

BUCKLE INC
Form 10-Q
December 07, 2017

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

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

For the Quarterly Period Ended October 28, 2017

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

For the Transition Period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number: 001-12951

THE BUCKLE, INC.
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Nebraska 47-0366193
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

2407 West 24th Street, Kearney, Nebraska 68845-4915
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (308) 236-8491

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer ; Accelerated filer ;
Non-accelerated filer ; Smaller reporting company

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Emerging growth company

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

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

The number of shares outstanding of the Registrant's Common Stock, \$0.01 par value, as of December 1, 2017, was 48,841,280.

THE BUCKLE, INC.

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THE BUCKLE, INC.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(Amounts in Thousands Except Share and Per Share Amounts)
(Unaudited)

ASSETS	October 28, 2017	January 28, 2017
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 205,247	\$ 196,536
Short-term investments	52,202	49,994
Receivables	11,247	8,210
Inventory	128,821	125,694
Prepaid expenses and other assets	8,317	6,023
Total current assets	405,834	386,457
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT		
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	462,798	459,359
	(306,655)	(290,364)
	156,143	168,995
LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS		
	18,386	18,092
OTHER ASSETS		
	7,760	6,303
Total assets	\$ 588,123	\$ 579,847
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable	\$ 41,294	\$ 25,079
Accrued employee compensation	14,899	26,906
Accrued store operating expenses	17,044	14,695
Gift certificates redeemable	14,853	21,199
Income taxes payable	4,087	10,737
Total current liabilities	92,177	98,616
DEFERRED COMPENSATION		
	14,581	13,092
DEFERRED RENT LIABILITY		
	35,452	37,600
Total liabilities	142,210	149,308
COMMITMENTS		
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY:		
Common stock, authorized 100,000,000 shares of \$.01 par value; 48,841,280 and 48,622,780 shares issued and outstanding at October 28, 2017 and January 28, 2017, respectively	488	486
Additional paid-in capital	143,670	139,398
Retained earnings	301,834	290,737
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(79)	(82)
Total stockholders' equity	445,913	430,539

Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 588,123	\$ 579,847
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See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

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THE BUCKLE, INC.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

(Amounts in Thousands Except Per Share Amounts)

(Unaudited)

	Thirteen Weeks Ended October 28, 2017		Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended October 28, 2016	
	October 29, 2017	October 29, 2016	October 28, 2017	October 29, 2016
SALES, Net of returns and allowances	\$224,307	\$ 239,213	\$632,208	\$ 694,913
COST OF SALES (Including buying, distribution, and occupancy costs)	133,379	142,339	385,424	423,428
Gross profit	90,928	96,874	246,784	271,485
OPERATING EXPENSES:				
Selling	50,684	50,820	144,281	144,448
General and administrative	9,307	9,234	29,113	29,705
	59,991	60,054	173,394	174,153
INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	30,937	36,820	73,390	97,332
OTHER INCOME, Net	808	497	2,642	1,500
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES	31,745	37,317	76,032	98,832
PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES	11,841	13,920	28,360	36,866
NET INCOME	\$19,904	\$ 23,397	\$47,672	\$ 61,966
EARNINGS PER SHARE:				
Basic	\$0.41	\$ 0.49	\$0.99	\$ 1.29
Diluted	\$0.41	\$ 0.48	\$0.99	\$ 1.28
Basic weighted average shares	48,218	48,107	48,218	48,107
Diluted weighted average shares	48,339	48,259	48,331	48,230

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

THE BUCKLE, INC.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(Amounts in Thousands)

(Unaudited)

	Thirteen Weeks Ended October 28 October 29, 2017 2016		Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended October 28 October 29, 2017 2016	
NET INCOME	\$19,904	\$ 23,397	\$47,672	\$ 61,966
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME, NET OF TAX:				
Change in unrealized loss on investments, net of tax of \$0, \$0, \$2, and \$72, respectively	—	—	3	125
Reclassification adjustment for losses included in net income, net of tax of \$0, \$0, \$0, and \$17, respectively	—	—	—	28
Other comprehensive income	—	—	3	153
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	\$19,904	\$ 23,397	\$47,675	\$ 62,119

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

THE BUCKLE, INC.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

(Amounts in Thousands Except Share and Per Share Amounts)

(Unaudited)

	Number of Shares	Common Stock	Additional Paid-in Capital	Retained Earnings	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	Total
FISCAL 2017						
BALANCE, January 29, 2017	48,622,780	\$ 486	\$ 139,398	\$ 290,737	\$ (82)	\$ 430,539
Net income	—	—	—	47,672	—	47,672
Dividends paid on common stock, (\$0.75 per share)	—	—	—	(36,575)	—	(36,575)
Issuance of non-vested stock, net of forfeitures	218,500	2	(2)	—	—	—
Amortization of non-vested stock grants, net of forfeitures	—	—	4,274	—	—	4,274
Change in unrealized loss on investments, net of tax	—	—	—	—	3	3
BALANCE, October 28, 2017	48,841,280	\$ 488	\$ 143,670	\$ 301,834	\$ (79)	\$ 445,913
FISCAL 2016						
BALANCE, January 31, 2016	48,428,110	\$ 484	\$ 134,864	\$ 277,626	\$ (331)	\$ 412,643
Net income	—	—	—	61,966	—	61,966
Dividends paid on common stock, (\$0.75 per share)	—	—	—	(36,416)	—	(36,416)
Issuance of non-vested stock, net of forfeitures	194,670	2	(2)	—	—	—
Amortization of non-vested stock grants, net of forfeitures	—	—	4,808	—	—	4,808
Change in unrealized loss on investments, net of tax	—	—	—	—	125	125
Reclassification adjustment for losses included in net income, net of tax	—	—	—	—	28	28
BALANCE, October 29, 2016	48,622,780	\$ 486	\$ 139,670	\$ 303,176	\$ (178)	\$ 443,154

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

THE BUCKLE, INC.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(Amounts in Thousands)

(Unaudited)

	Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended	
	October 28, 2017	October 29, 2016
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net income	\$47,672	\$61,966
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash flows from operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	23,143	24,070
Amortization of non-vested stock grants, net of forfeitures	4,274	4,808
Deferred income taxes	(1,581)	(1,779)
Other	427	1,326
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Receivables	(41)	2,190
Inventory	(3,127)	1,373
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(2,294)	(1,290)
Accounts payable	16,456	1,615
Accrued employee compensation	(12,007)	(17,475)
Accrued store operating expenses	2,349	9,801
Gift certificates redeemable	(6,346)	(6,770)
Income taxes payable	(9,646)	(14,356)
Deferred rent liabilities and deferred compensation	(659)	(1,331)
Net cash flows from operating activities	58,620	64,148
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchases of property and equipment	(10,959)	(26,738)
Change in other assets	122	109
Purchases of investments	(44,712)	(32,432)
Proceeds from sales/maturities of investments	42,215	33,150
Net cash flows from investing activities	(13,334)	(25,911)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Payment of dividends	(36,575)	(36,416)
Net cash flows from financing activities	(36,575)	(36,416)
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	8,711	1,821
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, Beginning of period	196,536	161,185
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, End of period	\$205,247	\$163,006

