

NATIONAL BEVERAGE CORP

Form 10-K

July 16, 2009

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**United States
Securities and Exchange Commission
Washington, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-K**

☒ **Annual Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
For the fiscal year ended May 2, 2009
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 1-14170
NATIONAL BEVERAGE CORP.
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)**

Delaware **59-2605822**
(State of incorporation) (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
8100 SW Tenth Street, Suite 4000, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33324
(Address of principal executive offices including zip code)
Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (954) 581-0922
Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

| Title of each class | Name of each exchange on which registered |
|---------------------|---|
|---------------------|---|

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share | NASDAQ Stock Market |
|---|---------------------|

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

Indicate by check mark if the Registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes ☐ No ☒

Indicate by check mark if the Registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act. Yes ☐ No ☒

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 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. Yes ☐ No ☐

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of Registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. ☐

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 <input type="radio"/> | Accelerated filer <input checked="" type="radio"/> | Non-accelerated filer <input type="radio"/> (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) | Smaller reporting company <input type="radio"/> |
|--|--|---|--|

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

The aggregate market value of the common stock held by non-affiliates of Registrant computed by reference to the closing sale price on October 31, 2008 was approximately \$101.7 million.

The number of shares of Registrant's common stock outstanding as of July 2, 2009 was 46,012,934.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the Registrant's Proxy Statement for the 2009 Annual Meeting of Shareholders are incorporated by reference in Part III.

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PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

GENERAL

National Beverage Corp. develops, manufactures, markets and distributes a complete portfolio of quality beverage products throughout the United States. Incorporated in Delaware in 1985, National Beverage Corp. is a holding company for various operating subsidiaries. In this report, the terms we, us, our, Company and National Beverage mean National Beverage Corp. and its subsidiaries.

We consider ourselves to be a leader in the development and sale of flavored beverage products in the United States, offering the widest selection of flavored soft drinks, juices, sparkling waters, energy drinks and nutritionally-enhanced waters. Our flavor development spans over 100 years originating with our flagship brands, Shasta® and Faygo®, each of which has over 50 flavor varieties. We also maintain a diverse line of flavored beverage products geared to the health-conscious consumer, including Everfresh®, Home Juice®, and Mr. Pure® 100% juice and juice-based products; LaCroix®, Crystal Bay® and ClearFruit® flavored, sparkling, and spring water products; and ÀSanté® nutritionally-enhanced waters. In addition, we distribute Rip It® energy drinks, Ohana® fruit-flavored drinks, St. Nick's® holiday soft drinks as well as powder and effervescent tablet beverage enhancers sold under the NutraFizz® brand name. Substantially all of our brands are produced in twelve manufacturing facilities that are strategically located in major metropolitan markets throughout the continental United States. To a lesser extent, we develop and produce soft drinks for certain retailers and beverage companies.

We utilize various means to maintain our position as a cost-effective producer of beverage products. These include centralized purchasing of raw materials, vertical integration of the manufacturing process, close proximity to customer distribution centers, regionally targeted media promotions and the use of multiple distribution systems. The strength of our brands and location of our manufacturing facilities distinguish us as a national supplier of beverages to national and regional retailers, mass merchandisers, wholesalers and discount stores.

Our strategy emphasizes the growth of our products by offering a branded beverage portfolio of proprietary flavors; by supporting the franchise value of regional brands and expanding those brands with distinctive packaging and broader demographic emphasis; by developing and acquiring innovative products tailored toward healthy lifestyles; and by appealing to the quality-value expectations of the family consumer. We believe that the regional share dynamics of our brands perpetuate consumer loyalty within local regional markets, resulting in more retailer sponsored promotional activities.

PRODUCTS

Shasta and Faygo, our traditional soft drink brands that emphasize flavor variety and innovation, have been manufactured and marketed throughout the United States for a combined period of over 200 years. Established nearly 120 years ago and distributed nationally, Shasta is the largest of National Beverage's brands and includes multiple flavors of carbonated soft drinks as well as various water products. Established over 100 years ago, Faygo products are primarily distributed east of the Mississippi River and include a multi-flavored product line. We also produce and market other brands of soft drinks, juice and water products, including Ritz®, Everfresh, Mr. Pure,

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LaCroix, Crystal Bay and Ohana. In addition, we offer Rip It energy drinks as well as ÀSanté nutritionally-enhanced waters.

Our fantasy of flavors strategy emphasizes our distinctive flavored soft drinks, energy drinks, juices and other specialty beverages. Although cola drinks account for approximately 50% of the soft drink industry's domestic grocery channel volume, colas account for less than 20% of our total volume. We continue to emphasize expanding our beverage portfolio beyond traditional carbonated soft drinks through new product development inspired by lifestyle enhancement trends, innovative package enhancements, and, in recent years, the development of products designed to provide functional benefits to the consumer. These include our line of energy drinks and vitamin-enhanced waters. We intend to expand our product offerings through in-house development and/or acquisitions, to further our strategy within the evolving functional category geared toward health and wellness.

MANUFACTURING

Our twelve manufacturing facilities are strategically located in major metropolitan markets across the continental United States, enabling us to efficiently manufacture and distribute beverages to substantially all geographic markets. Each manufacturing facility is generally equipped to produce both canned and bottled beverage products in a variety of package sizes. We utilize numerous package types and sizes, including cans ranging from eight to sixteen ounces and bottles ranging from seven ounces to three liters.

We believe that ownership of our bottling facilities provides an advantage over certain of our competitors that rely upon independent third party bottlers to manufacture and market their products. Since we control the national production, distribution and marketing of our brands, we can more effectively manage product quality and customer service and respond quickly to changing market conditions.

We produce a substantial portion of the flavor concentrates used in our branded products. By controlling our own formulas throughout our bottling network, we assure manufacture of our products in accordance with uniform quality standards while tailoring flavors to regional taste preferences. We believe that the combination of a Company-owned bottling network servicing the United States, together with uniform standards for packaging, formulations, and customer service, provides us with a strategic advantage in servicing national retailers and mass-merchandisers. We also maintain research and development laboratories at multiple locations. These laboratories continually test products for compliance with our strict quality control standards as well as conduct research for new products and flavors.

DISTRIBUTION

We utilize a hybrid distribution system to deliver our products through three primary distribution channels: take-home, convenience, and food-service.

The take-home distribution channel consists of national and regional grocery stores, warehouse clubs, mass-merchandisers, wholesalers and dollar stores. We distribute our products to this channel through the warehouse distribution system and the direct-store delivery system. Under the warehouse distribution system, products are shipped from our manufacturing facilities to the retailer's centralized distribution centers and then distributed by the retailer to each of its outlet

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locations with other goods. Products sold through the direct-store delivery system are distributed directly to the customer's retail outlets by our direct-store delivery fleet and by independent distributors.

We also distribute our products to the convenience channel through our own direct-store delivery fleet and those of independent distributors. The convenience channel consists of convenience stores, gas stations, and other smaller up-and-down-the-street accounts. Because of the higher retail prices and margins that typically prevail, we have undertaken several measures to expand convenience channel distribution. These include development of products specifically targeted to this market, such as ClearFruit, Crystal Bay, Rip It, and ÀSanté. Additionally, we have created proprietary and specialized packaging with distinctive graphics for these products.

Our food-service division is responsible for sales to hospitals, schools, military bases, airlines, hotels and food-service wholesalers. Food-service products are distributed primarily through independent, specialized distributors.

Additionally, our Company-owned direct-store distribution systems service certain schools and other institutions. Each of our take-home, convenience and food-service operations use vending machines and glass-door coolers as marketing and promotional tools for our brands. We provide vending machines and coolers on a placement or purchase basis to our customers. We believe that the placement of vending and cooler equipment provides not only increased beverage sales, but also the enhancement of brand awareness and the development of brand loyalty.

SALES AND MARKETING

We sell and market our products through an internal sales force as well as select broker networks. Our sales force is organized to serve a specific market, focusing on one or more geographic territories, distribution channels or product lines. We believe that this focus allows our sales group to provide high level, responsive service and support to the customers and markets served.

Our sales and marketing programs are directed toward maintaining and enhancing consumer brand recognition and loyalty, and typically utilize a combination of regional advertising, special event marketing, endorsements and sponsorships, and consumer coupon distribution. We retain advertising agencies to assist with media advertising programs for our brands. Additionally, we offer numerous promotional programs to retail customers, including cooperative advertising support, in-store advertising materials and other incentives. We believe these elements allow us to tailor marketing and advertising programs to meet local and regional economic conditions and demographics. We also seek to maintain points of difference between our brands and those of our competitors by combining high product quality, flavor innovation, unique packaging designs, and, for some product lines, value pricing. Additionally, National Beverage sponsors special holiday promotions including St. Nick's, which features special holiday flavors and packaging.

Our regional share dynamics strategy emphasizes the acquisition and support of brands that have a significant regional presence. We believe that these types of products enjoy a regional identification that foster long-term consumer loyalty and make them less vulnerable to consumer switching. In addition, these types of home-town products often generate more aggressive retailer sponsored promotional activities and receive media exposure through community activities and other local events.

