

Ulta Salon, Cosmetics & Fragrance, Inc.

Form 10-Q

December 04, 2014

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**UNITED STATES**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, DC 20549**

**FORM 10-Q**

x **Quarterly Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
For the Quarterly Period Ended November 1, 2014**

**or**

.. **Transition Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_**

**Commission File Number: 001-33764**

**ULTA SALON, COSMETICS & FRAGRANCE, INC.**

**(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)**

**Delaware**  
**(State or other jurisdiction of**  
**incorporation or organization)**

**1000 Remington Blvd., Suite 120**

**Bolingbrook, Illinois**  
**(Address of principal executive offices)**

**Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (630) 410-4800**

**36-3685240**  
**(I.R.S. Employer**  
**Identification No.)**

**60440**  
**(Zip code)**

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 (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).  Yes  No

Indicate by checkmark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definition of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

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

Smaller reporting company

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

The number of shares of the registrant's common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, outstanding as of November 25, 2014 was 64,365,655 shares.

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**Table of Contents****Part I - Financial Information****Item 1. Financial Statements****Ulta Salon, Cosmetics & Fragrance, Inc.****Consolidated Balance Sheets**

<b>(In thousands)</b>	<b>November 1, 2014 (unaudited)</b>	<b>February 1, 2014</b>	<b>November 2, 2013 (unaudited)</b>
<b>Assets</b>			
Current assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 295,060	\$ 419,476	\$ 240,916
Short-term investments	100,000		
Receivables, net	49,399	47,049	46,911
Merchandise inventories, net	709,667	457,933	582,303
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	60,907	55,993	54,757
Prepaid income taxes			1,729
Deferred income taxes	15,709	22,246	14,686
Total current assets	1,230,742	1,002,697	941,302
Property and equipment, net	686,898	595,736	590,132
Deferred compensation plan assets	5,119	4,294	3,913
Total assets	\$ 1,922,759	\$ 1,602,727	\$ 1,535,347
<b>Liabilities and stockholders equity</b>			
Current liabilities:			
Accounts payable	\$ 236,329	\$ 148,282	\$ 190,193
Accrued liabilities	128,465	103,180	97,421
Accrued income taxes	4,917	15,349	
Total current liabilities	369,711	266,811	287,614
Deferred rent	293,895	261,630	259,217
Deferred income taxes	65,880	66,718	55,568
Other long-term liabilities	6,940	4,474	4,629
Total liabilities	736,426	599,633	607,028

Commitments and contingencies (note 3)

*See accompanying notes to financial statements.*



**Table of Contents****Ulta Salon, Cosmetics & Fragrance, Inc.****Consolidated Balance Sheets (continued)**

<b>(In thousands, except per share data)</b>	<b>November 1, 2014 (unaudited)</b>	<b>February 1, 2014</b>	<b>November 2, 2013 (unaudited)</b>
Stockholders' equity:			
Common stock, \$.01 par value, 400,000 shares authorized; 64,992, 64,793 and 64,793 shares issued; 64,414, 64,231 and 64,231 shares outstanding; at November 1, 2014 (unaudited), February 1, 2014 and November 2, 2013 (unaudited), respectively	\$ 650	\$ 647	\$ 647
Treasury stock-common, at cost	(9,713)	(8,125)	(8,125)
Additional paid-in capital	573,118	548,194	544,101
Retained earnings	622,278	462,378	391,696
Total stockholders' equity	1,186,333	1,003,094	928,319
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 1,922,759	\$ 1,602,727	\$ 1,535,347

*See accompanying notes to financial statements.*

**Table of Contents****Ulta Salon, Cosmetics & Fragrance, Inc.****Consolidated Statements of Income****(unaudited)**

<b>(In thousands, except per share data)</b>	<b>13 Weeks Ended</b>		<b>39 Weeks Ended</b>	
	<b>November 1, 2014</b>	<b>November 2, 2013</b>	<b>November 1, 2014</b>	<b>November 2, 2013</b>
Net sales	\$ 745,722	\$ 618,781	\$ 2,193,728	\$ 1,802,491
Cost of sales	463,967	387,120	1,406,678	1,154,804
Gross profit	281,755	231,661	787,050	647,687
Selling, general and administrative expenses	181,093	151,306	501,304	418,754
Pre-opening expenses	6,574	7,468	12,798	15,483
Operating income	94,088	72,887	272,948	213,450
Interest income, net	(254)	(7)	(663)	(49)
Income before income taxes	94,342	72,894	273,611	213,499
Income tax expense	35,218	27,464	103,740	81,332
Net income	\$ 59,124	\$ 45,430	\$ 169,871	\$ 132,167
Net income per common share:				
Basic	\$ 0.92	\$ 0.71	\$ 2.64	\$ 2.07
Diluted	\$ 0.91	\$ 0.70	\$ 2.63	\$ 2.05
Weighted average common shares outstanding:				
Basic	64,419	64,061	64,347	63,912
Diluted	64,738	64,538	64,655	64,424

*See accompanying notes to financial statements.*

**Table of Contents****Ulta Salon, Cosmetics & Fragrance, Inc.****Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows****(unaudited)**

<b>(In thousands)</b>	<b>39 Weeks Ended</b>	
	<b>November 1, 2014</b>	<b>November 2, 2013</b>
<b>Operating activities</b>		
Net income	\$ 169,871	\$ 132,167
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	96,055	77,572
Deferred income taxes	5,699	278
Non-cash stock compensation charges	11,436	11,936
Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation	(3,290)	(13,352)
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	2,945	3,374
Change in operating assets and liabilities:		
Receivables	(2,350)	(5,396)
Merchandise inventories	(251,734)	(221,178)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	(4,914)	(4,305)
Income taxes	(7,142)	1,569
Accounts payable	88,047	71,307
Accrued liabilities	7,621	(5,759)
Deferred rent	32,265	51,214
Other assets and liabilities	1,641	706
Net cash provided by operating activities	146,150	100,133
<b>Investing activities</b>		
Purchases of short-term investments	(100,000)	
Purchases of property and equipment	(172,498)	(176,966)
Net cash used in investing activities	(272,498)	(176,966)
<b>Financing activities</b>		
Repurchase of common shares	(9,972)	(37,337)
Stock options exercised	10,202	21,890
Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation	3,290	13,352
Purchase of treasury shares	(1,588)	(631)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	1,932	(2,726)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(124,416)	(79,559)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	419,476	320,475
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 295,060	\$ 240,916



**Supplemental cash flow information**

Cash paid for income taxes (net of refunds)	\$ 104,891	\$ 78,941
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Noncash investing activities:

