Excluding these amounts from both fiscal years' revenues, net sales for fiscal 1998 increased 15.6 percent.

Our inventory balance at the end of fiscal 1998 was $\$ 241$ million, up 69 percent from fiscal 1997 ending inventory of $\$ 142$ million. In fiscal 1997, many customers were disappointed when their orders could not be filled during the late fall and holiday seasons. During 1998 we increased inventory, especially in the last half of the year, resulting in higher fulfillment rates for the most recent holiday period and reaching an annualized first-time fulfillment rate of 88 percent. This compares to an 86 percent rate in fiscal 1997, but was below our goal of shipping at least 90 percent of all items when the customer places an order. Higher inventory levels may result in greater product liquidations at lower margins in future periods.

Gross profit margin improved
Gross profit increased 15.5 percent to $\$ 588$ million in fiscal 1998, compared with $\$ 510$ million in fiscal 1997. As a percentage of net sales, gross profit rose to 46.6 percent in fiscal 1998 , compared with 45.5 percent in fiscal 1997. The increase in gross profit margin was due primarily to higher initial markups and less steep markdowns on fewer liquidated sales. Liquidation of out-of-season and overstocked merchandise was 8 percent of net sales in fiscal 1998, compared with 9 percent in the prior year.

In fiscal 1998, inflationary pressure was low, and costs of inventory purchases increased 1.2 percent, compared with 1.0 percent in fiscal 1997.

Selling, general and administrative expenses
Selling, general and administrative expenses rose 15.4 percent in fiscal 1998 to $\$ 490$ million, from $\$ 424$ million in fiscal 1997 . As a percentage of sales, SG\&A was 38.8 percent in fiscal 1998, compared with 37.9 percent in fiscal 1997. The increase in the $S G \& A$ ratio was mainly the result of lower
productivity, or sales per page, in the core catalogs due to an increase in the number of pages mailed, partially offset by lower paper prices. An additional factor increasing the $S G \& A$ ratio was relatively higher spending on information systems development. The cost of producing and mailing catalogs represented about 41 percent and 42 percent of total SG\&A in fiscal 1998 and 1997, respectively.

Depreciation and amortization expense was $\$ 15.1$ million, up 11.6 percent from the prior year, primarily because of additional equipment, computer hardware and software, and buildings. Rental expense was $\$ 13.5$ million, up 5.4 percent, due mainly to increased computer-related rentals and building rentals.

Utilization of credit lines increased

Because of higher inventory levels for most 1998, there was additional borrowing under our short-term lines of credit, increasing our interest expense by nearly $\$ 1.5$ million from fiscal 1997. In addition, we spent $\$ 48$ million in capital expenditures and purchased about $\$ 46$ million in treasury stock. Our lines of credit peaked at $\$ 118$ million in October 1997, compared with a peak of $\$ 27$ million in the prior year. At January 30, 1998, we had short-term debt outstanding for foreign subsidiaries of $\$ 25$ million, and domestic operations of $\$ 7.0$ million and no long-term debt outstanding.

Net income increased

Net income for fiscal 1998 was $\$ 64.2$ million, up 25.9 percent from the $\$ 51.0$ million earned in fiscal 1997. Diluted earnings per share for the year just ended were $\$ 2.00$, compared with $\$ 1.53$ per share for the prior year. Fiscal 1998 net income includes an after-tax foreign currency exchange loss of $\$ 2.4$ million, recorded as other expense. The diluted weighted average number of common shares outstanding was 32.1 million for fiscal 1998 and 33.2 million for fiscal 1997.

As previously reported, in the first quarter of fiscal 1998, we had an aftertax gain of $\$ 4.9$ million, or $\$ 0.15$ per share, from the sale of our majority interest in The Territory Ahead. In the third quarter of fiscal 1997, we recorded an after-tax charge to earnings of $\$ 840,000$, or $\$ 0.03$ per share, in connection with the sale of our wholly owned subsidiary MontBell America, Inc. Before the effect of these adjustments, net income for fiscal 1998 was $\$ 59.2$ million, or $\$ 1.85$ per share, compared with $\$ 51.8$ million, or $\$ 1.56$ per share, in fiscal 1997.

In August 1997, United Parcel Service (UPS), which delivers almost all packages to our customers, was on strike for 15 days. During this period, the company was able to deliver all orders in a timely fashion through the United States Postal Service (USPS). The cumulative costs of lost sales, increased shipping through USPS and advertising to notify customers that orders would be shipped were estimated to have a negative impact of $\$ 0.04$ to $\$ 0.08$ per share.

The Christmas season is our busiest

Our business is highly seasonal. The fall/winter season is a five-month period ending in December. In the longer spring/summer season, orders are fewer and the merchandise offered generally has lower unit selling prices than products offered in the fall/winter season. As a result, net sales are usually substantially greater in the fall/winter season, and SG\&A as a percentage of net sales is usually higher in the spring/summer season. In fiscal 1999, a greater amount of net sales occurred later in the holiday season, compared to previous years. Additionally, as we continue to refine our marketing efforts by experimenting with the timing of our catalog mailings, quarterly results may fluctuate.

Nearly 40 percent of our annual sales came in the fourth quarter of fiscal years 1999 and 1998. Approximately 82 percent and 63 percent of before-tax profit was realized in the same quarter of fiscal 1999 and 1998, respectively.

Liquidity and capital resources

To date, the bulk of our working capital needs have been met through funds generated from operations and from short-term bank loans. Our principal need for working capital has been to meet peak inventory requirements associated with our seasonal sales pattern. In addition, our resources have been used to make asset additions and purchase treasury stock.

At January 29, 1999, we had unsecured domestic credit facilities totaling \$120 million, of which $\$ 21.8$ million was used. The company also maintains foreign credit lines for use in foreign operations totaling the equivalent of approximately $\$ 52$ million, of which $\$ 17.1$ million was used at January 29, 1999. The company has a separate $\$ 20$ million bank facility available to fund treasury stock purchases and capital expenditures. This facility runs through May 31, 1999.

Since fiscal 1990, the company's board of directors has authorized the purchase of a total of 12.7 million shares of the company's common stock. A total of 1.1 million, 1.5 million, and 1.3 million shares have been purchased in the fiscal years ended January 29, 1999, January 30, 1998 and January 31, 1997, respectively. As of January 29, 1999, 11.4 million shares have been purchased, and there is a balance of 1.3 million shares authorized to be purchased by the company.

During fiscal 1995, the board of directors evaluated its dividend practice whereby it had paid annual dividends. Given our intent to buy back additional shares, the payment of cash dividends is not planned for the foreseeable future.

Capital investment
Capital investment was about $\$ 47$ million in fiscal 1999. Major projects included computer hardware and software, materials handling equipment, a new distribution and phone center in Oakham, England, expansion of office facilities in Dodgeville, Wisconsin, and expansion of distribution facilities in Reedsburg, Wisconsin.

In the coming year, we plan less than $\$ 20$ million in capital expenditures. Major projects will include computer hardware and software, distribution center equipment and materials handing equipment. We believe that our cash flow from operations and borrowings under our current credit facilities will provide adequate resources to meet our capital requirements and operational needs for the foreseeable future.

Other matters

Segment disclosure

In June 1997, the FASB issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 131, "Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information" ("SFAS No. 131"). SFAS No. 131 establishes standards for the way companies report information about operating segments including the related disclosures about products and services. The company has adopted SFAS No. 131 during the fiscal year ended January 29, 1999, and, as required, has restated prior years for comparability. The company has three business segments consisting of core (regular monthly, First Person Singular, Beyond Buttondowns, and prospector catalogs), specialty (Kids, Coming Home, Willis \& Geiger and Corporate Sales) and international (foreign-based operations in Japan, the United Kingdom and Germany). See Note 12, where the company discloses information about its reportable segments.

Year 2000

The "Year 2000" issue refers to the possibility that some date-sensitive computer software will not correctly interpret "00" references, possibly resulting in processing errors or system failures. We do not manufacture or sell any products that could encounter Year 2000 problems. However, the Year 2000 issue could affect computers that we use for entering orders from customers, for monitoring business information such as customer lists and inventory positions, and for other business processes, as well as microprocessors embedded in equipment used in our warehouses and other facilities. In addition, the Year 2000 issue could affect third parties on which we depend, such as our product vendors and suppliers of telephone
communications, credit card processing, Internet support, product shipment, package delivery, catalog production and distribution, and other important services. Our facilities also depend on basic infrastructure items such as electricity and water utilities. Computer errors or failures in any of these areas have the potential to disrupt our business operations.