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RAW MATERIALS

Our centralized procurement division maintains relationships with numerous suppliers of raw materials and packaging goods. By consolidating the purchasing function for our manufacturing facilities, we believe we are able to procure more competitive arrangements with our suppliers, allowing us to compete as a low-cost producer of beverages.

The products we produce and sell are made from various materials, including sweeteners, juice concentrates, carbon dioxide, water, glass and plastic bottles, aluminum cans and ends, paper, cartons and closures. Most of our low-calorie soft drink products use sucralose, aspartame or Acesulfame-K. We manufacture a substantial portion of our flavor concentrates and purchase remaining raw materials from multiple suppliers.

Substantially all of the materials and ingredients we purchase are presently available from several suppliers, although strikes, weather conditions, utility shortages, governmental control or regulations, national emergencies, price or supply fluctuations or other events outside our control could adversely affect the supply of specific materials. Our key raw materials, including aluminum cans, plastic bottles and high fructose corn syrup, are derived from commodities. Therefore, pricing and availability tend to fluctuate based upon worldwide market conditions. Our ability to recover increased costs through higher pricing may be limited by the competitive environment in which we operate. In certain cases, we elect to enter into multi-year agreements for the supply of these materials with one or more suppliers, the terms of which may include variable or fixed pricing, minimum purchase quantities, and/or the requirement to purchase all supplies for specified locations. Aluminum cans comprise a significant portion of our raw material purchases.

SEASONALITY

Our sales are seasonal with the highest volume typically realized during the summer months. We have sufficient production capacity to meet seasonal increases without maintaining significant quantities of inventory in anticipation of periods of peak demand. Sales volume may be affected by weather conditions.

COMPETITION

The beverage industry is highly competitive and our competitive position varies in each of our market areas. Our products compete with many varieties of liquid refreshments, including coffee, milk, tea and water. We compete with bottlers and distributors of national, regional, and private label products. Several competitors, including the two that dominate the soft drink industry, PepsiCo, Inc. and The Coca-Cola Company, have greater financial resources than we have and aggressive promotion of their products can adversely affect sales of our brands. Principal methods of competition in the beverage industry are price and promotional activity, advertising and marketing programs, point-of-sale merchandising, retail space management, customer service, product differentiation, packaging innovations and distribution methods. We believe our Company differentiates itself through a diversified product portfolio, strong regional brand recognition, innovative flavor variety, attractive packaging, efficient distribution methods, specialized advertising and, for some product lines, value pricing.

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TRADEMARKS

We own numerous trademarks for our brands that are significant to our business. We intend to continue to maintain all registrations of our significant trademarks and use the trademarks in the operation of our businesses.

GOVERNMENTAL REGULATION

The production, distribution and sale of our products in the United States are subject to the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act; the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994; the Occupational Safety and Health Act; the Lanham Act; various environmental statutes; and various other federal, state and local statutes regulating the production, transportation, sale, safety, advertising, labeling and ingredients of such products. Our management believes that we are in compliance in all material respects with such existing legislation.

Certain states and localities prohibit the sale of certain beverages unless a deposit or tax is charged for containers.

These requirements vary by each jurisdiction. Similar legislation has been proposed in certain other states and localities, as well as by Congress. We are unable to predict whether such legislation will be enacted or what impact its enactment would have on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

All of our facilities in the United States are subject to federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations.

Compliance with these provisions has not had any material adverse effect on our financial or competitive position. We believe that our current practices and procedures for the control and disposition of toxic or hazardous substances comply in all material respects with applicable law. However, compliance with or any violation of current and future laws or regulations could require material expenditures or otherwise have a material adverse effect.

EMPLOYEES

As of May 2, 2009, we employed approximately 1,200 people, of which approximately 400 are covered by collective bargaining agreements. We believe that relations with employees are generally good.

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

Our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, proxy statements, and amendments to those reports are available free of charge on our internet website at www.nationalbeverage.com as soon as reasonably practicable after such reports are electronically filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. In addition, our Code of Ethics is available on our internet website. The information on the Company's website is not part of this annual report on Form 10-K or any other report that we file with, or furnish to, the Securities and Exchange Commission.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

In addition to other information in this Form 10-K, the following risk factors should be considered carefully in evaluating the Company's business. Our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected by any of these risks. Additional risks and

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uncertainties, including risks and uncertainties not presently known to the Company, or that the Company currently deems immaterial, may also impair our business and results of operations.

Changes in consumer preferences and taste. There has been an increasing focus on health and wellness by beverage consumers, which may reduce demand for caloric carbonated soft drinks and increase the consumption of products perceived to deliver health, wellness and/or functionality. If we do not adequately anticipate and react to changing demographics, consumer trends, health concerns and product preferences, our financial results could be adversely affected.

Competition. The beverage industry is extremely competitive. Our products compete with a broad range of beverage products, most of which are manufactured and distributed by companies with substantially greater financial, marketing and distribution resources. In order to generate future revenues and profits, we must continue to sell products that appeal to our customers and consumers. Discounting and other action by our competitors may make it more difficult to sustain revenues and profits.

Customer relationships. Maintaining mutually beneficial relationships with our customers enables us to effectively compete. Our retail customer base has been consolidating over the last several years resulting in fewer customers with increased purchasing power. This increased purchasing power can limit our ability to increase pricing for our products with certain of our customers. Our inability to meet the demands of our larger customers could lead to a loss of business and adversely affect our financial results.

Raw materials and energy. The production of our products is dependent on certain raw materials, including aluminum, resin, linerboard and corn. In addition, the production and distribution of our products is dependent on energy sources, including natural gas, fuel and electricity. These items are subject to price volatility caused by numerous factors. Commodity price increases ultimately result in a corresponding increase in the cost of raw materials and energy. We may be limited in our ability to pass these increases on to our customers or may incur a loss in sales volume to the extent price increases are taken. In addition, strikes, weather conditions, governmental controls, national emergencies, natural disasters, supply shortages or other events could affect our continued supply of raw materials and energy. If raw materials or energy costs increase, or the availability is limited, our financial results could be adversely affected.

Governmental regulation. Our business and properties are subject to various federal, state and local laws and regulations, including those governing the production, packaging, quality, labeling and distribution of beverage products. New laws or regulations or changes in existing laws or regulations could negatively impact our financial results through higher operating costs to achieve compliance.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

We have received no written comments regarding our periodic or current reports from the staff of the SEC that were issued 180 days or more preceding the end of our 2009 fiscal year and that remained unresolved.

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Our principal properties include twelve manufacturing facilities located in ten states, which aggregate approximately two million square feet. We own ten manufacturing facilities in the following states: California (2), Georgia, Kansas, Michigan (2), Ohio, Texas, Utah and Washington. Two manufacturing facilities, located in Maryland and Florida, are leased subject to agreements that expire through 2011. We believe our facilities are generally in good condition and sufficient to meet present needs.

The production of beverages is capital intensive but is not characterized by rapid technological change. The technological advances that have occurred have generally been of an incremental cost-saving nature, such as the industry's conversion to lighter weight containers or improved blending processes that enhance ingredient yields. We are not aware of any anticipated industry-wide changes in technology that would adversely impact our current physical production capacity or cost of production.

We own and lease delivery trucks, other trucks, vans and automobiles used in the sale and distribution of our products. In addition, we lease office space, transportation equipment, office equipment, data processing equipment and certain manufacturing equipment.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

From time to time, we are a party to various litigation matters arising in the ordinary course of business. In our opinion, the ultimate disposition of such matters will not have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position or results of operations.

ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS

No matters were voted upon during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2009.

PART II**ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES**

The common stock of National Beverage Corp., par value \$.01 per share, (Common Stock) is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol FIZZ . Prior to June 12, 2007, the Common Stock was listed on the American Stock Exchange under the symbol FIZ . The following table shows the range of high and low prices per share of the Common Stock for the fiscal quarters indicated:

| | Fiscal 2009 | | Fiscal 2008 | |
|----------------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|
| | High | Low | High | Low |
| First Quarter | \$ 8.10 | \$6.72 | \$14.65 | \$9.40 |
| Second Quarter | \$10.10 | \$6.60 | \$10.59 | \$7.95 |
| Third Quarter | \$ 9.63 | \$6.61 | \$ 8.65 | \$6.76 |
| Fourth Quarter | \$11.23 | \$7.17 | \$ 8.25 | \$7.01 |
| | 8 | | | |

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Of the estimated 5,000 holders of our Common Stock, including those whose securities are held in the names of various dealers and/or clearing agencies, there were approximately 700 shareholders of record at July 2, 2009, according to records maintained by our transfer agent.

On May 25, 2007, the Company declared a 20% stock dividend payable on June 22, 2007 to shareholders of record on June 4, 2007. The stock prices above have been restated to give retroactive effect to the 20% stock dividend.

On August 17, 2007, the Company paid a special cash dividend of \$.80 per share, aggregating \$36.7 million. On January 27, 2006, the Company paid a special cash dividend of \$1.00 per share (\$.83 per share adjusted for the 20% stock dividend), aggregating \$38 million. See Note 4 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for certain restrictions on the payment of dividends.