Change in property and equipment included in accrued liabilities	\$ 17,664	\$ 11,053
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*See accompanying notes to financial statements.*

**Table of Contents****Ulta Salon, Cosmetics & Fragrance, Inc.****Consolidated Statement of Stockholders Equity****(unaudited)**

<b>(In thousands)</b>		<b>Common Stock</b>		<b>Treasury - Common Stock</b>		<b>Additional Paid-In Capital</b>	<b>Retained Earnings</b>	<b>Total Stockholders Equity</b>
		<b>Shares</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Amount</b>			
Balance	February 1, 2014	64,793	\$ 647	(562)	\$ (8,125)	\$ 548,194	\$ 462,378	\$ 1,003,094
	Stock options exercised and other awards	285	4			10,198		10,202
	Purchase of treasury shares			(16)	(1,588)			(1,588)
	Net income for the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014						169,871	169,871
	Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation					3,290		3,290
	Stock compensation charge					11,436		11,436
	Repurchase of common shares	(86)	(1)				(9,971)	(9,972)
Balance	November 1, 2014	64,992	\$ 650	(578)	\$ (9,713)	\$ 573,118	\$ 622,278	\$ 1,186,333

*See accompanying notes to financial statements.*

**Table of Contents****Ulta Salon, Cosmetics & Fragrance, Inc.****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements****(unaudited)****1. Business and basis of presentation**

Ulta Salon, Cosmetics & Fragrance, Inc. was incorporated in the state of Delaware on January 9, 1990, to operate specialty retail stores selling cosmetics, fragrance, haircare and skincare products and related accessories and services. The stores also feature full-service salons. As of November 1, 2014, the Company operated 765 stores in 47 states, as shown in the table below. As used in these notes and throughout this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, all references to we, us, our, Ulta or the Company refer to Ulta Salon, Cosmetics & Fragrance, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries, Ulta Inc.

<b>State</b>	<b>Number of stores</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Number of stores</b>
Alabama	12	Nebraska	3
Arizona	24	Nevada	8
Arkansas	6	New Hampshire	6
California	87	New Jersey	19
Colorado	16	New Mexico	2
Connecticut	8	New York	27
Delaware	1	North Carolina	25
Florida	54	North Dakota	1
Georgia	26	Ohio	28
Idaho	4	Oklahoma	9
Illinois	45	Oregon	9
Indiana	15	Pennsylvania	28
Iowa	7	Rhode Island	2
Kansas	6	South Carolina	13
Kentucky	9	South Dakota	2
Louisiana	13	Tennessee	10
Maine	3	Texas	75
Maryland	12	Utah	11
Massachusetts	12	Virginia	21
Michigan	36	Washington	15
Minnesota	11	West Virginia	4
Mississippi	5	Wisconsin	13
Missouri	16	Wyoming	1
Montana	5	<b>Total</b>	<b>765</b>

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements and related notes have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's Article 10, Regulation S-X. These consolidated

financial statements were prepared on a consolidated basis to include the accounts of the Company and its wholly owned subsidiary. All significant intercompany accounts, transactions, and unrealized profit were eliminated in consolidation. In the opinion of management, the accompanying consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments, which are of a normal recurring nature, necessary to fairly state the financial position and results of operations and cash flows for the interim periods presented.

The Company's business is subject to seasonal fluctuation. Significant portions of the Company's net sales and net income are realized during the fourth quarter of the fiscal year due to the holiday selling season. The results for the 13 and 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2015, or for any other future interim period or for any future year.

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These interim consolidated financial statements and the related notes should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 1, 2014. All amounts are stated in thousands, with the exception of per share amounts and number of stores.

**2. Summary of significant accounting policies**

Information regarding the Company's significant accounting policies is contained in Note 2, Summary of significant accounting policies, to the financial statements in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 1, 2014. Presented below in this and the following notes is supplemental information that should be read in conjunction with Notes to Financial Statements in the Annual Report.

**Fiscal quarter**

The Company's quarterly periods are the 13 weeks ending on the Saturday closest to April 30, July 31, October 31, and January 31. The Company's third quarters in fiscal 2014 and 2013 ended on November 1, 2014 and November 2, 2013, respectively.

**Share-based compensation**

The Company measures share-based compensation cost on the grant date, based on the fair value of the award, and recognizes the expense on a straight-line method over the requisite service period for awards expected to vest. The Company estimated the grant date fair value of stock options using a Black-Scholes valuation model using the following weighted-average assumptions for the periods indicated:

	<b>39 Weeks Ended</b>	
	<b>November 1, 2014</b>	<b>November 2, 2013</b>
Volatility rate	40.8%	49.6%
Average risk-free interest rate	1.4%	0.8%
Average expected life (in years)	3.8	4.4
Dividend yield	None	None

The Company granted 362 and 286 stock options during the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014 and November 2, 2013, respectively. The compensation cost that has been charged against operating income was \$2,386 and \$2,167 for the 13 weeks ended November 1, 2014 and November 2, 2013, respectively. The compensation cost that has been charged against operating income was \$6,990 and \$7,804 for the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014 and November 2, 2013, respectively. The weighted-average grant date fair value of these options was \$32.22 and \$36.77, respectively. At November 1, 2014, there was approximately \$19,286 of unrecognized compensation expense related to unvested stock options.

The Company issued 70 and 139 restricted stock awards during 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014 and November 2, 2013, respectively. The compensation cost that has been charged against operating income was \$1,447 and \$2,230 for the 13 weeks ended November 1, 2014 and November 2, 2013, respectively. The compensation cost that has been charged against operating income was \$4,446 and \$4,132 for the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014 and November 2, 2013, respectively. At November 1, 2014, there was approximately \$9,526 of unrecognized compensation expense related to restricted stock awards.

### **Recent accounting pronouncements**

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers, issued as a new Topic, Accounting Standards Codification Topic 606. The new revenue recognition standard provides a five-step analysis of transactions to determine when and how revenue is recognized. The core principle is that the Company will recognize revenue when it transfers promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the Company expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. This standard is effective beginning in fiscal year 2017 and allows for either full retrospective or modified retrospective adoption. The Company is currently evaluating the application method and the impact of this new standard on its consolidated financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

### **3. Commitments and contingencies**

**Leases** The Company leases stores, distribution and office facilities and certain equipment. Original non-cancelable lease terms range from three to ten years, and store leases generally contain renewal options for additional years. A number of the Company's store leases provide for contingent rent payments based upon sales. Contingent rent amounts were insignificant in the 13 and 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014 and November 2, 2013. Total rent expense under operating leases was \$40,840 and \$36,897 for the 13 weeks ended November 1, 2014 and November 2, 2013, respectively. Total rent expense under operating leases was \$118,319 and \$102,837 for 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014 and November 2, 2013, respectively.

