
**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 August 2, 2014

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.

| <u>Common Stock</u> | <u>Outstanding at August 29, 2014</u> |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 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.

J.CREW GROUP, INC.
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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)

| | August 2, 2014 | February 1, 2014 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 73,506 | \$ 156,649 |
| Merchandise inventories | 394,677 | 353,976 |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | 61,838 | 56,434 |
| Prepaid income taxes | — | 2,782 |
| Deferred income taxes, net | 12,075 | 11,831 |
| Total current assets | <u>542,096</u> | <u>581,672</u> |
| Property and equipment, net | 393,847 | 375,092 |
| Favorable lease commitments, net | 23,421 | 26,560 |
| Deferred financing costs, net | 24,345 | 41,911 |
| Intangible assets, net | 961,525 | 966,175 |
| Goodwill | 1,686,915 | 1,686,915 |
| Other assets | 4,776 | 3,895 |
| Total assets | <u>\$ 3,636,925</u> | <u>\$ 3,682,220</u> |
| LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 246,870 | \$ 237,019 |
| Other current liabilities | 139,875 | 154,796 |
| Interest payable | 5,636 | 18,065 |
| Income taxes payable | 567 | — |
| Current portion of long-term debt | 15,670 | 12,000 |
| Total current liabilities | <u>408,618</u> | <u>421,880</u> |
| Long-term debt, net | 1,540,044 | 1,555,000 |
| Unfavorable lease commitments and deferred credits, net | 108,143 | 93,788 |
| Deferred income taxes, net | 383,214 | 389,403 |
| Other liabilities | 27,141 | 31,729 |
| Total liabilities | <u>2,467,160</u> | <u>2,491,800</u> |
| Stockholders' equity: | | |
| Common stock \$0.01 par value; 1,000 shares authorized, issued and outstanding | — | — |
| Additional paid-in capital | 1,011,999 | 1,008,984 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (470) | (15,184) |
| Retained earnings | 158,236 | 196,620 |
| Total stockholders' equity | <u>1,169,765</u> | <u>1,190,420</u> |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | <u>\$ 3,636,925</u> | <u>\$ 3,682,220</u> |

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

J.CREW GROUP, INC.

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

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended August 2, 2014 | Thirteen Weeks Ended August 3, 2013 |
|---|---|---|
| Revenues: | | |
| Net sales | \$ 617,130 | \$ 550,946 |
| Other | 10,099 | 8,156 |
| Total revenues | 627,229 | 559,102 |
| Cost of goods sold, including buying and occupancy costs | 390,549 | 329,110 |
| Gross profit | 236,680 | 229,992 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 200,667 | 174,226 |
| Income from operations | 36,013 | 55,766 |
| Interest expense, net of interest income | 17,757 | 26,239 |
| Income before income taxes | 18,256 | 29,527 |
| Provision for income taxes | 7,471 | 12,069 |
| Net income | \$ 10,785 | \$ 17,458 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss): | | |
| Reclassification of losses on cash flow hedges, net of tax, to earnings | — | 2,132 |
| Unrealized gain on cash flow hedges, net of tax | — | 528 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | (223) | (731) |
| Comprehensive income | \$ 10,562 | \$ 19,387 |

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

J.CREW GROUP, INC.

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

| | <u>Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 2, 2014</u> | <u>Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 3, 2013</u> |
|---|--|--|
| Revenues: | | |
| Net sales | \$ 1,200,515 | \$ 1,107,300 |
| Other | 18,683 | 15,913 |
| Total revenues | <u>1,219,198</u> | <u>1,123,213</u> |
| Cost of goods sold, including buying and occupancy costs | <u>753,335</u> | <u>641,206</u> |
| Gross profit | 465,863 | 482,007 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | <u>395,831</u> | <u>352,622</u> |
| Income from operations | 70,032 | 129,385 |
| Interest expense, net of interest income | 39,418 | 51,920 |
| Loss on refinancing | <u>58,786</u> | <u>—</u> |
| Income (loss) before income taxes | (28,172) | 77,465 |
| Provision (benefit) for income taxes | <u>(8,840)</u> | <u>30,686</u> |
| Net income (loss) | <u>\$ (19,332)</u> | <u>\$ 46,779</u> |
| Other comprehensive income (loss): | | |
| Reclassification of losses on cash flow hedges, net of tax, to earnings | 13,652 | 3,135 |
| Unrealized loss on cash flow hedges, net of tax | — | (238) |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | 1,062 | (977) |
| Comprehensive income (loss) | <u>\$ (4,618)</u> | <u>\$ 48,699</u> |

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

| | Common stock | | Additional paid-in capital | Retained earnings | Accumulated other comprehensive loss | Total stockholders' equity |
|---|--------------|--------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| | Shares | Amount | | | | |
| Balance at February 2, 2013 | 1,000 | \$ — | \$ 1,003,184 | \$ 108,496 | \$ (20,189) | \$ 1,091,491 |
| Net income | — | — | — | 88,124 | — | 88,124 |
| Share-based compensation | — | — | 5,784 | — | — | 5,784 |
| Excess tax benefit from share-based awards | — | — | 728 | — | — | 728 |
| Contribution to Parent, net | — | — | (712) | — | — | (712) |
| Reclassification of realized losses on cash flow hedges, net of tax, to earnings | — | — | — | — | 7,339 | 7,339 |
| Unrealized gain (loss) on cash flow hedges, net of tax | — | — | — | — | (802) | (802) |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | — | — | — | — | (1,532) | (1,532) |
| Balance at February 1, 2014 | 1,000 | — | 1,008,984 | 196,620 | (15,184) | 1,190,420 |
| Net loss | — | — | — | (19,332) | — | (19,332) |
| Share-based compensation | — | — | 3,036 | — | — | 3,036 |
| Dividend and contribution to Parent | — | — | (21) | (19,052) | — | (19,073) |
| Reclassification of losses on cash flow hedges, net of tax, to earnings | — | — | — | — | 13,652 | 13,652 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | — | — | — | — | 1,062 | 1,062 |
| Balance at August 2, 2014 | 1,000 | \$ — | \$ 1,011,999 | \$ 158,236 | \$ (470) | \$ 1,169,765 |

