
**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended October 31, 2015

Or

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

Commission
File Number
333-175075

Registrant, State of Incorporation
Address and Telephone Number

I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.
22-2894486

J.CREW GROUP, INC.
(Incorporated in Delaware)

770 Broadway
New York, New York 10003
Telephone: (212) 209-2500

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 such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

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

Large Accelerated Filer Accelerated Filer
Non-Accelerated Filer Smaller Reporting Company

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

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

Common Stock	Outstanding at November 27, 2015
Common Stock, \$.01 par value per share	1,000 shares

* The Registrant has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, but is not required to file such reports under such sections.

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PART I – FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

J.CREW GROUP, INC.

Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets
(unaudited)
(in thousands, except share data)

	<u>October 31,</u> <u>2015</u>	<u>January 31,</u> <u>2015</u>
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 47,474	\$ 111,097
Merchandise inventories	482,999	367,851
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	70,809	60,734
Deferred income taxes, net	25,241	19,280
Total current assets	<u>626,523</u>	<u>558,962</u>
Property and equipment, net	403,066	404,452
Deferred financing costs, net	19,954	22,883
Intangible assets, net	464,663	836,608
Goodwill	107,900	1,124,715
Other assets	4,983	3,993
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,627,089</u>	<u>\$ 2,951,613</u>
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 299,253	\$ 244,367
Other current liabilities	157,138	155,697
Interest payable	5,372	5,408
Income taxes payable	17,369	3,192
Borrowings under the ABL Facility	20,000	—
Current portion of long-term debt	15,670	15,670
Total current liabilities	<u>514,802</u>	<u>424,334</u>
Long-term debt, net	1,521,855	1,532,769
Lease-related deferred credits, net	131,462	112,153
Deferred income taxes, net	170,920	323,767
Other liabilities	47,051	42,566
Total liabilities	<u>2,386,090</u>	<u>2,435,589</u>
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock \$0.01 par value; 1,000 shares authorized, issued and outstanding	—	—
Additional paid-in capital	978,898	1,014,930
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(13,402)	(10,053)
Accumulated deficit	(1,724,497)	(488,853)
Total stockholders' equity	<u>(759,001)</u>	<u>516,024</u>
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	<u>\$ 1,627,089</u>	<u>\$ 2,951,613</u>

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

J.CREW GROUP, INC.

**Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Loss
(unaudited)
(in thousands)**

	Thirteen Weeks Ended October 31, 2015	Thirteen Weeks Ended November 1, 2014
Revenues:		
Net sales	\$ 605,658	\$ 645,592
Other	13,757	9,565
Total revenues	<u>619,415</u>	<u>655,157</u>
Cost of goods sold, including buying and occupancy costs	<u>380,199</u>	<u>391,846</u>
Gross profit	239,216	263,311
Selling, general and administrative expenses	201,823	215,669
Impairment losses	<u>845,915</u>	<u>683,985</u>
Loss from operations	(808,522)	(636,343)
Interest expense, net of interest income	<u>17,581</u>	<u>17,724</u>
Loss before income taxes	(826,103)	(654,067)
Benefit for income taxes	(66,440)	(46,218)
Net loss	<u>\$ (759,663)</u>	<u>\$ (607,849)</u>
Other comprehensive income (loss):		
Reclassification of losses on cash flow hedges, net of tax, to earnings	22	—
Unrealized loss on cash flow hedges, net of tax	(3,493)	(3,760)
Foreign currency translation adjustments	<u>(41)</u>	<u>366</u>
Comprehensive loss	<u>\$ (763,175)</u>	<u>\$ (611,243)</u>

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

J.CREW GROUP, INC.

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Loss
(unaudited)
(in thousands)

	Thirty-nine Weeks Ended October 31, 2015	Thirty-nine Weeks Ended November 1, 2014
Revenues:		
Net sales	\$ 1,750,716	\$ 1,846,107
Other	44,151	28,248
Total revenues	<u>1,794,867</u>	<u>1,874,355</u>
Cost of goods sold, including buying and occupancy costs	<u>1,135,745</u>	<u>1,146,957</u>
Gross profit	659,122	727,398
Selling, general and administrative expenses	605,336	609,724
Impairment losses	<u>1,380,324</u>	<u>683,985</u>
Loss from operations	(1,326,538)	(566,311)
Interest expense, net of interest income	52,344	57,142
Loss on refinancing	<u>—</u>	<u>58,786</u>
Loss before income taxes	(1,378,882)	(682,239)
Benefit for income taxes	<u>(143,238)</u>	<u>(55,058)</u>
Net loss	<u>\$ (1,235,644)</u>	<u>\$ (627,181)</u>
Other comprehensive income (loss):		
Reclassification of losses on cash flow hedges, net of tax, to earnings	52	13,652
Unrealized loss on cash flow hedges, net of tax	(3,890)	(3,760)
Foreign currency translation adjustments	489	1,428
Comprehensive loss	<u>\$ (1,238,993)</u>	<u>\$ (615,861)</u>

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

J.CREW GROUP, INC.
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity
(unaudited)
(in thousands, except shares)

	<u>Common stock</u>		<u>Additional paid-in capital</u>	<u>Retained earnings (accumulated deficit)</u>	<u>Accumulated other comprehensive loss</u>	<u>Total stockholders' equity</u>
	<u>Shares</u>	<u>Amount</u>				
Balance at February 1, 2014	<u>1,000</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 1,008,984</u>	<u>\$ 196,620</u>	<u>\$ (15,184)</u>	<u>\$ 1,190,420</u>
Net loss	—	—	—	(657,773)	—	(657,773)
Share-based compensation	—	—	5,968	—	—	5,968
Excess tax benefit from share-based awards	—	—	8	—	—	8
Dividend and contribution to Parent	—	—	(30)	(27,700)	—	(27,730)
Reclassification of realized losses on cash flow hedges, net of tax, to earnings	—	—	—	—	13,652	13,652
Unrealized loss on cash flow hedges, net of tax of \$6,799	—	—	—	—	(10,634)	(10,634)
Foreign currency translation adjustments	—	—	—	—	2,113	2,113
Balance at January 31, 2015	<u>1,000</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,014,930</u>	<u>(488,853)</u>	<u>(10,053)</u>	<u>516,024</u>
Net loss	—	—	—	(1,235,644)	—	(1,235,644)
Share-based compensation	—	—	2,145	—	—	2,145
Dividend and contribution to Parent	—	—	(38,177)	—	—	(38,177)
Reclassification of realized losses on cash flow hedges, net of tax, to earnings	—	—	—	—	52	52
Unrealized loss on cash flow hedges, net of tax of \$2,487	—	—	—	—	(3,890)	(3,890)
Foreign currency translation adjustments	—	—	—	—	489	489
Balance at October 31, 2015	<u>1,000</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 978,898</u>	<u>\$ (1,724,497)</u>	<u>\$ (13,402)</u>	<u>\$ (759,001)</u>

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

J.CREW GROUP, INC.
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
(unaudited)
(in thousands)

	Thirty-nine Weeks Ended October 31, 2015	Thirty-nine Weeks Ended November 1, 2014
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net loss	\$ (1,235,644)	\$ (627,181)
Adjustments to reconcile to cash flows from operating activities:		
Impairment losses	1,380,324	683,985
Depreciation of property and equipment	76,919	68,141
Loss on refinancing	—	58,786
Amortization of intangible assets	11,640	11,683
Amortization of deferred financing costs and debt discount	3,768	4,375
Share-based compensation	2,145	4,518
Foreign currency transaction losses	144	1,811
Reclassification of hedging losses to earnings	83	—
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Merchandise inventories	(115,105)	(95,875)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	(9,458)	(6,286)
Other assets	(1,006)	(774)
Accounts payable and other liabilities	68,130	39,059
Federal and state income taxes	(136,584)	(58,226)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>45,356</u>	<u>84,016</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Capital expenditures	(78,630)	(102,683)
Other investing activities	—	(1,978)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(78,630)</u>	<u>(104,661)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Proceeds from Term Loan Facility, net of discount	—	1,559,165
Repayment of former term loan	—	(1,167,000)
Redemption of Senior Notes	—	(400,000)
Costs paid in connection with refinancing of debt	—	(21,419)
Net borrowings under the ABL Facility	20,000	—
Dividend and contribution to Parent	(38,177)	(19,082)
Principal repayments of Term Loan Facility	(11,753)	(7,835)
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(29,930)</u>	<u>(56,171)</u>
Effect of changes in foreign exchange rates on cash and cash equivalents	(419)	(258)
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	<u>(63,623)</u>	<u>(77,074)</u>
Beginning balance	111,097	156,649
Ending balance	<u>\$ 47,474</u>	<u>\$ 79,575</u>
Supplemental cash flow information:		
Income taxes paid	<u>\$ 957</u>	<u>\$ 3,918</u>
Interest paid	<u>\$ 55,550</u>	<u>\$ 73,953</u>