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**General litigation** On March 2, 2012, a putative employment class action lawsuit was filed against us and certain unnamed defendants in state court in Los Angeles County, California. On April 12, 2012, the Company removed the case to the United States District Court for the Central District of California. On August 8, 2013, the plaintiff asked the court to certify the proposed class and the Company opposed the plaintiff's request and is waiting for the court to issue a decision. The plaintiff and members of the proposed class are alleged to be (or to have been) non-exempt hourly employees. The suit alleges that Ulta violated various provisions of the California labor laws and failed to provide plaintiff and members of the proposed class with full meal periods, paid rest breaks, certain wages, overtime compensation and premium pay. The suit seeks to recover damages and penalties as a result of these alleged practices. The Company denies plaintiff's allegations and is vigorously defending the matter.

The Company has not recorded any accruals for this matter because the Company's potential liability for the matter is not probable and cannot be reasonably estimated based on currently available information. The Company cannot determine a reasonable estimate of the maximum possible loss or range of loss for this matter given that it is in the early stage of the litigation process and is subject to the inherent uncertainties of litigation (such as the strength of the Company's legal defenses and the availability of insurance recovery). Although the maximum amount of liability that may ultimately result from this matter cannot be predicted with certainty, management expects that this matter, when ultimately resolved, will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's consolidated financial position or liquidity. It is possible, however, that the ultimate resolution of this matter could have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations in a particular quarter or year if such resolution results in a significant liability for the Company.

The Company is also involved in various legal proceedings that are incidental to the conduct of its business. In the opinion of management, the amount of any liability with respect to these proceedings, either individually or in the aggregate, will not be material.

**4. Notes payable**

On October 19, 2011, the Company entered into an Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement (the Loan Agreement) with Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Administrative Agent, Collateral Agent and a Lender thereunder, Wells Fargo Capital Finance LLC as a Lender, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC as a Lender, JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. as a Lender and PNC Bank, National Association, as a Lender. The Loan Agreement amended and restated the Loan and Security Agreement, dated as of August 31, 2010, by and among the lenders. The Loan Agreement extended the maturity of the Company's credit facility to October 2016, provides maximum revolving loans equal to the lesser of \$200,000 or a percentage of eligible owned inventory, contains a \$10,000 subfacility for letters of credit and allows the Company to increase the revolving facility by an additional \$50,000, subject to consent by each lender and other conditions. The Loan Agreement contains a requirement to maintain a minimum amount of excess borrowing availability at all times.

On September 5, 2012, the Company entered into Amendment No. 1 to Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement (the First Amendment) with the lender group. The First Amendment updated certain administrative terms and conditions and provides the Company greater flexibility to take certain corporate actions. There were no changes to the revolving loan amounts available, interest rates, covenants or maturity date under terms of the Loan Agreement.

On December 6, 2013, the Company entered into Amendment No. 2 to the Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement (the Second Amendment) with the lender group. The Second Amendment extended the maturity of the facility to December 2018. Substantially all of the Company's assets are pledged as collateral for outstanding borrowings under the facility. Outstanding borrowings will bear interest at the prime rate or Libor plus 1.50% and the

unused line fee is 0.20%.

As of November 1, 2014, February 1, 2014 and November 2, 2013, the Company had no borrowings outstanding under the credit facility and the Company was in compliance with all terms and covenants of the agreement.

## **5. Investments**

The Company's short-term investments as of November 1, 2014 consist of \$50,000 in certificates of deposit and \$50,000 in time deposits. These short-term investments are carried at cost, which approximates fair value and are recorded in the Consolidated Balance Sheets in Short-term investments. The contractual maturity of the Company's investments was less than twelve months at November 1, 2014.

## **6. Fair Value Measurements**

The carrying value of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable and accounts payable approximates their estimated fair values due to the short maturities of these instruments.



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Fair value is measured using inputs from the three levels of the fair value hierarchy, which are described as follows:

Level 1 observable inputs such as quoted prices for identical instruments in active markets.

Level 2 inputs other than quoted prices in active markets that are observable either directly or indirectly through corroboration with observable market data.

Level 3 unobservable inputs in which there is little or no market data, which would require the Company to develop its own assumptions.

As of November 1, 2014, the Company held financial liabilities of \$5,121 related to its non-qualified deferred compensation plan. The liabilities have been categorized as Level 2 as they are based on third-party reported net asset values, which are based primarily on quoted market prices of underlying assets of the funds within the plan.

**7. Net income per common share**

The following is a reconciliation of net income and the number of shares of common stock used in the computation of net income per basic and diluted share:

(In thousands, except per share data)	13 Weeks Ended		39 Weeks Ended	
	November 1, 2014	November 2, 2013	November 1, 2014	November 2, 2013
Net income	\$ 59,124	\$ 45,430	\$ 169,871	\$ 132,167
Denominator for basic net income per share weighted-average common shares	64,419	64,061	64,347	63,912
Dilutive effect of stock options and non-vested stock	319	477	308	512
Denominator for diluted net income per share	64,738	64,538	64,655	64,424
Net income per common share:				
Basic	\$ 0.92	\$ 0.71	\$ 2.64	\$ 2.07
Diluted	\$ 0.91	\$ 0.70	\$ 2.63	\$ 2.05

The denominators for diluted net income per common share for the 13 weeks ended November 1, 2014 and November 2, 2013 exclude 500 and 254 employee stock options, respectively, due to their anti-dilutive effects.

The denominators for diluted net income per common share for the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014 and November 2, 2013 exclude 744 and 669 employee stock options, respectively, due to their anti-dilutive effects.

**8. Share repurchase program**

On March 18, 2013, the Company announced that our Board of Directors had authorized a share repurchase program (the 2013 Share Repurchase Program) pursuant to which the Company could repurchase up to \$150,000 of the Company's common stock. Repurchases pursuant to the terms of the 2013 Share Repurchase Program were made from time to time in the open market, in privately negotiated transactions or otherwise, at prices the Company deemed appropriate and subject to market conditions, applicable law and other factors deemed relevant in the Company's sole discretion. The 2013 Share Repurchase Program did not have an expiration date, but provided for suspension or discontinuation at any time.

On September 11, 2014, the Company announced that our Board of Directors authorized a new share repurchase program (the 2014 Share Repurchase Program) pursuant to which the Company may repurchase up to \$300,000 of the Company's common stock. The 2014 Share Repurchase Program authorization revokes the previously authorized but unused amounts of \$112,664 from the 2013 Share Repurchase Program. The 2014 Share Repurchase Program does not have an expiration date and may be suspended or discontinued at any time.