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

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

| | Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 2, 2014 | Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 3, 2013 |
|--|--|--|
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Net income (loss) | \$ (19,332) | \$ 46,779 |
| Adjustments to reconcile to cash flows from operating activities: | | |
| Loss on refinancing | 58,786 | — |
| Depreciation of property and equipment | 44,173 | 38,561 |
| Amortization of intangible assets | 4,650 | 4,692 |
| Amortization of deferred financing costs | 3,045 | 4,970 |
| Share-based compensation | 3,036 | 2,845 |
| Amortization of favorable lease commitments | 3,139 | 4,458 |
| Realized hedging losses | — | 5,140 |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities: | | |
| Merchandise inventories | (40,162) | (55,869) |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | (5,224) | (7,490) |
| Other assets | (855) | (1,540) |
| Accounts payable and other liabilities | (10,251) | 51,423 |
| Federal and state income taxes | (10,459) | 6,318 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | <u>30,546</u> | <u>100,287</u> |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Capital expenditures | <u>(61,645)</u> | <u>(63,029)</u> |
| Net cash used in investing activities | <u>(61,645)</u> | <u>(63,029)</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) | (6,000) |
| Redemption of Senior Notes | (400,000) | — |
| Costs paid in connection with refinancing of debt | (21,419) | — |
| Dividend and contribution to Parent | (19,073) | (454) |
| Principal repayments of Term Loan Facility | <u>(3,917)</u> | <u>—</u> |
| Net cash used in financing activities | <u>(52,244)</u> | <u>(6,454)</u> |
| Effect of changes in foreign exchange rates on cash and cash equivalents | <u>200</u> | <u>(367)</u> |
| Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | <u>(83,143)</u> | <u>30,437</u> |
| Beginning balance | 156,649 | 68,399 |
| Ending balance | <u>\$ 73,506</u> | <u>\$ 98,836</u> |
| Supplemental cash flow information: | | |
| Income taxes paid | <u>\$ 1,870</u> | <u>\$ 27,423</u> |
| Interest paid | <u>\$ 54,833</u> | <u>\$ 44,319</u> |

See notes to unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

J.CREW GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended August 2, 2014 and August 3, 2013
(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 February 1, 2014.

The Company’s fiscal year ends on the Saturday closest to January 31. All references herein to “fiscal 2014” represent the 52-week fiscal year that will end on January 31, 2015, and to “fiscal 2013” represent the 52-week fiscal year that ended February 1, 2014.

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 \$5.1 million and \$4.9 million in the first half of fiscal 2014 and fiscal 2013, respectively, for monitoring fees and out-of-pocket expenses, included in selling, general and administrative expenses in the statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss).

3. Goodwill and Intangible Assets

The significant components of our intangible assets and goodwill are as follows:

| | <u>Loyalty Program and Customer Lists</u> | <u>Favorable Lease Commitments</u> | <u>Madewell Brand Name</u> | <u>J.Crew Brand Name</u> | <u>Goodwill</u> |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Balance at February 1, 2014 | \$ 10,833 | \$ 26,560 | \$ 70,042 | \$ 885,300 | \$ 1,686,915 |
| Amortization expense | (1,300) | (1,569) | (1,025) | — | — |
| Balance at May 3, 2014 | 9,533 | 24,991 | 69,017 | 885,300 | 1,686,915 |
| Amortization expense | (1,300) | (1,570) | (1,025) | — | — |
| Balance at August 2, 2014 | <u>\$ 8,233</u> | <u>\$ 23,421</u> | <u>\$ 67,992</u> | <u>\$ 885,300</u> | <u>\$ 1,686,915</u> |
| Total accumulated amortization at August 2, 2014 | <u>\$ (18,777)</u> | <u>\$ (37,589)</u> | <u>\$ (14,008)</u> | | |

As a result of the performance of the Company in the first quarter of fiscal 2014, along with its outlook of future operating results, the Company determined that there was a substantial deterioration in the excess of fair value over the carrying value of the Stores reporting unit. To the extent that the operating results continue to decline, the Company may record a non-cash goodwill or intangible asset impairment charge. The goodwill allocated to the Stores reporting unit is \$942 million. The intangible asset for the J.Crew brand is \$885 million.