In January 1998, the Board of Directors authorized the purchase of up to 800,000 shares of National Beverage common stock of which 502,060 shares have been purchased. There were no shares purchased during the last three fiscal years.

Performance Graph

The following graph shows a comparison of the five-year cumulative returns of an investment of \$100 cash on May 1, 2004 in (i) our common stock, (ii) the NASDAQ Composite Index and (iii) a company constructed peer group consisting of Coca-Cola Enterprises, Inc., Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated, Cott Corporation and PepsiAmericas, Inc. The graph assumes that all dividends have been reinvested.

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NATIONAL BEVERAGE CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

| | Fiscal Year Ended | | | | |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | May 2, 2009 | May 3, 2008 (1) | April 28, 2007 | April 29, 2006 | April 30, 2005 |
| SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS: | | | | | |
| Net sales | \$ 575,177 | \$ 566,001 | \$ 539,030 | \$ 516,802 | \$ 495,572 |
| Cost of sales (2) | 405,322 | 393,420 | 365,793 | 349,131 | 340,206 |
| Gross profit | 169,855 | 172,581 | 173,237 | 167,671 | 155,366 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 131,918 | 138,447 | 137,212 | 135,090 | 130,037 |
| Interest expense | 107 | 109 | 106 | 105 | 106 |
| Other income net | 967 | 1,053 | 2,587 | 2,416 | 1,199 |
| Income before income taxes | 38,797 | 35,078 | 38,506 | 34,892 | 26,422 |
| Provision for income taxes | 14,055 | 12,598 | 13,824 | 12,666 | 9,536 |
| Net income | \$ 24,742 | \$ 22,480 | \$ 24,682 | \$ 22,226 | \$ 16,886 |
| PER SHARE DATA: | | | | | |
| Basic net income (3) | \$.54 | \$.49 | \$.54 | \$.49 | \$.37 |
| Diluted net income (3) | .54 | .49 | .54 | .48 | .37 |
| Closing stock price (3) | 10.47 | 8.05 | 13.13 | 12.80 | 5.92 |
| Cash dividends paid (4) | | .80 | | .83 | |
| BALANCE SHEET DATA: | | | | | |
| Cash and equivalents | \$ 84,140 | \$ 51,497 | \$ 65,579 | \$ 42,119 | \$ 54,557 |
| Working capital | 117,840 | 89,396 | 97,684 | 75,025 | 81,962 |
| Property, plant and equipment net | 56,141 | 57,639 | 57,369 | 56,027 | 62,879 |
| Total assets | 265,682 | 239,122 | 257,632 | 218,339 | 224,587 |
| Deferred income tax liability | 16,517 | 16,624 | 15,217 | 17,783 | 15,958 |
| Shareholders equity (4) | 170,012 | 144,625 | 157,361 | 130,860 | 143,296 |

- (1) Fiscal 2008 consisted of 53 weeks.
- (2) Fiscal 2006 cost of sales includes a fructose settlement gain of \$8.4 million.
- (3) Basic net income per

share is computed by dividing earnings applicable to common shares by the weighted average number of shares outstanding. Diluted net income per share includes the dilutive effect of stock options. Net income per share and the closing stock price have been adjusted for the 20% stock dividend distributed on June 22, 2007.

- (4) In January 2006, the Company paid a cash dividend of \$1.00 per share (\$.83 per share after adjusting for the 20% stock dividend), aggregating \$38.0 million. In August 2007, the Company paid a cash dividend of \$.80 per share, aggregating \$36.7 million.

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ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

OVERVIEW

National Beverage Corp. develops, manufactures, markets and distributes a complete portfolio of quality beverage products throughout the United States. Incorporated in Delaware in 1985, National Beverage Corp. is a holding company for various operating subsidiaries. In this report, the terms we, us, our, Company and National Beverage mean National Beverage Corp. and its subsidiaries.

We consider ourselves to be a leader in the development and sale of flavored beverage products in the United States, offering the widest selection of flavored soft drinks, juices, sparkling waters, energy drinks and nutritionally-enhanced waters. Our flavor development spans over 100 years originating with our flagship brands, Shasta® and Faygo®, each of which has over 50 flavor varieties. We also maintain a diverse line of flavored beverage products geared to the health-conscious consumer, including Everfresh®, Home Juice®, and Mr. Pure® 100% juice and juice-based products; LaCroix®, Crystal Bay® and ClearFruit® flavored, sparkling, and spring water products; and ÀSanté® nutritionally-enhanced waters. In addition, we distribute Rip It® energy drinks, Ohana® fruit-flavored drinks, St. Nick's® holiday soft drinks as well as powder and effervescent tablet beverage enhancers sold under the NutraFizz® brand name. Substantially all of our brands are produced in twelve manufacturing facilities that are strategically located in major metropolitan markets throughout the continental United States. To a lesser extent, we develop and produce soft drinks for certain retailers and beverage companies (allied brands).

Our strategy emphasizes the growth of our products by offering a branded beverage portfolio of proprietary flavors; by supporting the franchise value of regional brands and expanding those brands with distinctive packaging and broader demographic emphasis; by developing and acquiring innovative products tailored toward healthy lifestyles; and by appealing to the quality-price expectations of the family consumer. We believe that the regional share dynamics of our brands perpetuate consumer loyalty within local regional markets, resulting in more retailer sponsored promotional activities.

Over the last several years, we have focused on increasing penetration of our brands in the convenience channel through Company-owned and independent distributors. The convenience channel consists of convenience stores, gas stations, and other smaller up-and-down-the-street accounts. Because of the higher retail prices and margins that typically prevail, we have undertaken several measures to expand convenience channel distribution in recent years. These include development of products specifically targeted to this market, such as ClearFruit, Crystal Bay, Rip It and ÀSanté. Additionally, we have created proprietary and specialized packaging with distinctive graphics for these products. We intend to continue our focus on enhancing growth in the convenience channel through both specialized packaging and innovative product development.

Beverage industry sales are seasonal with the highest volume typically realized during the summer months.

Additionally, our operating results are subject to numerous factors, including fluctuations in the costs of raw materials, changes in consumer preference for beverage products and competitive pricing in the marketplace.

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RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Net Sales

Fiscal 2009 consisted of 52 weeks while fiscal 2008 consisted of 53 weeks. Net sales for fiscal 2009 increased to \$575.2 million, or 3.8% after adjusting for the effect of the extra week in fiscal 2008. The net sales increase reflects case volume growth of 3.1% for our energy drinks, juices and waters and 2.1% for branded carbonated soft drinks. In addition, unit pricing increased 3.4% due to product mix and price increases instituted to recover higher raw material costs. This improvement was partially offset by a decline in allied branded volume.

Net sales for fiscal 2008 increased 5.0% to \$566.0 million compared to fiscal 2007. The net sales increase reflects case volume growth of 8.8% for our energy drinks, juices and waters along with the effect of an 11% improvement in unit pricing due to product mix and price increases instituted to recover higher raw material costs. These increases were partially offset by a 6.1% decline in branded carbonated soft drink volume as well as the phase out of certain allied brands.

Gross Profit

Gross profit approximated 29.5% of net sales for fiscal 2009 and 30.5% of net sales for fiscal 2008. The decline in gross margin was due to higher manufacturing and raw material costs and the effect of a \$1.4 million business interruption insurance recovery in fiscal 2008. This was partially offset by the higher unit pricing noted above. Cost of goods sold per unit increased 4.9%.

Gross profit approximated 30.5% of net sales for fiscal 2008 and 32.1% of net sales for fiscal 2007. The decline in gross margin was due to higher manufacturing and raw material costs and the effect of lower volume. This was partially offset by the higher unit pricing noted above and a \$1.4 million business interruption insurance recovery. Cost of goods sold per unit increased approximately 14%.

Shipping and handling costs are included in selling, general and administrative expenses, the classification of which is consistent with many beverage companies. However, our gross margin may not be comparable to companies that include shipping and handling costs in cost of sales. See Note 1 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general and administrative expenses were \$131.9 million or 22.9% of net sales for fiscal 2009 compared to \$138.4 million or 24.5% of net sales for fiscal 2008. The decline in expenses is due primarily to lower distribution and marketing costs.

Selling, general and administrative expenses were \$138.4 million or 24.5% of net sales for fiscal 2008 compared to \$137.2 million or 25.5% of net sales for fiscal 2007. The increase in expenses is due primarily to higher distribution costs, which were affected by increases in fuel and energy costs.

Interest Expense and Other Income-Net

Interest expense is comprised of financing costs related to maintaining lines of credit. Other income includes interest income of \$865,000 for fiscal 2009, \$1.2 million for fiscal 2008, and \$1.7 million for fiscal 2007. The decline in interest income for fiscal 2009 is due to lower investment yields. The decline in interest income for fiscal 2008 is due to lower investment yields and a decline in average invested balances related to the \$36.7 million dividend paid in August 2007. Other income for fiscal 2009 includes a gain of \$728,000 related to a legal settlement concerning leased property.