We began to address the Year 2000 issue in 1996 and established a Year 2000 project office in 1997. The project office works with our information systems department and outside consultants to identify and assess the Year 2000 readiness of our internal computer systems and microprocessors and, where appropriate, to remediate and test them. The project office is also working with our buyers, quality assurance and other personnel to assess the readiness of our suppliers to deal with the Year 2000 issue. The principal activities of our Year 2000 project office are as follows:

Internal Systems: Most of the software that is critical to our business runs on mainframe computers in a MVS operating environment, as well as on a few mid-range computers. Certain less important functions are performed on a mainframe computer in a VM operating environment. We have completed substantially all of the identification, assessment, remediation and unit testing efforts.

A substantial amount of the mainframe remediation and unit testing work has been performed by a consulting firm. Another firm has completed its assessment and recommendation for integration testing, which is underway and is currently expected to be substantially complete by the third quarter of 1999. However, due to the less critical nature of certain operations performed in the VM environment, further remediation in that area, as well as related unit and integration testing, is expected to continue throughout 1999 on a selectively prioritized basis, and some of these functions may not be remediated.

We completed an inventory and assessment of hardware and software associated with personal computers in 1998. We currently expect to complete remediation of these systems in mid-1999.

We have also identified and assessed the microprocessors used in our warehouses and other facilities in the United States, Japan and the United Kingdom. We have not identified significant problems in this area and currently expect to complete remediation and testing by mid-1999.

Suppliers: Our Year 2000 project office is working closely with other departments, including our merchandising, inventory and quality assurance staff, to track the Year 2000 readiness of our principal product vendors through written questionnaires, telephone calls and on-site visits. Among other things, we are evaluating the readiness of vendors' manufacturing processes and business operations and their ability to perform electronic data interchange with us. In addition, we are evaluating the vulnerability of vendors to possible interruption of the supply of key components of their products, such as fabric, buttons and zippers.

Our evaluation of product vendors is focused on approximately 50 suppliers that collectively account for more than 85 percent of our unit volume of product purchases. Out of that group, we currently believe that approximately 74 percent are making substantial progress and should continue to be monitored, while approximately 26 percent may experience problems that will need to be addressed further in contingency planning. In addition, we have successfully verified and tested electronic data interchange with all product vendors.

We have also identified approximately 150 suppliers of services and infrastructure items that are most important to our business operations. Each of these service providers has been assigned a business leader who is responsible for ensuring the Year 2000 assessment information is current as well as establishing contingency plans as needed. We currently believe that approximately 71 percent are making substantial progress, while 29 percent may
experience Year 2000-related problems and merit increased monitoring and contingency planning. With respect to our most critical telecommunications, catalog production and delivery providers, we have had extensive contacts with them and received substantial information concerning their Year 2000 readiness, and have identified no significant problems that are likely to be encountered.

We currently have less comfort regarding foreign suppliers and infrastructure issues, especially in Asia, than we do in the domestic environment. Foreign service suppliers are very important to our business because approximately half of our products are manufactured abroad. In many cases we are currently unable to assess the extent of Year 2000 problems that may be encountered. We continue to monitor these suppliers based on our business exposure in each country.

Contingency Planning: The Year 2000 project office currently expects to have developed most of the initial contingency plans by April 1999 in order to address any internal items that cannot be remediated and third-party issues that may place our operations at risk. We expect to review and modify these contingency plans throughout 1999.

Based on the activities of our Year 2000 project office, we currently expect that our most important computer systems will be able to function adequately into the next century. While some disruptions are likely to occur with internal systems and at least a few product vendors, we believe the most probable scenario is that there will not be a systemic failure of important services or infrastructure that will materially disrupt our operations as a whole. Moreover, in view of the strong seasonality of our business, any disruptions that do occur are likely to take place in the off-peak selling period following the 1999 holiday season. However, our expectations in this regard are forward-looking in nature and are necessarily subject to the many uncertainties that relate to the Year 2000 issue, especially as it affects our suppliers and other third parties over whom we have little or no control. If
our remediation, supplier evaluation and contingency planning efforts are not successful, there could be a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations or financial condition. We currently believe that the greatest area of risk in this regard relates to foreign supply and infrastructure issues such as the ability to ship products produced in other countries. In addition, our sales volume could be adversely affected if widespread Year 2000 problems in our domestic or foreign markets were to result in a general slowdown of economic activity and consumer demand.

Cost: The total cost of our Year 2000 efforts is expected to be about $\$ 21$ million, which is being expensed as incurred except for about $\$ 1$ million of hardware replacement costs that have been or will be capitalized. About \$3.4 million of the total amount was incurred through the end of fiscal 1998 and approximately an additional $\$ 8.9$ million in fiscal 1999. We currently expect that about $\$ 7.8$ million of additional expenditures will be incurred in fiscal 2000, and about $\$ 1$ million in fiscal 2001. The timing and amount of these future expenditures are forward-looking and subject to uncertainties relating to our ongoing assessment of the Year 2000 issue and appropriate remediation efforts, contingency plans and responses to any problems that may arise. Our Year 2000 expenses have been paid out of our annual budgets for information services. Accordingly, other technology development projects have been delayed to the extent that resources have been devoted to the Year 2000 project.

Exchange rate sensitivity (derivatives)
The table below provides information about the company's derivative financial instruments and related underlying transactions that are sensitive to foreign exchange rates, summarized by currency in U.S. dollar equivalents. As of January 29, 1999, the company estimates a net foreign currency transaction exposure of $\$ 57.4$ million of which $\$ 43.0$ million is hedged with foreign currency forward and option contracts.

The table shows the impact to the company from a plus/minus 10 percent change in exchange rates on the company's net currency exposure. The company believes it has no material sensitivity to changes in foreign currency exchange rates on its net exposed derivative financial instrument position.


The company's unsecured lines of credit are subject to floating interest rates. As of January 29, 1999, the company had short-term debt outstanding of $\$ 38.9$ million and no long-term debt outstanding. At January 29, 1999, a sensitivity analysis was performed for financial instruments that have interest rate risk. The company has determined that an increase of 10 percent in the company's weighted average interest rates would have no material affect on the consolidated financial position.

Possible future changes
A 1992 Supreme Court decision confirmed that the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution prevents a state from requiring the collection of its use tax by a mail order company unless the company has a physical presence in the state. However, there continues to be uncertainty due to inconsistent application of the Supreme Court decision by state and federal courts. The company attempts to conduct its operations in compliance with its interpretation of the applicable legal standard, but there can be no assurance that such compliance will not be challenged.

In recent challenges, various states have sought to require companies to begin collection of use taxes and/or pay taxes from previous sales. The company has not received assessments from any state.

The Supreme Court decision also established that Congress has the power to enact legislation which would permit states to require collection of use taxes by mail order companies. Congress has from time to time considered proposals for such legislation. The company anticipates that any legislative change, if adopted, would be applied only on a prospective basis.

In October 1998, The Internet Tax Freedom Act was signed into law. Among the provisions of this Act is a three-year moratorium on multiple and discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce. An Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce has been appointed to study and report back to Congress on whether, and if so, how, electronic commerce should be taxed. We are monitoring the activities of the Commission, as well as any proposed changes in the sales and use tax laws and policies in general.

Statement regarding forward-looking information

Statements in this report (including, but not limited to, the president's letter and Management's Discussion and Analysis) that are not historical are forward looking, including, without limitation, statements about goals for Internet sales, anticipated cost savings, and possible circulation reductions and their anticipated effects on sales or profits. As such, these statements are inherently subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. Future results may be materially different from those expressed or implied by these statements due to various factors that may occur. Such factors include, but are not limited to, the following: general economic or business conditions, both domestic and foreign; continued growth rates for e-commerce shopping; the company's ability to attract customers to the Internet; technology developments and their availability and cost; customer response to product offerings and initiatives; costs associated with printing and mailing catalogs; dependence on consumer seasonal buying patterns; the ability of the company to complete its $Y 2 K$ programs; and fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates.