4. Share-Based Compensation

Chinos Holdings, Inc. 2011 Equity Incentive Plan

During the first half of fiscal 2014, the Parent issued 4,255,000 options to certain members of management, including (i) 3,080,000 options with a weighted average exercise price of \$0.56 that become exercisable over a period of five years and (ii) 1,175,000 options with a weighted average exercise price of \$0.52 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 half of fiscal 2014 was \$0.39 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 income (loss) is as follows:

| | For the Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 2, 2014 | For the Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 3, 2013 |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Share-based compensation | <u>\$ 3,036</u> | <u>\$ 2,845</u> |

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

| | Shares |
|---|--------------------------|
| Available for grant at February 1, 2014 | <u>16,665,058</u> |
| Granted | (4,255,000) |
| Forfeited and available for reissuance | <u>1,376,000</u> |
| Available for grant at August 2, 2014 | <u><u>13,786,058</u></u> |

5. Long-Term Debt and Credit Agreements

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

| | August 2, 2014 | February 1, 2014 |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Term Loan Facility (refinanced on March 5, 2014) | \$ 1,563,083 | \$ 1,167,000 |
| Less current portion | (15,670) | (12,000) |
| Less discount | <u>(7,369)</u> | <u>—</u> |
| Term Loan Facility, net | 1,540,044 | 1,155,000 |
| Senior Notes | <u>—</u> | <u>400,000</u> |
| Long-term debt, net | <u>\$ 1,540,044</u> | <u>\$ 1,555,000</u> |
| ABL Facility Loans | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ —</u> |

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 \$250 million senior secured asset-based revolving line of credit (which may be increased up to \$75 million in certain circumstances), subject to a borrowing base limitation. The ABL Facility provides for borrowing capacity in the form of loans or 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 October 11, 2017. 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 Senior Notes.

On August 2, 2014, standby letters of credit were \$10.8 million, excess availability, as defined, was \$239.2 million, and there were no borrowings outstanding. Average short-term borrowings under the ABL Facility were \$2.0 million and \$4.9 million in the first half of fiscal 2014 and fiscal 2013, respectively.

Demand Letter of Credit Facility

The Company has an unsecured demand letter of credit facility with HSBC which provides for the issuance of up to \$35 million of documentary letters of credit on a no fee basis. On August 2, 2014, outstanding documentary letters of credit were \$18.2 million and availability was \$16.8 million under this facility.

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 Senior Notes Indenture. 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. In addition, the Term Loan Facility provides for an incremental 0.25% step-down in applicable margin when Group's corporate family rating, as publicly announced by Moody's, is B1 or better.

The Company is required to make principal repayments equal to 0.25% of the \$1,567 million refinanced under the Term Loan Facility, or \$3.9 million, on the last business day of January, April, July, and October, which commenced in July 2014. The Company is also required to repay the term loan based on annual excess cash flow, as defined in the agreement, beginning in fiscal 2014.

The interest rate on the outstanding amounts under the Term Loan Facility was 4.00% on August 2, 2014.

Interest expense

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

| | For the Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 2, 2014 | For the Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 3, 2013 |
|--|--|--|
| Term Loan Facility | \$ 30,309 | \$ 25,076 |
| Senior Notes | 5,314 | 16,250 |
| Amortization of deferred financing costs | 3,045 | 4,970 |
| Hedging losses | 450 | 5,140 |
| Other, net of interest income | 300 | 484 |
| Interest expense, net | <u>\$ 39,418</u> | <u>\$ 51,920</u> |

Loss on refinancing

A summary of the components of the loss on refinancing is as follows:

| | For the Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 2, 2014 |
|---|--|
| Prior unrealized losses on cash flow hedge (see note 6) | \$ 22,380 |
| Call premium on Senior Notes | 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 incurred costs of \$8.5 million, of which \$7.8 million were recorded as debt discount.

6. Derivative Financial Instruments

Interest Rate Swaps

In April 2011, the Company entered into floating-to-fixed interest rate swap agreements for an aggregate notional amount of \$600 million, which will be reduced by \$100 million annually for the term of the agreements. As of August 2, 2014, the Company had interest rate swaps covering a notional amount of \$500 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 then applicable margin.

Fair Value

Prior to the refinancing on March 5, 2014, the Company designated the 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 of the Term Loan Facility resulted in the discontinuance of the designation of the 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. Unrealized gains and losses of \$0.5 million were recorded as interest expense.

The fair values of the interest rate swap agreements are estimated using industry standard valuation models using market-based observable inputs, including interest rate curves (level 2 inputs). The fair value of the interest rate swaps, recorded in other liabilities, was \$17,727 and \$23,648 at August 2, 2014 and February 1, 2014, respectively.

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 estimated to be \$1,522 million and \$1,598 million at August 2, 2014 and February 1, 2014 based on quoted market prices of the debt (level 1 inputs).

The Company's interest rate 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

Except for certain leasehold improvements, the Company does not have any non-financial assets or liabilities as of August 2, 2014 or February 1, 2014 that are measured in the financial statements at fair value.

The Company performs impairment tests of certain 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 financial condition and results of operations is as follows:

| | For the Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 2, 2014 | For the Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 3, 2013 |
|---|--|--|
| Carrying value of long-term assets written down to fair value | \$ — | \$ 673 |
| Impairment charge | \$ — | \$ 673 |

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 2012. 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 for the twenty-six weeks ended August 2, 2014 of 31% is primarily driven by (i) state and local income taxes, (ii) the recognition of certain foreign valuation allowances, partially offset by (iii) benefits of lower rates in certain foreign jurisdictions. The difference between the U.S. statutory income tax rate of 35% and the effective tax rate for the twenty-six weeks ended August 3, 2013 of 40% is primarily driven by state and local income taxes.