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

J.CREW GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the thirteen and thirty-nine weeks ended October 31, 2015 and November 1, 2014
(Dollars in thousands, unless otherwise indicated)

1. Basis of Presentation

J.Crew Group, Inc. and its wholly owned subsidiaries (the “Company” or “Group”) were acquired (the “Acquisition”) on March 7, 2011 through a merger with a subsidiary of Chinos Holdings, Inc. (the “Parent”). The Parent was formed by investment funds affiliated with TPG Capital, L.P. (“TPG”) and Leonard Green & Partners, L.P. (“LGP” and together with TPG, the “Sponsors”). Subsequent to the Acquisition, Group became an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Parent, which is owned by affiliates of the Sponsors, co-investors and members of management. Prior to March 7, 2011, the Company operated as a public company with its common stock traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) for interim financial information. Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with GAAP have been condensed or omitted. Therefore, these financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2015.

The Company’s fiscal year ends on the Saturday closest to January 31. All references to “fiscal 2015” represent the 52-week fiscal year that will end on January 30, 2016, and to “fiscal 2014” represent the 52-week fiscal year that ended January 31, 2015.

In the opinion of management, the accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements contain all adjustments, consisting of normal recurring adjustments, necessary to present fairly in all material respects the Company’s financial position, results of operations and cash flows for the applicable interim periods. Certain prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform to current period presentation. The results of operations for these periods are not necessarily comparable to, or indicative of, results of any other interim period or for the fiscal year as a whole.

Management is required to make estimates and assumptions about future events in preparing financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. These estimates and assumptions affect the amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and the disclosure of loss contingencies at the date of the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements. While management believes that past estimates and assumptions have been materially accurate, current estimates are subject to change if different assumptions as to the outcome of future events are made. Management evaluates estimates and judgments on an ongoing basis and predicates those estimates and judgments on historical experience and on reasonable factors. Since future events and their effects cannot be determined with absolute certainty, actual results may differ from the estimates used in preparing the accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

2. Management Services Agreement

Pursuant to a management services agreement entered into in connection with the Acquisition, and in exchange for ongoing consulting and management advisory services, the Sponsors receive an aggregate annual monitoring fee prepaid quarterly equal to the greater of (i) 40 basis points of consolidated annual revenues or (ii) \$8 million. The Sponsors also receive reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with services provided pursuant to the agreement. The Company recorded an expense of \$7.6 million and \$7.7 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2015 and fiscal 2014, respectively, for monitoring fees and out-of-pocket expenses, included in selling, general and administrative expenses in the statements of operations and comprehensive loss.

3. Goodwill and Intangible Assets

A summary of the components of intangible assets is as follows:

	Loyalty Program and Customer Lists	Favorable Lease Commitments	Madewell Trade Name	Key Money	J.Crew Trade Name
Balance at January 31, 2015	\$ 5,633	\$ 20,009	\$ 65,942	\$ 4,724	\$ 740,300
Amortization expense	(1,300)	(1,440)	(1,025)	(115)	—
Impairment losses	—	—	—	—	(190,305)
Balance at May 2, 2015	4,333	18,569	64,917	4,609	549,995
Amortization expense	(1,300)	(1,439)	(1,025)	(115)	—
Balance at August 1, 2015	3,033	17,130	63,892	4,494	549,995
Amortization expense	(1,300)	(1,440)	(1,025)	(116)	—
Impairment losses	—	—	—	—	(170,000)
Balance at October 31, 2015	<u>\$ 1,733</u>	<u>\$ 15,690</u>	<u>\$ 62,867</u>	<u>\$ 4,378</u>	<u>\$ 379,995</u>
Total accumulated amortization at October 31, 2015	<u>\$ (25,277)</u>	<u>\$ (45,320)</u>	<u>\$ (19,133)</u>	<u>\$ (439)</u>	

A summary of goodwill is as follows:

	Goodwill
Balance at January 31, 2015	\$ 1,124,715
Impairment losses	(340,900)
Balance at May 2, 2015	783,815
Impairment losses	—
Balance at August 1, 2015	783,815
Impairment losses	(675,915)
Balance at October 31, 2015	<u>\$ 107,900</u>

During fiscal 2014 and the first quarter of fiscal 2015, the Company recorded non-cash impairment charges of (i) \$562 million and \$341 million, respectively, related to goodwill and (ii) \$145 million and \$190 million, respectively, related to the intangible asset for the J.Crew trade name.

During the third quarter of fiscal 2015, the Company experienced a further reduction in the profitability of its J.Crew reporting unit. As a result of current and expected future operating results, the Company concluded that the carrying value of the J.Crew reporting unit exceeded its fair value. Therefore, the Company recorded additional non-cash impairment charges of (i) \$676 million related to goodwill and (ii) \$170 million related to the intangible asset for the J.Crew trade name.

After recording the impairment charges in the third quarter, the carrying value of goodwill is \$107.9 million, which entirely relates to the Madewell reporting unit. There is no remaining goodwill attributable to the J.Crew reporting unit. The carrying value of the intangible asset for the J.Crew trade name is \$380.0 million at October 31, 2015. If operating results continue to decline below the Company's expectations, additional impairment charges may be recorded in the future.

A summary of the aggregate impairment losses is as follows:

	For the Thirty-nine Weeks Ended October 31, 2015	For the Thirty-nine Weeks Ended November 1, 2014
Goodwill allocated to the J.Crew reporting unit	\$ 1,016,815	\$ 536,200
Intangible asset related to the J.Crew trade name	360,305	145,000
Long-lived assets (see note 7)	3,204	2,785
Impairment losses	<u>\$ 1,380,324</u>	<u>\$ 683,985</u>

4. Share-Based Compensation

Chinos Holdings, Inc. 2011 Equity Incentive Plan

During the first nine months of fiscal 2015, the Parent granted 2,295,000 options to certain members of management, including (i) 2,245,000 options with a weighted average exercise price of \$0.18 that become exercisable over a period of five years and (ii) 50,000 options with a weighted average exercise price of \$0.15 that only become exercisable when certain owners of the Parent receive a specified level of cash proceeds, as defined in the equity incentive plan, from the sale of their initial investment. The options have terms of up to ten years. The weighted average grant-date fair value of the time-based awards granted in the first nine months of fiscal 2015 was \$0.02 per share. Expense associated with the options exercisable when certain owners of the Parent receive a specified level of cash proceeds will not be recognized until the occurrence of the event is probable.

A summary of share-based compensation recorded in the statements of operations and comprehensive loss is as follows:

	For the Thirty-nine Weeks Ended October 31, 2015	For the Thirty-nine Weeks Ended November 1, 2014
Share-based compensation	<u>\$ 2,145</u>	<u>\$ 4,518</u>

A summary of shares available for grant as stock options or other share-based awards is as follows:

	Shares
Available for grant at January 31, 2015	<u>13,623,070</u>
Granted	(2,295,000)
Forfeited and available for reissuance	<u>9,220,600</u>
Available for grant at October 31, 2015	<u>20,548,670</u>

5. Long-Term Debt and Credit Agreements

A summary of the components of long-term debt is as follows:

	October 31, 2015	January 31, 2015
Term Loan Facility	\$ 1,543,495	\$ 1,555,248
Less current portion	(15,670)	(15,670)
Less discount	(5,970)	(6,809)
Long-term debt, net	<u>\$ 1,521,855</u>	<u>\$ 1,532,769</u>
Borrowings under the ABL Facility	<u>\$ 20,000</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

ABL Facility

The ABL Facility is governed by an asset-based credit agreement with Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent and the other agents and lenders party thereto, that provides for a \$300 million senior secured asset-based revolving line of credit (which may be increased by up to \$75 million in certain circumstances), subject to a borrowing base limitation. The ABL Facility includes borrowing capacity in the form of letters of credit up to the entire amount of the facility, and up to \$25 million in U.S. dollars for loans on same-day notice, referred to as swingline loans, and is available in U.S. dollars, Canadian dollars and Euros. On March 5, 2014, the ABL Facility was amended to, among other things, permit (i) the incurrence of additional secured indebtedness under the Term Loan Facility and (ii) the redemption in full of the Company's 8.125% senior notes due 2019 (the "Senior Notes"). On December 10, 2014, the ABL Facility was further amended to among other things, (i) increase the revolving credit commitments from \$250 million to \$300 million, (ii) extend the maturity, and (iii) reduce the pricing on loans and letters of credit. Any amounts outstanding under the ABL Facility are due and payable in full on December 10, 2019.