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

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THE BUCKLE, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

THIRTEEN AND THIRTY-NINE WEEKS ENDED OCTOBER 28, 2017 AND OCTOBER 29, 2016

(Dollar Amounts in Thousands Except Share and Per Share Amounts)

(Unaudited)

1. Management Representation

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for interim financial information. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments necessary for the fair presentation of the results of operations for the interim periods have been included. All such adjustments are of a normal recurring nature. Because of the seasonal nature of the business, results for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of a full year's operations. The accounting policies followed by the Company and additional footnotes are reflected in the consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended January 28, 2017, included in The Buckle, Inc.'s 2016 Form 10-K. The condensed consolidated balance sheet as of January 28, 2017 is derived from audited financial statements.

For purposes of this report, unless the context otherwise requires, all references herein to the "Company", "Buckle", "we", "us", or similar terms refer to The Buckle, Inc. and its subsidiary.

The Company follows generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") established by the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB"). References to GAAP in these notes are to the FASB Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC").

2. Description of the Business

The Company is a retailer of medium to better priced casual apparel, footwear, and accessories for fashion conscious young men and women. The Company operates its business as one reportable segment. The Company had 461 stores located in 44 states throughout the United States as of October 28, 2017 and 470 stores in 44 states as of October 29, 2016. During the thirty-nine week period ended October 28, 2017, the Company opened 1 new store, substantially remodeled 7 stores, and closed 7 stores; which includes no new stores, no substantial remodels, and 2 closed stores during the third quarter. During the thirty-nine week period ended October 29, 2016, the Company opened 4 new stores, substantially remodeled 17 stores, and closed 2 stores; which includes 1 new store, 5 substantial remodels, and 1 closed store during the third quarter.

The following is information regarding the Company's major product lines, stated as a percentage of the Company's net sales:

Merchandise Group	Thirteen Weeks Ended		Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended	
	October 28, 2017	October 29, 2016	October 28, 2017	October 29, 2016
Denims	43.4	44.9	39.5	40.9
Tops (including sweaters)	33.7	31.8	32.5	30.7
Accessories	8.5	8.4	9.0	8.9
Sportswear/Fashions	2.5	2.1	8.6	8.8

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Footwear	6.3	6.1	6.3	6.1
Casual bottoms	1.4	2.3	1.4	1.8
Outerwear	2.3	2.5	1.3	1.3
Other	1.9	1.9	1.4	1.5
	100.0%	100.0 %	100.0%	100.0 %

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3. Earnings Per Share

Basic earnings per share data are based on the weighted average outstanding common shares during the period. Diluted earnings per share data are based on the weighted average outstanding common shares and the effect of all dilutive potential common shares.

	Thirteen Weeks Ended October 28, 2017			Thirteen Weeks Ended October 29, 2016		
	Weighted Per Income Average Share			Weighted Per Income Average Share		
	Shares	Amount		Shares	Amount	
Basic EPS	\$ 19,904,482,218	\$ 0.41		\$ 23,397,481,107	\$ 0.49	
Effect of Dilutive Securities:						
Non-vested shares	—	121	—	—	152	(0.01)
Diluted EPS	\$ 19,904,483,339	\$ 0.41		\$ 23,397,482,259	\$ 0.48	
	Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended October 28, 2017			Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended October 29, 2016		
	Weighted Per Income Average Share			Weighted Per Income Average Share		
	Shares	Amount		Shares	Amount	
Basic EPS	\$ 47,672,482,218	\$ 0.99		\$ 61,966,481,107	\$ 1.29	
Effect of Dilutive Securities:						
Non-vested shares	—	113	—	—	123	(0.01)
Diluted EPS	\$ 47,672,483,331	\$ 0.99		\$ 61,966,482,230	\$ 1.28	

4. Investments

The following is a summary of investments as of October 28, 2017:

	Amortized Cost or Par Value	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Other-than- Temporary Impairment	Estimated Fair Value
Available-for-Sale Securities:					
Auction-rate securities	\$ 1,725	\$ —	\$ (125)	\$ —	\$ 1,600
Held-to-Maturity Securities:					
State and municipal bonds	\$ 54,407	\$ 4	\$ (40)	\$ —	\$ 54,371
Trading Securities:					
Mutual funds	\$ 13,333	\$ 1,248	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 14,581

The following is a summary of investments as of January 28, 2017:

	Amortized Cost or Par Value	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Other-than-Temporary Impairment	Estimated Fair Value
Available-for-Sale Securities:					
Auction-rate securities	\$ 1,800	\$ —	\$ (130)	\$	—\$ 1,670
Held-to-Maturity Securities:					
State and municipal bonds	\$ 53,324	\$ 26	\$ (34)	\$	—\$ 53,316
Trading Securities:					
Mutual funds	\$ 12,701	\$ 391	\$ —	\$	—\$ 13,092

The amortized cost and fair value of debt securities by contractual maturity as of October 28, 2017 is as follows:

	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Held-to-Maturity Securities		
Less than 1 year	\$ 52,202	\$52,167
1 - 5 years	2,205	2,204
	\$ 54,407	\$54,371

As of October 28, 2017 and January 28, 2017, \$1,600 and \$1,670 of available-for-sale securities and \$2,205 and \$3,330 of held-to-maturity securities are classified in long-term investments. Trading securities are held in a Rabbi Trust, intended to fund the Company's deferred compensation plan, and are classified in long-term investments.

The Company's investments in auction-rate securities ("ARS") are classified as available-for-sale and reported at fair market value. As of October 28, 2017 and January 28, 2017, the reported investment amount is net of \$125 and \$130, respectively, of temporary impairment to account for the impairment of certain securities from their stated par value. The temporary impairment is reported, net of tax, as an "accumulated other comprehensive loss" of \$79 and \$82 in stockholders' equity as of October 28, 2017 and January 28, 2017, respectively. For the investments considered temporarily impaired, all of which have been in loss positions for over a year, the Company believes that these ARS can be successfully redeemed or liquidated in the future at par value plus accrued interest. The Company believes it has the ability and maintains its intent to hold these investments until such recovery of market value occurs; therefore, the Company believes the current lack of liquidity has created the temporary impairment in valuation. As of October 28, 2017 and January 28, 2017, all of the Company's investments in ARS were classified in long-term investments.