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

On June 20, 2013, a purported class action complaint was filed in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts by an individual claiming that the Company collected her ZIP code unlawfully in connection with a retail purchase she made at a Massachusetts store. That action, captioned *Miller v. J.Crew Group, Inc.*, 13-cv-11487 (the “Miller Action”), purports to be brought on behalf of a class of customers whose ZIP codes were collected and recorded at Company stores in Massachusetts in connection with credit card purchases, and claims that the Company used the collected ZIP code data to obtain customers’ addresses for purposes of mailing them unwanted advertising material. The Miller Action seeks money damages pursuant to a claim under Chapter 93A of the General Laws of Massachusetts and a claim for unjust enrichment. The Company filed a motion to dismiss the unjust enrichment claim, and on April 22, 2014, the Court denied that motion without prejudice to the Company’s ability to re-file it later in the litigation. On May 15, 2014, the Company answered the plaintiff’s complaint. On June 1, 2014, the parties to the Miller Action entered into a settlement agreement and release (the “Settlement Agreement”). The Court granted preliminary approval of the Settlement Agreement on June 27, 2014. Notice of the settlement was sent to class members on July 25, 2014. A hearing for final approval of the Settlement Agreement has been scheduled for October 15, 2014. The Company does not believe the resolution of the Miller Action will have a significant impact on the Company’s consolidated financial statements.

The Company is also 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. 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 Issuers' subsidiaries, and (iii) not guaranteed by any of the Issuers' subsidiaries, and therefore are not recorded in the financial statements of the Company. The Company paid a dividend of \$19 million to the Issuer in the first quarter of fiscal 2014 to fund the initial semi-annual interest payment due May 1, 2014. Additionally, while not required, the Company intends to pay dividends to fund future interest payments, which would aggregate to \$194 million through the remainder of the term if all interest on the PIK Notes is paid in cash.

11. Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In July 2013, a pronouncement was issued that provided guidance related to the presentation of an unrecognized tax benefit, specifically when to present as a reduction of deferred taxes or as a liability, when a net operating loss carryforward, a similar tax loss, or a tax credit carryforward exists. The pronouncement is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2013. The Company adopted this pronouncement on February 2, 2014, which did not have a significant impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

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, 2016. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of the new pronouncement on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

12. Subsequent Event

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. These new agreements cover notional amounts of \$400 million from March 2015 to March 2016 and \$800 million from March 2016 to March 2019.

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.

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, for which we intend to pay a dividend to service such debt, and 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 February 1, 2014 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 February 1, 2014 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 complete assortments of women's, men's and children's apparel and accessories, including those under the J.Crew® and Madewell® brands. We believe our customer base consists primarily of affluent, college-educated, professional and fashion-conscious women and men.

We conduct our business through two primary sales channels: (1) *Stores*, which consists of our retail, factory and Madewell stores, and (2) *Direct*, which consists of our J.Crew, factory and Madewell websites. As of August 2, 2014, we operated 269 J.Crew retail stores, 127 J.Crew factory stores, and 71 Madewell stores, in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Hong Kong.

A summary of revenues by channel for the second quarter is as follows:

| <u>(Dollars in millions)</u> | <u>For the Thirteen Weeks Ended August 2, 2014</u> | <u>For the Thirteen Weeks Ended August 3, 2013</u> |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Stores | \$ 443.5 | \$ 399.1 |
| Direct | 173.6 | 151.8 |
| Net sales | 617.1 | 550.9 |
| Other(a) | 10.1 | 8.2 |
| Total revenues | <u>\$ 627.2</u> | <u>\$ 559.1</u> |

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

| <u>(Dollars in millions)</u> | <u>For the Thirteen Weeks Ended August 2, 2014</u> | <u>For the Thirteen Weeks Ended August 3, 2013</u> |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| J.Crew | \$ 561.2 | \$ 511.7 |
| Madewell | 55.9 | 39.2 |
| Other(a) | 10.1 | 8.2 |
| Total revenues | <u>\$ 627.2</u> | <u>\$ 559.1</u> |

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

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

- × Revenues increased 12.2% to \$627.2 million.
- × Comparable company sales increased 4.4%.
- × Direct net sales increased 14.4% to \$173.6 million.
- × Income from operations decreased \$19.8 million to \$36.0 million.
- × We opened four J.Crew retail stores, five J.Crew factory stores, and one Madewell store. We closed one J.Crew retail store.

A summary of revenues by channel for the first half is as follows:

| <u>(Dollars in millions)</u> | For the | For the |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| | Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 2, 2014 | Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 3, 2013 |
| Stores | \$ 829.9 | \$ 779.3 |
| Direct | 370.6 | 328.0 |
| Net sales | 1,200.5 | 1,107.3 |
| Other(a) | 18.7 | 15.9 |
| Total revenues | <u>\$ 1,219.2</u> | <u>\$ 1,123.2</u> |

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

| <u>(Dollars in millions)</u> | For the | For the |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| | Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 2, 2014 | Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 3, 2013 |
| J.Crew | \$ 1,098.0 | \$ 1,033.6 |
| Madewell | 102.5 | 73.7 |
| Other(a) | 18.7 | 15.9 |
| Total revenues | <u>\$ 1,219.2</u> | <u>\$ 1,123.2</u> |

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

A summary of highlights for the first half is as follows:

- × Revenues increased 8.5% to \$1,219.2 million.
- × Comparable company sales increased 1.4%.
- × Direct net sales increased 13.0% to \$370.6 million.
- × Income from operations decreased \$59.3 million to \$70.0 million.
- × We opened five J.Crew retail stores, six J.Crew factory stores, and six Madewell stores. We closed one J.Crew retail store.
- × We refinanced our Term Loan Facility and redeemed our Senior Notes, which we expect to result in annual savings of \$16 million in interest expense. We recorded a loss of \$58.8 million in connection with the refinancing.

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) direct 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 February 1, 2014 filed with the SEC.