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In addition, other income for fiscal 2007 includes a gain of \$895,000 related to a contract settlement with a customer. See Note 6 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Income Taxes

Our effective tax rate was approximately 36.2% for fiscal 2009 and 35.9% for fiscal 2008 and fiscal 2007. The difference between the effective rate and the federal statutory rate of 35% was primarily due to the effects of state income taxes, nondeductible expenses, and nontaxable interest income. See Note 7 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

LIQUIDITY AND FINANCIAL CONDITION

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our principal source of funds is cash generated from operations, which may be supplemented by borrowings available under our credit facilities. The Company maintains unsecured revolving credit facilities aggregating \$75 million, of which \$2.9 million is utilized for standby letters of credit at May 2, 2009. We believe that existing capital resources, including our cash and equivalents aggregating \$84.1 million as of May 2, 2009, are sufficient to meet our capital requirements for the foreseeable future.

Although we continually make capital improvements to expand our production capacity, enhance packaging capabilities or improve efficiencies at our manufacturing facilities, the Company did not have any material capital expenditure commitments as of May 2, 2009. We anticipate that fiscal 2010 expenditures will be higher than fiscal 2009 amounts.

On June 22, 2007, the Company distributed a 20% stock dividend to shareholders, increasing outstanding shares by 7.6 million. On August 17, 2007, the Company paid a special cash dividend of \$.80 per share, aggregating \$36.7 million.

Pursuant to a management agreement, we incurred a fee to Corporate Management Advisors, Inc. (CMA) of approximately \$5.8 million for fiscal 2009, \$5.7 million for fiscal 2008, and \$5.4 million for fiscal 2007. At May 2, 2009, we owed \$2.8 million to CMA for unpaid fees. See Note 5 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Cash Flows

During fiscal 2009, \$35.8 million was provided from operating activities, which was partially offset by \$3.5 million used for investing activities. Cash provided by operating activities increased \$1.8 million due primarily to higher earnings. Cash used in investing activities improved \$9.2 million due to changes in net marketable securities transactions and reduced capital expenditures. Cash provided by financing activities aggregated \$305,000 in fiscal 2009.

During fiscal 2008, \$34 million was provided from operating activities, which was partially offset by \$12.7 million used for investing activities. Cash provided by operating activities increased \$1.2 million due primarily to a favorable change in deferred income taxes. Cash used in investing activities increased \$1.8 million due to a net increase in marketable securities purchased. Cash used in financing activities aggregated \$35.4 million in fiscal 2008, reflecting a \$36.7 million dividend paid in August 2007.

Table of Contents**Financial Position**

During fiscal 2009, our working capital increased \$28.4 million to \$117.8 million due primarily to cash provided from operations. Trade receivables increased \$4.5 million due to changes in customer mix and timing of customer payments. Prepaid and other assets decreased \$6.5 million due primarily to changes in income tax refunds. At May 2, 2009, the current ratio was 2.7 to 1, compared to 2.3 to 1 at May 3, 2008.

During fiscal 2008, our working capital decreased \$8.3 million to \$89.4 million due to the August 2007 cash dividend payment. Trade receivables decreased \$2.8 million due to changes in customer mix and timing of customer payments. Inventory decreased \$5.3 million due to the elimination of certain inventory items and improved inventory management. Prepaid and other assets increased \$2.3 million due to an increase in income tax refund receivable. At May 3, 2008 and April 28, 2007, the current ratio was 2.3 to 1.

CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

Long-term contractual obligations at May 2, 2009 are payable as follows:

| | | | (In thousands) | | |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------------|------------|
| | Total | 2010 | 2011- 2012 | 2013- 2014 | Thereafter |
| Operating leases | \$ 17,668 | \$ 5,335 | \$ 6,547 | \$ 2,764 | \$ 3,022 |
| Purchase commitments | 42,300 | 42,300 | | | |
| Total | \$ 59,968 | \$ 47,635 | \$ 6,547 | \$ 2,764 | \$ 3,022 |

We have guaranteed the residual value of certain leased equipment in the amount of \$11.3 million. Management believes that the net realizable value of such equipment will be in excess of the guaranteed amount when the lease terminates in July 2012.

We contribute to certain pension plans under collective bargaining agreements based on hours worked and to a discretionary profit sharing plan, none of which have any long-term contractual funding requirements. Contributions were \$2.3 million for fiscal 2009 and \$2.2 million for fiscal 2008 and 2007.

We maintain self-insured and deductible programs for certain liability, medical and workers' compensation exposures. Other long-term liabilities include known claims and estimated incurred but not reported claims not otherwise covered by insurance, based on actuarial assumptions and historical claims experience. Since the timing and amount of claims settlement varies significantly, we are not able to reasonably estimate future payments for the periods indicated.

We have standby letters of credit aggregating \$2.9 million related to our self-insurance programs, which expire in fiscal 2010. We expect to renew these standby letters of credit until they are no longer required.

OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS

We do not have any off-balance sheet arrangements that have or are reasonably likely to have a current or future material effect on our financial condition.

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CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Although these estimates are based on management's knowledge of current events and actions it may undertake in the future, they may ultimately differ from actual results. We believe that the critical accounting policies described in the following paragraphs affect the most significant estimates and assumptions used in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements. For these policies, we caution that future events rarely develop exactly as estimated, and the best estimates routinely require adjustment.

Credit Risk

We sell products to a variety of customers and extend credit based on an evaluation of each customer's financial condition, generally without requiring collateral. Exposure to credit losses varies by customer principally due to the financial condition of each customer. We monitor our exposure to credit losses and maintain allowances for anticipated losses based on specific customer circumstances, credit conditions, and historical write-offs.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets

All long-lived assets, excluding goodwill and intangible assets not subject to amortization, are evaluated for impairment on the basis of undiscounted cash flows whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. An impaired asset is written down to its estimated fair market value based on the best information available. Estimated fair market value is generally measured by discounting future cash flows. Goodwill and intangible assets not subject to amortization are evaluated for impairment annually or sooner in accordance with SFAS No. 142. An impairment loss is recognized if the carrying amount, or for goodwill, the carrying amount of its reporting unit, is greater than its fair value.

Income Taxes

Our effective income tax rate is based on estimates of taxes which will ultimately be payable. Deferred taxes are recorded to give recognition to temporary differences between the tax bases of assets or liabilities and their reported amounts in the financial statements. Valuation allowances are established to reduce the carrying amounts of deferred tax assets when it is deemed, more likely than not, that the benefit of deferred tax assets will not be realized.

Insurance Programs

We maintain self-insured and deductible programs for certain liability, medical and workers' compensation exposures. Accordingly, we accrue for known claims and estimated incurred but not reported claims not otherwise covered by insurance, based on actuarial assumptions and historical claims experience.

Sales Incentives

We offer various sales incentive arrangements to our customers, which require customer performance or achievement of certain sales volume targets. In those circumstances when the incentive is paid in advance, we amortize the amount paid over the period of benefit or contractual sales volume. When the incentive is paid in arrears, we accrue the expected amount to be paid over the period of benefit or expected sales volume. The recognition of these incentives involves the use of judgment related to performance and sales volume estimates that are made based on historical

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experience and other factors. Sales incentives are accounted for as a reduction of revenues and actual amounts may vary from reported amounts.

NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

See Note 1 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for information about recently issued accounting standards.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Commodities

We purchase various raw materials, including aluminum cans, plastic bottles, high fructose corn syrup, and various juice concentrates, the prices of which fluctuate based on commodity market conditions. Our ability to recover increased costs through higher pricing may be limited by the competitive environment in which we operate.

Interest Rates

We had no debt related interest rate exposure during fiscal 2009. Our investment portfolio is comprised of highly liquid securities consisting primarily of short-term money market instruments, the yields of which fluctuate based largely on short-term Treasury rates. If the yield of these instruments had changed by 100 basis points (1%), interest income for fiscal 2009 would have changed by approximately \$470,000.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

National Beverage and its representatives may from time to time make written or oral statements relating to future events or results relative to our financial, operational and business performance, achievements, objectives and strategies. These statements are forward-looking within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, and include statements contained in this report and other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission and in reports to our stockholders. Certain statements including, without limitation, statements containing the words believes, anticipates, intends, plans, expects, and estimates constitute forward-looking statements and involve and unknown risk, uncertainties and other factors that may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of our Company to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Such factors include, but are not limited to, the following: general economic and business conditions; pricing of competitive products; success in acquiring other beverage businesses; success of new product and flavor introductions; fluctuations in the costs of raw materials and packaging supplies, and the ability to pass along any cost increases to our customers; our ability to increase prices for our products; labor strikes or work stoppages or other interruptions or difficulties in the employment of labor; continued retailer support for our products; changes in consumer preferences and our success in creating products geared toward consumers' tastes; success of implementing business strategies; changes in business strategy or development plans; government regulations; unseasonably cold or wet weather conditions; and other factors referenced in this Form 10-K. We disclaim an obligation to update any such factors or to publicly announce the results of any revisions to any forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect future events or developments.