5. Fair Value Measurements

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Financial assets and liabilities measured and reported at fair value are classified and disclosed in one of the following categories:

Level 1 – Quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Short-term and long-term investments with active markets or known redemption values are reported at fair value utilizing Level 1 inputs.

Level 2 – Observable market-based inputs (either directly or indirectly) such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities, quoted prices in markets that are not active, or other inputs that are observable or inputs that are corroborated by market data.

Level 3 – Unobservable inputs that are not corroborated by market data and are projections, estimates, or interpretations that are supported by little or no market activity and are significant to the fair value of the assets.

As of October 28, 2017 and January 28, 2017, the Company held certain assets that are required to be measured at fair value on a recurring basis including available-for-sale and trading securities.

The Company's financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis are as follows:

	Fair Value Measurements at Reporting Date Using Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)				Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total
October 28, 2017							
Available-for-sale securities:							
Auction-rate securities	\$—	\$ 45	\$ 1,555				\$1,600
Trading securities (including mutual funds)	14,581	—	—				14,581
Totals	\$14,581	\$ 45	\$ 1,555				\$16,181

	Fair Value Measurements at Reporting Date Using Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)				Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total
January 28, 2017							
Available-for-sale securities:							

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Auction-rate securities	\$—	\$ 45	\$ 1,625	\$1,670
Trading securities (including mutual funds)	13,092	—	—	13,092
Totals	\$13,092	\$ 45	\$ 1,625	\$14,762

Securities included in Level 1 represent securities which have a known or anticipated upcoming redemption as of the reporting date and those that have publicly traded quoted prices. ARS included in Level 2 represent securities which have not experienced a successful auction subsequent to the end of fiscal 2007. The fair market value for these securities was determined by applying a discount to par value based on auction prices for similar securities and by utilizing a discounted cash flow model, using market-based inputs, to determine fair value. The Company used a discounted cash flow model to value its Level 3 investments, using estimates regarding recovery periods, yield, and liquidity. The assumptions used are subjective based upon management's judgment and views on current market conditions, and resulted in \$120 of the Company's recorded temporary impairment as of October 28, 2017. The use of different assumptions would result in a different valuation and related temporary impairment charge.

Changes in the fair value of the Company's financial assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis are as follows:

	Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended October 28, 2017 Fair Value Measurements Using Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) Available-for-Sale Securities Auction-Mutual Securities Funds			Total
Balance, beginning of year	\$1,625	\$		—\$1,625
Total gains and losses:				
Included in net income	—	—		—
Included in other comprehensive income	5	—		5
Purchases, Issuances, Sales, and Settlements:				
Sales	(75)	—		(75)
Balance, end of quarter	\$1,555	\$		—\$1,555

	Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended October 29, 2016 Fair Value Measurements Using Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) Available-for-Sale Securities Auction-Mutual Securities Funds			Total
Balance, beginning of year	\$7,265	\$		—\$7,265
Total gains and losses:				
Included in net income	(45)	—		(45)
Included in other comprehensive income	244	—		244
Purchases, Issuances, Sales, and Settlements:				
Sales	(4,480)	—		(4,480)
Balance, end of quarter	\$2,984	\$		—\$2,984

There were no transfers of securities between Levels 1, 2, or 3 during the thirty-nine week periods ended October 28, 2017 or October 29, 2016. The Company's policy is to recognize transfers in and transfers out as of the beginning of the reporting period in which the transfer occurred.

The carrying value of cash equivalents approximates fair value due to the low level of risk these assets present and their relatively liquid nature, particularly given their short maturities. The Company also holds certain financial instruments that are not carried at fair value on the condensed consolidated balance sheets, including held-to-maturity securities. Held-to-maturity securities consist primarily of state and municipal bonds. The fair values of these debt securities are based on quoted market prices and yields for the same or similar securities, which the Company

determined to be Level 2 inputs. As of October 28, 2017, the fair value of held-to-maturity securities was \$54,371 compared to the carrying amount of \$54,407. As of January 28, 2017, the fair value of held-to-maturity securities was \$53,316 compared to the carrying amount of \$53,324.

The carrying values of receivables, accounts payable, accrued expenses, and other current liabilities approximates fair value because of their short-term nature. From time to time, the Company measures certain assets at fair value on a non-recurring basis, specifically long-lived assets evaluated for impairment. These are typically store specific assets, which are reviewed for impairment when circumstances indicate impairment may exist due to the questionable recoverability of the carrying values of long-lived assets. If expected future cash flows related to a store's assets are less than their carrying value, an impairment loss would be recognized for the difference between the carrying value and the estimated fair value of the store's assets. The fair value of the store's assets is estimated utilizing an income-based approach based on the expected cash flows over the remaining life of the store's lease. The amount of impairment related to long-lived assets was immaterial as of both October 28, 2017 and January 28, 2017.

6. Supplemental Cash Flow Information

The Company had non-cash investing activities during the thirty-nine week periods ended October 28, 2017 and October 29, 2016 of \$241 and (\$837), respectively. The non-cash investing activity relates to the change in the balance of unpaid purchases of property, plant, and equipment included in accounts payable as of the end of the period. The liability for unpaid purchases of property, plant, and equipment included in accounts payable was \$406 and \$647 as of October 28, 2017 and January 28, 2017, respectively. Amounts reported as unpaid purchases are recorded as cash outflows from investing activities for purchases of property, plant, and equipment in the condensed consolidated statement of cash flows in the period they are paid.

Additional cash flow information for the Company includes cash paid for income taxes during the thirty-nine week periods ended October 28, 2017 and October 29, 2016 of \$39,587 and \$53,000, respectively.

7. Stock-Based Compensation

The Company has several stock option plans which allow for granting of stock options to employees, executives, and directors. The Company has not granted any stock options since fiscal 2008 and there are currently no stock options outstanding. The Company also has a restricted stock plan that allows for the granting of non-vested shares of common stock to employees and executives and a restricted stock plan that allows for the granting of non-vested shares of common stock to non-employee directors. As of October 28, 2017, 637,806 shares were available for grant under the Company's various restricted stock plans, of which 576,682 shares were available for grant to executive officers.

Compensation expense was recognized during fiscal 2017 and fiscal 2016 for equity-based grants, based on the grant date fair value of the awards. The fair value of grants of non-vested common stock awards is the stock price on the date of grant.