Item 8. Consolidated Financial Statement and Supplementary Data

Consolidated Statement of Operations
(In thousands, except per share data)

| For the period ended |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| January 29, January 30, January 31, |  |  |
| 1999 | 1998 | 1997 |
| $\$ 1,371,375$ | $\$ 1,263,629$ | $\$ 1,118,743$ |
| 754,661 | 675,138 | 609,168 |
| 616,714 | 588,491 | 509,575 |


| Net salesCost of sales | \$1,371,375 |  | \$1,263,629 |  | \$1,118,743 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 754,661 |  | 675,138 |  | 609,168 |
| Gross profit |  | 616,714 |  | 588,491 |  | 509,575 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses |  | 544,446 |  | 489,923 |  | 424,390 |
| Non-recurring charge |  | 12,600 |  | - |  | - |
| Charge from sale of subsidiary |  | - |  | - |  | 1,400 |
| Income from operations |  | 59,668 |  | 98,568 |  | 83,785 |
| Other income (expense) : |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Interest expense |  | $(7,734)$ |  | $(1,995)$ |  | (510) |
| Interest income |  | 16 |  | 1,725 |  | 1,148 |
| Gain on sale of subsidiary |  | - |  | 7,805 |  | - |
| Other |  | $(2,450)$ |  | $(4,278)$ |  | 496 |
| Total other income (expense), net |  | $(10,168)$ |  | 3,257 |  | 1,134 |
| Income before income taxes |  | 49,500 |  | 101,825 |  | 84,919 |
| Income tax provision |  | 18,315 |  | 37,675 |  | 33,967 |
| Net income | \$ | 31,185 | \$ | 64,150 | \$ | 50,952 |
| Basic earnings per share | \$ | 1.02 | \$ | 2.01 | \$ | 1.54 |
| Diluted earnings per share | \$ | 1.01 | \$ | 2.00 | \$ | 1.53 |
| Basic weighted average shares |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Diluted weighted average shares outstanding |  | 30,763 |  | 32,132 |  | 33,237 |

The accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements are an integral part of these consolidated statements.


Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Investment

| (Dollars in thousands) | Comprehensive <br> Income | Common <br> Stock | Donated <br> Capital | Additional |  | Accumulated |  | Treasury | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Paid-in | Deferred | Comprehensive | Retained |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Capital | Compensation | Income | Earnings | Stock |  |
| Balance, Feb. 2, 1996 |  | \$402 | \$8,400 | \$26,165 | \$ $(1,193)$ | \$360 | \$260,109 | \$ $(93,051)$ | \$201,192 |
| Purchase of treasury stock |  | - | - | - | - | - | - | $(30,143)$ | $(30,143)$ |
| Issuance of treasury stock |  | - | - | - | (494) | - | - | 1,098 | 604 |
| Tax benefit of stock options exercised |  | - | - | 65 | - | - | - | - | 65 |
| Deferred compensation expense |  | - | - | - | 317 | - | - | - | 317 |
| Comprehensive income: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Net income | \$50,952 | - | - | - | - | - | 50,952 | - | 50,952 |
| Other comprehensive income: Foreign currency translation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| adjustments | 18 | - | - | - | - | 18 | - | - | 18 |
| Comprehensive income | \$50,970 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Balance, Jan. 31, 1997 |  | \$402 | \$8,400 | \$26,230 | \$ 1 1, 370 ) | \$378 | \$311,061 | \$ 122,096 ) | \$223,005 |
| Purchase of treasury stock |  | - | - | - | - | - | - | $(45,899)$ | $(45,899)$ |
| Issuance of treasury stock |  | - | - | - | - | - | - | 409 | 409 |
| Tax benefit of stock options exercised |  | - | - | 227 | - | - | - | - | 227 |


| Deferred compensation expense Comprehensive income: |  | - | - | - | 323 | - | - | - | 323 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Net income | \$64,150 |  | - | - | - | - | - | 64,150 | - | 64,150 |
| Other comprehensive income: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Foreign currency translation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Comprehensive income | \$64,647 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Balance, Jan. 30, 1998 |  | \$402 | \$8,400 | \$26,457 | \$(1,047) | \$875 | \$375, 211 | \$ (167,586) | \$242,712 |
| Purchase of treasury stock |  | - | - | - | - | - | - | $(35,557)$ | $(35,557)$ |
| Issuance of treasury stock |  | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1,845 | 1,845 |
| Tax benefit of stock options exercised |  | - | - | 537 | - | - | - | - | 537 |
| Deferred compensation expense |  | - | - | - | 653 | - | - | - | 653 |
| Comprehensive income: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Net income | \$31,185 | - | - | - | - | - | 31,185 | - | 31,185 |
| Other comprehensive income: Foreign currency translation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | 1,128 | - | - | - | - | 1,128 | - | - | 1,128 |
| Comprehensive income | \$32,313 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Balance, January 29, 1999 |  | \$402 | \$8,400 | \$26,994 | \$(394) | \$2,003 | \$406,396 | \$ 201,298$)$ | \$242,503 |

The accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements are an integral part of these consolidated statements.

| Lands' End, Inc. \& Subsidiaries (In thousands) | $\begin{gathered} \text { For } \mathrm{t} \\ \text { Jan. } 29, \\ 1999 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { period e } \\ \text { Jan. } 30, \\ 1998 \end{gathered}$ | Ja | ed <br> an. 31, 1997 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cash flows from operating activities: Net income | \$ 31,185 | \$ 64,150 | \$ | 50,952 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash flows from operating activities-Pre-tax non-recurring charge | 12,600 | - |  | - |
| Depreciation and amortization | 18,731 | 15,127 |  | 13,558 |
| Deferred compensation expense | 653 | 323 |  | 317 |
| Deferred income taxes | $(5,948)$ | $(1,158)$ |  | 994 |
| Pre-tax gain on sale of subsidiary | - | $(7,805)$ |  | - |
| Loss on disposal of fixed assets | 586 | 1,127 |  | 325 |
| Changes in assets and liabilities excluding effects of divestitures: |  |  |  |  |
| Receivables | $(5,640)$ | $(7,019)$ |  | (675) |
| Inventory | 21,468 | $(104,545)$ |  | 22,371 |
| Prepaid advertising | $(2,844)$ | $(7,447)$ |  | 4,758 |
| Other prepaid expenses | $(2,504)$ | $(1,366)$ |  | (145) |
| Accounts payable | 4,179 | 11,616 |  | 14,205 |
| Reserve for returns | 1,065 | 944 |  | 629 |
| Accrued liabilities | 6,993 | 8,755 |  | 4,390 |
| Accrued profit sharing | $(2,030)$ | 1,349 |  | 1,454 |
| Income taxes payable | $(5,899)$ | $(1,047)$ |  | 8,268 |
| Other | 1,665 | 64 |  | 394 |
| Net cash flows from (used for) operating activities | 74,260 | $(26,932)$ |  | 121,795 |
| Cash flows from (used for) investing activities: Cash paid for capital additions <br> Proceeds from sale of subsidiary | $(46,750)$ | $(47,659)$ 12,350 |  | $(18,481)$ |
| Net cash flows used for investing activities | $(46,750)$ | $(35,309)$ |  | $(18,481)$ |
| Cash flows from (used for) financing activities: |  |  |  |  |
| Proceeds from short-term borrowings | 6,505 | 21,242 |  | 1,876 |
| Purchases of treasury stock | $(35,557)$ | $(45,899)$ |  | $(30,143)$ |
| Issuance of treasury stock | 1,845 | 409 |  | 604 |
| Net cash flows used for financing activities | $(27,207)$ | $(24,248)$ |  | $(27,663)$ |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | 303 | $(86,489)$ |  | 75,651 |
| Beginning cash and cash equivalents | 6,338 | 92,827 |  | 17,176 |
| Ending cash and cash equivalents | \$ 6,641 | \$ 6,338 | \$ | 92,827 |
| Supplemental cash flow disclosures: Interest paid | \$ 7,693 | \$ 1,995 | \$ | 517 |

The accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements are an integral part of these consolidated statements.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
Lands' End, Inc. \& Subsidiaries

Note 1. Summary of significant accounting policies

Nature of business

Lands' End, Inc., (the company) is a direct marketer of traditionally styled apparel, domestics (primarily bedding and bath items), soft
luggage, and other products. The company manages its businesses in three operating segments consisting of core, specialty and
international, based principally on type of catalog focusing on specific customer needs and market served. The company's primary market is the United States, and other markets include the Pacific Basin area, Europe and Canada.