Table of Contents**ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA****NATIONAL BEVERAGE CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS****AS OF MAY 2, 2009 and MAY 3, 2008**

(In thousands, except share amounts)

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|---|------------|------------|
| Assets | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and equivalents | \$ 84,140 | \$ 51,497 |
| Marketable securities | | 3,000 |
| Trade receivables net of allowances of \$445 (2009) and \$266 (2008) | 53,735 | 49,186 |
| Inventories | 39,612 | 38,754 |
| Deferred income taxes net | 3,262 | 2,895 |
| Prepaid and other assets | 5,552 | 12,009 |
| Total current assets | 186,301 | 157,341 |
| Property, plant and equipment net | 56,141 | 57,639 |
| Goodwill | 13,145 | 13,145 |
| Intangible assets net | 1,861 | 1,899 |
| Other assets | 8,234 | 9,098 |
| | \$ 265,682 | \$ 239,122 |
| Liabilities and Shareholders Equity | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 48,005 | \$ 49,803 |
| Accrued liabilities | 20,142 | 17,965 |
| Income taxes payable | 314 | 177 |
| Total current liabilities | 68,461 | 67,945 |
| Deferred income taxes net | 16,517 | 16,624 |
| Other liabilities | 10,692 | 9,928 |
| Shareholders equity: | | |
| Preferred stock, 7% cumulative, \$1 par value, aggregate liquidation preference of \$15,000 1,000,000 shares authorized; 150,000 shares issued; no shares outstanding | 150 | 150 |
| Common stock, \$.01 par value authorized 75,000,000 shares; issued 50,045,718 shares (2009) and 49,982,838 shares (2008); outstanding 46,012,934 shares (2009) and 45,950,054 shares (2008) | 500 | 500 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 27,153 | 26,508 |
| Retained earnings | 160,209 | 135,467 |
| Treasury stock at cost: | | |
| Preferred stock 150,000 shares | (5,100) | (5,100) |
| Common stock 4,032,784 shares | (12,900) | (12,900) |
| Total shareholders equity | 170,012 | 144,625 |
| | \$ 265,682 | \$ 239,122 |

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

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NATIONAL BEVERAGE CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDED MAY 2, 2009, MAY 3, 2008 AND APRIL 28, 2007

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|------------|------------|------------|
| Net sales | \$ 575,177 | \$ 566,001 | \$ 539,030 |
| Cost of sales | 405,322 | 393,420 | 365,793 |
| Gross profit | 169,855 | 172,581 | 173,237 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 131,918 | 138,447 | 137,212 |
| Interest expense | 107 | 109 | 106 |
| Other income net | 967 | 1,053 | 2,587 |
| Income before income taxes | 38,797 | 35,078 | 38,506 |
| Provision for income taxes | 14,055 | 12,598 | 13,824 |
| Net income | \$ 24,742 | \$ 22,480 | \$ 24,682 |
| Net income per share | | | |
| Basic | \$.54 | \$.49 | \$.54 |
| Diluted | \$.54 | \$.49 | \$.54 |
| Average common shares outstanding | | | |
| Basic | 45,999 | 45,894 | 45,763 |
| Diluted | 46,191 | 46,109 | 46,073 |

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

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NATIONAL BEVERAGE CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY
FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDED MAY 2, 2009, MAY 3, 2008 AND APRIL 28, 2007

(In thousands)

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|---------------------------------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Number of Common Shares Issued | | | |
| Beginning of year | 49,982 | 49,538 | 41,511 |
| Stock options exercised | 63 | 444 | 443 |
| 20% stock dividend | | | 7,584 |
| End of year | 50,045 | 49,982 | 49,538 |
| Preferred Stock | | | |
| Beginning and end of year | \$ 150 | \$ 150 | \$ 150 |
| Common Stock | | | |
| Beginning of year | 500 | 496 | 415 |
| Stock options exercised | | 4 | 5 |
| 20% stock dividend | | | 76 |
| End of year | 500 | 500 | 496 |
| Additional Paid-In Capital | | | |
| Beginning of year | 26,508 | 24,847 | 23,033 |
| Stock options exercised | 245 | 329 | 319 |
| Stock-based compensation | 340 | 311 | 318 |
| Stock-based tax benefits | 60 | 1,021 | 1,177 |
| End of year | 27,153 | 26,508 | 24,847 |
| Retained Earnings | | | |
| Beginning of year | 135,467 | 149,868 | 125,262 |
| Net income | 24,742 | 22,480 | 24,682 |
| Cash dividends paid | | (36,711) | |
| FIN 48 adoption | | (170) | |
| 20% stock dividend | | | (76) |
| End of year | 160,209 | 135,467 | 149,868 |
| Treasury Stock-Preferred | | | |
| Beginning and end of year | (5,100) | (5,100) | (5,100) |

Treasury Stock-Common

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Beginning and end of year | (12,900) | (12,900) | (12,900) |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|----------|

Total Shareholders' Equity

| | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| \$ 170,012 | \$ 144,625 | \$ 157,361 |
|------------|------------|------------|

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

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NATIONAL BEVERAGE CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDED MAY 2, 2009, MAY 3, 2008 AND APRIL 28, 2007

(In thousands)

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Operating Activities: | | | |
| Net income | \$ 24,742 | \$ 22,480 | \$ 24,682 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 11,782 | 11,584 | 11,650 |
| Deferred income tax (benefit) provision | (474) | 1,254 | (2,835) |
| Loss on disposal of property, net | 363 | 196 | 9 |
| Stock-based compensation | 340 | 311 | 318 |
| Changes in assets and liabilities: | | | |
| Trade receivables | (4,549) | 2,790 | (3,740) |
| Inventories | (858) | 5,308 | (9,633) |
| Prepaid and other assets | 2,774 | (2,824) | (3,193) |
| Accounts payable | (1,798) | (4,530) | 16,292 |
| Accrued and other liabilities | 3,507 | (2,581) | (715) |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 35,829 | 33,988 | 32,835 |
| Investing Activities: | | | |
| Marketable securities purchased | (109,450) | (302,195) | (524,980) |
| Marketable securities sold | 112,450 | 299,195 | 524,980 |
| Additions to property, plant and equipment | (6,658) | (9,725) | (10,975) |
| Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment | 167 | 12 | 99 |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (3,491) | (12,713) | (10,876) |
| Financing Activities: | | | |
| Common stock cash dividend | | (36,711) | |
| Proceeds from stock options exercised | 245 | 333 | 324 |
| Stock-based tax benefits | 60 | 1,021 | 1,177 |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities | 305 | (35,357) | 1,501 |
| Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Equivalents | 32,643 | (14,082) | 23,460 |
| Cash and Equivalents Beginning of Year | 51,497 | 65,579 | 42,119 |
| Cash and Equivalents End of Year | \$ 84,140 | \$ 51,497 | \$ 65,579 |

Other Cash Flow Information:

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|--------|----|--------|----|--------|
| Interest paid | \$ | 107 | \$ | 107 | \$ | 106 |
| Income taxes paid | | 11,114 | | 13,767 | | 13,325 |

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

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NATIONAL BEVERAGE CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

National Beverage Corp. develops, manufactures, markets and distributes a complete portfolio of multi-flavored soft drinks, juice drinks, water and specialty beverages throughout the United States. Incorporated in Delaware in 1985, National Beverage Corp. is a holding company for various operating subsidiaries. When used in this report, the terms we, us, our, Company and National Beverage mean National Beverage Corp. and its subsidiaries.

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation

Our consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of National Beverage Corp. and all subsidiaries. All significant intercompany transactions and accounts have been eliminated. Our fiscal year ends the Saturday closest to April 30th and, as a result, an additional week is added every five or six years. Fiscal 2008 consisted of 53 weeks while fiscal 2009 and 2007 consisted of 52 weeks.

Certain amounts in the prior years consolidated financial statements have been revised to conform to the current year presentation.

Cash and Equivalents

Cash and equivalents are comprised of cash and highly liquid securities (consisting primarily of short-term money-market investments) with an original maturity of three months or less.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The fair values of marketable securities are estimated based on market rates. The carrying amounts of trade receivables and accounts payable reflected in the balance sheets approximate their fair values due to their short-term nature.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets

All long-lived assets, excluding goodwill and intangible assets not subject to amortization, are evaluated for impairment on the basis of undiscounted cash flows whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. An impaired asset is written down to its estimated fair market value based on the best information available. Estimated fair market value is generally measured by discounting future cash flows. Goodwill and intangible assets not subject to amortization are evaluated for impairment annually or sooner in accordance with SFAS No. 142. An impairment loss is recognized if the carrying amount, or for goodwill, the carrying amount of its reporting unit, is greater than its fair value.

Income Taxes

Our effective income tax rate is based on estimates of taxes which will ultimately be payable. Deferred taxes are recorded to give recognition to temporary differences between the tax bases of assets or liabilities and their reported amounts in the financial statements. Valuation allowances are established to reduce the carrying amounts of deferred tax assets when it is deemed, more likely than not, that the benefit of deferred tax assets will not be realized.

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At the beginning of fiscal 2008, we adopted the Financial Accounting Standards Board's (FASB) Interpretation Number 48, Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes (FIN 48). FIN 48 clarified the accounting for uncertainty in an enterprise's financial statements by prescribing a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. See Note 7.

Insurance Programs

We maintain self-insured and deductible programs for certain liability, medical and workers' compensation exposures. Accordingly, we accrue for known claims and estimated incurred but not reported claims not otherwise covered by insurance, based on actuarial assumptions and historical claims experience.