Information regarding the impact of compensation expense related to grants of non-vested shares of common stock is as follows:

	Thirteen Weeks Ended October 28, 2017		Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended October 29, 2016	
Stock-based compensation expense, before tax	\$ 1,048	\$ 1,135	\$ 4,274	\$ 4,808
Stock-based compensation expense, after tax	\$ 661	\$ 715	\$ 2,693	\$ 3,029

Non-vested shares of common stock granted during the thirty-nine week periods ended October 28, 2017 and October 29, 2016 were granted pursuant to the Company's 2005 Restricted Stock Plan and the Company's 2008 Director Restricted Stock Plan. Shares granted under the 2005 Plan are typically "performance based" and vest over a period of four years, only upon certification by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors that the Company has achieved its pre-established performance targets for the fiscal year. Certain shares granted under the 2005 Plan, however, are "non-performance based" and vest over a period of four years without being subject to the achievement of performance targets. Shares granted under the 2008 Director Plan vest 25% on the date of grant and then in equal portions on each of the first three anniversaries of the date of grant.

A summary of the Company's stock-based compensation activity related to grants of non-vested shares of common stock for the thirty-nine week period ended October 28, 2017 is as follows:

	Shares	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value
Non-Vested - beginning of year	445,299	\$ 33.98
Granted	363,450	20.55
Forfeited	(144,950)	28.31
Vested	(40,980)	30.92
Non-Vested - end of quarter	622,819	\$ 27.67

As of October 28, 2017, there was \$5,984 of unrecognized compensation expense related to grants of non-vested shares. It is expected that this expense will be recognized over a weighted average period of approximately 1.9 years. The total fair value of shares vested during the thirty-nine week periods ended October 28, 2017 and October 29, 2016 was \$776 and \$1,262, respectively. During the thirty-nine week period ended October 28, 2017, 137,400 shares (representing one-half of the "performance based" shares granted during fiscal 2016 under the 2005 Restricted Stock Plan) were forfeited because the Company did not achieve all of the performance targets established for the fiscal 2016 grants.

8. Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

In July 2015, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2015-11, Simplifying the Measurement of Inventory. Under this ASU, inventory will be measured at the "lower of cost and net realizable value" and options that currently exist for "market value" will be eliminated. The ASU defines net realizable value as the "estimated selling prices in the ordinary course of business, less reasonably predictable costs of completion, disposal, and transportation." No other changes were made to the current guidance on inventory measurement. ASU 2015-11 is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2016. The Company adopted the provisions of this ASU in the first quarter of fiscal 2017 and it did not have a material effect on its consolidated results of operations and financial position.

In March 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-09, Compensation - Stock Compensation (Topic 718): Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting. This standard is intended to simplify several aspects of the accounting for share-based payment award transactions, including the income tax consequences, classification of awards as either equity or liabilities, an option to recognize gross stock compensation expense with actual forfeitures recognized as they occur, and classifications in the statement of cash flows. ASU 2016-09 is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2016 and early adoption is permitted. The Company adopted the provisions of this ASU in the first quarter of fiscal 2017 and it did not have a material effect on its consolidated results of operations and financial position.

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606), which supersedes the revenue recognition requirements in Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 605, Revenue Recognition. The new revenue recognition standard requires entities to recognize revenue in a way that depicts the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. In July 2015, the FASB approved a one-year deferral of

the effective date of the new revenue recognition standard. The new standard will become effective for the Company beginning with the first quarter of fiscal 2018 and can be adopted either retrospectively to each prior reporting period presented or as a cumulative effect adjustment as of the date of adoption. Through its continuing evaluation of the impact of this ASU, the Company anticipates the adoption will affect the income statement classification of gift card and gift certificate breakage, the timing of revenue recognition for sales of merchandise shipped to customers, and the presentation of the allowance for estimated sales returns. The Company plans to adopt this ASU in the first quarter of fiscal 2018 using the modified retrospective transition method and is continuing to evaluate the impact that this ASU and related disclosures will have on its consolidated results of operations and financial position. At this time, the Company does not expect the adoption of ASU 2014-09 will have a material impact on either the Company's consolidated results of operations or financial position.

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-02, Leases (Topic 842). This ASU replaces the existing guidance in ASC 840, Leases. The new standard establishes a right-of-use ("ROU") model that requires a lessee to record a ROU asset and a lease liability on the balance sheet for all leases with terms longer than 12 months. Leases will be classified as either finance or operating, with classification affecting the pattern of expense recognition in the income statement. The guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018, including interim periods within those fiscal years and requires retrospective application. The Company is currently evaluating the effect that adopting this new accounting guidance will have on its consolidated results of operations and financial position, but does expect that it will result in a significant increase in both assets and liabilities related to the Company's leases for retail store locations.

9. Commitments and Contingencies

Data Security Incident

On June 16, 2017, the Company announced that it had become aware that it was a victim of a data security incident in which a criminal entity accessed certain guest credit card information following purchases at some of the Company's retail stores between October 28, 2016 and April 14, 2017. The Company immediately launched a thorough investigation and engaged leading third-party forensic experts to review its systems and secure the affected part of its network. Through that investigation, the Company learned that its store payment data systems were infected with a form of malicious code, which was quickly removed. The Company has taken actions that it believes have contained the issue and has implemented additional security enhancements, and will continue to work vigilantly to pursue this matter to resolution. Based on the forensic investigation, the Company believes that no social security numbers, email addresses, or physical addresses were obtained by those criminally responsible. There is also no evidence that the buckle.com website or buckle.com guests were impacted.

Buckle self-reported the issue to the payment card brands and is cooperating fully with the card brands, their forensic experts, and law enforcement and the investigation is continuing. At this time, it is not possible to reasonably estimate the amount of any potential assessments, fines, penalties, or other liabilities in connection with this incident.

THE BUCKLE, INC.
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF
FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the condensed consolidated financial statements and notes thereto of the Company included in this Form 10-Q. All references herein to the “Company”, “Buckle”, “we”, “us”, or similar terms refer to The Buckle, Inc. and its subsidiary. The following is management’s discussion and analysis of certain significant factors which have affected the Company’s financial condition and results of operations during the periods included in the accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements.

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

Company management considers the following items to be key performance indicators in evaluating Company performance.

Comparable Store Sales – Stores are deemed to be comparable stores if they were open in the prior year on the first day of the fiscal period being presented. Stores which have been remodeled, expanded, and/or relocated, but would otherwise be included as comparable stores, are not excluded from the comparable store sales calculation. Online sales are included in comparable store sales. Management considers comparable store sales to be an important indicator of current Company performance, helping leverage certain fixed costs when results are positive. Negative comparable store sales results could reduce net sales and have a negative impact on operating leverage, thus reducing net earnings.