On October 31, 2015, standby letters of credit were \$18.3 million, outstanding borrowings were \$20 million, and excess availability, as defined, was \$261.7 million. Average short-term borrowings under the ABL Facility were \$18.1 million and \$1.4 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2015 and fiscal 2014, respectively. The interest rate on the \$20 million outstanding under the ABL Facility was 1.44% on October 31, 2015.

Demand Letter of Credit Facility

The Company has unsecured, demand letter of credit facilities with HSBC and Bank of America which provide for the issuance of up to \$50 million and \$20 million, respectively, of documentary letters of credit on a no fee basis. On October 31, 2015, outstanding documentary letters of credit were \$12.8 million and availability was \$57.2 million in the aggregate under these facilities.

Term Loan Facility

On March 5, 2014, the Company refinanced its Term Loan Facility, the proceeds of which were used to (i) refinance amounts outstanding under the former term loan facility of \$1,167 million and (ii) together with cash on hand, redeem in full outstanding Senior Notes of \$400 million, and to pay fees, call premiums and accrued interest to the date of redemption, pursuant to the indenture governing the Senior Notes. The maturity date of the Term Loan Facility is March 5, 2021.

Borrowings under the Term Loan Facility bear interest at a rate per annum equal to an applicable margin plus, at Group's option, either (a) LIBOR determined by reference to the costs of funds for U.S. dollar deposits for an interest period of one month adjusted for certain additional costs (subject to a floor) or (b) a base rate determined by reference to the highest of (1) the prime rate of Bank of America, N.A., (2) the federal funds effective rate plus 0.50% and (3) a LIBOR determined by reference to the costs of funds for U.S. dollar deposits for an interest period of one month adjusted for certain additional costs, plus 1.00%.

The Company is required to make principal repayments equal to 0.25% of the original principal amount of the Term Loan Facility, or \$3.9 million, on the last business day of January, April, July, and October. The Company is also required to repay the term loan based on an annual calculation of excess cash flow, as defined in the agreement.

The interest rate on the \$1,543 million outstanding under the Term Loan Facility was 4.00% on October 31, 2015. The applicable margin in effect for base rate borrowings was 2.00% and the LIBOR Floor and applicable margin with respect to LIBOR borrowings were 1.00% and 3.00%, respectively, at October 31, 2015.

Interest expense

A summary of the components of interest expense is as follows:

	For the Thirty-nine Weeks Ended October 31, 2015	For the Thirty-nine Weeks Ended November 1, 2014
Term Loan Facility	\$ 47,054	\$ 46,113
Senior Notes (redeemed on March 5, 2014)	—	5,314
Amortization of deferred financing costs and debt discount	3,768	4,375
Other interest, net of interest income	1,522	1,340
Interest expense, net	<u>\$ 52,344</u>	<u>\$ 57,142</u>

Loss on refinancing

A summary of the components of the loss on refinancing, in fiscal 2014, is as follows:

	For the Thirty-nine Weeks Ended November 1, 2014
Prior unrealized losses on cash flow hedge (see note 6)	\$ 22,380
Call premium on Senior Notes (redeemed on March 5, 2014)	16,252
Write-off of deferred financing costs	15,623
Other financing costs	4,531
Loss on refinancing	<u>\$ 58,786</u>

Additionally, in connection with the refinancing, the Company paid costs of \$8.5 million, of which \$7.8 million were recorded as debt discount.

6. Derivative Financial Instruments

August 2014 Interest Rate Caps and Swaps

In August 2014, the Company entered into new interest rate cap and swap agreements, which together with the existing interest rate swaps, limit exposure to interest rate increases on a portion of the Company's floating rate indebtedness. The interest rate cap agreements cover notional amounts of \$400 million and cap LIBOR at 2.00% from March 2015 to March 2016. The interest rate swap agreements cover a notional amount of \$800 million from March 2016 to March 2019 and carry a fixed rate of 2.56% plus the applicable margin.

The Company designated the interest rate cap and swap agreements as cash flow hedges. As cash flow hedges, unrealized gains will be recognized as assets while unrealized losses will be recognized as liabilities. The effective portion of such gains or losses will be recorded as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income or loss, while the ineffective portion of such gains or losses will be recorded as a component of interest expense. Future realized gains and losses in connection with each required interest payment will be reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income or loss to interest expense.

April 2011 Interest Rate Swaps

In April 2011, the Company entered into floating-to-fixed interest rate swap agreements effective in March 2013 for an aggregate notional amount of \$600 million, which reduces by \$100 million annually for the term of the agreements. As of October 31, 2015, the Company had interest rate swaps covering a notional amount of \$400 million. These instruments limit exposure to interest rate increases on a portion of the Company's floating rate indebtedness through the expiration of the agreements in March 2016. Under the terms of these agreements, the Company's effective fixed interest rate on the notional amount of indebtedness is 3.56% plus the applicable margin.

Fair Value

Prior to the refinancing of the Term Loan Facility, on March 5, 2014, the Company designated the April 2011 interest rate swap agreements as cash flow hedges, and recorded the effective portion of unrealized gains or losses as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income or loss. However, the refinancing resulted in the discontinuance of the designation of the April 2011 interest rate swaps as a cash flow hedge. As a result, prior unrealized losses of \$22 million were reclassified to earnings in the first quarter of fiscal 2014 as a component of the loss on refinancing.

The fair values of the interest rate cap and swap agreements are estimated using industry standard valuation models using market-based observable inputs, including interest rate curves (level 2 inputs). A summary of the recorded assets (liabilities) included in the condensed consolidated balance sheet is as follows:

	<u>October 31, 2015</u>	<u>November 1, 2014</u>
Interest rate caps (included in other assets)	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 36</u>
Interest rate swaps (included in other liabilities)	<u>\$ (28,346)</u>	<u>\$ (21,062)</u>

7. Fair Value Measurements

The Company uses a three-level fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs used to measure fair value. This hierarchy requires entities to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The three levels of inputs used to measure fair value are as follows:

- Level 1 – Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2 – Observable inputs, other than quoted prices included in Level 1, such as quoted prices for markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data.
- Level 3 – Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities. This includes certain pricing models, discounted cash flow methodologies and similar techniques that use significant unobservable inputs.

Financial assets and liabilities

The fair value of the Company's debt is \$1,134 million and \$1,411 million at October 31, 2015 and January 31, 2015 based on quoted market prices of the debt (level 1 inputs).

The Company's interest rate cap and swap agreements are measured in the financial statements at fair value on a recurring basis. See note 6 for more information regarding the fair value of this financial liability.

The carrying amounts reported in the consolidated balance sheets for cash and cash equivalents, accounts payable and other current liabilities approximate fair value because of their short-term nature.

Non-financial assets and liabilities

Certain non-financial assets, including goodwill, the intangible asset for the J.Crew trade name, and certain store leasehold improvements have been written down and measured in the financial statements at fair value. The Company does not have any other non-financial assets or liabilities as of October 31, 2015 or January 31, 2015 that are measured in the financial statements at fair value.

The Company assesses the recoverability of goodwill and intangible assets whenever there are indicators of impairment, or at least annually in the fourth quarter. If the recorded carrying value of an intangible asset exceeds its fair value, the Company records a charge to write down the intangible asset to its fair value. Impairment charges of goodwill are based on fair value measurements derived using a combination of an income approach, specifically the discounted cash flow, a market approach, and a transaction approach. Impairment charges of intangible assets are based on fair value measurements derived using an income approach, specifically relief from royalty method; a revenue and royalty rate approach. The valuation methodologies incorporate unobservable inputs reflecting significant estimates and assumptions made by management (level 3 inputs). For more information related to goodwill and intangible asset impairment charges, see note 3.