Principles of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the company and its subsidiaries after elimination of intercompany accounts and transactions.

Year-end

The company's fiscal year is comprised of 52-53 weeks ending on the Friday closest to January 31. Fiscal 1999 ended on January 29, 1999, fiscal 1998 ended on January 30, 1998 and fiscal 1997 ended on January 31, 1997. All three years were comprised of 52 weeks.

Use of estimates
The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting periods. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Inventory

Inventory, primarily merchandise held for sale, is stated at last-in, first-out (LIFO) cost, which is lower than market. If the first-in, first-out (FIFO) method of accounting for inventory had been used, inventory would have been approximately $\$ 26.9$ million and $\$ 25.1$ million higher than reported at January 29, 1999 and January 30, 1998, respectively.

Advertising
The company expenses the costs of advertising for magazines, television, radio, and other media the first time the advertising takes place, except for direct-response advertising, which is capitalized and amortized over its expected period of future benefits.

Direct-response advertising consists primarily of catalog production and mailing costs that are generally amortized within three months from the date catalogs are mailed. Advertising costs reported as prepaid assets were $\$ 21.4$ million and $\$ 18.5$ million as of January 29, 1999 and January 30 , 1998, respectively. Advertising expense was $\$ 262.9$ million, $\$ 226.7$ million and $\$ 195.7$ million for fiscal years ended January 29, 1999, January 30, 1998 and January 31, 1997, respectively.

Depreciation
Depreciation expense is calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets, which are 20 to 30 years for buildings and land improvements and five to 10 years for leasehold improvements and furniture, fixtures, equipment, and software. The company provides one-half year of depreciation in the year of addition and retirement.

Intangibles
Intangible assets consist primarily of trademarks, as well as their associated goodwill that is being amortized over 15 years on a straight-line basis.

Reserve for losses on customer returns

At the time of sale, the company provides a reserve equal to the gross profit on projected merchandise returns, based on its prior returns experience.

Financial instruments with off-balance-sheet risk
The company is party to financial instruments with off-balance-sheet risk in the normal course of business to reduce its exposure to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates and to meet financing needs.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
Lands' End, Inc. \& Subsidiaries

The company enters into forward exchange contracts and options to hedge anticipated foreign currency transactions during the upcoming seasons. The purpose of the company's foreign currency hedging activities is to protect the company from the risk that the eventual dollar cash flows resulting from these transactions will be adversely affected by changes in exchange rates. At January 29, 1999, the company had forward exchange contracts, maturing through November 1999, to sell approximately 2.9 billion Japanese yen and 24.0 million Deutsche marks. In addition, as of January 29, 1999, the company had outstanding forward currency options to sell 400.0 million Japanese yen and 5.0 million Deutsche marks. The gains and losses on the outstanding forward exchange contracts are reflected in the financial statements in the period in which the currency fluctuation occurs. The premiums on options are amortized over the life of the option.

The company also uses import letters of credit to purchase foreignsourced merchandise. The letters of credit are primarily U.S. dollardenominated and are issued through third-party financial institutions to guarantee payment for such merchandise within agreed-upon time periods. At January 29, 1999, the company had outstanding letters of credit of approximately $\$ 18$ million, all of which had expiration dates of less than one year.

The counterparties to the financial instruments discussed above are primarily large financial institutions; management believes the risk of counterparty nonperformance on these financial instruments is not significant.

Foreign currency and transactions
Financial statements of the foreign subsidiaries are translated into U.S. dollars in accordance with the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 52. Translation adjustments are accumulated in a separate component of stockholders' equity. Foreign currency transaction gains and losses, recorded as other income and expense on the Consolidated Statements of Operations, included losses of $\$ 1.9$ million and $\$ 3.8$ million and a gain of $\$ 0.2$ million in fiscal 1999, 1998 and 1997, respectively.

Fair values of financial instruments

The fair value of financial instruments does not materially differ from their carrying values.

Reclassifications

Certain financial statement amounts have been reclassified to be consistent with the fiscal 1999 presentation.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
Lands' End, Inc. \& Subsidiaries

Accounting standards
In June 1998, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued SFAS No. 133, "Accounting For Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities." This statement addresses the accounting for derivative instruments, including certain derivative instruments embedded in other contracts, and hedging activities. The provisions of SFAS No. 133 are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 1999. The company may adopt this standard in fiscal 2000, and is currently assessing its impact.

Note 2. Shareholders' investment
Capital stock
The company currently has 160 million shares of $\$ 0.01$ par value common stock. The company is authorized to issue 5 million shares of preferred stock, $\$ 0.01$ par value. The company's board of directors has the authority to issue shares and to fix dividend, voting and conversion rights, redemption provisions, liquidation preferences, and other rights and restrictions of the preferred stock. No preferred shares have been issued.

Treasury stock
The company's board of directors has authorized the purchase of a total of 12.7 million shares of the company's common stock. A total of 11.4 million, 10.3 million and 8.8 million shares had been purchased as of January 29, 1999, January 30, 1998 and January 31, 1997, respectively.

Treasury stock activity was as follows:

|  | For the period ended |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Jan. 29, 1999 | Jan. 30, 1998 | Jan. 31, 1997 |  |
| Beginning balance | $9,281,138$ | $7,778,258$ | $6,561,298$ |  |
| Purchase of stock | $1,144,460$ | $1,533,880$ | $1,284,270$ |  |
| Issuance of stock | $(108,480)$ | $(31,000)$ | $(67,310)$ |  |
| Ending Balance | $10,317,118$ | $9,281,138$ | $7,778,258$ |  |

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
Lands' End, Inc. \& Subsidiaries

Earnings per share
A reconciliation of the basic and diluted per share computations is as follows (dollars are shown in thousands, except per share data):

Net income

Basic weighted average shares of common stock outstanding
Incremental shares from assumed exercise of stock options

| Jan. 29, | Jan. 30, | Jan. 31, |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1999 | 1998 | 1997 |
| $\$ 31,185$ | $\$ 64,150$ | $\$ 50,952$ |

Diluted weighted average shares of common stock outstanding

| Basic earnings per share | $\$ 1.02$ | $\$$ | 2.01 | $\$ 1.54$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Diluted earnings per share | $\$ 1.01$ | $\$$ | 2.00 | $\$ 1.53$ |

Options to purchase the following shares of common stock were
outstanding as of each date indicated but were not included in the computation of diluted EPS because the options' exercise prices were greater than the average market price of the common shares:

|  | Shares | Exercise Pric |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| January 29, 1999 | 80,000 | \$28.63 |
|  | 2,917 | 30.94 |
|  | 155,500 | 34.94 |
|  | 5,000 | 34.00 |
|  | 669,000 | 32.38 |
| January 30, 1998 | 2,917 | \$30.94 |
|  | 265,000 | 34.94 |
| January 31, 1997 | 150,000 | \$25.50 |

Stock awards and grants
The company has a restricted stock award plan. Under the provisions of the plan, a committee of the company's board of directors may award
shares of the company's common stock to its officers and key employees. Such shares vest over a five- or 10-year period on a straight-line basis from the date of the award.

Note to Consolidated Financial Statements
Lands' End, Inc. \& Subsidiaries
The following table reflects the activity under the stock award and stock grant plans:

|  | Awards | Grants |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Balance at February 2, 1996 | 96,680 | 0 |
| Granted | - | 25,000 |
| Forfeited | $(6,560)$ | - |
| Vested | $(15,000)$ | - |
| Balance at January 31, 1997 | 75,120 | 25,000 |
| $\quad$ Granted | - | - |
| Forfeited | $(980)$ | - |
| Vested | $(17,140)$ | $(5,000)$ |
| Balance at January 30, 1998 | 57,000 | 20,000 |
| $\quad$ Granted | - | - |
| Forfeited | $(11,860)$ | $(15,000)$ |
| Vested | $(14,140)$ | $(5,000)$ |
| Balance at January 29, 1999 | 31,000 | 0 |

The granting of these awards and grants has been recorded as deferred compensation based on the fair market value of the shares at the date of grant. Compensation expense under these plans is recorded as shares vest.