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During the 39 weeks ended November 2, 2013, we purchased 501 shares of common stock for \$37,337 at an average price of \$74.58. During the 13 and 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014, the Company purchased 86 shares of common stock for \$9,972 at an average price of \$116.09.

**Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**

*The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with our financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this quarterly report. This discussion contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, which reflect our current views with respect to, among other things, future events and financial performance. You can identify these forward-looking statements by the use of forward-looking words such as outlook, believes, expects, plans, estimates, targets, strategies or other comparable words. Any forward-looking statements contained in this Form 10-Q are based upon our historical performance and on current plans, estimates and expectations. The inclusion of this forward-looking information should not be regarded as a representation by us or any other person that the future plans, estimates, targets, strategies or expectations contemplated by us will be achieved. Such forward-looking statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties, which include, without limitation: the impact of weakness in the economy; changes in the overall level of consumer spending; changes in the wholesale cost of our products; the possibility that we may be unable to compete effectively in our highly competitive markets; the possibility that our continued opening of new stores could strain our resources and have a material adverse effect on our business and financial performance; the possibility that new store openings and existing locations may be impacted by developer or co-tenant issues; the possibility that the capacity of our distribution and order fulfillment infrastructure may not be adequate to support our recent growth and expected future growth plans; the possibility of material disruptions to our information systems; weather conditions that could negatively impact sales; our ability to attract and retain key executive personnel; our ability to successfully execute and implement our common stock repurchase program; our ability to sustain our growth plans and successfully implement our long-range strategic and financial plan; and other risk factors detailed in our public filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC), including risk factors contained in Item 1A, Risk Factors of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 1, 2014. We assume no obligation to update any forward-looking statements as a result of new information, future events or developments. References in the following discussion to we, us, our, the Company, Ulta and similar references mean Ulta Salon, Cosmetics & Fragrance, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiary, Ulta Inc. unless otherwise expressly stated or the context otherwise requires.*

**Overview**

We were founded in 1990 as a beauty retailer at a time when prestige, mass and salon products were sold through distinct channels—department stores for prestige products, drug stores and mass merchandisers for mass products and salons and authorized retail outlets for professional hair care products. We developed a unique specialty retail concept by combining one-stop shopping, a compelling value proposition, convenient locations and a welcoming shopping environment. We believe our strategy provides us with the competitive advantages that have contributed to our strong financial performance.

We are currently the largest beauty retailer that provides one-stop shopping for prestige, mass and salon products and salon services in the United States. We focus on providing affordable indulgence to our customers by combining unmatched product breadth, value and convenience with the distinctive environment and experience of a specialty retailer. Key aspects of our business include our ability to offer our customers a broad selection of more than 20,000 beauty products across the categories of cosmetics, fragrance, haircare, skincare, bath and body products and salon

styling tools, as well as salon haircare products. We focus on delivering a compelling value proposition to our customers across all of our product categories. Our stores are predominately located in convenient, high-traffic locations such as power centers. As of November 1, 2014, we operated 765 stores across 47 states.

The continued growth of our business and any future increases in net sales, net income and cash flows is dependent on our ability to execute our six strategic imperatives: 1) acquire new guests and deepen loyalty with existing guests, 2) differentiate by delivering a distinctive and personalized guest experience across all channels, 3) offer relevant, innovative and often exclusive products that excite our guests, 4) deliver exceptional services in three core areas: hair, skin health and brows, 5) grow stores and e-commerce to reach and serve more guests and 6) invest in infrastructure to support our guest experience and growth, and capture scale efficiencies. We believe that the expanding U.S. beauty products and salon services industry, the shift in distribution of prestige beauty products from department stores to specialty retail stores, coupled with Ulta's competitive strengths, positions us to capture additional market share in the industry.

Comparable sales is a key metric that is monitored closely within the retail industry. Our comparable sales have fluctuated in the past and we expect them to continue to fluctuate in the future. A variety of factors affect our comparable sales, including general U.S. economic conditions, changes in merchandise strategy or mix and timing and effectiveness of our marketing activities, among others.

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Over the long-term, our growth strategy is to increase total net sales through increases in our comparable sales, by opening new stores and by increasing sales in our e-commerce channel. Operating profit is expected to increase as a result of our ability to expand merchandise margin and leverage our fixed store costs with comparable sales increases and operating efficiencies offset by incremental investments in people, systems and supply chain required to support a 1,200 store chain with a successful e-commerce business and competitive omni-channel capabilities.

### **Basis of presentation**

We have determined the operating segments on the same basis that we use to internally evaluate performance. We have combined our three operating segments: retail stores, salon services and e-commerce, into one reportable segment because they have a similar class of consumer, economic characteristics, nature of products and distribution methods.

Net sales include store and e-commerce merchandise sales as well as salon service revenue. We recognize merchandise revenue at the point of sale in our retail stores and e-commerce sales are recorded based on delivery of merchandise to the customer. Merchandise sales are recorded net of estimated returns. Salon service revenue is recognized at the time the service is provided. Gift card sales revenue is deferred until the customer redeems the gift card. Company coupons and other incentives are recorded as a reduction of net sales.

Comparable sales reflect sales for stores beginning on the first day of the 14th month of operation. Therefore, a store is included in our comparable store base on the first day of the period after one year of operations plus the initial one month grand opening period. Non-comparable sales include sales from new stores that have not yet completed their 13th month of operation and stores that were closed for part or all of the period in either year as a result of remodel activity. Remodeled stores are included in comparable sales unless the store was closed for a portion of the current or prior period. Comparable sales include the Company's e-commerce business. There may be variations in the way in which some of our competitors and other retailers calculate comparable or same store sales.

Measuring comparable sales allows us to evaluate the performance of our store base as well as several other aspects of our overall strategy. Several factors could positively or negatively impact our comparable sales results:

the general national, regional and local economic conditions and corresponding impact on consumer spending levels;

the introduction of new products or brands;

the location of new stores in existing store markets;

competition;

our ability to respond on a timely basis to changes in consumer preferences;

the effectiveness of our various marketing activities; and

the number of new stores opened and the impact on the average age of all of our comparable stores.

Cost of sales includes:

the cost of merchandise sold, including substantially all vendor allowances, which are treated as a reduction of merchandise costs;

warehousing and distribution costs, including labor and related benefits, freight, rent, depreciation and amortization, real estate taxes, utilities and insurance;

store occupancy costs, including rent, depreciation and amortization, real estate taxes, utilities, repairs and maintenance, insurance, licenses and cleaning expenses;

salon payroll and benefits;

customer loyalty program expense; and

shrink and inventory valuation reserves.