Net Merchandise Margins – Management evaluates the components of merchandise margin including initial markup and the amount of markdowns during a period. Any inability to obtain acceptable levels of initial markups or any significant increase in the Company’s use of markdowns could have an adverse effect on the Company’s gross margin and results of operations.

Operating Margin – Operating margin is a good indicator for management of the Company’s success. Operating margin can be positively or negatively affected by comparable store sales, merchandise margins, occupancy costs, and the Company’s ability to control operating costs.

Cash Flow and Liquidity (working capital) – Management reviews current cash and short-term investments along with cash flow from operating, investing, and financing activities to determine the Company’s short-term cash needs for operations and expansion. The Company believes that existing cash, short-term investments, and cash flow from operations will be sufficient to fund current and long-term anticipated capital expenditures and working capital requirements for the next several years.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following table sets forth certain financial data expressed as a percentage of net sales and the percentage change in the dollar amount of such items compared to the prior period:

	Percentage of Net Sales				Percentage of Net Sales			
	For Thirteen Weeks Ended		Percentage Increase/(Decrease)	%	For Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended		Percentage Increase/(Decrease)	%
	October 28, 2017	October 29, 2016			October 28, 2017	October 29, 2016		
Net sales	100.0%	100.0%	(6.2)	%	100.0%	100.0%	(9.0)	%
Cost of sales (including buying, distribution, and occupancy costs)	59.5%	59.5%	(6.3)	%	61.0%	60.9%	(9.0)	%
Gross profit	40.5%	40.5%	(6.1)	%	39.0%	39.1%	(9.1)	%
Selling expenses	22.6%	21.2%	(0.3)	%	22.8%	20.8%	(0.1)	%
General and administrative expenses	4.1%	3.9%	0.8	%	4.6%	4.3%	(2.0)	%
Income from operations	13.8%	15.4%	(16.0)	%	11.6%	14.0%	(24.6)	%
Other income, net	0.4%	0.2%	62.7	%	0.4%	0.2%	76.2	%
Income before income taxes	14.2%	15.6%	(14.9)	%	12.0%	14.2%	(23.1)	%
Provision for income taxes	5.3%	5.8%	(14.9)	%	4.5%	5.3%	(23.1)	%
Net income	8.9%	9.8%	(14.9)	%	7.5%	8.9%	(23.1)	%

Net sales decreased from \$239.2 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2016 to \$224.3 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2017, a 6.2% decrease. Comparable store net sales for the thirteen week quarter ended October 28, 2017 decreased 5.9% from comparable store net sales for the prior year thirteen week period ended October 29, 2016. The comparable store sales decline for the quarter was primarily attributable to a 1.7% reduction in the number of transactions at comparable stores during the quarter and a 6.2% reduction in the average retail price per piece of merchandise sold; which were partially offset by a 2.5% increase in the average number of units sold per transaction. Total net sales for the quarter were also impacted by the Company's closing of 6 stores during fiscal 2016 and 7 stores during the first three quarters of fiscal 2017. Online sales for the quarter decreased 1.2% to \$23.4 million for the thirteen week period ended October 28, 2017 compared to \$23.7 million for the thirteen week period ended October 29, 2016.

Net sales decreased from \$694.9 million for the first three quarters of fiscal 2016 to \$632.2 million for the first three quarters of fiscal 2017, a 9.0% decrease. Comparable store net sales for the thirty-nine week period ended October 28, 2017 decreased 8.8% from comparable store net sales for prior year thirty-nine week period ended October 29, 2016. The comparable store sales decline for the thirty-nine week period was primarily attributable to a 4.8% reduction in the number of transactions at comparable stores during the period and a 6.4% reduction in the average retail price per piece of merchandise sold; which were partially offset by a 2.5% increase in the average number of units sold per transaction. Total net sales for the quarter were also impacted by the Company's closing of 6 stores during fiscal 2016 and 7 stores during the first three quarters of fiscal 2017. Online sales for the year-to-date period decreased 4.3% to \$64.7 million for the thirty-nine week period ended October 28, 2017 compared to \$67.6 million for the thirty-nine week period ended October 29, 2016. Average sales per square foot decreased 9.5% from \$265.06 for the thirty-nine week period ended October 29, 2016 to \$239.77 for the thirty-nine week period ended October 28, 2017. Total square footage as of October 28, 2017 was 2.370 million compared to 2.403 million as of October 29, 2016.

The Company's average retail price per piece of merchandise sold decreased \$3.09, or 6.2%, during the third quarter of fiscal 2017 compared to the third quarter of fiscal 2016. This \$3.09 decrease was primarily attributable to the following changes (with their corresponding effect on the overall average price per piece): a 5.4% reduction in average denim price points (-\$1.17), a 4.5% reduction in average knit shirt price points (-\$0.53), a 26.4% reduction in average casual bottoms price points (-\$0.24), a 5.0% reduction in average footwear price points (-\$0.15), and a reduction in average price points for certain other merchandise categories (-\$0.21); which were further impacted by a shift in the merchandise mix (-\$0.79). These changes are primarily a reflection of merchandise shifts in terms of brands and product styles, fabrics, details, and finishes.

For the year-to-date period, the Company's average retail price per piece of merchandise sold decreased \$3.12, or 6.4%, compared to the same period in fiscal 2016. This \$3.12 decrease was primarily attributable to the following changes (with their corresponding effect on the overall average price per piece): a 6.3% reduction in average denim price points (-\$1.21), a 3.8% reduction in average knit shirt price points (-\$0.44), a 7.9% reduction in average shorts price points (-\$0.29), a 6.1% reduction in average footwear price points (-\$0.19), a 20.4% reduction in average casual bottoms price points (-\$0.16), and a reduction in average price points for certain other merchandise categories (-\$0.19); which were further impacted by a shift in the merchandise mix (-\$0.64). These changes are primarily a reflection of merchandise shifts in terms of brands and product styles, fabrics, details, and finishes.

Gross profit after buying, distribution, and occupancy expenses decreased from \$96.9 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2016 to \$90.9 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2017, a 6.1% decrease. As a percentage of net sales, gross profit remained flat at 40.5% in both the third quarter of fiscal 2016 and the third quarter of fiscal 2017. An increase in merchandise margins (0.55%, as a percentage of net sales) and the benefit related to the elimination of the impact of the Company's old Primo Card loyalty program (0.60%, as a percentage of net sales) were offset by deleveraged occupancy, buying, and distribution expenses as a result of the comparable store sales decline (1.15%, as a percentage of net sales). The Company continued to support two loyalty programs throughout fiscal 2016, after the launch of the Company's new Guest Loyalty program during the fiscal quarter ended April 30, 2016.