Stock options
The company has 5.5 million shares of common stock (which includes 3.0 million shares subject to shareholder approval at the 1999 annual meeting of shareholders) and 0.4 million shares, either authorized and unissued or treasury shares, that may be issued pursuant to the exercise of options granted under the company's Stock Option Plan (for employees) and the Non-Employee Director Stock Option Plan, respectively.

Under the company's Stock Option Plan, options are granted at the discretion of a committee of the company's board of directors to officers and key employees of the company. In fiscal 1998, the board of directors of the company adopted the Non-Employee Director Stock Option Plan to encourage stock ownership by members of the board of directors of the company who are not also employed by the company in order to further align the interests of the non-employee directors with those of the shareholders. No option may have an exercise price less than the fair market value per share of the common stock at the date of the grant.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
Lands' End, Inc. \& Subsidiaries
Activity under the stock option plans is as follows:

|  |  | Average <br> Exercise <br> Price | Exercisable <br> Options |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Balance at February 2, 1996 | 621,700 | $\$ 15.87$ | 150,240 |
| $\quad$ Granted | 647,000 | $\$ 20.52$ |  |
| Exercised | $(42,310)$ | $\$ 14.28$ |  |
| Forfeited | $(75,990)$ | $\$ 16.69$ |  |
| Balance at January 31, 1997 | $1,150,400$ | $\$ 18.49$ | 193,140 |
| $\quad$ Granted | 347,917 | $\$ 33.45$ |  |
| $\quad$ Exercised | $(31,000)$ | $\$ 13.21$ |  |
| $\quad$ Forfeited |  | - | - |
| Balance at January 30, 1998 | $1,467,317$ | $\$ 21.42$ | 350,107 |
| $\quad$ Granted |  | $1,874,000$ | $\$ 23.73$ |

The range of options outstanding as of January 29, 1999 is as follows:

| Price Range Per Share | Number of Options Shares <br> Outstanding/Exercisable | Weighted Average Exercise Price <br> Outstanding/Exercisable | Weighted <br> Average Remaining Contractual Life <br> (In years) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| \$12.00-\$19.99 | 1,422,650/306,740 | \$17.88/\$16.20 | 8.6 |
| \$20.00-\$29.99 | 436,440/133,940 | 23.41/ 25.43 | 8.6 |
| \$30.00-\$35.00 | 832,417/ 32,917 | 32.86/ 34.44 | 9.8 |
|  | 2,691,507/473,597 | \$23.41/\$20.08 | 9.0 |

The options above generally have a 10-year term. Options granted under the company's Stock Option Plan generally vest from six months to five years; options granted under the Non-Employee Director Stock Option Plan vest over a period from zero to two years.

Stock-based compensation
During fiscal 1996 the company adopted SFAS No. 123, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation." As permitted by the statement, the company will continue to account for its stock-based compensation plans as presented by APB Opinion No. 25 and related interpretations. Accordingly, compensation costs related to the stock awards and grants were $\$ 0.7$ million, $\$ 0.3$ million and $\$ 0.3$ million in fiscal 1999, 1998, and 1997, respectively. These compensation costs are recorded in Deferred Compensation in the Shareholders' investment section of the Consolidated Balance Sheet.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
Lands' End, Inc. \& Subsidiaries

Had compensation cost for the company's options granted after
January 27, 1995 been determined consistent with SFAS No. 123, the company's net income and earnings per share would have been reduced to the following pro forma amounts:

| (In thousands, | Jan. 29, | Jan. 30, | Jan. 31, |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| except per share data) | 1999 | 1998 | 1997 |
| Net income |  |  |  |
| As reported | $\$ 31,185$ | $\$ 64,150$ | $\$ 50,952$ |
| Pro forma | $\$ 26,429$ | $\$ 62,511$ | $\$ 50,402$ |


| Basic earnings per share |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| As reported | $\$$ | 1.02 | $\$$ | 2.01 | $\$$ |
| forma | $\$ 0.54$ |  |  |  |  |
| Pro |  |  | 1.96 | $\$$ | 1.52 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Diluted earnings per share | $\$$ | 1.01 | $\$$ | 2.00 | $\$$ |
| As reported | $\$ 1.53$ |  |  |  |  |
| Pro forma | 0.86 | $\$$ | 1.95 | $\$$ | 1.52 |

The fair value of each option grant was estimated as of the date of grant using the Black-Scholes pricing model. The resulting compensation cost was amortized over the vesting period.

The option grant fair values and assumptions used to determine such value are as follows:

| Options granted during | 1999 | 1998 | 1997 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Weighted average grant-date |  |  |  |
| $\quad$ fair value | $\$ 11.21$ | $\$ 17.02$ | $\$ 13.34$ |
| Assumptions: | $4.74 \%$ | $6.10 \%$ | $6.57 \%$ |
| Risk-free interest rates | $35.86 \%$ | $37.30 \%$ | $42.21 \%$ |
| Expected volatility | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.0 |

Note 3. Income taxes

Earnings before income taxes consisted of the following (in thousands):

| United States | $\$ 44,499$ | $\$ 95,909$ | $\$ 80,807$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Foreign | 5,001 | 5,916 | 4,112 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Total | $\$ 49,500$ | $\$ 101,825$ | $\$ 84,919$ |

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
Lands' End, Inc. \& Subsidiaries
The components of the provision for income taxes for each of the periods presented are as follows (in thousands):

|  | Period ended, <br> January 30, <br> 1998 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | ---: |
| Jarrent: | 1999 |  | January 31, |
| Federal | $\$ 21,026$ | $\$ 31,335$ | $\$ 26,291$ |
| State | 1,752 | 4,449 | 4,993 |
| Foreign | 1,485 | 3,049 | 1,689 |
| Deferred | $(5,948)$ | $(1,158)$ | 994 |
|  | $\$ 18,315$ | $\$ 37,675$ | $\$ 33,967$ |

The difference between income taxes at the statutory federal income tax rate of 35 percent and income tax reported in the statements of operations is as follows (in thousands):

|  | Period ended, |  |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| January 29, | January 30, | January 31 |
| 1999 | 1998 | 1997 |

Amount Percent Amount Percent Amount Percent

## Tax at statutory

federal tax rate $\$ 17,325$ 35\% $\$ 35,640$ 35\% $\$ 29,720$ 35\%
Foreign taxes (excess
over statutory rate) 263 - 1,130 1

| State income taxes, |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | ---: | :---: |
| net of federal benefit | 1,306 | 3 | 3,999 | 4 | 3,314 | 4 |
| Tax credits \& other | $(579)$ | $(1)$ | $(3,094)$ | $(3)$ | 382 | - |
|  | $\$ 18,315$ | $37 \%$ | $\$ 37,675$ | $37 \%$ | $\$ 33,967$ | $40 \%$ |

Under the liability method prescribed by the SFAS No. 109, "Accounting for Income Taxes," deferred taxes are provided based upon enacted tax laws and rates applicable to the periods in which taxes become payable.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
Lands' End, Inc., \& Subsidiaries
Temporary differences which give rise to deferred tax assets and
liabilities as of January 29, 1999 and January 30, 1998 are as follows (in thousands):

Jan. 29, 1999 Jan. 30, 1998
Deferred tax assets: Catalog advertising Inventory
$\$(3,914)$
\$ $(1,810)$ 9,198 7,016
7,937 3,891
$2,661 \quad 2,451$
ployee benefits
Reserve for returns Foreign operating
loss carryforwards 686 1,271

Valuation allowance
(686) (1,271)
$2,065 \quad 1,065$
Total
\$ 17,947
\$ 12,613
Deferred tax liabilities:

| Depreciation <br> Other | $\$, 141$ <br> $(8)$ | $\$$8,857 <br> $(110)$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Total | $\$ 8,133$ | $\$ 8,747$ |

The valuation allowance required under SFAS No. 109 has been established for the deferred income tax benefits related to certain subsidiary loss carryforwards, which management currently estimates may not be realized. These carryforwards do not expire.