The Company performs impairment tests of long-lived assets whenever there are indicators of impairment. These tests typically contemplate assets at a store level (e.g. leasehold improvements). The Company recognizes an impairment loss when the carrying value of a long-lived asset is not recoverable in light of the undiscounted future cash flows and measures an impairment loss as the difference between the carrying amount and fair value of the asset based on discounted future cash flows. The Company has determined that the future cash flow approach (level 3 inputs) provides the most relevant and reliable means by which to determine fair value in this circumstance.

A summary of the impact of the impairment of certain long-lived assets on the condensed consolidated financial statements is as follows:

	For the Thirty-nine Weeks Ended October 31, 2015	For the Thirty-nine Weeks Ended November 1, 2014
Carrying value of long-term assets written down to fair value	\$ 4,553	\$ —
Impairment charge	\$ 3,204	\$ 2,785

8. Income Taxes

The Parent files a consolidated federal income tax return, which includes Group and all of its wholly owned subsidiaries. Each subsidiary files separate, or combined where required, state or local tax returns in required jurisdictions.

The federal tax returns for the periods ended January 2012 and January 2013 are currently under examination. Various state and local jurisdiction tax authorities are in the process of examining income tax returns or hearing appeals for certain tax years ranging from 2009 to 2013. The results of these audits and appeals are not expected to have a significant effect on the results of operations or financial position.

The difference between the U.S. statutory income tax rate of 35% and the effective tax rate of 10.4% and 8.1% for the thirty-nine weeks ended October 31, 2015 and November 1, 2014, respectively, is primarily driven by the non-cash impairment charge related to the write off of goodwill, which is not tax deductible, and therefore has no tax benefit. Other items impacting the effective rate include state and local income taxes and the recognition of certain foreign valuation allowances.

In the third quarter of fiscal 2015, the Company collected refundable federal income taxes of \$6.9 million.

While the Company expects the amount of unrecognized tax benefits to change in the next twelve months, the change is not expected to have a significant effect on the estimated effective annual tax rate, the results of operations or financial position. However, the outcome of tax matters is uncertain and unforeseen results can occur.

9. Legal Proceedings

The Company is subject to various legal proceedings and claims arising in the ordinary course of business. Management does not expect that the results of any of these legal proceedings, either individually or in the aggregate, would have a material impact on the Company's financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

10. Workforce Reduction

On June 10, 2015, the Company eliminated approximately 175 open and filled full time positions, as part of a cost reduction program. As a result, the Company incurred a pre-tax charge of \$4.5 million for severance and related costs, included in selling, general and administrative expenses. At October 31, 2015, accrued and unpaid severance and related costs were \$1.9 million.

11. Related Party Transaction

On November 4, 2013, Chinos Intermediate Holdings A, Inc. (the "Issuer"), an indirect parent holding company of Group, issued \$500 million aggregate principal of 7.75/8.50% Senior PIK Toggle Notes due May 1, 2019 (the "PIK Notes").

The PIK Notes are (i) senior unsecured obligations of the Issuer, (ii) structurally subordinated to all of the liabilities of the Issuer's subsidiaries, and (iii) not guaranteed by any of the Issuer's subsidiaries, and therefore are not recorded in the financial statements of the Company. In fiscal 2015, the Company paid dividends of \$38 million in the aggregate to the Issuer to fund the semi-annual interest payments due May 1, 2015 and November 1, 2015.

On October 30, 2015, the Issuer delivered notice to U.S. Bank N.A., as trustee, under the indenture governing the PIK Notes, that with respect to the interest that will be due on such notes on the May 2, 2016 interest payment date, the Issuer will make such interest payment by paying in kind at the PIK interest rate of 8.50% instead of paying in cash. The PIK election will increase the outstanding principal balance of the PIK Notes by \$21.3 million to \$521.3 million. Therefore, the Company will not pay a dividend to the Issuer in the first quarter of fiscal 2016.

Pursuant to the terms of the indenture governing the PIK Notes, the Issuer intends to evaluate this option prior to the beginning of each interest period based on relevant factors at that time.

12. Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In May 2014, a pronouncement was issued that clarified the principles of revenue recognition, which standardizes a comprehensive model for recognizing revenue arising from contracts with customers. The pronouncement is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of the new pronouncement on its condensed consolidated financial statements.

In April 2015, a pronouncement was issued that requires certain debt issuance costs related to a recognized debt liability to be presented in the balance sheet as a reduction of the carrying amount of that debt liability. The pronouncement is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2015. The adoption of this pronouncement will not have a material impact on the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements.

In July 2015, a pronouncement was issued that more closely aligns the measurement of inventory in U.S. GAAP with International Financial Reporting Standards by requiring companies using the first-in, first-out and average costs methods to measure inventory using the lower of cost and net realizable value. The pronouncement is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of the new pronouncement on its condensed consolidated financial statements.

Forward-Looking Statements

This report contains “forward-looking statements,” which include information concerning our plans, objectives, goals, strategies, future events, future revenues or performance, capital expenditures, financing needs and other information that is not historical information. When used in this report, the words “estimate,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “project,” “plan,” “intend,” “believe” and variations of such words or similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements, including, without limitation, our examination of operating trends, are based upon our current expectations and various assumptions. We believe there is a reasonable basis for our expectations and beliefs, but there can be no assurance that we will realize our expectations or that our beliefs will prove correct.

There are a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements contained in this report. Important factors that could cause our actual results to differ include, but are not limited to, our substantial indebtedness and the indebtedness of our indirect Parent, our substantial lease obligations, the strength of the global economy, declines in consumer spending or changes in seasonal consumer spending patterns, competitive market conditions, our ability to anticipate and timely respond to changes in trends and consumer preferences, our ability to successfully develop, launch and grow our newer concepts and execute on strategic initiatives, products offerings, sales channels and businesses, adverse or unseasonable weather, material disruption to our information systems, our ability to implement our real estate strategy, our ability to implement our international expansion strategy, our ability to attract and retain key personnel, interruptions in our foreign sourcing operations, and other factors which are set forth in the section entitled “Risk Factors” and elsewhere in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2015 filed with the SEC. There may be other factors of which we are currently unaware or deem immaterial that may cause our actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements.

All forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf apply only as of the date they are made and are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements included in this report. Except as may be required by law, we undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances occurring after the date they were made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

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

This document should be read in conjunction with the Management's Discussion and Analysis section of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2015 filed with the SEC. When used herein, the terms "J.Crew," "Group," "Company," "we," "us" and "our" refer to J.Crew Group, Inc., including its wholly-owned subsidiaries.

Executive Overview

J.Crew is an internationally recognized multi-brand apparel and accessories retailer that differentiates itself through high standards of quality, style, design and fabrics. We are a vertically-integrated, omni-channel specialty retailer that operates stores and websites both domestically and internationally. We design, market and sell our products, including those under the J.Crew® and Madewell® brands, offering complete assortments of women's, men's and children's apparel and accessories. We believe our customer base consists primarily of affluent, college-educated, professional and fashion-conscious women and men.

We sell our J.Crew and Madewell merchandise through our retail and factory stores, our websites and our catalogs. As of October 31, 2015, we operated 286 J.Crew retail stores, 153 J.Crew factory stores (including four J.Crew Mercantile stores), and 97 Madewell stores throughout the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, and France; compared to 280 J.Crew retail stores, 135 J.Crew factory stores, and 80 Madewell stores as of November 1, 2014.

A summary of revenues by brand for the third quarter is as follows:

<u>(Dollars in millions)</u>	For the Thirteen Weeks Ended	For the Thirteen Weeks Ended
	October 31, 2015	November 1, 2014
J.Crew	\$ 526.9	\$ 576.4
Madewell	78.7	69.2
Other(a)	13.8	9.6
Total revenues	<u>\$ 619.4</u>	<u>\$ 655.2</u>

(a) Consists primarily of shipping and handling fees and revenues from third-party resellers.

A summary of highlights for the third quarter is as follows:

- Revenues decreased 5.5% to \$619.4 million, with comparable company sales down 10.6%
- J.Crew revenues decreased 8.6% to \$526.9 million, with comparable J.Crew sales down 12.0%
- Madewell revenues increased 13.8% to \$78.7 million, with comparable Madewell sales up 1.0%
- We recorded non-cash impairment losses of \$846 million, as a result of write downs of (i) goodwill of \$676 million and (ii) intangible assets of \$170 million.
- We opened three J.Crew retail stores, six J.Crew factory stores (including three J.Crew Mercantile stores) and eight Madewell stores.