Intangible Assets

Intangible assets as of May 2, 2009 and May 3, 2008 consisted primarily of nonamortizable trademarks aggregating \$1,861,000 and \$1,899,000, respectively.

Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of first-in, first-out cost or market. Inventories at May 2, 2009 are comprised of finished goods of \$22,168,000 and raw materials of \$17,444,000. Inventories at May 3, 2008 are comprised of finished goods of \$20,913,000 and raw materials of \$17,841,000.

Marketable Securities

Marketable securities are income yielding securities that generally can be readily converted into cash. All of our marketable securities are classified as trading securities and are reported as current assets at their estimated fair market values. Fair value is based on quoted prices of similar assets in active markets. Valuation of these items does entail significant amount of judgment and the inputs that are significant to the fair value measurement are Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy as defined in SFAS 157, *Fair Value Measurements*. Accordingly, the fair value may not represent actual value of the securities that could have been realized and do not include expenses that could be incurred in an actual sale or settlement.

Marketing Costs

We are involved in a variety of marketing programs, including cooperative advertising programs with customers, to advertise and promote our products to consumers. Marketing costs are expensed when incurred, except for prepaid advertising and production costs which are expensed when the advertising takes place. Marketing costs, which are included in selling, general and administrative expenses, were \$34.9 million in fiscal 2009, \$39.5 million in fiscal 2008, and \$42.4 million in fiscal 2007.

Net Income Per Share

Basic net income per share is computed by dividing net income by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted net income per share is calculated in a similar manner, but includes the dilutive effect of stock options, which amounted to 192,000 shares in fiscal 2009, 215,000 shares in fiscal 2008, and 310,000 shares in fiscal 2007. Options to purchase 33,000 shares in fiscal 2009, 344,000 shares in fiscal 2008, and 1,000 shares in fiscal 2007 were not included in the calculation of diluted net income per share because these options were antidilutive.

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New Accounting Standards

In September 2006, the FASB issued Statement of Financial Standards (SFAS) 157, *Fair Value Measurements* (SFAS 157), which defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. SFAS 157 was effective at the beginning of fiscal 2009 for all financial assets and liabilities and for nonfinancial assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis. The adoption of SFAS 157 did not have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements. For all other nonfinancial assets and liabilities, SFAS 157 is effective at the beginning of fiscal 2010 and we do not believe that the adoption will materially impact our consolidated financial statements.

In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS 159, *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities* (SFAS 159), which permits entities to choose to measure many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value. SFAS 159 was effective at the beginning of our 2009 fiscal year. We did not apply the fair value option to any of our financial instruments; therefore, SFAS 159 did not have an impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS 141 (revised 2007), *Business Combinations* (SFAS 141R), and SFAS 160, *Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements* (SFAS 160), to improve, simplify, and converge internationally the accounting for business combinations and the reporting of noncontrolling interests in consolidated financial statements. The provisions of SFAS 141R and SFAS 160 are effective as of the beginning of our 2010 fiscal year. We are currently evaluating the impact of adopting SFAS 141R and SFAS 160 on our consolidated financial statements.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are recorded at cost. Additions, replacements and betterments are capitalized, while maintenance and repairs that do not extend the useful life of an asset are expensed as incurred. Depreciation is recorded using the straight-line method over estimated useful lives of 7 to 30 years for buildings and improvements, and 3 to 15 years for machinery and equipment. Leasehold improvements are amortized using the straight-line method over the shorter of the remaining lease term or the estimated useful life of the improvement. When assets are retired or otherwise disposed, the cost and accumulated depreciation are removed from the respective accounts and any related gain or loss is recognized.

Revenue Recognition

Revenue from product sales is recognized when title and risk of loss passes to the customer, which generally occurs upon delivery. Our policy is not to allow the return of products once they have been accepted by the customer. However, on occasion, we have accepted returns or issued credit to customers, primarily for damaged goods. The amounts have been immaterial and, accordingly, we do not provide a specific valuation allowance for sales returns.

Sales Incentives

We offer various sales incentive arrangements to our customers which require customer performance or achievement of certain sales volume targets. In those circumstances when the incentive is paid in advance, we amortize the amount paid over the period of benefit or contractual sales volume. When the incentive is paid in arrears, we accrue the expected amount to be paid over the period of benefit or expected sales volume. The recognition of these incentives involves the use of judgment related to performance and sales volume estimates that are made based on historical

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experience and other factors. Sales incentives are accounted for as a reduction of revenues and actual amounts may vary from reported amounts.

Segment Reporting

We operate as a single operating segment for purposes of presenting financial information and evaluating performance. As such, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present financial information in a format that is consistent with the internal financial information used by management. We do not accumulate revenues by product classification and, therefore, it is impractical to present such information.

Shipping and Handling Costs

Shipping and handling costs are reported in selling, general and administrative expenses in the accompanying statements of income. Such costs aggregated \$44.1 million in fiscal 2009, \$45.3 million in fiscal 2008, and \$43.2 million in fiscal 2007. Although our classification is consistent with many beverage companies, our gross margin may not be comparable to companies that include shipping and handling costs in cost of sales.

Stock-Based Compensation

Compensation expense for stock-based compensation awards is recognized based on the grant-date fair value estimated in accordance with the provisions of SFAS No. 123R Share-Based Payments . See Note 8.

Trade Receivables

We record trade receivables at net realizable value, which includes an appropriate allowance for doubtful accounts. We extend credit based on an evaluation of each customer's financial condition, generally without requiring collateral. Exposure to credit losses varies by customer principally due to the financial condition of each customer. We monitor our exposure to credit losses and maintain allowances for anticipated losses based on specific customer circumstances, credit conditions, and historical write-offs. Activity in the allowance for doubtful accounts was as follows:

| | (In thousands) | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------|--------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
| Balance at beginning of year | \$ 266 | \$ 325 | \$ 562 |
| Net charge (credit) to expense | 221 | 91 | (244) |
| Net recovery (charge-off) | (42) | (150) | 7 |
| Balance at end of year | \$ 445 | \$ 266 | \$ 325 |

As of May 2, 2009 and May 3, 2008, we did not have any customer that comprised more than 10% of trade receivables. No one customer accounted for more than 10% of net sales during any of the last three fiscal years.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Although these estimates are based on management's knowledge of current events and anticipated future actions, actual results may vary from reported amounts.

Table of Contents**2. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

Property, plant and equipment as of May 2, 2009 and May 3, 2008 consisted of the following:

| | (In thousands) | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| | 2009 | 2008 |
| Land | \$ 9,779 | \$ 8,954 |
| Buildings and improvements | 44,224 | 41,697 |
| Machinery and equipment | 123,911 | 124,797 |
| Total | 177,914 | 175,448 |
| Less accumulated depreciation | (121,773) | (117,809) |
| Property, plant and equipment net | \$ 56,141 | \$ 57,639 |

Depreciation expense was \$9,456,000 for fiscal 2009, \$9,247,000 for fiscal 2008, and \$9,525,000 for fiscal 2007.

3. ACCRUED LIABILITIES

Accrued liabilities as of May 2, 2009 and May 3, 2008 consisted of the following:

| | (In thousands) | |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------|
| | 2009 | 2008 |
| Accrued promotions | \$ 6,757 | \$ 5,340 |
| Accrued compensation | 6,646 | 5,065 |
| Accrued insurance | 2,117 | 2,783 |
| Other | 4,622 | 4,777 |
| Total | \$ 20,142 | \$ 17,965 |

4. DEBT

At May 2, 2009, a subsidiary of the Company maintained unsecured revolving credit facilities with banks aggregating \$75 million (the "Credit Facilities"). The Credit Facilities expire through December 2013 and currently bear interest at rates ranging from .3% to .6% above LIBOR or, at our election, .5% below the banks' reference rates. At May 2, 2009, \$2.9 million of the Credit Facilities was used for standby letters of credit and \$72.1 million was available for borrowings.

The Credit Facilities require the subsidiary to maintain certain financial ratios and contain other restrictions, none of which are expected to have a material impact on our operations or financial position. Significant financial ratios and restrictions include: fixed charge coverage; net worth ratio; and limitations on incurrence of debt. At May 2, 2009, we were in compliance with all loan covenants and approximately \$25 million of retained earnings were restricted from distribution.

5. CAPITAL STOCK AND TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES

On June 22, 2007, the Company distributed a 20% stock dividend to shareholders, increasing outstanding shares by 7.6 million. On August 17, 2007, the Company paid a special cash dividend of \$.80 per share, aggregating \$36.7 million. Net income per share, average common shares outstanding and share amounts have been restated to give retroactive effect to the 20% stock dividend.

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In January 1998, the Board of Directors authorized the purchase of up to 800,000 shares of National Beverage common stock of which 502,060 shares have been purchased. There were no shares purchased during the three fiscal years ended May 2, 2009.