Results of Operations – Second Quarter of Fiscal 2014 compared to Second Quarter of Fiscal 2013

| <u>(Dollars in millions)</u> | For the Thirteen Weeks Ended August 2, 2014 | | For the Thirteen Weeks Ended August 3, 2013 | | Variance Increase/(Decrease) | |
|--|--|------------------------|---|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| | Amount | Percent of Revenues | Amount | Percent of Revenues | Dollars | Percentage |
| Revenues | \$ 627.2 | 100.0% | \$ 559.1 | 100.0% | \$ 68.1 | 12.2% |
| Gross profit | 236.7 | 37.7 | 230.0 | 41.1 | 6.7 | 2.9 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 200.7 | 32.0 | 174.2 | 31.2 | 26.5 | 15.2 |
| Income from operations | 36.0 | 5.7 | 55.8 | 10.0 | (19.8) | (35.4) |
| Interest expense, net | 17.8 | 2.8 | 26.2 | 4.7 | (8.4) | (32.3) |
| Provision for income taxes | 7.5 | 1.2 | 12.1 | 2.2 | (4.6) | (38.1) |
| Net income | \$ 10.8 | 1.7% | \$ 17.5 | 3.1% | \$ (6.7) | (38.2)% |

Revenues

Revenues increased \$68.1 million, or 12.2%, to \$627.2 million in the second quarter of fiscal 2014 from \$559.1 million in the second quarter last year, driven primarily by an increase in sales of women's apparel, specifically knits, shirts, and sweaters. Comparable company sales increased 4.4% in the second quarter of fiscal 2014. Comparable company sales decreased 0.6% in the second quarter of fiscal 2013.

Stores sales increased \$44.4 million, or 11.1%, to \$443.5 million in the second quarter of fiscal 2014 from \$399.1 million in the second quarter last year. Stores sales increased 3.9% in the second quarter of fiscal 2013. Sales from stores that have been open for less than twelve months were \$54.9 million in the second quarter of fiscal 2014.

Direct sales increased \$21.8 million, or 14.4%, to \$173.6 million in the second quarter of fiscal 2014 from \$151.8 million in the second quarter last year. Direct sales increased \$17.8 million, or 13.4%, in the second quarter of fiscal 2013.

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

| | <u>For the Thirteen Weeks Ended August 2, 2014</u> | <u>For the Thirteen Weeks Ended August 3, 2013</u> |
|-------------|--|--|
| Apparel: | | |
| Women's | 56% | 56% |
| Men's | 26 | 26 |
| Children's | 6 | 6 |
| Accessories | <u>12</u> | <u>12</u> |
| | <u>100%</u> | <u>100%</u> |

Other revenues increased \$1.9 million to \$10.1 million in the second quarter of fiscal 2014 from \$8.2 million in the second quarter last year.

Gross Profit

Gross profit increased \$6.7 million to \$236.7 million in the second quarter of fiscal 2014 from \$230.0 million in the second quarter last year. This increase resulted from the following factors:

| <u>(Dollars in millions)</u> | <u>Increase/ (decrease)</u> |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Increase in revenues | \$ 36.7 |
| Decrease in merchandise margin | (22.4) |
| Increase in buying and occupancy costs | (7.6) |
| Increase in gross profit | <u>\$ 6.7</u> |

Gross margin decreased to 37.7% in the second quarter of fiscal 2014 from 41.1% in the second quarter last year. The decrease in gross margin was driven by: (i) a 360 basis point deterioration in merchandise margin primarily due to increased markdowns partially offset by (ii) a 20 basis point improvement in buying and occupancy costs as a percentage of revenues.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general and administrative expenses increased \$26.5 million to \$200.7 million in the second quarter of fiscal 2014 compared to \$174.2 million in the second quarter last year. This increase primarily resulted from the following:

| <u>(Dollars in millions)</u> | <u>Increase/ (decrease)</u> |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Increase in operating expenses, primarily Stores and payroll | \$ 16.5 |
| Increase in depreciation | 3.4 |
| Insurance proceeds received in the prior year | 3.0 |
| Increase in share-based and incentive compensation | 2.7 |
| Other, net | 0.9 |
| Total increase in selling, general and administrative expenses | <u>\$ 26.5</u> |

As a percentage of revenues, selling, general and administrative expenses increased to 32.0% in the second quarter of fiscal 2014 from 31.2% in the second quarter last year.

Interest Expense, Net

Interest expense, net of interest income, decreased \$8.4 million to \$17.8 million in the second quarter of fiscal 2014 from \$26.2 million in the second quarter last year driven by the redemption of our Senior Notes. A summary of interest expense is as follows:

| (Dollars in millions) | For the Thirteen Weeks Ended August 2, 2014 | For the Thirteen Weeks Ended August 3, 2013 |
|--|--|--|
| Term Loan Facility | \$ 15.8 | \$ 11.9 |
| Senior Notes | — | 8.1 |
| Amortization of deferred financing costs | 1.3 | 2.5 |
| Hedging losses | 0.2 | 3.5 |
| Other, net of interest income | 0.5 | 0.2 |
| Interest expense, net | <u>\$ 17.8</u> | <u>\$ 26.2</u> |

Provision for Income Taxes

The effective tax rate for the second quarter of fiscal 2014 was 41%. The difference between the US federal statutory rate of 35% and the effective rate of 41% was driven primarily by (i) state and local income taxes, (ii) the recognition of certain foreign valuation allowances, partially offset by (iii) benefits of lower rates in certain foreign jurisdictions. Our expected annual effective tax rate for fiscal 2014 is 38%.