A summary of revenues by brand for the first nine months is as follows:

<u>(Dollars in millions)</u>	For the Thirty-nine Weeks Ended	For the Thirty-nine Weeks Ended
	October 31, 2015	November 1, 2014
J.Crew	\$ 1,542.2	\$ 1,674.4
Madewell	208.5	171.7
Other(a)	44.2	28.2
Total revenues	<u>\$ 1,794.9</u>	<u>\$ 1,874.3</u>

(a) Consists primarily of shipping and handling fees and revenues from third-party resellers.

A summary of highlights for the first nine months is as follows:

- Revenues decreased 4.2% to \$1,794.9 million, with comparable company sales down 10.0%
- J.Crew revenues decreased 7.9% to \$1,542.2 million, with comparable J.Crew sales down 11.7%
- Madewell revenues increased 21.4% to \$208.5 million, with comparable Madewell sales up 6.2%
- We recorded non-cash impairment losses of \$1,380 million, a result of write downs of (i) goodwill of \$1,017 million, (ii) intangible assets of \$360 million, and (iii) certain leasehold improvements of \$3 million.
- We opened eight J.Crew retail stores, 14 J.Crew factory stores (including four J.Crew Mercantile stores), and 12 Madewell stores. We closed two J.Crew retail stores.
- We initiated a workforce reduction as part of a cost reduction program. We incurred a pre-tax charge of \$4.8 million for severance and related costs. We anticipate annualized pre-tax savings of payroll and related costs of approximately \$17 million.

How We Assess the Performance of Our Business

In assessing the performance of our business, we consider a variety of performance and financial measures. A key measure used in our evaluation is comparable company sales, which includes (i) net sales from stores that have been open for at least twelve months, (ii) e-commerce net sales, and (iii) shipping and handling fees.

A complete description of the measures we use to assess the performance of our business appears in the Management's Discussion and Analysis section of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2015 filed with the SEC.

Results of Operations – Third Quarter of Fiscal 2015 compared to Third Quarter of Fiscal 2014

(Dollars in millions)	For the Thirteen Weeks Ended October 31, 2015		For the Thirteen Weeks Ended November 1, 2014		Variance Increase/(Decrease)	
	Amount	Percent of Revenues	Amount	Percent of Revenues	Dollars	Percentage
	Revenues	\$ 619.4	100.0%	\$ 655.2	100.0%	\$ (35.8)
Gross profit	239.2	38.6	263.3	40.2	(24.1)	(9.2)
Selling, general and administrative expenses	201.8	32.6	215.7	32.9	(13.9)	(6.4)
Impairment losses	845.9	NM	684.0	NM	161.9	23.7
Loss from operations	(808.5)	NM	(636.3)	(97.1)	(172.2)	(27.1)
Interest expense, net	17.6	2.8	17.7	2.7	(0.1)	(0.8)
Benefit for income taxes	(66.4)	(10.7)	(46.2)	(7.1)	(20.2)	(43.8)
Net loss	\$ (759.7)	NM%	\$ (607.8)	(92.8)%	\$ (151.9)	(25.0)%

Revenues

Total revenues decreased \$35.8 million, or 5.5%, to \$619.4 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2015 from \$655.2 million in the third quarter last year, driven primarily by a decrease in sales of women's apparel, specifically sweaters, knits, and skirts. Comparable company sales decreased 10.6% following a decrease of 1.7% in the third quarter last year.

J.Crew sales decreased \$49.5 million, or 8.6%, to \$526.9 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2015 from \$576.4 million in the third quarter last year. J.Crew comparable sales decreased 12.0% following a decrease of 3.0% in the third quarter last year. In the third quarter of fiscal 2015, we continued to experience a softening of the sales trend in our J.Crew reporting unit, which we expect to continue at least through fiscal 2015.

Madewell sales increased \$9.5 million, or 13.8%, to \$78.7 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2015 from \$69.2 million in the third quarter last year. Madewell comparable sales increased 1.0% following an increase of 12.5% in the third quarter last year.

The approximate percentage of our sales by product category, based on our internal merchandising system, is as follows:

	For the Thirteen Weeks Ended October 31, 2015	For the Thirteen Weeks Ended November 1, 2014
Apparel:		
Women's	55%	55%
Men's	22	22
Children's	8	8
Accessories	15	15
	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

Other revenues increased \$4.2 million to \$13.8 million in third quarter of fiscal 2015 from \$9.6 million in the third quarter last year.

Gross Profit

Gross profit decreased \$24.1 million to \$239.2 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2015 from \$263.3 million in the third quarter last year. This decrease resulted from the following factors:

<u>(Dollars in millions)</u>	<u>Increase/ (decrease)</u>
Decrease in revenues	\$ (18.7)
Decrease in merchandise margin	(1.8)
Increase in buying and occupancy costs	(3.6)
Decrease in gross profit	<u>\$ (24.1)</u>

Gross margin decreased to 38.6% in the third quarter of fiscal 2015 from 40.2% in the third quarter last year. The decrease in gross margin was driven by: (i) a 30 basis point deterioration in merchandise margin primarily due to increased markdowns and (ii) a 130 basis point increase in buying and occupancy costs as a percentage of revenues.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general and administrative expenses decreased \$13.9 million to \$201.8 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2015 from \$215.7 million in the third quarter last year. This decrease primarily resulted from the following:

<u>(Dollars in millions)</u>	<u>Increase/ (decrease)</u>
Decrease in operating expenses, primarily stores and payroll	\$ (8.5)
Insurance recoveries and settlements	(3.3)
Decrease in share-based and incentive compensation	(0.9)
Decrease in foreign currency transaction losses	(0.9)
Increase in depreciation	2.6
Increase in advertising and catalog costs	2.4
Charges related to a workforce reduction	0.3
Other, net	(5.6)
Total decrease in selling, general and administrative expenses	<u>\$ (13.9)</u>

As a percentage of revenues, selling, general and administrative expenses decreased to 32.6% in the third quarter of fiscal 2015 from 32.9% in the third quarter last year.

Impairment Losses

During the third quarter of fiscal 2015, we experienced a further reduction in the profitability of our J.Crew reporting unit. As a result of current and expected future operating results, we concluded that the carrying value of the J.Crew reporting unit exceeded its fair value. Therefore, we recorded additional non-cash impairment charges of (i) \$676 million related to goodwill and (ii) \$170 million related to the intangible asset for the J.Crew trade name.

After recording the impairment charges in the third quarter, the carrying value of goodwill is \$107.9 million, which entirely relates to the Madewell reporting unit. There is no remaining goodwill attributable to the J.Crew reporting unit. The carrying value of the intangible asset for the J.Crew trade name is \$380.0 million at October 31, 2015. If operating results continue to decline below our expectations, additional impairment charges may be recorded in the future.

A summary of the aggregate impairment losses is as follows:

(Dollars in millions)	For the Thirteen Weeks Ended	For the Thirteen Weeks Ended
	October 31, 2015	November 1, 2014
Goodwill allocated to the J.Crew reporting unit	\$ 675.9	\$ 536.2
Intangible asset related to the J.Crew trade name	170.0	145.0
Long-lived assets	—	2.8
Impairment losses	<u>\$ 845.9</u>	<u>\$ 684.0</u>

These impairment charges do not have an effect on our operations, liquidity or financial covenants, and do not change management's long-term strategy, which includes its plans to drive disciplined growth across our brands.

Interest Expense, Net

Interest expense, net of interest income, decreased \$0.1 million to \$17.6 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2015 from \$17.7 million in the third quarter last year. A summary of interest expense is as follows:

(Dollars in millions)	For the Thirteen Weeks Ended	For the Thirteen Weeks Ended
	October 31, 2015	November 1, 2014
Term Loan Facility	\$ 15.6	\$ 15.8
Amortization of deferred financing costs and debt discount	1.3	1.3
Other, net of interest income	0.7	0.6
Interest expense, net	<u>\$ 17.6</u>	<u>\$ 17.7</u>

Benefit for Income Taxes

The effective tax rate was 8% and 7% for the third quarter of fiscal 2015 and fiscal 2014, respectively. For both years, the difference between the U.S. federal statutory rate of 35% and the effective rate was driven primarily by the non-cash impairment charges related to the write off of goodwill, which is not tax deductible, and therefore has no tax benefit. Other items impacting the effective rate include state and local income taxes and the recognition of certain foreign valuation allowances.