The Company is a party to a management agreement with Corporate Management Advisors, Inc. (CMA), a corporation owned by our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Under the terms of the agreement, CMA provides (i) senior corporate functions (including supervision of the Company's financial, legal, executive recruitment, internal audit and management information systems departments) as well as the services of a Chief Executive Officer, and (ii) services in connection with acquisitions, dispositions and financings by the Company, including identifying and profiling acquisition candidates, negotiating and structuring potential transactions and arranging financing for any such transaction. CMA, through its personnel, also provides, to the extent possible, the stimulus and creativity to develop an innovative and dynamic persona for the Company, its products and corporate image. The management agreement further provides that CMA will receive an annual base fee equal to one percent of the consolidated net sales of the Company plus incentive compensation based on certain factors to be determined by the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors. In order to fulfill its obligations under the management agreement, the Management Company employs numerous individuals, whom, acting as a unit, provide management, administrative and creative functions for the Company. We incurred fees to CMA of \$5.8 million for fiscal 2009, \$5.7 million for fiscal 2008, and \$5.4 million for fiscal 2007. No incentive compensation has been incurred or approved under the management agreement since its inception. Included in accounts payable at May 2, 2009 and May 3, 2008 were amounts due CMA of \$2.8 million and \$2.7 million, respectively.

6. OTHER INCOME

Other income consisted of the following:

| | (In thousands) | | |
|--|----------------|----------|----------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
| Interest income | \$ 865 | \$ 1,218 | \$ 1,701 |
| Gain on customer contract | 202 | | 895 |
| Gain on legal settlement regarding leased property | 728 | | |
| Loss on disposal of property, net | (363) | (196) | (9) |
| Other income (loss), net | (465) | 31 | |
| Total | \$ 967 | \$ 1,053 | \$ 2,587 |

7. INCOME TAXES

The provision for income taxes consisted of the following:

| | (In thousands) | | |
|----------|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
| Current | \$ 14,529 | \$ 11,344 | \$ 16,659 |
| Deferred | (474) | 1,254 | (2,835) |
| Total | \$ 14,055 | \$ 12,598 | \$ 13,824 |

Deferred taxes are recorded to give recognition to temporary differences between the tax bases of assets or liabilities and their reported amounts in the financial statements. Valuation allowances are established to reduce the carrying amounts of deferred tax assets when it is deemed, more likely

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than not, that the benefit of deferred tax assets will not be realized. Deferred tax assets and liabilities as of May 2, 2009 and May 3, 2008 consisted of the following:

| | (In thousands) | |
|---|----------------|-----------|
| | 2009 | 2008 |
| Deferred tax assets: | | |
| Accrued expenses and other | \$ 4,830 | \$ 4,704 |
| Inventory and amortizable assets | 439 | 359 |
| Total deferred tax assets | 5,269 | 5,063 |
| Deferred tax liabilities: | | |
| Property | 18,504 | 18,703 |
| Intangibles and other | 20 | 89 |
| Total deferred tax liabilities | 18,524 | 18,792 |
| Net deferred tax liabilities | \$ 13,255 | \$ 13,729 |
| Current deferred tax assets net | \$ 3,262 | \$ 2,895 |
| Noncurrent deferred tax liabilities net | \$ 16,517 | \$ 16,624 |

The reconciliation of the statutory federal income tax rate to our effective tax rate is as follows:

| | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
| Statutory federal income tax rate | 35.0% | 35.0% | 35.0% |
| State income taxes, net of federal benefit | 2.4 | 2.8 | 3.0 |
| Other differences | (1.2) | (1.9) | (2.1) |
| Effective income tax rate | 36.2% | 35.9% | 35.9% |

We adopted FIN 48 at the beginning of fiscal 2008. As a result of the implementation of FIN 48, we recorded a \$703,000 increase in liabilities for uncertain tax positions, a \$533,000 decrease in deferred tax liability and a \$170,000 decrease to retained earnings. As of May 2, 2009, the gross amount of unrecognized tax benefits was approximately \$3.7 million, of which approximately \$496,000 was recognized as tax expense in fiscal 2009. If we were to prevail on all uncertain tax positions, the net effect would be to reduce our tax expense by approximately \$3.0 million. A reconciliation of the changes in the gross amount of unrecognized tax benefits, which amounts are included in Other liabilities in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets, is as follows:

| | (In thousands) | |
|--|----------------|----------|
| | 2009 | 2008 |
| Beginning balance | \$ 3,166 | \$ 2,694 |
| Increases due to current period tax positions | 533 | 630 |
| Decreases due to lapse of statute of limitations | (37) | (158) |
| Ending balance | \$ 3,662 | \$ 3,166 |

We recognize accrued interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits in income tax expense. As of May 2, 2009, unrecognized tax benefits included accrued interest of \$491,000, of which approximately \$98,000 was recognized as tax expense in fiscal 2009.

We file annual income tax returns in the United States and in various state and local jurisdictions. A number of years may elapse before an uncertain tax position, for which we have unrecognized tax benefits, is audited and finally resolved. While it is often difficult to predict the final outcome or the timing of resolution of any particular uncertain tax position, we believe that our unrecognized tax

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benefits reflect the most probable outcome. We adjust these unrecognized tax benefits, as well as the related interest, in light of changing facts and circumstances. The resolution of any particular uncertain tax position could require the use of cash and an adjustment to our provision for income taxes in the period of resolution. The Internal Revenue Service has concluded its examination of our federal income tax returns through fiscal 2004 and income tax returns for subsequent fiscal years are subject to examination. Generally, the income tax returns for the various state jurisdictions are subject to examination for fiscal years ending after fiscal 2004.

8. STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION

Our stock-based compensation program is a broad-based program designed to attract and retain employees while also aligning employees' interests with the interests of the stockholders.

The 1991 Omnibus Incentive Plan (the "Omnibus Plan") provides for compensatory awards consisting of (i) stock options or stock awards for up to 4,800,000 shares of common stock, (ii) stock appreciation rights, dividend equivalents, other stock-based awards in amounts up to 4,800,000 shares of common stock and (iii) performance awards consisting of any combination of the above. The Omnibus Plan is designed to provide an incentive to the officers (including those who are also directors) and certain other key employees and consultants by making available to them an opportunity to acquire a proprietary interest or to increase such interest in National Beverage. The number of shares or options which may be issued under stock-based awards to an individual is limited to 1,680,000 during any year. Awards may be granted for no cash consideration or such minimal cash consideration as may be required by law. Options generally vest over a five-year period and expire after ten years.

The Special Stock Option Plan provides for the issuance of stock options to purchase up to an aggregate of 1,800,000 shares of common stock. Options may be granted for such consideration as determined by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors also authorized the issuance of options to purchase up to 120,000 shares of common stock to be issued at the direction of the Chairman.

The Key Employee Equity Partnership Program ("KEEP Program") provides for the granting of stock options to purchase up to 240,000 shares of common stock to key employees, consultants, directors and officers. Participants who purchase shares of stock in the open market receive grants of stock options equal to 50% of the number of shares purchased, up to a maximum of 6,000 shares in any two-year period. Options under the KEEP Program are automatically forfeited in the event of the sale of shares originally acquired by the participant. Options are granted at an initial exercise price of 60% of the purchase price paid for the shares acquired and the exercise price reduces to the stock par value at the end of the six-year vesting period.

We account for our employee stock options under the fair value method of accounting using a Black-Scholes valuation model to measure stock option expense at the date of grant. Generally, stock option grants have an exercise price equal to the fair market value of our common stock on the date of grant and have a 10 year term. The fair value of stock options is amortized to expense over the vesting period.

There were no stock options or other stock-based awards granted in fiscal 2009 under any of our plans. The weighted average Black-Scholes fair value assumptions for stock options granted in prior years are as follows: weighted average expected life of 7.6 years for fiscal 2008 and 8 years

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for 2007; weighted average expected volatility of 36.3% for fiscal 2008 and 33.2% for 2007; weighted average risk free interest rates of 4.6% for fiscal 2008 and 5% for 2007; and no expected dividend payments. The expected life of stock options was estimated based on historical experience. The expected volatility was estimated based on historical stock prices for a period consistent with the expected life of stock options. The risk free interest rate was based on the U.S. Treasury constant maturity interest rate whose term is consistent with the expected life of stock options.

Forfeitures were estimated based on historical experience.

The following is a summary of stock option activity for fiscal 2009:

| | Shares | Price (a) |
|--|----------|-----------|
| Options outstanding, beginning of year | 676,919 | \$4.47 |
| Exercised | (62,880) | 3.91 |
| Cancelled | (18,756) | 4.74 |
| Options outstanding, end of year | 595,283 | 3.87 |
| Options exercisable, end of year | 377,268 | 3.17 |

(a) Weighted average exercise price.

Stock-based compensation expense for fiscal 2009, fiscal 2008 and fiscal 2007 was \$340,000, \$311,000, and \$318,000, respectively. The total fair value of shares vested for fiscal 2009, fiscal 2008 and fiscal 2007 was \$304,000, \$292,000, and \$258,000, respectively. The total intrinsic value for stock options exercised during fiscal 2009, fiscal 2008 and fiscal 2007 was \$217,000, \$1.2 million, and \$1.1 million, respectively. The weighted average fair value for stock options granted in fiscal 2008 and fiscal 2007 was \$7.02 and \$13.84, respectively.