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Our cost of sales may be negatively impacted as we open an increasing number of stores. Changes in our merchandise mix may also have an impact on cost of sales. This presentation of items included in cost of sales may not be comparable to the way in which our competitors or other retailers compute their cost of sales.

Selling, general and administrative expenses include:

payroll, bonus and benefit costs for retail and corporate employees;

advertising and marketing costs;

occupancy costs related to our corporate office facilities;

stock-based compensation expense;

depreciation and amortization for all assets except those related to our retail and warehouse operations, which are included in cost of sales; and

legal, finance, information systems and other corporate overhead costs.

This presentation of items in selling, general and administrative expenses may not be comparable to the way in which our competitors or other retailers compute their selling, general and administrative expenses.

Pre-opening expense includes non-capital expenditures during the period prior to store opening for new, remodeled and relocated stores including rent during the construction period for new and relocated stores, store set-up labor, management and employee training and grand opening advertising.

Interest expense includes unused facility fees associated with our credit facility, which is structured as an asset-based lending instrument. Our credit facility interest is based on a variable interest rate structure which can result in increased cost in periods of rising interest rates. Interest income represents interest from short-term investments with maturities of twelve months or less from the date of purchase.

Income tax expense reflects the federal statutory tax rate and the weighted average state statutory tax rate for the states in which we operate stores.

**Table of Contents****Results of operations**

Our quarterly periods are the 13 weeks ending on the Saturday closest to April 30, July 31, October 31 and January 31. The Company's third quarters in fiscal 2014 and 2013 ended on November 1, 2014 and November 2, 2013, respectively. Our quarterly results of operations have varied in the past and are likely to do so again in the future. As such, we believe that period-to-period comparisons of our results of operations should not be relied upon as an indication of our future performance.

The following table presents the components of our consolidated results of operations for the periods indicated:

<b>(Dollars in thousands)</b>	<b>13 Weeks Ended</b>		<b>39 Weeks Ended</b>	
	<b>November 1, 2014</b>	<b>November 2, 2013</b>	<b>November 1, 2014</b>	<b>November 2, 2013</b>
Net sales	\$ 745,722	\$ 618,781	\$ 2,193,728	\$ 1,802,491
Cost of sales	463,967	387,120	1,406,678	1,154,804
Gross profit	281,755	231,661	787,050	647,687
Selling, general and administrative expenses	181,093	151,306	501,304	418,754
Pre-opening expenses	6,574	7,468	12,798	15,483
Operating income	94,088	72,887	272,948	213,450
Interest income, net	(254)	(7)	(663)	(49)
Income before income taxes	94,342	72,894	273,611	213,499
Income tax expense	35,218	27,464	103,740	81,332
Net income	\$ 59,124	\$ 45,430	\$ 169,871	\$ 132,167
Other operating data:				
Number of stores	765	664	765	664
Comparable sales:				
Retail and salon comparable sales	8.2%	5.1%	7.8%	5.9%
E-commerce comparable sales	46.7%	74.4%	57.4%	72.2%
Total comparable sales increase	9.5%	6.8%	9.3%	7.3%
<b>(Percentage of net sales)</b>	<b>13 Weeks Ended</b>		<b>39 Weeks Ended</b>	
	<b>November 1, 2014</b>	<b>November 2, 2013</b>	<b>November 1, 2014</b>	<b>November 2, 2013</b>
Net sales	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



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Cost of sales	62.2%	62.6%	64.1%	64.1%
Gross profit	37.8%	37.4%	35.9%	35.9%
Selling, general and administrative expenses	24.3%	24.5%	22.9%	23.2%
Pre-opening expenses	0.9%	1.2%	0.6%	0.9%
Operating income	12.6%	11.8%	12.4%	11.8%
Interest income, net	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Income before income taxes	12.7%	11.8%	12.5%	11.8%
Income tax expense	4.7%	4.4%	4.7%	4.5%
Net income	7.9%	7.3%	7.7%	7.3%

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**Comparison of 13 weeks ended November 1, 2014 to 13 weeks ended November 2, 2013**

***Net sales***

Net sales increased \$126.9 million or 20.5%, to \$745.7 million for the 13 weeks ended November 1, 2014, compared to \$618.8 million for the 13 weeks ended November 2, 2013. Salon service sales increased \$7.3 million or 20.5%, to \$43.1 million compared to \$35.8 million in third quarter of 2013. E-commerce sales increased \$9.4 million or 46.7%, to \$29.6 million compared to \$20.2 million in the third quarter of 2013. The net sales increases are due to comparable stores driving an increase of \$57.1 million and non-comparable store increases of \$69.8 million compared to the third quarter of 2013.

The 9.5% comparable sales increase consisted of 8.2% increase at the Company's retail and salon stores and a 46.7% increase in the Company's e-commerce business. The inclusion of the e-commerce business resulted in an increase of approximately 130 basis points to the Company's consolidated comparable sales calculation for the 13 weeks ended November 1, 2014, compared to 170 basis points for the 13 weeks ended November 2, 2013. The total comparable sales increase included a 5.4% increase in transactions and a 4.1% increase in average ticket. We attribute the increase in comparable sales to our successful marketing and merchandising strategies.

***Gross profit***

Gross profit increased \$50.1 million or 21.6%, to \$281.8 million for the 13 weeks ended November 1, 2014, compared to \$231.7 million for the 13 weeks ended November 2, 2013. Gross profit as a percentage of net sales increased 40 basis points to 37.8% for the 13 weeks ended November 1, 2014, compared to 37.4% for the 13 weeks ended November 2, 2013. The increase in gross profit margin was primarily driven by:

30 basis points of leverage in fixed store costs attributed to the impact of higher sales volume;

10 basis points of improvement in merchandise margins driven by our marketing and merchandising strategies; offset by

10 basis points of deleverage in supply chain due to expansion of e-commerce fulfillment at the Chambersburg, PA distribution center.

***Selling, general and administrative expenses***

Selling, general and administrative (SG&A) expenses increased \$29.8 million or 19.7%, to \$181.1 million for the 13 weeks ended November 1, 2014, compared to \$151.3 million for the 13 weeks ended November 2, 2013. As a percentage of net sales, SG&A expenses decreased 20 basis points to 24.3% for the 13 weeks ended November 1, 2014, compared to 24.5% for the 13 weeks ended November 2, 2013. The leverage in SG&A expenses is primarily driven by:

100 basis points improvement in variable store and marketing expense leverage attributed to cost efficiencies and higher sales volume; offset by

80 basis points deleverage in corporate overhead expense primarily driven by higher variable compensation expense, consulting and depreciation expense.