Year-to-date, gross profit decreased from \$271.5 million for the thirty-nine week period ended October 29, 2016 to \$246.8 million for the thirty-nine week period ended October 28, 2017, a 9.1% decrease. As a percentage of net sales, gross profit decreased from 39.1% for the first three quarters of fiscal 2016 to 39.0% for the first three quarters of fiscal 2017. The decrease was primarily attributable to deleveraged occupancy, buying, and distribution expenses as a result of the comparable store sales decline (2.00%, as a percentage of net sales), which was partially offset by an increase in merchandise margins (0.70%, as a percentage of net sales) and the benefit related to the elimination of the impact of the Company's old Primo Card loyalty program as it was phased out during fiscal 2016 (1.20%, as a percentage of net sales).

Selling expenses decreased from \$50.8 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2016 to \$50.7 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2017, a 0.3% decrease. As a percentage of net sales, selling expenses increased from 21.2% in the third quarter of fiscal 2016 to 22.6% in the third quarter of fiscal 2017. The third quarter increase was primarily attributable to increases in store payroll expense (0.90%, as a percentage of net sales), online fulfillment and marketing expenses (0.35%, as a percentage of net sales), and certain other selling expenses (0.15%, as a percentage of net sales).

Year-to-date, selling expenses decreased from \$144.4 million for the first three quarters of fiscal 2016 to \$144.3 million for the first three quarters of fiscal 2017, a 0.1% decrease. As a percentage of net sales, selling expenses increased from 20.8% in fiscal 2016 to 22.8% in fiscal 2017. The year-to-date increase was primarily attributable to increases in store payroll expense (1.20%, as a percentage of net sales), online fulfillment and marketing expenses (0.60%, as a percentage of net sales), and certain other selling expenses (0.20%, as a percentage of net sales).

General and administrative expenses increased from \$9.2 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2016 to \$9.3 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2017, a 0.8% increase. As a percentage of net sales, general and administrative expenses increased from 3.9% in the third quarter of fiscal 2016 to 4.1% in the third quarter of fiscal 2017. The increase was primarily attributable to increased professional and consulting fees.

Year-to-date, general and administrative expenses decreased from \$29.7 million for the first three quarters of fiscal 2016 to \$29.1 million for the first three quarters of fiscal 2017, a 2.0% decrease. As a percentage of net sales, general and administrative expenses increased from 4.3% in fiscal 2016 to 4.6% in fiscal 2017. The increase was primarily attributable to increased professional and consulting fees.

As a result of the above changes, the Company's income from operations was \$30.9 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2017 compared to \$36.8 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2016. Income from operations was 13.8% of net sales in the third quarter of fiscal 2017 compared to 15.4% of net sales in the third quarter of fiscal 2016.

Year-to-date, income from operations was \$73.4 million for the thirty-nine week period ended October 28, 2017 compared to \$97.3 million for the thirty-nine week period ended October 29, 2016. Income from operations was 11.6% of net sales for the first three quarters of fiscal 2017 compared to 14.0% of net sales for the first three quarters of fiscal 2016.

Other income increased from \$0.5 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2016 to \$0.8 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2017. Other income for the year-to-date period increased from \$1.5 million for the thirty-nine week period ended October 29, 2016 to \$2.6 million for the thirty-nine week period ended October 28, 2017. The Company's other income is derived primarily from investment income related to the Company's cash and investments.

Income tax expense as a percentage of pre-tax income was 37.3% in both the third quarter of fiscal 2017 and the third quarter of fiscal 2016, bringing net income to \$19.9 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2017 compared to \$23.4 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2016.

Income tax expense as a percentage of pre-tax income was also 37.3% for both the first three quarters of fiscal 2017 and the first three quarters of fiscal 2016, bringing year-to-date net income to \$47.7 million for fiscal 2017 compared to \$62.0 million for fiscal 2016.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

As of October 28, 2017, the Company had working capital of \$313.7 million, including \$205.2 million of cash and cash equivalents and \$52.2 million of short-term investments. The Company's cash receipts are generated from retail sales and from investment income, and the Company's primary ongoing cash requirements are for inventory, payroll, occupancy costs, dividend payments, new store expansion, remodeling, and other capital expenditures. Historically, the Company's primary source of working capital has been cash flow from operations. During the first three quarters of fiscal 2017 and fiscal 2016, the Company's cash flow from operations was \$58.6 million and \$64.1 million, respectively.

The uses of cash for both thirty-nine week periods primarily include payment of annual bonuses accrued at fiscal year end, changes in inventory and accounts payable for inventory purchases, dividend payments, construction costs for new and remodeled stores, other capital expenditures, and purchases of investment securities.

During the first three quarters of fiscal 2017 and 2016, the Company invested \$10.0 million and \$25.5 million, respectively, in new store construction, store renovation, and store technology upgrades. The Company also spent \$1.0 million and \$1.2 million in the first three quarters of fiscal 2017 and 2016, respectively, in capital expenditures for the corporate headquarters and distribution facility.

During the remainder of fiscal 2017, the Company anticipates completing one additional new store construction project. Management estimates that total capital expenditures during fiscal 2017 will be approximately \$13.0 to \$17.0 million, which includes primarily planned new store and store remodeling projects and technology investments. The Company believes that existing cash and cash equivalents, investments, and cash flow from operations will be sufficient to fund current and long-term anticipated capital expenditures and working capital requirements for the next several years. The Company has a consistent record of generating positive cash flow from operations each year and, as of October 28, 2017, had total cash and investments of \$275.8 million, including \$18.4 million of long-term investments. The Company does not currently have plans for a merger or acquisition and has fairly consistent plans for new store expansion and remodels. Based upon past results and current plans, management does not anticipate any large swings in the Company's need for cash in the upcoming years.

Future conditions, however, may reduce the availability of funds based upon factors such as a decrease in demand for the Company's product, change in product mix, competitive factors, and general economic conditions as well as other risks and uncertainties which would reduce the Company's sales, net profitability, and cash flows. Also, the Company's acceleration in store openings and/or remodels or the Company entering into a merger, acquisition, or other financial related transaction could reduce the amount of cash available for further capital expenditures and working capital requirements.