The effective tax rate for the second quarter of fiscal 2013 was 41%. The difference between the US federal statutory rate of 35% and the effective rate of 41% was driven primarily by state and local income taxes. Our annual effective tax rate in fiscal 2013 was 39%.

Net Income

Net income decreased \$6.7 million to \$10.8 million in the second quarter of fiscal 2014 from net income of \$17.5 million in the second quarter last year. This decrease was due to: (i) an increase in selling, general and administrative expenses of \$26.5 million, offset by (ii) a decrease in interest expense of \$8.4 million, (iii) an increase in gross profit of \$6.7 million and (iv) a decrease in the provision for income taxes of \$4.6 million.

Results of Operations – First Half of Fiscal 2014 compared to First Half of Fiscal 2013

| (Dollars in millions) | For the Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 2, 2014 | | For the Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 3, 2013 | | Variance Increase/(Decrease) | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| | Amount | Percent of Revenues | Amount | Percent of Revenues | Dollars | Percentage |
| Revenues | \$ 1,219.2 | 100.0% | \$ 1,123.2 | 100.0% | \$ 96.0 | 8.5% |
| Gross profit | 465.9 | 38.2 | 482.0 | 42.9 | (16.1) | (3.3) |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 395.8 | 32.5 | 352.6 | 31.4 | 43.2 | 12.3 |
| Income from operations | 70.0 | 5.7 | 129.4 | 11.5 | (59.4) | (45.9) |
| Interest expense, net | 39.4 | 3.2 | 51.9 | 4.6 | (12.5) | (24.1) |
| Loss on refinancing | 58.8 | 4.8 | — | — | 58.8 | NM |
| Provision (benefit) for income taxes | (8.8) | (0.7) | 30.7 | 2.7 | (39.5) | NM |
| Net income (loss) | <u>\$ (19.3)</u> | <u>(1.6)%</u> | <u>\$ 46.8</u> | <u>4.2%</u> | <u>\$ (66.1)</u> | <u>NM</u> |

Revenues

Revenues increased \$96.0 million, or 8.5%, to \$1,219.2 million in the first half of fiscal 2014 from \$1,123.2 million in the first half last year, driven primarily by an increase in sales of women's apparel, specifically knits, sweaters, and shirts. Comparable

company sales increased 1.4% in the first half of fiscal 2014. Comparable company sales increased 2.4% in the first quarter of fiscal 2013.

Stores sales increased \$50.6 million, or 6.5%, to \$829.9 million in the first half of fiscal 2014 from \$779.3 million in the first half last year. Stores sales increased 5.6% in the first half of fiscal 2013. Sales from stores that have been open for less than twelve months were \$104.1 million in the first half of fiscal 2014.

Direct sales increased \$42.6 million, or 13.0%, to \$370.6 million in the first half of fiscal 2014 from \$328.0 million in the first half last year. Direct sales increased \$50.6 million, or 18.2%, in the first half of fiscal 2013.

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

| | For the Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 2, 2014 | For the Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 3, 2013 |
|-------------|--|--|
| Apparel: | | |
| Women's | 56% | 57% |
| Men's | 25 | 24 |
| Children's | 7 | 6 |
| Accessories | 12 | 13 |
| | <u>100%</u> | <u>100%</u> |

Other revenues increased \$2.8 million to \$18.7 million in the first half of fiscal 2014 from \$15.9 million in the first half last year.

Gross Profit

Gross profit decreased \$16.1 million to \$465.9 million in the first half of fiscal 2014 from \$482.0 million in the first half last year. This decrease resulted from the following factors:

| <u>(Dollars in millions)</u> | <u>Increase/ (decrease)</u> |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Increase in revenues | \$ 53.1 |
| Decrease in merchandise margin | (51.6) |
| Increase in buying and occupancy costs | (17.6) |
| Decrease in gross profit | <u>\$ (16.1)</u> |

Gross margin decreased to 38.2% in the first half of fiscal 2014 from 42.9% in the first half last year. The decrease in gross margin was driven by: (i) a 420 basis point deterioration in merchandise margin primarily due to increased markdowns and (ii) a 50 basis point increase in buying and occupancy costs as a percentage of revenues.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general and administrative expenses increased \$43.2 million to \$395.8 million in the first half of fiscal 2014 compared to \$352.6 million in the first half last year. This increase primarily resulted from the following:

| <u>(Dollars in millions)</u> | <u>Increase/ (decrease)</u> |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Increase in operating expenses, primarily Stores and payroll | \$ 25.8 |
| Increase in depreciation | 6.1 |
| Increase in share-based and incentive compensation | 3.9 |
| Insurance proceeds received in the prior year | 3.2 |
| Increase in advertising and catalog costs | 2.0 |
| Other, net | 2.2 |
| Total increase in selling, general and administrative expenses | <u>\$ 43.2</u> |

As a percentage of revenues, selling, general and administrative expenses increased to 32.5% in the first half of fiscal 2014 from 31.4% in the first half last year.