Net Loss

Net loss increased \$151.9 million to \$759.7 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2015 from \$607.8 million in the third quarter last year. This increase was due to: (i) an increase in impairment losses of \$161.9 million and (ii) a decrease in gross profit of \$24.1 million, offset by (iii) an increase in the benefit for income taxes of \$20.2 million, (iv) a decrease in selling, general and administrative expenses of \$13.9 million and (v) a decrease in interest expense of \$0.1 million.

Results of Operations – First Nine Months of Fiscal 2015 compared to First Nine Months of Fiscal 2014

(Dollars in millions)	For the Thirty-nine Weeks Ended October 31, 2015		For the Thirty-nine Weeks Ended November 1, 2014		Variance Increase/(Decrease)	
	Amount	Percent of Revenues	Amount	Percent of Revenues	Dollars	Percentage
	Revenues	\$ 1,794.9	100.0%	\$ 1,874.3	100.0%	\$ (79.4)
Gross profit	659.1	36.7	727.4	38.8	(68.3)	(9.4)
Selling, general and administrative expenses	605.3	33.7	609.7	32.5	(4.4)	(0.7)
Impairment losses	1,380.3	76.9	684.0	36.5	696.3	NM
Loss from operations	(1,326.5)	(73.9)	(566.3)	(30.2)	(760.2)	NM
Interest expense, net	52.3	2.9	57.1	3.0	(4.8)	(8.4)
Loss on refinancing	—	—	58.8	3.1	(58.8)	(100.0)
Benefit for income taxes	(143.2)	(8.0)	(55.1)	(2.9)	(88.1)	NM
Net loss	\$ (1,235.6)	(68.8)%	\$ (627.2)	(33.5)%	\$ (608.4)	(97.0)%

Revenues

Total revenues decreased \$79.4 million, or 4.2%, to \$1,794.9 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2015 from \$1,874.3 million in the first nine months last year, driven primarily by a decrease in sales of women's apparel, specifically knits, sweaters, and shorts. Comparable company sales decreased 10.0% following an increase of 0.3% in the first nine months last year.

J.Crew sales decreased \$132.2 million, or 7.9%, to \$1,542.2 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2015 from \$1,674.4 million in the first nine months last year. J.Crew comparable sales decreased 11.7% following a decrease of 0.8% in the first nine months last year. In the first nine months of fiscal 2015, we continued to experience a softening of the sales trend in our J.Crew reporting unit, which we expect to continue at least through fiscal 2015.

Madewell sales increased \$36.8 million, or 21.4%, to \$208.5 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2015 from \$171.7 million in the first nine months last year. Madewell comparable sales increased 6.2% following an increase of 14.1% in the first nine months last year.

The approximate percentage of our sales by product category, based on our internal merchandising system, is as follows:

	For the Thirty-nine Weeks Ended October 31, 2015	For the Thirty-nine Weeks Ended November 1, 2014
Apparel:		
Women's	55%	56%
Men's	23	22
Children's	7	7
Accessories	15	15
	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

Other revenues increased \$16.0 million to \$44.2 million in first nine months of fiscal 2015 from \$28.2 million in the first nine months last year.

Gross Profit

Gross profit decreased \$68.3 million to \$659.1 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2015 from \$727.4 million in the first nine months last year. This decrease resulted from the following factors:

<u>(Dollars in millions)</u>	<u>Increase/ (decrease)</u>
Decrease in revenues	\$ (40.9)
Decrease in merchandise margin	(20.4)
Increase in buying and occupancy costs	(7.0)
Decrease in gross profit	<u>\$ (68.3)</u>

Gross margin decreased to 36.7% in the first nine months of fiscal 2015 from 38.8% in the first nine months last year. The decrease in gross margin was driven by: (i) a 110 basis point deterioration in merchandise margin primarily due to increased markdowns and (ii) a 100 basis point increase in buying and occupancy costs as a percentage of revenues.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general and administrative expenses decreased \$4.4 million to \$605.3 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2015 compared to \$609.7 million in the first nine months last year. This decrease primarily resulted from the following:

<u>(Dollars in millions)</u>	<u>Increase/ (decrease)</u>
Decrease in operating expenses, primarily stores and payroll	\$ (8.9)
Insurance recoveries and settlements	(4.9)
Decrease in share-based and incentive compensation	(4.3)
Decrease in foreign currency transaction losses	(1.7)
Increase in depreciation	9.3
Increase in advertising and catalog costs	6.9
Charges related to a workforce reduction	4.8
Other, net	(5.6)
Total decrease in selling, general and administrative expenses	<u>\$ (4.4)</u>

As a percentage of revenues, selling, general and administrative expenses increased to 33.7% in the first nine months of fiscal 2015 from 32.5% in the first nine months last year.

Impairment Losses

During the first quarter of fiscal 2015, we recorded non-cash impairment charges of (i) \$341 million related to goodwill and (ii) \$190 million related to the intangible asset for the J.Crew trade name.

During the third quarter of fiscal 2015, we experienced a further reduction in the profitability of our J.Crew reporting unit. As a result of current and expected future operating results, we concluded that the carrying value of the J.Crew reporting unit exceeded its fair value. Therefore, we recorded additional non-cash impairment charges of (i) \$676 million related to goodwill and (ii) \$170 million related to the intangible asset for the J.Crew trade name.

After recording the impairment charges in the third quarter, the carrying value of goodwill is \$107.9 million, which entirely relates to the Madewell reporting unit. There is no remaining goodwill attributable to the J.Crew reporting unit. The carrying value of the intangible asset for the J.Crew trade name is \$380.0 million at October 31, 2015. If operating results continue to decline below our expectations, additional impairment charges may be recorded in the future.

A summary of the aggregate impairment losses is as follows:

(Dollars in millions)	For the	For the
	Thirty-nine Weeks Ended	Thirty-nine Weeks Ended
	October 31, 2015	November 1, 2014
Goodwill allocated to the J.Crew reporting unit	\$ 1,016.8	\$ 536.2
Intangible asset related to the J.Crew trade name	360.3	145.0
Long-lived assets	3.2	2.8
Impairment losses	<u>\$ 1,380.3</u>	<u>\$ 684.0</u>

These impairment charges do not have an effect on our operations, liquidity or financial covenants, and do not change management's long-term strategy, which includes its plans to drive disciplined growth across our brands.

Interest Expense, Net

Interest expense, net of interest income, decreased \$4.8 million to \$52.3 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2015 from \$57.1 million in the first nine months last year driven by the redemption of our 8.125% senior notes due 2019 (the "Senior Notes"). A summary of interest expense is as follows:

(Dollars in millions)	For the	For the
	Thirty-nine Weeks Ended	Thirty-nine Weeks Ended
	October 31, 2015	November 1, 2014
Term Loan Facility	\$ 47.0	\$ 46.1
Senior Notes	—	5.3
Amortization of deferred financing costs and debt discount	3.8	4.4
Other, net of interest income	1.5	1.3
Interest expense, net	<u>\$ 52.3</u>	<u>\$ 57.1</u>

Benefit for Income Taxes

The effective tax rate was 10% and 8% for the first nine months of fiscal 2015 and fiscal 2014, respectively. For both years, the difference between the U.S. federal statutory rate of 35% and the effective rate was driven primarily by the non-cash impairment charges related to the write off of goodwill, which is not tax deductible, and therefore has no tax benefit. Other items impacting the effective rate include state and local income taxes and the recognition of certain foreign valuation allowances.

Net Loss

Net loss increased \$608.4 million to \$1,235.6 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2015 from \$627.2 million in the first nine months last year. This increase was due to: (i) an increase in impairment losses of \$696.3 million and (ii) a decrease in gross profit of \$68.3 million, offset by (iii) an increase in the benefit for income taxes of \$88.1 million, (iv) a loss on refinancing in the prior year of \$58.8 million, (v) a decrease in interest expense of \$4.8 million and (vi) a decrease in selling, general and administrative expenses of \$4.4 million.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our primary sources of liquidity are our current balances of cash and cash equivalents, cash flows from operations and borrowings available under the ABL Facility. Our primary cash needs are (i) capital expenditures in connection with opening new stores and remodeling our existing stores, investments in our distribution network and making information technology system enhancements, (ii) meeting debt service requirements (including paying dividends to an indirect parent company, when required, for the purposes of servicing debt) and (iii) funding working capital requirements. The most significant components of our working capital are cash and cash equivalents, merchandise inventories and accounts payable and other current liabilities. See "—Outlook" below.