The Company has available an unsecured line of credit of \$25.0 million with Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. for operating needs and letters of credit. The line of credit agreement has an expiration date of July 31, 2019 and provides that \$10.0 million of the \$25.0 million line is available for letters of credit. Borrowings under the line of credit provide for interest to be paid at a rate based on LIBOR. The Company has, from time to time, borrowed against these lines of credit. There were no bank borrowings during the first three quarters of fiscal 2017 or 2016. The Company had no bank borrowings as of October 28, 2017 and was in compliance with the terms and conditions of the line of credit agreement.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations are based upon The Buckle, Inc.'s condensed consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The preparation of these consolidated financial statements requires that management make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the financial statement date, and the reported amounts of sales and expenses during the reporting period. The Company regularly evaluates its estimates, including those related to inventory, investments, incentive bonuses, and income taxes. Management bases its estimates on past experience and on various other factors that are thought to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions. Management believes that the estimates and judgments used in preparing these consolidated financial statements were the most appropriate at that time. Presented below are those critical accounting policies that management believes require subjective and/or complex judgments that could potentially affect reported results of operations. The critical accounting policies and estimates utilized by the Company in the preparation of its condensed consolidated financial statements for the period ended October 28, 2017 have not changed materially from those utilized for the fiscal year ended January 28, 2017, included in The Buckle Inc.'s 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Revenue Recognition. Retail store sales are recorded upon the purchase of merchandise by customers. Online sales are recorded when merchandise is delivered to the customer, with the time of delivery being based on estimated shipping time from the Company's distribution center to the customer. Shipping fees charged to customers are included in revenue and shipping costs are included in selling expenses. The Company recognizes revenue from sales made under its layaway program upon delivery of the merchandise to the customer. Revenue is not recorded when gift cards and gift certificates are sold, but rather when a card or certificate is redeemed for merchandise. A current liability for unredeemed gift cards and certificates is recorded at the time the card or certificate is purchased. The liability recorded for unredeemed gift certificates and gift cards was \$14.9 million and \$21.2 million as of October 28, 2017 and January 28, 2017, respectively. The amounts of the gift certificate and gift card liabilities are determined using the outstanding balances from the prior three and four years of issuance, respectively. The Company records breakage as other income when the probability of redemption is remote, based on historical issuance and redemption patterns.

1. The Company establishes a liability for estimated merchandise returns based upon the historical average sales return percentage. Customer returns could potentially exceed the historical average, thus reducing future net sales results and potentially reducing future net earnings. The accrued liability for reserve for sales returns was \$0.9 million as of October 28, 2017 and \$0.7 million as of January 28, 2017. Sales tax collected from customers is excluded from revenue and is included as part of "accrued store operating expenses" on the Company's condensed consolidated balance sheets.

In fiscal 2016, the Company launched a new Guest Loyalty program that allows participating guests to earn points for every qualifying purchase, which (after achievement of certain point thresholds) are redeemable as a discount off a future purchase. Reported revenue is net of both reward redemptions and accruals for estimated future rewards earned under the Guest Loyalty program. A liability has been recorded for future rewards based on the Company's estimate of how many earned points will turn into rewards and ultimately be redeemed prior to expiration. As of October 28, 2017 and January 28, 2017, \$9.0 million and \$8.9 million was included in "accrued store operating expenses" as a liability for estimated future rewards.

2.

Inventory. Inventory is valued at the lower of cost or net realizable value. Cost is determined using an average cost method that approximates the first-in, first-out (FIFO) method. Management makes adjustments to inventory and cost of goods sold, based upon estimates, to account for merchandise obsolescence and markdowns that could affect net realizable value, based on assumptions using calculations applied to current inventory levels within each different markdown level. Management also reviews the levels of inventory in each markdown group and the overall aging of the inventory versus the estimated future demand for such product and the current market conditions. Such judgments could vary significantly from actual results, either favorably or unfavorably, due to fluctuations in future economic conditions, industry trends, consumer demand, and the competitive retail environment. Such changes in market conditions could negatively impact the sale of markdown inventory, causing further markdowns or inventory obsolescence, resulting in increased cost of goods sold from write-offs and reducing the Company's net earnings. The adjustment to inventory for markdowns and/or obsolescence was \$13.0 million as of October 28, 2017 and \$11.4 million as of January 28, 2017. The Company is not aware of any events, conditions, or changes in demand or price that would indicate that its inventory valuation may not be materially accurate at this time.

Income Taxes. The Company records a deferred tax asset and liability for expected future tax consequences resulting from temporary differences between financial reporting and tax bases of assets and liabilities. The Company considers future taxable income and ongoing tax planning in assessing the value of its deferred tax assets. If the Company determines that it is more than likely that these assets will not be realized, the Company would reduce the value of these assets to their expected realizable value, thereby decreasing net income. Estimating the value of these assets is based upon the Company's judgment. If the Company subsequently determined that the deferred tax assets, which had been written down, would be realized in the future, such value would be increased. Adjustment would be made to increase net income in the period such determination was made.

Operating Leases. The Company leases retail stores under operating leases. Most lease agreements contain tenant improvement allowances, rent holidays, rent escalation clauses, and/or contingent rent provisions. For purposes of recognizing lease incentives and minimum rental expense on a straight-line basis over the terms of the leases, the Company uses the date of initial possession to begin amortization, which is generally when the Company enters the space and begins to make improvements in preparation of intended use. For tenant improvement allowances and rent holidays, the Company records a deferred rent liability on the condensed consolidated balance sheets and amortizes the deferred rent over the terms of the leases as reductions to rent expense on the condensed consolidated statements of income.

For scheduled rent escalation clauses during the lease terms or for rental payments commencing at a date other than the date of initial occupancy, the Company records minimum rental expense on a straight-line basis over the terms of the leases on the condensed consolidated statements of income. Certain leases provide for contingent rents, which are determined as a percentage of gross sales in excess of specified levels. The Company records a contingent rent liability on the condensed consolidated balance sheets and the corresponding rent expense when specified levels have been achieved or are reasonably probable to be achieved.

Investments. Investments classified as short-term investments include securities with a maturity of greater than three months and less than one year. Available-for-sale securities are reported at fair value, with unrealized gains and losses excluded from earnings and reported as a separate component of stockholders' equity (net of the effect of income taxes), using the specific identification method, until they are sold. Held-to-maturity securities are reported at amortized cost. Trading securities are reported at fair value, with unrealized gains and losses included in earnings, using the specific identification method.

OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS, CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS, AND COMMERCIAL COMMITMENTS

As referenced in the table below, the Company has contractual obligations and commercial commitments that may affect the financial condition of the Company. Based on management's review of the terms and conditions of its contractual obligations and commercial commitments, there is no known trend, demand, commitment, event, or uncertainty that is reasonably likely to occur which would have a material effect on the Company's financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows.

In addition, the commercial obligations and commitments made by the Company are customary transactions which the Company believes to be similar to those of other comparable retail companies. The operating lease obligations shown in the table below represent future cash payments to landlords required to fulfill the Company's minimum rent requirements. Such amounts are actual cash requirements by year and are not reported net of any tenant improvement allowances received from landlords.