Interest Expense, Net

Interest expense, net of interest income, decreased \$12.5 million to \$39.4 million in the first half of fiscal 2014 from \$51.9 million in the first half last year driven by the redemption of our Senior Notes. A summary of interest expense is as follows:

| (Dollars in millions) | For the Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 2, 2014 | For the Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 3, 2013 |
|--|--|--|
| Term Loan Facility | \$ 30.3 | \$ 25.1 |
| Senior Notes | 5.3 | 16.3 |
| Amortization of deferred financing costs | 3.0 | 5.0 |
| Hedging losses | 0.5 | 5.1 |
| Other, net of interest income | 0.3 | 0.4 |
| Interest expense, net | <u>\$ 39.4</u> | <u>\$ 51.9</u> |

Loss on Refinancing

In the first quarter of fiscal 2014, we refinanced our Term Loan Facility and redeemed our Senior Notes. In connection with the refinancing, we recorded a loss of \$58.8 million, the components of which are as follows:

| (Dollars in millions) | For the Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 2, 2014 |
|--|--|
| Prior unrealized losses on cash flow hedge | \$ 22.4 |
| Call premium on Senior Notes | 16.3 |
| Write-off of deferred financing costs | 15.6 |
| Other financing costs | 4.5 |
| Loss on refinancing | <u>\$ 58.8</u> |

Provision for Income Taxes

The effective tax rate for the first half of fiscal 2014 was 31%. The difference between the US federal statutory rate of 35% and the effective rate of 31% was driven primarily by (i) state and local income taxes, (ii) the recognition of certain foreign valuation allowances, partially offset by (iii) benefits of lower rates in certain foreign jurisdictions. Our expected annual effective tax rate for fiscal 2014 is 38%.

The effective tax rate for the second quarter of fiscal 2013 was 40%. The difference between the US federal statutory rate of 35% and the effective rate of 40% was driven primarily by state and local income taxes. Our annual effective tax rate in fiscal 2013 was 39%.

Net Income (Loss)

Net income (loss) decreased \$66.1 million to a net loss of \$19.3 million in the first half of fiscal 2014 from net income of \$46.8 million in the first half of last year. This decrease was due to: (i) a loss on refinancing of \$58.8 million, (ii) an increase in selling, general and administrative expenses of \$43.2 million, and (iii) a decrease in gross profit of \$16.1 million, partially offset by (iv) a decrease in the provision for income taxes of \$39.5 million and (v) a decrease in interest expense of \$12.5 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 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 Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 2, 2014</u> | <u>For the Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 3, 2013</u> |
|---|--|--|
| Net income (loss) | \$ (19.3) | \$ 46.8 |
| Adjustments to reconcile to cash flows from operating activities: | | |
| Loss on refinancing | 58.8 | — |
| Depreciation of property and equipment | 44.2 | 38.6 |
| Amortization of intangible assets | 4.7 | 4.7 |
| Amortization of deferred financing costs | 3.0 | 5.0 |
| Share-based compensation | 3.0 | 2.8 |
| Amortization of favorable lease commitments | 3.1 | 4.5 |
| Realized hedging losses | — | 5.1 |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities | (67.0) | (7.2) |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | <u>\$ 30.5</u> | <u>\$ 100.3</u> |

Cash provided by operating activities of \$30.5 million in the first half of fiscal 2014 resulted from: (i) net loss of \$19.3 million more than offset by non-cash adjustments and the loss on refinancing of \$116.8 million, offset by (ii) changes in operating assets and liabilities of \$67 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.

Cash provided by operating activities of \$100.3 million in the first half of fiscal 2013 was driven by: (i) net income of \$46.8 million, (ii) non-cash adjustments of \$60.7 million, offset by (iii) changes in operating assets and liabilities of \$7.2 million due to seasonal working capital fluctuations and working capital management.

Investing Activities

| | <u>For the Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 2, 2014</u> | <u>For the Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 3, 2013</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Capital expenditures: | | |
| New stores | \$ 30.0 | \$ 27.9 |
| Information technology | 25.5 | 21.4 |
| Other(1) | 6.1 | 13.7 |
| Net cash used in investing activities | <u>\$ 61.6</u> | <u>\$ 63.0</u> |

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

Capital expenditures are planned at approximately \$140 to \$150 million for fiscal year 2014, including \$65 to \$70 million for new stores, \$40 to \$45 million for information technology enhancements, \$10 to \$15 million for warehouse and corporate office improvements, and the remainder for store renovations and general corporate purposes.

Financing Activities

| | <u>For the Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 2, 2014</u> | <u>For the Twenty-six Weeks Ended August 3, 2013</u> |
|---|--|--|
| Proceeds from Term Loan Facility, net of discount | \$ 1,559.2 | \$ — |
| Repayment of former term loan | (1,167.0) | (6.0) |
| Redemption of Senior Notes | (400.0) | — |
| Costs paid in connection with refinancing of debt | (21.4) | — |
| Dividend and contribution to Parent | (19.1) | (0.5) |
| Principal repayments of Term Loan Facility | (3.9) | — |
| Net cash used in financing activities | <u>\$ (52.2)</u> | <u>\$ (6.5)</u> |

Cash used in financing activities was \$52.2 million in the first half 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.

Cash used in financing activities was \$6.5 million in the first half of fiscal 2013 resulting primarily from quarterly principal repayments of debt under the Term Loan Facility.

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 \$250 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 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 October 11, 2017.

On August 2, 2014, outstanding standby letters of credit were \$10.8 million, excess availability, as defined, was \$239.2 million, and there were no borrowings outstanding. Average short-term borrowings under the ABL Facility were \$2.0 million and \$4.9 million in the first half of fiscal 2014 and fiscal 2013, respectively.

Demand Letter of Credit Facility

We have an unsecured demand letter of credit facility with HSBC which provides for the issuance of up to \$35 million of documentary letters of credit on a no fee basis. On August 2, 2014, outstanding documentary letters of credit were \$18.2 million and availability was \$16.8 million under this facility.

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 Senior Notes Indenture. 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. In addition, the Term Loan Facility provides for an incremental 0.25% step-down in applicable margin at any time when our corporate family rating, as publicly announced by Moody's, is B1 or better.