***Pre-opening expenses***

Pre-opening expenses decreased \$0.9 million to \$6.6 million for the 13 weeks ended November 1, 2014, compared to \$7.5 million for the 13 weeks ended November 2, 2013. During the 13 weeks ended November 1, 2014, we opened 50 new stores, relocated 2 stores and remodeled 5 stores, compared to 55 new store openings, 3 relocated stores and 6 remodeled stores during the 13 weeks ended November 2, 2013.

***Interest income and expense***

Interest income and expense was insignificant for the 13 weeks ended November 1, 2014 and November 2, 2013. Interest income for the period represents interest from short-term investments with maturities of twelve months or less from the date of purchase. Interest expense for the period represents various unused credit facility fees. We did not access our credit facility during the third quarter of fiscal 2014 or 2013.

***Income tax expense***

Income tax expense of \$35.2 million for the 13 weeks ended November 1, 2014 represents an effective tax rate of 37.3%, compared to \$27.5 million of tax expense representing an effective tax rate of 37.7% for the 13 weeks ended November 2, 2013. The lower tax rate is primarily due to a decrease in book expense on incentive stock options, additional state credits available in the current year and a decrease to the ASC 740-10 reserve.

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### ***Net income***

Net income increased \$13.7 million or 30.1%, to \$59.1 million for the 13 weeks ended November 1, 2014, compared to \$45.4 million for the 13 weeks ended November 2, 2013. The increase is primarily related to the \$50.1 million increase in gross profit, offset by a \$29.8 million increase in SG&A expenses and a \$7.8 million increase in income tax expense.

### **Comparison of 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014 to 39 weeks ended November 2, 2013**

#### ***Net sales***

Net sales increased \$391.2 million or 21.7%, to \$2,193.7 million for the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014, compared to \$1,802.5 million for the 39 weeks ended November 2, 2013. Salon service sales increased \$21.7 million or 20.2%, to \$128.8 million compared to \$107.1 million in the first 39 weeks of fiscal 2013. E-commerce sales increased \$30.7 million or 57.4%, to \$84.1 million compared to \$53.4 million in the first 39 weeks of fiscal 2013. The net sales increases are due to comparable stores driving an increase of \$163.8 million and non-comparable store increases of \$227.4 million compared to the first 39 weeks of fiscal 2013.

The 9.3% comparable sales increase consisted of a 7.8% increase at the Company's retail and salon stores and a 57.4% increase in the Company's e-commerce business. The inclusion of the e-commerce business resulted in an increase of approximately 150 basis points to the Company's consolidated comparable sales calculation for the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014 compared to 140 basis points for the 39 weeks ended November 2, 2013. The total comparable sales increase included a 4.6% increase in transactions and a 4.7% increase in average ticket. We attribute the increase in comparable sales to our successful marketing and merchandising strategies.

#### ***Gross profit***

Gross profit increased \$139.4 million or 21.5%, to \$787.1 million for the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014, compared to \$647.7 million for the 39 weeks ended November 2, 2013. Gross profit as a percentage of net sales was 35.9% for the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014 and November 2, 2013. The change in gross profit margin was primarily driven by:

10 basis point of leverage in fixed store costs attributed to the impact of higher sales levels in fiscal 2014; offset by

10 basis points of deleverage in merchandise margins driven primarily by product and channel mix shifts and converting the remaining 50% of our loyalty program members to the ULTAmate rewards loyalty program.

#### ***Selling, general and administrative expenses***

Selling, general and administrative (SG&A) expenses increased \$82.6 million or 19.7%, to \$501.3 million for the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014, compared to \$418.8 million for the 39 weeks ended November 2, 2013. As a percentage of net sales, SG&A expenses decreased 30 basis points to 22.9% for the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014, compared to 23.2% for the 39 weeks ended November 2, 2013. The leverage in SG&A expenses is primarily attributed to:

60 basis points in variable store and marketing expense leverage attributed to cost efficiencies and higher sales volume; offset by

30 basis points deleverage in corporate overhead expense primarily driven by higher variable compensation expense, consulting and depreciation expense.

***Pre-opening expenses***

Pre-opening expenses decreased \$2.7 million to \$12.8 million for the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014, compared to \$15.5 million for the 39 weeks ended November 2, 2013. During the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014, we opened 90 new stores, relocated 2 stores and remodeled 9 stores, compared to 116 new store openings, 4 relocated stores and 7 remodeled stores during the 39 weeks ended November 2, 2013.

***Interest income and expense***

Interest income was \$0.7 million for the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014, compared to \$0.1 million for the 39 weeks ended November 2, 2013. Interest income for the period represents interest from short-term investments with maturities of twelve months or less from the date of purchase. Interest expense for the period represents various unused credit facility fees. We did not access our credit facility during the first 39 weeks of fiscal 2014 or 2013.

**Table of Contents****Income tax expense**

Income tax expense of \$103.7 million for the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014 represents an effective tax rate of 37.9%, compared to \$81.3 million of tax expense representing an effective tax rate of 38.1% for the 39 weeks ended November 2, 2013. The lower tax rate is primarily due to additional state credits available in the current year.

**Net income**

Net income increased \$37.7 million or 28.5%, to \$169.9 million for the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014, compared to \$132.2 million for the 39 weeks ended November 2, 2013. The increase is primarily related to the \$139.4 million increase in gross profit, offset by a \$82.6 million increase in SG&A expenses and a \$22.4 million increase in income tax expense.

**Liquidity and capital resources**

Our primary cash needs are for capital expenditures for new, relocated and remodeled stores, increased merchandise inventories related to store expansion, supply chain improvements, share repurchases and for continued improvement in our information technology systems. Our primary sources of liquidity are cash on hand and cash flows from operations, including changes in working capital and borrowings under our credit facility. The most significant component of our working capital is merchandise inventories reduced by related accounts payable and accrued expenses. Our working capital position benefits from the fact that we generally collect cash from sales to customers the same day or within several days of the related sale, while we typically have up to 30 days to pay our vendors.

Our working capital needs are greatest from August through November each year as a result of our inventory build-up during this period for the approaching holiday season. This is also the time of year when we are at maximum investment levels in our new store class and may not have collected all of the landlord allowances due to us as part of our lease agreements. Based on past performance and current expectations, we believe that cash on hand, cash generated from operations and borrowings under the credit facility will satisfy the Company's working capital needs, capital expenditure needs, commitments and other liquidity requirements through at least the next 12 months.