Operating Activities

<u>(Dollars in millions)</u>	<u>For the Thirty-nine Weeks Ended October 31, 2015</u>	<u>For the Thirty-nine Weeks Ended November 1, 2014</u>
Net loss	\$ (1,235.6)	\$ (627.2)
Adjustments to reconcile to cash flows from operating activities:		
Impairment losses	1,380.3	684.0
Depreciation of property and equipment	76.9	68.1
Loss on refinancing	—	58.8
Amortization of intangible assets	11.6	11.7
Amortization of deferred financing costs and debt discount	3.8	4.4
Share-based compensation	2.1	4.5
Foreign currency transaction losses	0.1	1.8
Reclassification of hedging losses to earnings	0.1	—
Changes in operating assets and liabilities	(194.0)	(122.1)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>\$ 45.3</u>	<u>\$ 84.0</u>

Cash provided by operating activities of \$45.3 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2015 resulted from: (i) non-cash adjustments of \$1,474.9 million, offset by (ii) net loss of \$1,235.6 million and (iii) changes in operating assets and liabilities of \$194.0 million due to the tax effect of the write off of an intangible asset and seasonal working capital fluctuations.

Cash provided by operating activities of \$84.0 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2014 resulted from: (i) non-cash adjustments and the loss on refinancing of \$833.3 million, offset by (ii) net loss of \$627.2 million and (iii) changes in operating assets and liabilities of \$122.1 million due to seasonal working capital fluctuations, primarily increased merchandise inventories and reduced accrued interest as a result of our debt refinancing in March 2014.

Investing Activities

<u>(Dollars in millions)</u>	<u>For the Thirty-nine Weeks Ended October 31, 2015</u>	<u>For the Thirty-nine Weeks Ended November 1, 2014</u>
Capital expenditures:		
New stores	\$ 36.8	\$ 50.6
Information technology	29.3	38.8
Other(1)	12.5	13.3
Other investing activities:	—	2.0
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>\$ 78.6</u>	<u>\$ 104.7</u>

(1) Includes capital expenditures for warehouse and corporate office improvements, store renovations and general corporate purposes.

Capital expenditures are planned at approximately \$105 to \$110 million for fiscal year 2015, including \$50 to \$55 million for new stores, \$35 to \$40 million for information technology enhancements, \$5 to \$10 million for warehouse and corporate office improvements, and the remainder for store renovations and general corporate purposes.

Financing Activities

<u>(Dollars in millions)</u>	<u>For the Thirty-nine Weeks Ended October 31, 2015</u>	<u>For the Thirty-nine Weeks Ended November 1, 2014</u>
Proceeds from Term Loan Facility, net of discount	\$ —	\$ 1,559.2
Repayment of former term loan	—	(1,167.0)
Redemption of Senior Notes	—	(400.0)
Costs paid in connection with refinancing of debt	—	(21.4)
Net borrowings under the ABL Facility	20.0	—
Dividend and contribution to Parent	(38.2)	(19.1)
Principal repayments of Term Loan Facility	(11.7)	(7.9)
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>\$ (29.9)</u>	<u>\$ (56.2)</u>

Cash used in financing activities was \$29.9 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2015 resulting from (i) the payment of dividends to an indirect parent company to fund debt service obligations and (ii) principal repayments of the Term Loan Facility, offset by (iii) net borrowings under the ABL Facility. In June of 2015, we paid a dividend of \$19 million to the Issuer, which in fiscal 2014 was not paid until the fourth quarter.

Cash used in financing activities was \$56.2 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2014 resulting from (i) costs paid in connection with the refinancing of debt and (ii) the payment of a dividend to an indirect parent company to fund debt service obligations.

Financing Arrangements

ABL Facility

The ABL Facility is governed by a credit agreement with Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent and the other agents and lenders, which provides for a \$300 million senior secured asset-based revolving line of credit (which may be increased by up to \$75 million in certain circumstances), subject to a borrowing base limitation. On December 10, 2014, we amended the ABL Facility to among other things, (i) increase the revolving credit commitments from \$250 million to \$300 million, (ii) extend the maturity, and (iii) reduce the pricing on loans and letters of credit. The borrowing base under the ABL Facility equals the sum of: 90% of the eligible credit card receivables; plus, 85% of eligible accounts; plus, 90% (or 92.5% for the period of August 1 through December 31 of any fiscal year) of the net recovery percentage of eligible inventory multiplied by the cost of eligible inventory; plus 85% of the net recovery percentage of eligible letters of credit inventory, multiplied by the cost of eligible letter of credit inventory; plus, 85% of the net recovery percentage of eligible in-transit inventory, multiplied by the cost of eligible in-transit inventory; plus, 100% of qualified cash; minus, all availability and inventory reserves. The ABL Facility includes borrowing capacity in the form of letters of credit up to the entire amount of the facility, and up to \$25 million in U.S. dollars for loans on same-day notice, referred to as swingline loans, and is available in U.S. dollars, Canadian dollars and Euros. Any amounts outstanding under the ABL Facility are due and payable in full on the maturity date of December 10, 2019.

On October 31, 2015, standby letters of credit were \$18.3 million, outstanding borrowings were \$20 million, and excess availability, as defined, was \$261.7 million. Average short-term borrowings under the ABL Facility were \$18.1 million and \$1.4 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2015 and fiscal 2014, respectively. The interest rate on the \$20 million outstanding under the ABL Facility was 1.44% on October 31, 2015.

As of the date of this report, there were no outstanding borrowings under the ABL Facility.

Demand Letter of Credit Facility

The Company has unsecured, demand letter of credit facilities with HSBC and Bank of America which provide for the issuance of up to \$50 million and \$20 million, respectively, of documentary letters of credit on a no fee basis. On October 31, 2015, outstanding documentary letters of credit were \$12.8 million and availability was \$57.2 million in the aggregate under these facilities.

Term Loan Facility

On March 5, 2014, we refinanced our Term Loan Facility, the proceeds of which were used to (i) refinance amounts outstanding under the former term loan facility of \$1,167 million and (ii) together with cash on hand, redeem in full the outstanding Senior Notes of \$400 million, and to pay fees, call premiums and accrued interest to the date of redemption, pursuant to the indenture governing the Senior Notes. The maturity date of the Term Loan Facility is March 5, 2021.

Borrowings under the Term Loan Facility bear interest at a rate per annum equal to an applicable margin plus, at Group's option, either (a) LIBOR determined by reference to the costs of funds for U.S. dollar deposits for an interest period of one month adjusted for certain additional costs (subject to a floor) or (b) a base rate determined by reference to the highest of (1) the prime rate of Bank of America, N.A., (2) the federal funds effective rate plus 0.50% and (3) a LIBOR determined by reference to the costs of funds for U.S. dollar deposits for an interest period of one month adjusted for certain additional costs, plus 1.00%. The applicable margin with respect to base rate borrowings is 2.00% and the LIBOR floor and applicable margin with respect to LIBOR borrowings are 1.00% and 3.00%, respectively.

We are required to make principal repayments equal to 0.25% of the original principal amount of the Term Loan Facility, or \$3.9 million, on the last business day of January, April, July, and October, which commenced in July 2014. We are also required to repay the term loan based on an annual excess cash flow, as defined in the agreement beginning in fiscal 2014.

The interest rate on the \$1,543 million outstanding amounts under the Term Loan Facility was 4.00% on October 31, 2015.

PIK Notes

On November 4, 2013, Chinos Intermediate Holdings A, Inc. (the "Issuer"), an indirect parent holding company of Group, issued \$500 million aggregate principal of 7.75/8.50% Senior PIK Toggle Notes due May 1, 2019 (the "PIK Notes"). The PIK Notes are (i) senior unsecured obligations of the Issuer, (ii) structurally subordinated to all of the liabilities of the Issuer's subsidiaries, and (iii) not guaranteed by any of the Issuer's subsidiaries, and therefore are not recorded in our financial statements. In fiscal 2015, we paid dividends of \$38 million in the aggregate to the Issuer to fund the semi-annual interest payments due May 1, 2015 and November 1, 2015.