We are required to make principal repayments equal to 0.25% of the \$1,567 million refinanced under 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 Facility based on annual excess cash flow, as defined in the agreement beginning in fiscal 2014.

The interest rate on the outstanding amounts under the Term Loan Facility was 4.00% on August 2, 2014.

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 Issuers' subsidiaries, and (iii) not guaranteed by any of the Issuers' subsidiaries, and therefore are not recorded in our financial statements. We paid a dividend

of \$19 million to the Issuer in the first quarter to fund the initial semi-annual interest payment on May 1, 2014. Additionally, while not required, we intend to pay dividends to the Issuer to fund future interest payments, which would aggregate to \$194 million through the remainder of the term if all interest on the PIK Notes is paid in cash.

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 for the purposes of servicing debt, and (iii) working capital. Management anticipates that capital expenditures in fiscal 2014 will be approximately \$140 to \$150 million, including \$65 to \$70 million for new stores, \$40 to \$45 million for information technology enhancements, \$10 to \$15 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, 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.

As a result of the performance of the Company in the first quarter of fiscal 2014, along with our outlook of future operating results, the Company determined that there was a substantial deterioration in the excess of fair value over the carrying value of the Stores reporting unit. To the extent that the operating results continue to decline, the Company may record a non-cash goodwill or intangible asset impairment charge. The goodwill allocated to the Stores reporting unit is \$942 million. The intangible asset for the J.Crew brand is \$885 million. A future impairment charge, if any, would not have an effect on the Company's operations, liquidity or financial covenants, and would not change management's long-term outlook or strategy.

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 August 2, 2014, 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 | \$ 10.8 | \$ 10.8 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — |
| Documentary | 18.2 | 18.2 | — | — | — |
| | <u>\$ 29.0</u> | <u>\$ 29.0</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ —</u> |

Cyclicality 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 February 1, 2014 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 and our ABL Facility (together the “Senior Credit Facilities”). Interest expense incurred under the Senior Credit Facilities is calculated based on a fixed spread over a referenced market rate, such as LIBOR. Accordingly, fluctuations in market interest rates will increase or decrease our interest expense which will in turn, increase or decrease our net income and cash flow.

We also 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 and make payments based on a fixed rate. As of August 2, 2014, we had interest rate swaps covering a notional amount of \$500 million. Under these swap agreements, LIBOR is fixed at 3.56% on the notional amount of the agreements 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. These new agreements cover notional amounts of \$400 million from March 2015 to March 2016 and \$800 million from March 2016 to March 2019.

Based on our overall interest rate exposure to variable rate debt outstanding as of August 2, 2014, a change in interest rates of 1% would change income before income taxes by \$11 million.

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

On June 20, 2013, a purported class action complaint was filed in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts by an individual claiming that the Company collected her ZIP code unlawfully in connection with a retail purchase she made at a Massachusetts store. That action, captioned Miller v. J.Crew Group, Inc., 13-cv-11487 (the “Miller Action”), purports to be brought on behalf of a class of customers whose ZIP codes were collected and recorded at Company stores in Massachusetts in connection with credit card purchases, and claims that the company used the collected ZIP code data to obtain customers’ addresses for purposes of mailing them unwanted advertising material. The Miller Action seeks money damages pursuant to a claim under Chapter 93A of the General Laws of Massachusetts and a claim for unjust enrichment. The Company filed a motion to dismiss the unjust enrichment claim, and on April 22, 2014, the Court denied that motion without prejudice to the Company’s ability to re-file it later in the litigation. On May 15, 2014, the Company answered the plaintiff’s complaint. On June 1, 2014, the parties to the Miller Action entered into a settlement agreement and release (the “Settlement Agreement”). The Court granted preliminary approval of the Settlement Agreement on June 27, 2014. Notice of the settlement was sent to class members on July 25, 2014. A hearing for final approval of the Settlement Agreement has been scheduled for October 15, 2014. The Company does not believe the resolution of the Miller Action will have a significant impact on the Company’s consolidated financial statements.

Also, 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 February 1, 2014 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.** |

Material Contracts

| Exhibit No. | Document |
|--------------------|--|
| 10.1 | Second Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated as of March 5, 2014, by and among J. Crew Group, Inc., Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent and collateral agent, and each lender party thereto. Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Form 8-K filed on March 11, 2014. |
| 10.2 | Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of March 5, 2014, by and among J. Crew Group, Inc., Chinos Intermediate Holdings B, Inc., Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent and collateral agent, and each lender from time to time party thereto. Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Form 8-K filed on March 11, 2014. |

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 August 2, 2014 and February 1, 2014, (ii) the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income (Loss) for the thirteen weeks ended August 2, 2014 and August 3, 2013, (iii) the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income (Loss) for the twenty-six weeks ended August 2, 2014 and August 3, 2013, (iv) the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity for the twenty-six weeks ended August 2, 2014 and the fifty-two weeks ended February 1, 2014, (v) the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the twenty-six weeks ended August 2, 2014 and August 3, 2013, and (vi) the Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.* |

* Filed herewith.

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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: September 4, 2014

/s/ MILLARD DREXLER
Millard Drexler
Chief Executive Officer

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

I, Stuart C. Haselden, 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: September 4, 2014

/s/ STUART C. HASELDEN
Stuart C. Haselden
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 August 2, 2014 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), we, Millard Drexler, Chief Executive Officer of the Company, and Stuart C. Haselden, 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: September 4, 2014

/s/ MILLARD DREXLER

Millard Drexler
Chief Executive Officer

/s/ STUART C. HASELDEN

Stuart C. Haselden
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.