The following table identifies the material obligations and commitments as of October 28, 2017:

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Contractual obligations (dollar amounts in thousands):	Payments Due by Period				
	Total	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	4-5 years	After 5 years
Purchase obligations	\$13,906	\$4,800	\$5,040	\$3,625	\$441
Deferred compensation	14,581	—	—	—	14,581
Operating leases	330,497	66,955	111,213	74,592	77,737
Total contractual obligations	\$358,984	\$71,755	\$116,253	\$78,217	\$92,759

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The Company has available an unsecured line of credit of \$25.0 million, which is excluded from the preceding table. The line of credit agreement has an expiration date of July 31, 2019 and provides that \$10.0 million of the \$25.0 million line is available for letters of credit. Certain merchandise purchase orders require that the Company open letters of credit. When the Company takes possession of the merchandise, it releases payment on the letters of credit. The amounts of outstanding letters of credit reported reflect the open letters of credit on merchandise ordered, but not yet received or funded. The Company believes it has sufficient credit available to open letters of credit for merchandise purchases. There were no bank borrowings during the first three quarters of fiscal 2017 or the first three quarters of fiscal 2016. The Company had outstanding letters of credit totaling \$2.4 million and \$1.8 million as of October 28, 2017 and January 28, 2017, respectively. The Company has no other off-balance sheet arrangements.

SEASONALITY AND INFLATION

The Company's business is seasonal, with the holiday season (from approximately November 15 to December 30) and the back-to-school season (from approximately July 15 to September 1) historically contributing the greatest volume of net sales. For fiscal years 2016, 2015, and 2014, the holiday and back-to-school seasons accounted for approximately 35% of the Company's fiscal year net sales. Although the operations of the Company are influenced by general economic conditions, the Company does not believe that inflation has had a material effect on the results of operations during the thirty-nine week periods ended October 28, 2017 and October 29, 2016. Quarterly results may vary significantly depending on a variety of factors including the timing and amount of sales and costs associated with the opening of new stores, the timing and level of markdowns, the timing of store closings, the remodeling of existing stores, competitive factors, and general economic conditions.

FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

Information in this report, other than historical information, may be considered to be forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (the "1995 Act"). Such statements are made in good faith by the Company pursuant to the safe-harbor provisions of the 1995 Act. In connection with these safe-harbor provisions, this management's discussion and analysis contains certain forward-looking statements, which reflect management's current views and estimates of future economic conditions, Company performance, and financial results. The statements are based on many assumptions and factors that could cause future results to differ materially. Such factors include, but are not limited to, changes in product mix, changes in fashion trends, competitive factors, and general economic conditions, economic conditions in the retail apparel industry, as well as other risks and uncertainties inherent in the Company's business and the retail industry in general. Any changes in these factors could result in significantly different results for the Company. The Company further cautions that the forward-looking information contained herein is not exhaustive or exclusive. The Company does not undertake to update any forward-looking statements, which may be made from time to time by or on behalf of the Company.

ITEM 3 – QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Interest Rate Risk - To the extent that the Company borrows under its line of credit facility, the Company would be exposed to market risk related to changes in interest rates. As of October 28, 2017, no borrowings were outstanding under the line of credit facility. The Company is not a party to any derivative financial instruments. Additionally, the Company is exposed to market risk related to interest rate risk on the cash and investments in interest-bearing securities. These investments have carrying values that are subject to interest rate changes that could impact earnings to the extent that the Company did not hold the investments to maturity. If there are changes in interest rates, those changes would also affect the investment income the Company earns on its cash and investments. For each one-quarter percent decline in the interest/dividend rate earned on cash and investments (approximately a 50% change in the rate earned), the Company's net income would decrease approximately \$0.5 million, or less than \$0.01 per share. This amount could vary based upon the number of shares of the Company's stock outstanding and the level of cash and

investments held by the Company.

Other Market Risk – As of October 28, 2017, the Company held \$1.7 million, at par value, of investments in auction-rate securities (“ARS”). The Company concluded that a \$0.1 million temporary impairment existed related to these securities as of October 28, 2017. Given current market conditions in the ARS market, the Company may incur additional temporary or other-than-temporary impairment in the future if market conditions persist and the Company is unable to recover the cost of its investments in ARS.

ITEM 4 – CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

The Company maintains a system of disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to provide reasonable assurance that material information, which is required to be timely disclosed, is accumulated and communicated to management in a timely manner. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act")) was performed as of the end of the period covered by this report. This evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer.

Based upon that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report were effective to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by the Company in the Company's reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to management, including its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure and are effective to provide reasonable assurance that such information is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified by the SEC's rules and forms.

Change in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There were no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the Company's last fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

THE BUCKLE, INC.

PART II -- OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings: None

Item 1A. Risk Factors:

There have been no material changes from the risk factors disclosed under “Item 1A - Risk Factors” in the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 28, 2017.

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

The following table sets forth information concerning purchases made by the Company of its common stock for each of the months in the fiscal quarter ended October 28, 2017:

	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid Per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans	Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under Publicly Announced Plans
Jul. 30, 2017 to Aug. 26, 2017	-	-	-	440,207
Aug. 27, 2017 to Sep. 30, 2017	-	-	-	440,207
Oct. 1, 2017 to Oct. 28, 2017	-	-	-	440,207
	-	-	-	

The Board of Directors authorized a 1,000,000 share repurchase plan on November 20, 2008. The Company has 440,207 shares remaining to complete this authorization.

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities: None

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures: None

Item 5. Other Information: None

Item 6. Exhibits:

Exhibit Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of the Chief Executive Officer (Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act 31.1 of 2002)

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Exhibit Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of the Chief Financial Officer (Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act
31.2 of 2002)

Exhibit Certification of the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to
32.1 Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

Exhibit Certification of the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to
32.2 Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

The following materials from The Buckle, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended October
28, 2017, formatted in XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language): (i) Condensed Consolidated
Exhibit Balance Sheets; (ii) Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income; (iii) Condensed Consolidated Statements
101 of Comprehensive Income; (iv) Condensed Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity; (v) Condensed
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows; and (vi) Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements,
tagged as blocks of text and in detail.

SIGNATURES

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

THE BUCKLE, INC.

Date: December 7, 2017 By: /s/ DENNIS H. NELSON
DENNIS H. NELSON,
President and CEO
(principal executive officer)

Date: December 7, 2017 By: /s/ THOMAS B. HEACOCK
THOMAS B. HEACOCK,
Vice President of Finance, Treasurer, and CFO
(principal accounting officer)

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit 31.1 Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of the Chief Executive Officer (Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002)

Exhibit 31.2 Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of the Chief Financial Officer (Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002)

Exhibit 32.1 Certification of the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

Exhibit 32.2 Certification of the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

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