The following table presents a summary of our cash flows for the periods indicated:

<b>(In thousands)</b>	<b>39 Weeks Ended</b>	
	<b>November 1, 2014</b>	<b>November 2, 2013</b>
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 146,150	\$ 100,133
Net cash used in investing activities	(272,498)	(176,966)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	1,932	(2,726)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	\$ (124,416)	\$ (79,559)

**Operating activities**

Operating activities consist of net income adjusted for certain non-cash items, including depreciation and amortization, non-cash stock-based compensation, realized gains or losses on disposal of property and equipment and the effect of working capital changes.

Merchandise inventories were \$709.7 million at November 1, 2014, compared to \$582.3 million at November 2, 2013, representing an increase of \$127.4 million. Average inventory per store increased 5.8% compared to prior year. The increase in inventory is primarily due to the following:

approximately \$76 million due to the addition of 101 net new stores opened since November 2, 2013; and

approximately \$51 million due to new brand additions, incremental holiday build and strong sales year to date.

Deferred rent liabilities were \$293.9 million at November 1, 2014, an increase of \$34.7 million compared to November 2, 2013. Deferred rent includes deferred construction allowances, future rental increases and rent holidays, which are all recognized on a straight-line basis over their respective lease term. The increase is primarily due to the addition of 101 net new stores opened since November 2, 2013.

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### **Investing activities**

We have historically used cash primarily for new and remodeled stores, supply chain investments, short-term investments and investments in information technology systems. Investment activities related to capital expenditures were \$172.5 million during the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014, compared to \$177.0 million during the 39 weeks ended November 2, 2013. The decrease in capital expenditures year over year is primarily due to the decrease in number of new store openings during fiscal 2014, partially offset by investments in supply chain initiatives. Purchases of short-term investments were \$100.0 million during the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014 and consist of certificates of deposit and time deposits with maturities of twelve months or less from the date of purchase.

### **Financing activities**

Financing activities in fiscal 2014 consist principally of capital stock transactions and the related income tax effects and our share repurchase program. Purchase of treasury shares in fiscal 2014 and 2013 represents the fair value of common shares repurchased from plan participants in connection with shares withheld to satisfy minimum statutory tax obligations upon the vesting of restricted stock.

We had no borrowings outstanding under our credit facility as of November 1, 2014, February 1, 2014 or November 2, 2013. The zero outstanding borrowings position is due to a combination of factors including strong sales growth, overall performance of management initiatives including expense control and other working capital reductions. We may require borrowings under the credit facility from time to time in future periods to support our new store program and seasonal inventory needs.

### ***Share repurchase program***

On March 18, 2013, we announced that our Board of Directors had authorized a share repurchase program (the 2013 Share Repurchase Program) pursuant to which the Company could repurchase up to \$150 million of the Company's common stock. Repurchases pursuant to the 2013 Share Repurchase Program were made from time to time in the open market, in privately negotiated transactions or otherwise, at prices the Company deemed appropriate and subject to market conditions, applicable law and other factors deemed relevant in the Company's sole discretion. The 2013 Share Repurchase Program did not have an expiration date, but provided for suspension or discontinuation at any time.

On September 11, 2014, we announced that our Board of Directors authorized a new share repurchase program (the 2014 Share Repurchase Program) pursuant to which the Company may repurchase up to \$300 million of the Company's common stock. The 2014 Share Repurchase Program authorization revokes the previously authorized but unused amounts of \$112.7 million from the 2013 Share Repurchase Program. The 2014 Share Repurchase Program does not have an expiration date and may be suspended or discontinued at any time.

During the 39 weeks ended November 2, 2013, we purchased 500,500 shares of common stock for \$37.3 million at an average price of \$74.58. During the 13 and 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014, we purchased 85,890 shares of common stock for \$10.0 million at an average price of \$116.09.

### ***Credit facility***

On October 19, 2011, the Company entered into an Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement (the Loan Agreement) with Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Administrative Agent, Collateral Agent and a Lender thereunder, Wells Fargo Capital Finance LLC as a Lender, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC as a Lender, JP Morgan Chase



Bank, N.A. as a Lender and PNC Bank, National Association, as a Lender. The Loan Agreement amended and restated the Loan and Security Agreement, dated as of August 31, 2010, by and among the lenders. The Loan Agreement extended the maturity of the Company's credit facility to October 2016, provides maximum revolving loans equal to the lesser of \$200 million or a percentage of eligible owned inventory, contains a \$10 million subfacility for letters of credit and allows the Company to increase the revolving facility by an additional \$50 million, subject to consent by each lender and other conditions. The Loan Agreement contains a requirement to maintain a minimum amount of excess borrowing availability at all times.

On September 5, 2012, we entered into Amendment No. 1 to Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement (the First Amendment) with the lender group. The First Amendment updated certain administrative terms and conditions and provides us greater flexibility to take certain corporate actions. There were no changes to the revolving loan amounts available, interest rates, covenants or maturity date under terms of the Loan Agreement.

On December 6, 2013, we entered into Amendment No. 2 to the Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement (the Second Amendment) with the lender group. The Second Amendment extended the maturity of the facility to December 2018. Substantially all of the Company's assets are pledged as collateral for outstanding borrowings under the facility. Outstanding borrowings will bear interest at the prime rate or Libor plus 1.50% and the unused line fee is 0.20%.

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As of November 1, 2014, February 1, 2014 and November 2, 2013, we had no borrowings outstanding under the credit facility and the Company was in compliance with all terms and covenants of the agreement.

### **Off-balance sheet arrangements**

Our off-balance sheet arrangements consist of operating lease obligations. We do not have any non-cancelable purchase commitments as of November 1, 2014.

### **Contractual obligations**

Our contractual obligations consist of operating lease obligations and our revolving line of credit. No material changes outside the ordinary course of business have occurred in our contractual obligations during the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014.

### **Critical accounting policies and estimates**

Management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations is based upon our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The preparation of these financial statements required the use of estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of our assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses. Management bases estimates on historical experience and other assumptions it believes to be reasonable under the circumstances and evaluates these estimates on an on-going basis. Actual results may differ from these estimates. There have been no significant changes to the critical accounting policies and estimates included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 1, 2014.

### **Recent accounting pronouncements**

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers, issued as a new Topic, Accounting Standards Codification Topic 606. The new revenue recognition standard provides a five-step analysis of transactions to determine when and how revenue is recognized. The core principle is that we will recognize revenue when we transfer promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which we expect to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. This standard is effective beginning in fiscal year 2017 and allows for either full retrospective or modified retrospective adoption. We are currently evaluating the application method and the impact of this new standard on its consolidated financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

### **Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk**

Market risk represents the risk of loss that may impact our financial position due to adverse changes in financial market prices and rates. Our market risk exposure is primarily the result of fluctuations in interest rates. We do not hold or issue financial instruments for trading purposes.