On October 30, 2015, the Issuer delivered notice to U.S. Bank N.A., as trustee, under the indenture governing the PIK Notes, that with respect to the interest that will be due on such notes on the May 2, 2016 interest payment date, the Issuer will make such interest payment by paying in kind at the PIK interest rate of 8.50% instead of paying in cash. The PIK election will increase the outstanding principal balance of the PIK Notes by \$21.3 million to \$521.3 million. Therefore, we will not pay a dividend to the Issuer in the first quarter of fiscal 2016.

Pursuant to the terms of the indenture governing the PIK Notes, the Issuer intends to evaluate this option prior to the beginning of each interest period based on relevant factors at that time.

Outlook

Our short-term and long-term liquidity needs arise primarily from (i) capital expenditures, (ii) debt service requirements, including required (a) quarterly principal repayments, (b) repayments based on annual excess cash flows as defined and (c) dividends to the Issuer, when required, for the purposes of servicing debt, and (iii) working capital. Management anticipates that capital expenditures in fiscal 2015 will be approximately \$105 to \$110 million, including \$50 to \$55 million for new stores, \$35 to \$40 million for information technology enhancements, \$5 to \$10 million for warehouse and corporate office improvements, and the remainder for store renovations and general corporate purposes. Management believes that our current balances of cash and cash equivalents, projected cash flow from operations and amounts available under the ABL Facility will be adequate to fund our short-term and long-term liquidity needs. Our ability to satisfy these obligations and to remain in compliance with the financial covenants under our financing arrangements, depends on our future operating performance, which in turn, may be impacted by prevailing economic conditions and other financial and business factors, some of which are beyond our control.

During the first quarter of fiscal 2015, we recorded non-cash impairment charges of (i) \$341 million related to goodwill and (ii) \$190 million related to the intangible asset for the J.Crew trade name.

During the third quarter of fiscal 2015, we experienced a further reduction in the profitability of our J.Crew reporting unit. As a result of current and expected future operating results, we concluded that the carrying value of the J.Crew reporting unit exceeded its fair value. Therefore, we recorded additional non-cash impairment charges of (i) \$676 million related to goodwill and (ii) \$170 million related to the intangible asset for the J.Crew trade name.

If operating results continue to decline below our expectations, additional impairment charges may be recorded in the future. These impairment charges do not have an effect on our operation, liquidity or financial covenants, and do not change management's long-term strategy, which includes its plans to drive disciplined growth across our brands.

During the second quarter, we initiated a workforce reduction as part of a cost reduction program. As a result of this program, we anticipate annualized pre-tax savings of payroll and related costs of approximately \$17 million.

Off Balance Sheet Arrangements

We enter into documentary letters of credit to facilitate the international purchase of merchandise. We also enter into standby letters of credit to secure reimbursement obligations under certain insurance and import programs and lease obligations. As of October 31, 2015, we had the following obligations under letters of credit in future periods:

	Total	Within 1 Year	2-3 Years	4-5 Years	After 5 Years
	(amounts in millions)				
Letters of Credit					
Standby	\$ 18.3	\$ 17.2	\$ 0.2	\$ 0.9	\$ —
Documentary	12.8	12.8	—	—	—
	<u>\$ 31.1</u>	<u>\$ 30.0</u>	<u>\$ 0.2</u>	<u>\$ 0.9</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

Cyclical and Seasonality

The industry in which we operate is cyclical, and consequently our revenues are affected by general economic conditions. Purchases of apparel and accessories are sensitive to a number of factors that influence the levels of consumer spending, including economic conditions and the level of disposable consumer income, consumer debt, interest rates and consumer confidence.

Our business is seasonal. As a result, our revenues fluctuate from quarter to quarter. We have four distinct selling seasons that align with our four fiscal quarters. Revenues are usually higher in our fourth fiscal quarter, particularly December, as customers make holiday purchases. Our working capital requirements also fluctuate throughout the year, increasing substantially in September and October in anticipation of holiday season inventory requirements.

Critical Accounting Policies

A summary of our critical accounting policies is included in the Management's Discussion and Analysis section of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2015 filed with the SEC.

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURE ABOUT MARKET RISK

Interest Rates

We are exposed to interest rate risk arising from changes in interest rates on the floating rate indebtedness under our Term Loan Facility. Borrowings pursuant to our Term Loan Facility bear interest at floating rates based on LIBOR, but in no event less than the floor rate of 1.00%, plus the applicable margin. Accordingly, fluctuations in market interest rates may increase or decrease our interest expense which will in turn, increase or decrease our net income and cash flow.

We manage a portion of our interest rate risk related to floating rate indebtedness by entering into interest rate swaps whereby we receive floating rate payments based on the greater of LIBOR and the floor rate and make payments based on a fixed rate. As of October 31, 2015, we had interest rate swaps covering a notional amount of \$400 million. Under these swap agreements, LIBOR is fixed at 3.56%, plus the applicable margin, through maturity in March 2016.

In August 2014, the Company entered into new interest rate cap and swap agreements, which together with existing interest rate swaps, limit exposure to interest rate increases on a portion of the Company's floating rate indebtedness. The interest rate cap agreements cover a notional amount of \$400 million and cap LIBOR at 2.00% from March 2015 to March 2016. The interest rate swap agreements cover a notional amount of \$800 million from March 2016 to March 2019. Under the terms of these agreements, the Company's effective fixed interest rate on the notional amount of indebtedness is 2.56% plus the applicable margin.

As a result of the floor rate described above, we estimate that a 1% increase in LIBOR would not impact our interest expense in the current fiscal year.

Foreign Currency

Foreign currency exposures arise from transactions denominated in a currency other than the entity's functional currency. Although our inventory is primarily purchased from foreign vendors, such purchases are denominated in U.S. dollars; and are therefore not subject to foreign currency exchange risk.

However, we operate in foreign countries, which exposes the Company to market risk associated with exchange rate fluctuations. The Company is exposed to foreign currency exchange risk resulting from its foreign operating subsidiaries' U.S. dollar denominated transactions.

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer, carried out an evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act")) as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by this report to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in SEC rules and forms.

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

PART II – OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The Company is subject to various legal proceedings and claims arising in the ordinary course of business. Management does not expect that the results of any of these legal proceedings, either individually or in the aggregate, would have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

The Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2015 includes a detailed discussion of certain risks that could materially adversely affect our business, our operating results, or our financial condition. There have been no material changes to the risk factors previously disclosed.

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

Exhibit No.	Document
3.1	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of J.Crew Group, Inc., adopted March 7, 2011. Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Form 8-K filed on March 10, 2011.
3.2	Amended and Restated By-laws of J.Crew Group, Inc., adopted March 7, 2011. Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Form 8-K filed on March 10, 2011.

Certifications

Exhibit No.	Document
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.*
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.*
32.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.**

Interactive Data Files

Exhibit No.	Document
101	Interactive data files pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T: (i) the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets at October 31, 2015 and January 31, 2015, (ii) the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Loss for the thirteen weeks ended October 31, 2015 and November 1, 2014, (iii) the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Loss for the thirty-nine weeks ended October 31, 2015 and November 1, 2014, (iv) the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity for the thirty-nine weeks ended October 31, 2015 and the fifty-two weeks ended January 31, 2015, (v) the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the thirty-nine weeks ended October 31, 2015 and November 1, 2014, and (vi) the Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.*

* Filed herewith.

** Furnished herewith.

EXHIBIT INDEX

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* Filed herewith.

** Furnished herewith.

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 302
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, Millard Drexler, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of J.Crew Group, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements and other financial information included in this report fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: December 3, 2015

/s/ MILLARD DREXLER
Millard Drexler
Chief Executive Officer

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 302
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, Joan Durkin, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of J.Crew Group, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements and other financial information included in this report fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: December 3, 2015

/s/ JOAN DURKIN

Joan Durkin
Interim Chief Financial Officer

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 906
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with the quarterly report of J.Crew Group, Inc. (the "Company") on Form 10-Q for the period ended October 31, 2015 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), we, Millard Drexler, Chief Executive Officer of the Company, and Joan Durkin, Interim Chief Financial Officer of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

1. The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
2. The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: December 3, 2015

/s/ MILLARD DREXLER

Millard Drexler
Chief Executive Officer

/s/ JOAN DURKIN

Joan Durkin
Interim Chief Financial Officer

The foregoing certification is being furnished solely pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (18 U.S.C. Section 1350) and is not being filed as part of the Report or as a separate disclosure document.

A signed original of this written statement required by Section 906 has been provided to the Company and will be retained by the Company and furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission or its staff upon request.