Note 4. Lines of credit

The company has unsecured domestic lines of credit with various U.S. banks totaling $\$ 120$ million. There was $\$ 21.8$ million outstanding at January 29, 1999, compared to $\$ 7.0$ million outstanding at January 30, 1998.

In addition, the company has unsecured lines of credit with various foreign banks totaling the equivalent of approximately $\$ 52$ million for its wholly owned subsidiaries. There was $\$ 17.1$ million outstanding at January 29, 1999, compared with $\$ 25.4$ million as of January 30, 1998.

The following table summarizes certain information regarding these short-term borrowings (dollars in millions):

|  | 1999 |  | 1998 |  | 1997 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Maximum amount of borrowings | \$ | 257 | \$ | 118 | \$ | 27 |
| Average amount of borrowings | \$ | 134 | \$ | 38 | \$ | 15 |
| Weighted average interest rate during year |  | 5.77\% |  | . $25 \%$ |  | 3. $50 \%$ |
| Weighted average interest rate at year-end |  | 5.42\% |  | . $27 \%$ |  | 3. $60 \%$ |

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
Lands' End, Inc., \& Subsidiaries
Note 5. Long-term debt
There was no long-term debt as of January 29, 1999 and January 30, 1998.

The company has an agreement that expires May 31, 1999 with a bank for a $\$ 20$ million credit facility available to fund capital
expenditures and treasury stock purchases.
Note 6. Leases

The company leases store and office space and equipment under various leasing arrangements. The leases are accounted for as operating leases. Total rental expense under these leases was $\$ 15.6$ million, $\$ 13.5$ million and $\$ 12.8$ million for the years ended January 29, 1999, January 30, 1998 and January 31, 1997, respectively.

Total future fiscal year commitments under these leases as of January 29, 1999 are as follows (in thousands):

| 2000 | $\$ 10,241$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| 2001 | 5,904 |
| 2002 | 3,289 |
| 2003 | 2,457 |
| 2004 | 1,846 |
| Thereafter | 239 |
|  | $\$ 23,976$ |

Note 7. Retirement plan
The company has a retirement plan which covers most regular employees and provides for annual contributions at the discretion of the board of directors. Also included in the plan is a $401(k)$ feature that allows employees to make contributions, and the company matches a portion of those contributions. Total expense provided under this plan was $\$ 4.8$ million, $\$ 6.6$ million and $\$ 5.0$ million for the years ended January 29, 1999, January 30, 1998 and January 31, 1997, respectively.

Note 8. Postretirement benefits

In January 1998, the company implemented a plan to provide health insurance benefits for eligible retired employees. These insurance benefits will be funded through insurance contracts, a group benefit trust or general assets of the company. The assets were contributed to the plan in January 1999. The cost of these insurance benefits is recognized as the eligible employees render service.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
Lands' End, Inc., \& Subsidiaries
The following table presents the change in the benefit obligation and plan assets in fiscal years 1999 and 1998:

| (In thousands) | 1999 |  | 1998 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Change in benefit obligation: |  |  |  |  |
| Benefit obligation at beginning of year | \$ | 4,419 | \$ | - |
| Service cost |  | 630 |  | 53 |
| Interest cost |  | 308 |  | 25 |
| Plan participants' contributions |  | 13 |  | - |
| Actuarial (gain)/loss |  | 376 |  | (3) |
| Benefits paid |  | (15) |  | - |
| Implementation of plan |  | - |  | 4,344 |
| Benefit obligation at end of year | \$ | 5,731 | \$ | 4,419 |
| Change in plan assets: |  |  |  |  |
| Employer contributions | \$ | 1,980 | \$ | - |
| Plan participants' contributions |  | 13 |  | - |
| Benefits paid |  | (15) |  | - |
| Fair value of plan assets at end of year | \$ | 1,978 | \$ | - |
| Net amount recognized: |  |  |  |  |
| Funded status | \$ | $(3,753)$ | \$ | $(4,419)$ |
| Unrecognized net actuarial (gain)/loss |  | 373 |  | (3) |
| Unrecognized prior service cost |  | 4,052 |  | 4,322 |
| Prepaid/(accrued) benefit cost | \$ | 672 | \$ | (100) |
| Weighted-average assumptions at end of year: |  |  |  |  |
| Discount rate |  | $6.75 \%$ |  | 7.00\% |
| Expected return on plan assets |  | 7.50\% |  | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ |

The components of net periodic benefit cost for the years ended January 29, 1999 and January 30,1998 were as follows:

| (In thousands) | 1999 | 1998 |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Service cost | $\$$ | 630 | $\$$ |
| Interest cost | 308 | 53 |  |
| Expected return on plan assets | - | 25 |  |
| Amortization of prior service cost |  | 270 | - |
| Postretirement benefit cost | $\$ 1,208$ | $\$$ | 100 |

For measurement purposes, a 7 percent annual rate of increase in the per capita cost of covered health care benefits was assumed for fiscal year 2000. The rate was assumed to decrease gradually to 5 percent for 2004 and remain at that level thereafter.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
Lands' End, Inc., \& Subsidiaries

Assumed health care cost trend rates have a significant effect on the amounts reported for the health care plan. A 1 percentage point change in assumed health care cost trend rates would have the following effects:
(In thousands)
1 percent increase
1 percent decrease

| Service and | Postretirement |
| :---: | :---: |
| Interest costs | Benefit Obligation |
| $\$$ | 50 |
| $(42)$ | $\$$ |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

Note 9. Non-recurring charge

During the fourth quarter of fiscal 1999, the Board of Directors approved and management announced a Plan (the "Plan") designed to reduce administrative and operational costs stemming from duplicative responsibilities and certain non-profitable operations. The Plan included a reduction of 94 total positions ( 60 salaried staff), the closing of three outlet stores, the liquidation of the Willis \& Geiger operations and the termination of a licensing agreement with MontBell Co. Ltd. The Plan resulted in a $\$ 12.6$ million non-recurring charge, which was comprised of the following:

| Severance costs | $\$ 6.7$ million |
| :--- | ---: |
| Asset impairments | 3.3 million |
| Facility exit costs and other | 2.6 million |
| Total | $\$ 12.6$ million |

The severance costs include salaries, medical benefits and certain outplacement costs for terminated employees. The company will close three outlet stores, resulting in $\$ 1.0$ millon of lease termination costs and $\$ 0.8$ million of leasehold improvement write-offs. The liquidation of the Willis \& Geiger operations resulted in a $\$ 2.5$ million charge, which includes $\$ 2.2$ million of inventory written down to net realizable value and $\$ 0.3$ million of fixed asset write downs. Lastly, the company has terminated its licensing agreement with MontBell Co. Ltd. The agreement was in the second year of a five-year contract, and $\$ 1.6$ million represents the termination cost of the contract.

The fixed assets at the locations to be closed have been written down to their estimated fair value. No significant cash proceeds are expected to be received from the ultimate disposal of these assets.

At January 29, 1999, there was a balance of $\$ 12.5$ million remaining on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. The company expects to incur the majority of the charges in fiscal 2000, with the balance, predominantly severance, being paid in fiscal 2001.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
Lands' End, Inc., \& Subsidiaries

Note 10. Divestitures

Willis \& Geiger
During the fourth quarter of fiscal 1999, the company announced and began to liquidate its Willis \& Geiger division, as described in Note 9.

The Territory Ahead
During the first quarter of fiscal 1998, the company sold its majority interest in The Territory Ahead to The International Cornerstone Group, Inc. of Boston, Massachusetts, resulting in an after-tax gain of $\$ 4.9$ million. The after-tax gain was recorded in the first quarter of fiscal 1998.

MontBell
In connection with the sale of MontBell America, Inc. (MontBell), the company recorded an after-tax charge of $\$ 0.8$ million in fiscal 1997. In fiscal 1998, the company signed a licensing agreement with MontBell, which was terminated in fiscal 1999. (See Note 9.)

Sales and results of operations of MontBell America, Inc., The Territory Ahead and Willis \& Geiger were not material to the consolidated financial statements.

Note 11. Sales and use tax

A 1992 Supreme Court decision confirmed that the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution prevents a state from requiring the collection of its use tax by a mail order company unless the company has a physical presence in the state. However, there continues to be uncertainty due to inconsistent application of the Supreme Court decision by state and federal courts. The company attempts to conduct its operations in compliance with its interpretation of the applicable legal standard, but there can be no assurance that such compliance will not be challenged.