#### **Interest rate sensitivity**

We are exposed to interest rate risks primarily through borrowings under our credit facility. Interest on our borrowings is based upon variable rates. We did not access our credit facility during the 39 week period ended November 1, 2014. The interest expense recognized in our statement of income represents unused fees associated with the credit facility.

Interest expense is offset by interest income from short-term investments with maturities of twelve months or less from the date of purchase.

**Item 4. Controls and Procedures**

**Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures over Financial Reporting**

We have established disclosure controls and procedures to ensure that material information relating to the Company is made known to the officers who certify our financial reports and to the members of our senior management and Board of Directors.

Based on management's evaluation as of November 1, 2014, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) are effective to ensure that the information required to be disclosed by us in our reports that we file or submit under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

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### **Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

There were no changes to our internal controls over financial reporting during the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2014 that have materially affected or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal controls over financial reporting.

## **Part II - Other Information**

### **Item 1. Legal Proceedings**

**General litigation** On March 2, 2012, a putative employment class action lawsuit was filed against us and certain unnamed defendants in state court in Los Angeles County, California. On April 12, 2012, the Company removed the case to the United States District Court for the Central District of California. On August 8, 2013, the plaintiff asked the court to certify the proposed class and the Company opposed the plaintiff's request and is waiting for the court to issue a decision. The plaintiff and members of the proposed class are alleged to be (or to have been) non-exempt hourly employees. The suit alleges that Ulta violated various provisions of the California labor laws and failed to provide plaintiff and members of the proposed class with full meal periods, paid rest breaks, certain wages, overtime compensation and premium pay. The suit seeks to recover damages and penalties as a result of these alleged practices. The Company denies plaintiff's allegations and is vigorously defending the matter.

We are also involved in various legal proceedings that are incidental to the conduct of our business. In the opinion of management, the amount of any liability with respect to these proceedings, either individually or in the aggregate, will not be material.

### **Item 1A. Risk Factors**

In addition to the other information set forth in this report, you should carefully consider the factors discussed in Part I, Item 1A. Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 1, 2014, which could materially affect our business, financial condition, financial results or future performance. Other than as stated below, there have been no material changes from the risk factors previously disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 1, 2014.

***We may not be able to sustain our growth plans and successfully implement our long-range strategic and financial plans, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, profitability and cash flows. In addition, we intend to continue to open new stores, which could strain our resources and have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, profitability and cash flows.***

Our continued and future growth largely depends on our ability to implement our long-range strategic and financial plans and successfully open and operate new stores on a profitable basis. There can be no assurance that we will be successful in implementing our growth plans or long-range strategic imperatives, and our failure to do so could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition, profitability and cash flows. We intend to continue to grow our number of stores for the foreseeable future. Our continued expansion places increased demands on our financial, managerial, operational, supply-chain and administrative resources. For example, our planned expansion will require us to increase the number of people we employ as well as to monitor and upgrade our management information and other systems and our distribution infrastructure. These increased demands and operating complexities could cause us to operate our business less efficiently and could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, profitability and cash flows.



**Table of Contents****Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds**

The following table sets forth repurchases of our common stock during the third quarter of 2014:

<b>Period</b>	<b>Total number of shares purchased (1)</b>	<b>Average price paid per share</b>	<b>Total number of shares purchased as part of publicly announced plans or programs (2)</b>	<b>Approximate dollar value of shares that may yet to be purchased under plans or programs (in thousands) (2)</b>
August 3, 2014 to August 30, 2014		\$		\$ 112,664
August 31, 2014 to September 27, 2014	2,197	\$ 114.89		\$ 300,000
September 28, 2014 to November 1, 2014	85,890	\$ 116.09	85,890	\$ 290,028
13 weeks ended November 1, 2014	88,087	\$ 116.06	85,890	\$ 290,028

(1) Includes 2,197 shares of the Company's common stock at an average price of \$114.89 transferred from employees in satisfaction of minimum statutory tax withholding obligations upon the vesting of restricted stock during the period.

(2) On March 18, 2013, we announced the approval of a share repurchase program (the 2013 Share Repurchase Program) pursuant to which the Company was authorized to repurchase up to \$150 million of the Company's common stock in the open market, in privately negotiated transactions or otherwise, at prices the Company deemed appropriate and subject to market conditions, applicable law and other factors deemed relevant in the Company's sole discretion. The 2013 Share Repurchase Program did not have an expiration date, but provided for suspension or discontinuation at any time. As of September 10, 2014, \$112.7 million remained available under the \$150 million 2013 Share Repurchase Program.

On September 11, 2014, we announced that our Board of Directors authorized a new share repurchase program (the 2014 Share Repurchase Program) pursuant to which the Company may repurchase up to \$300 million of the Company's common stock. The 2014 Share Repurchase Program authorization revokes the previously authorized but unused amounts of \$112.7 million from the 2013 Share Repurchase Program. The 2014 Share Repurchase Program does not have an expiration date and may be suspended or discontinued at any time. As of November 1, 2014, \$290.0 million remained available under the \$300 million 2014 Share Repurchase Program.

**Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities**

None

**Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures**

None

**Item 5. Other Information**

None

**Table of Contents****Item 6. Exhibits**

Exhibit Number	Description of document	Filed Herewith	Incorporated by Reference			
			Form	Exhibit Number	File Number	Filing Date
3.1	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation		S-1	3.1	333-144405	8/17/2007
3.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws		S-1	3.2	333-144405	8/17/2007
4.1	Specimen Common Stock Certificate		S-1	4.1	333-144405	10/11/2007
4.2	Third Amended and Restated Registration Rights Agreement between Ulta Salon, Cosmetics & Fragrance, Inc. and the stockholders party thereto		S-1	4.2	333-144405	8/17/2007
4.3	Stockholder Rights Agreement		S-1	4.4	333-144405	8/17/2007
31.1	Certification of the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002	X				
31.2	Certification of the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002	X				
32.1	Certification of the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002	X				
101.INS	XBRL Instance	X				
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema	X				
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation	X				
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Labels	X				
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation	X				
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition	X				



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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on December 4, 2014 on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

ULTA SALON, COSMETICS & FRAGRANCE, INC.

By: /s/ Mary N. Dillon  
Mary N. Dillon

Chief Executive Officer and Director

By: /s/ Scott M. Settersten  
Scott M. Settersten

Chief Financial Officer and Assistant  
Secretary