In recent challenges, various states have sought to require companies to begin collection of use taxes and/or pay taxes from previous sales. The company has not received assessments from any state. The amount of potential assessments, if any, cannot be reasonably estimated.

The Supreme Court decision also established that Congress has the power to enact legislation which would permit states to require collection of use taxes by mail order companies. Congress has from time to time considered proposals for such legislation. The company anticipates that any legislative change, if adopted, would be applied only on a prospective basis.

In October 1998, The Internet Tax Freedom Act was signed into law. Among the provisions of this Act is a three-year moratorium on multiple and discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce. An Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce has been appointed to study and report back to Congress on whether and, if so, how electronic commerce should be taxed. We are monitoring the activities of the Commission, as well as any proposed changes in the sales and use tax laws and policies in general.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
Lands' End, Inc., \& Subsidiaries
Note 12. Segment disclosure
During the fiscal year ended January 29, 1999, Lands' End adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 131, "Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information" (SFAS 131). The adoption of SFAS 131 did not affect results of operations or financial position, but did affect the disclosure of segment information.

The company organizes and manages its businesses based on type of catalog, which focuses on specific customer needs and markets served. Each business segment is separately evaluated by executive management with financial information reviewed to assess performance. Certain catalogs are combined for purposes of assessing financial performance. The company evaluates the performance of its business segments based on operating profit. The accounting policies of the company's segments are the same as those described in Note 1. The company is not dependent upon any single customer or group of customers, the loss of which would have a material effect on the company. Based on the way the company organizes and manages its businesses, it has three reportable segments: core, specialty and international.

CORE
The core segment is composed of adult apparel offered through our regular monthly catalogs, tailored catalogs and prospector catalogs. Sales for these catalogs that are received via the Internet, liquidation or export channels are included in this core segment. The regular monthly catalogs contain a full assortment of classically inspired, traditionally styled casualwear for adults. Some of these products include dress shirts, jeans, mesh knit shirts, women's knits, sweaters, outerwear, and turtlenecks. The prospecting catalog is a condensed version of our monthly catalog featuring some of the company's best selling products. The prospector catalogs are sent to active buyers, to those on the house file who have been inactive or have yet to make a purchase and to prospective customers. The tailored catalogs are Beyond Buttondowns, offering a broad assortment of fine tailored clothing for men, and First Person Singular, featuring women's finely tailored clothing suitable for the workplace.

SPECIALTY
The specialty segment is composed of Kids, Corporate Sales, Coming Home and the Willis \& Geiger catalogs. Sales for these catalogs that are received via the Internet, liquidation or export channels are included in this specialty segment. The specialty catalogs have been developed over the years in response to customer requests for additional merchandise and are used to target specific needs that are important to Lands' End customers. The specialty businesses include the Kids catalog, which offers a collection of clothing for children of all ages. In addition, there is a Kids uniform catalog that targets the growing uniform trend in many public and private schools. The Corporate Sales catalog is a business-to-business catalog that utilizes the company's embroidery capabilities to design and monogram unique emblems and logos on Lands' End product for corporations, clubs, teams, and other groups. The Coming Home catalog offers home products, primarily bedding and bath items. The Willis \& Geiger

Notes of Consolidated Financial Statements
Lands' End, Inc., \& Subsidiaries
catalog offers related products targeted to the outdoor enthusiast. During the fourth quarter of fiscal 1999, we announced and began to liquidate the Willis \& Geiger business.

## INTERNATIONAL

The international segment consists of foreign-based operations located in Japan, the United Kingdom and Germany, which include catalogs and liquidation channels. Catalogs are denominated in local currencies and written in native languages. There are phone and distribution centers located in both Japan and the United Kingdom. Germany has its own phone and customer service center, but orders are packed and shipped from the distribution center in the United Kingdom.

Segment sales represent sales to external parties. Segment operating profit is revenue less direct and allocable operating expenses, which includes interest expense. Segment identifiable assets are those that are directly used in or identified with segment operations. "Other" includes corporate expenses, inter-company eliminations, interest revenue, and other income and deduction items that are not allocated to segments. Segment capital expenditures are not allocated by management for measurement purposes. Thus, these costs are not available by segment.

Pertinent financial data by operating segment for the three years ended January 29, 1999, are as follows (in thousands):

Fiscal year ended January 29, 1999

|  | Core | Specialty | International | Other | Consolidated |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Net sales | \$862,302 | \$365,181 | \$145,908 | \$ $(2,016)$ | \$1,371,375 |
| Operating profit (loss) 1 | \$ 28,051 | \$ 23,336 | \$ 4,822 | \$(6,709) | \$ 49,500 |
| ```Identifiable assets``` | \$273,929 | \$116,007 | \$ 65,983 | \$ | \$ 455,919 |
| Depreciation and amortization | \$ 11,310 | \$ 5,323 | \$ 2,098 | \$ - | \$ 18,731 |
| Interest expense | \$ 3,910 | \$ 2,296 | \$ 1,528 | \$ - | \$ 7,734 |

Fiscal year ended January 30, 1998

|  | Core | Specialty | International | Other | Consolidated |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Net sales <br> Operating profit <br> (loss) | $\$ 825,998$ | $\$ 307,409$ | $\$ 131,789$ | $\$(1,567)$ | $\$ 1,263,629$ |  |
| Identifiable <br> assets | $\$ 60,045$ | $\$ 30,480$ | $\$ 6,989$ | $\$ 4,311$ | $\$ 101,825$ |  |
| Depreciation and <br> amortization | $\$ 275,764$ | $\$ 102,630$ | $\$ 55,078$ | $\$$ | - | $\$ 433,472$ |

Interest expense $\$ 714$ \$ $351 \quad \$ \quad 930 \quad \$ \quad-\quad \$ 1,995$

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements Lands' End, Inc., \& Subsidiaries

(1) Includes non-recurring charges of $\$ 7.6$ million and $\$ 5.0$ million allocated to the core and specialty segments, respectively.

Pertinent financial data by geographical location for the three years ended January 29, 1999 are as follows (in thousands):

|  | Net Sales |  |  | Identifiable Assets |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 01/29/99 | 01/30/98 | 01/31/97 | 01/29/99 | 01/30/98 | 01/31/97 |
| United States | \$1,225,467 | \$1,131,840 | \$1,023,035 | \$389,936 | \$378,394 | \$345,923 |
| Other countries | 145,908 | 131,789 | 95,708 | 65,983 | 55,078 | 32,122 |
| Total | \$1,371,375 | \$1,263,629 | \$1,118,743 | \$455,919 | \$433,472 | \$378,045 |

Note 13. Consolidated quarterly analysis (unaudited)
(In thousands, except per share data)

| Net Sales | \$268,587 | \$239,194 | \$322,422 | \$541,172 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Gross profit | 124,740 | 115,478 | 145,262 | 231,234 |
| Pretax income | 8,266 | (97) | 551 | 40,780 |
| Net income | \$ 5,208 | \$ (61) | \$ 347 | \$ 25,691 |
| Basic earnings per share | \$ 0.17 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.01 | \$ 0.85 |
| Diluted earnings per share | \$ 0.17 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.01 | \$ 0.84 |
| Common shares outstanding | 30,961 | 30,236 | 30,239 | 30,142 |
| (In dollars) |  |  |  |  |
| Market price of shares outstanding: |  |  |  |  |
| - Market high | 44 1/8 | $375 / 8$ | 30 3/8 | 32 7/16 |
| - Market low | 35 | $261 / 8$ | 15 3/8 | $163 / 4$ |
|  | Fiscal 1998 |  |  |  |
|  | 1st Qtr. | 2nd Qtr. | 3rd Qtr. | 4th Qtr. |
| Net Sales | \$244,720 | \$219,883 | \$318,608 | \$480,418 |
| Gross profit | 112,732 | 102,533 | 146,749 | 226,477 |
| Pretax income | 18,844 | 5,755 | 13,562 | 63,664 |
| Net income | \$ 11,306 | \$ 3,428 | \$ 8,162 | \$ 41,254 |
| Basic earnings per share | \$ 0.35 | \$ 0.11 | \$ 0.26 | \$ 1.33 |
| Diluted earnings per share | \$ 0.35 | \$ 0.11 | \$ 0.26 | \$ 1.32 |
| Common shares outstanding | 32,350 | 32,144 | 31,328 | 30,979 |
| (In dollars) |  |  |  |  |
| Market price of shares outstanding: |  |  |  |  |
| - Market high | 29 1/8 | 30 7/8 | 32 7/8 | 39 7/16 |
| - Market low | $251 / 8$ | 25 5/8 | $263 / 16$ | 31 13/16 |

Quarterly earnings per share amounts are based on the weighted average common shares outstanding for each quarter and, therefore, might not equal the amount computed for the total year.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The management of Lands' End, Inc. and its subsidiaries has the responsibility for preparing the accompanying financial statements and for their integrity and objectivity. The statements were prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis. The consolidated financial statements include amounts that are based on management's best estimates and judgments. Management also prepared the other information in the annual report and is responsible for its accuracy and consistency with the consolidated financial statements.

The company's consolidated financial statements have been audited by Arthur Andersen LLP, independent certified public accountants. Management has made available to Arthur Andersen LLP all the company's financial records and related data, as well as the minutes of shareholders' and directors' meetings. Furthermore, management believes that all representations made to Arthur Andersen LLP during its audit were valid and appropriate.

Management of the company has established and maintains a system of internal control that provides for appropriate division of responsibility, reasonable assurance as to the integrity and reliability of the consolidated financial statements, the protection of assets from unauthorized use or disposition, the prevention and detection of fraudulent financial reporting, and the maintenance of an active program of internal audits. Management believes that, as of January 29, 1999, the company's system of internal control is adequate to accomplish the objectives discussed herein.

Two directors of the company, not members of management, serve as the audit committee of the board of directors and are the principal means through which the board supervises the performance of the financial reporting duties of management. The audit committee meets with management, the internal audit staff and the company's independent auditors to review the results of the audits of the company and to discuss plans for future audits. At these meetings, the audit committee also meets privately with the internal audit staff and the independent auditors to assure its free access to them.

| DAVID F. DYER | $/ s /$ STEPHEN A. ORUM |
| :--- | :--- |
| David F. Dyer | Stephen A. Orum |
| Chief Executive Officer | Executive Vice President and <br>  |

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of Lands' End, Inc.:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Lands' End, Inc. (a Delaware corporation) and its subsidiaries as of January 29, 1999, and January 30, 1998, and the related consolidated statements of operations, shareholders' investment and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended January 29, 1999. These financial statements are the responsibility of the company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

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

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Lands' End, Inc. and subsidiaries as of January 29, 1999, and January 30, 1998, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended January 29, 1999, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

ARTHUR ANDERSEN LLP
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
March 5, 1999

Part II continued

Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements on Accounting and Consolidated Financial Disclosure

The company has had no change in, or disagreements with, its independent certified public accountants on accounting and financial disclosure.

Part III
Item 10. Directors and Executive Officers of the Registrant
The information required by this item with respect to directors of the company is incorporated herein by reference to pages 1 through 4 of the Lands' End, Inc. Notice of 1999 Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement dated April 19, 1999 (the "Proxy Statement").

The information required by this item with respect to executive officers of the company is included on page 9 in Part $I$ of this Form 10-K report.

Item 11. Executive Compensation
The information required by this item is incorporated herein by reference to pages 4 through 11 of the Proxy Statement.

Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management

The information required by this item is incorporated herein by reference to page 13 through 17 of the Proxy Statement.

Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions
The information required by this item is incorporated herein by reference to page 10 of the Proxy Statement.

PART IV.
Item 14. Exhibits, Consolidated Financial Statement Schedules and Reports on Form 8-K
(a) 1. Consolidated Financial Statements See index on page 2.
2. Exhibits

| Table |  | Exhibit |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Number | Description | Number |
| ----- | Consent of Arthur Andersen LLP | ---------1 |

(b) Reports on Form 8-K

There were no reports filed on Form 8-K during the three-month period ended January 29, 1999.

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or $15(\mathrm{~d})$ 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 on April 28, 1999.

LANDS' END, INC.

By /s/ STEPHEN A. ORUM
----------------------------
Stephen A. Orum
Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial 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 shown, as of April 28, 1999.

```
/s/ GARY C. COMER Chairman of the Board and Director
------------------------------
    Gary C. Comer
/s/ RICHARD C. ANDERSON Vice Chairman of the Board and Director
- ---------------------------
```

    Richard C. Anderson
    /s/ DAVID F. DYER Chief Executive Officer and Director
David F. Dyer
/s/ JOHN N. LATTER Director

- -------------------------------
John N. Latter
/s/ DAVID B. HELLER Director
- ----------------------------
David B. Heller
/s/ HOWARD G. KRANE Director
- -----------------------------
Howard G. Krane
/s/ DANIEL OKRENT Director
- -------------------------------
Daniel Okrent

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS ON SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULE

We have audited in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the consolidated financial statements included in the Lands' End, Inc. annual report to shareholders included in this Form $10-\mathrm{K}$ and have issued our report thereon dated March 5, 1999. Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on those statements taken as a whole. The schedule on page 52 of this Form 10-K is the responsibility of the company's management and is presented for the purpose of complying with the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and is not part of the basic consolidated financial statements. This schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic consolidated financial statements and, in our opinion, fairly states in all material respects the financial data required to be set forth therein in relation to the basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole.
/s/ ARTHUR ANDERSEN LLP
Milwaukee, Wisconsin March 5, 1999

## LANDS' END, INC. \& SUBSIDIARIES

SCHEDULE II
VALUATION AND QUALIFYING ACCOUNTS
(Dollars in thousands)

| Balance, Beginning of Period | Amounts Charged to Net Income | Write-Offs Against Reserve | Balance, End of Period |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| \$ 6,128 | \$205,557 | \$204,492 | \$ 7,193 |
| \$ 5,184 | \$179,096 | \$178,152 | \$ 6,128 |
| \$ 4,555 | \$150, 820 | \$150,191 | \$ 5,184 |

LIST OF DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE


```
        the company and the American National
        Bank and Trust Company of Chicago.
Ninth Amendment to Loan Agreement between the
    company and the American National Bank
    and Trust Company of Chicago, dated
    May 31, 1998
```

Table
Number
------
(10)
Description
of Item

Buying Agreement between the company and the European Buying Agency, Ltd.

Salaried Incentive Bonus Plan
Annual Incentive Plan and Long-Term Incentive Plan

Stock Option Plan of the company

Non-Employee Director Stock Option Plan

Amended and Restated Retirement Plan, dated February 1, 1992

Form of Director Deferred Compensation Agreement

Resignation Agreement between Michael J. Smith and the company

Resignation Agreement between William E. Ferry and the company

Employment and Option Agreements between David F. Dyer and the company

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

As independent public accountants, we hereby consent to the incorporation of our reports included in this Form $10-\mathrm{K}$ into the Company's previously filed Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 033-63461).
/s/ ARTHUR ANDERSEN LLP
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
April 28, 1999
<ARTICLE> 5

<LEGEND>
THIS SCHEDULE CONTAINS SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION EXTRACTED FROM THE
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS AND THE CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS AND IS
QUALIFIED IN ITS ENTIRETY BY REFERENCE TO SUCH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.
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<MULTIPLIER> 1,000

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| <PERIOD-END> |  | JAN-29-1999 | JAN-30-1998 |
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| <OTHER-SE> |  | 242,101 | 242,310 |
| <TOTAL-LIABILITY-AND-EQUITY> |  | 455,919 | 433,472 |
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| <TOTAL-REVENUES> |  | 1,371,375 | 1,263,629 |
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| <TOTAL-COSTS> |  | 754,661 | 675,138 |
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| <INTEREST-EXPENSE> |  | 7,734 | 1,995 |
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| <EXTRAORDINARY> |  | 0 | 0 |
| <CHANGES> |  | 0 | 0 |
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| <F1>Expenses included in Other Income and Expenses on the Consolidated |  |  |  |
| Statement of Operations |  |  |  |
| <F2>Per SFAS 128 the EPS os Basic |  |  |  |