As of May 2, 2009, unrecognized compensation expense related to the unvested portion of our stock options was \$908,000, which is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 2.8 years. The weighted average remaining contractual term and the aggregate intrinsic value for options outstanding as of May 2, 2009 was 4.2 years and \$3.9 million, respectively. The weighted average remaining contractual term and the aggregate intrinsic value for options exercisable as of May 2, 2009 was 3.3 years and \$2.8 million, respectively.

For fiscal 2009, net cash proceeds from the exercise of stock options were \$245,000 and stock based income tax benefits aggregated \$60,000.

We have a stock purchase plan which provides for the purchase of up to 1,536,000 shares of common stock by employees who (i) have been employed for at least two years, (ii) are not part-time employees and (iii) are not owners of five percent or more of National Beverage common stock. As of May 2, 2009, no shares have been issued under the plan.

9. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

We lease buildings, machinery and equipment under various non-cancelable operating lease agreements expiring at various dates through 2019. Certain of these leases contain scheduled rent increases and/or renewal options.

Contractual rent increases are taken into account when calculating the minimum lease payment and recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term. Rent expense under operating lease agreements totaled approximately \$7.7 million for fiscal 2009, \$8.3 million for fiscal 2008, and \$8.2 million for fiscal 2007.

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Our minimum lease payments under non-cancelable operating leases as of May 2, 2009 are as follows:

| | (In thousands) |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Fiscal 2010 | \$ 5,335 |
| Fiscal 2011 | 3,609 |
| Fiscal 2012 | 2,938 |
| Fiscal 2013 | 1,809 |
| Fiscal 2014 | 955 |
| Thereafter | 3,022 |
| Total minimum lease payments | \$ 17,668 |

We have guaranteed the residual value of certain leased equipment in the amount of \$11.3 million. No liability has been recorded as management believes that the net realizable value of such equipment will be in excess of the guaranteed amount when the lease terminates in July 2012 and that the fair market value of the guarantee is immaterial.

The Company contributes to certain pension plans under collective bargaining agreements based on hours worked and to a discretionary profit sharing plan, neither of which have any long-term contractual funding requirements. Contributions were \$2.3 million for fiscal 2009 and \$2.2 million for fiscal 2008 and 2007.

We enter into various agreements with suppliers for the purchase of raw materials, the terms of which may include variable or fixed pricing and minimum purchase quantities. As of May 2, 2009, we had purchase commitments for raw materials of \$42.3 million.

From time to time, we are a party to various litigation matters arising in the ordinary course of business. In our opinion, the ultimate disposition of such matters will not have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position or results of operations.

10. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL DATA (UNAUDITED)

| | | (In thousands, except per share amounts) | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|--|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | | First Quarter | Second Quarter | Third Quarter | Fourth Quarter |
| <u>Fiscal 2009</u> | | | | | |
| Net sales | | \$ 152,927 | \$ 144,375 | \$ 129,430 | \$ 148,445 |
| Gross profit | | 46,064 | 42,509 | 37,122 | 44,160 |
| Net income | | 7,751 | 6,483 | 3,654 | 6,854 |
| Net income per share | basic | \$.17 | \$.14 | \$.08 | \$.15 |
| Net income per share | diluted | \$.17 | \$.14 | \$.08 | \$.15 |
| <u>Fiscal 2008 (1)</u> | | | | | |
| Net sales | | \$ 151,764 | \$ 143,528 | \$ 123,182 | \$ 147,527 |
| Gross profit | | 46,391 | 44,525 | 37,669 | 43,996 |
| Net income | | 7,185 | 6,477 | 3,254 | 5,564 |
| Net income per share | basic | \$.16 | \$.14 | \$.07 | \$.12 |
| Net income per share | diluted | \$.16 | \$.14 | \$.07 | \$.12 |

(1) Fiscal 2008
fourth quarter
included
fourteen weeks

while other
quarters
included
thirteen weeks.

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders

National Beverage Corp.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of National Beverage Corp. as of May 2, 2009 and May 3, 2008, and the related consolidated statements of income, shareholders' equity and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended May 2, 2009. We also have audited National Beverage Corp.'s internal control over financial reporting as of May 2, 2009, based on criteria established in Internal Control – Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). National Beverage Corp.'s management is responsible for these financial statements, for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement and whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audits of the financial statements included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed 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. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

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In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of National Beverage Corp. as of May 2, 2009 and May 3, 2008, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended May 2, 2009, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Also in our opinion, National Beverage Corp. maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of May 2, 2009, based on criteria established in Internal Control Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

As discussed in Notes 1 and 7 to the consolidated financial statements, in fiscal 2008 the Company changed its method of accounting for uncertainty in income taxes.

/s/ McGladrey & Pullen, LLP

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

July 16, 2009

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ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

Not applicable.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

As of the end of the period covered by this report, we carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) of the Exchange Act). Based upon that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective to ensure information required to be disclosed by us in reports we file or submit under the Exchange Act is (1) recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in SEC rules and forms, and (2) accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Rule 13a-15(f) of the Exchange Act. Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer, we conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting based on the framework in *Internal Control Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on that evaluation, our management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting is effective as of May 2, 2009.

Management recognizes that there are inherent limitations in the effectiveness of any internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of human error and the circumvention or overriding of internal control.

Accordingly, even effective internal control over financial reporting can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation. Further, because of changes in conditions, the effectiveness of internal control may vary over time.

McGladrey & Pullen, LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, has audited the consolidated financial statements included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K and, as part of their audit, has issued their report, included herein, on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting.

Changes in Internal Controls over Financial Reporting

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended May 2, 2009 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

Not applicable.

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The information required by Item 10 will be included under the captions Election of Directors , Information as to Nominees and Other Directors , Information Regarding Meetings and Committees of the Board and Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance in the Company s 2009 Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to the officers of the Registrant as of May 2, 2009.

| Name | Age | Position with Company |
|-------------------------|-----|--|
| Nick A. Caporella (1) | 73 | Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer |
| Joseph G. Caporella (2) | 49 | President |
| Edward F. Knecht (3) | 74 | Executive Vice President Procurement |
| George R. Bracken (4) | 64 | Senior Vice President Finance |
| Dean A. McCoy (5) | 52 | Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer |

(1) Mr. Nick A. Caporella has served as Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, and Director since the Company s inception in 1985. Also, he serves as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Since January 1, 1992, Mr. Caporella s services have been provided to the Company by Corporate Management Advisors, Inc., a company which he owns.

(2) Mr. Joseph G. Caporella has

served as
President since
September 2002
and, prior to
that, as
Executive Vice
President and
Secretary since
January 1991.
Also, he has
served as a
Director since
January 1987.
Joseph G.
Caporella is the
son of Nick A.
Caporella.

(3) Mr. Edward F.
Knecht was
named
Executive Vice
President
Procurement in
August 2005
and, prior to that
date, served as
President of
Shasta
Sweetener
Corp., a
wholly-owned
subsidiary of the
Company, since
May 1998.

(4) Mr. George R.
Bracken was
named Senior
Vice President
Finance in
October 2000
and, prior to that
date, served as
Vice President
and Treasurer
since
October 1996.

(5) Mr. Dean A.
McCoy was

named Senior
Vice President
and Chief
Accounting
Officer in
October 2003
and, prior to that
date, served as
Senior Vice
President
Controller since
October 2000.
Prior to
October 2000,
he served as
Vice President
Controller since
July 1993.

All officers serve until their successors are chosen and may be removed at any time by the Board of Directors. Officers are normally appointed each year at the first meeting of the Board of Directors after the annual meeting of shareholders.

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ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The information required by Item 11 will be included under the captions Executive Compensation and Other Information and Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation in the Company's 2009 Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

The information required by Item 12 will be included under the captions Security Ownership and Equity Compensation Plan Information in the Company's 2009 Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

The information required by Item 13 will be included under the captions Certain Relationships and Related Party Transactions and Information Regarding Meetings and Committees of the Board in the Company's 2009 Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

The information required by Item 14 will be included under the caption Independent Auditors in the Company's 2009 Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a) The following documents are filed as part of this report:

| | Page |
|--|------|
| 1. Financial Statements | |
| <u>Consolidated Balance Sheets</u> | 17 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Income</u> | 18 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity</u> | 19 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows</u> | 20 |
| <u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u> | 21 |
| <u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u> | 31 |
| 2. Financial Statement Schedules | |
| Not applicable | |
| 3. Exhibits | |
| See Exhibit Index which follows. | |

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EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit No. | Description |
|-------------|---|
| 3.1 | Restated Certificate of Incorporation (1) |
| 3.2 | Amended and Restated By-Laws (1) |
| 10.1 | Management Agreement between the Company and Corporate Management Advisors, Inc. (2) |
| 10.2 | National Beverage Corp. Investment and Profit Sharing Plan (1) |
| 10.3 | National Beverage Corp. 1991 Omnibus Incentive Plan (2) |
| 10.4 | National Beverage Corp. 1991 Stock Purchase Plan (2) |
| 10.5 | Credit Agreement, dated as of September 23, 1993, between NewBevCo, Inc. and the lender therein (3) |
| 10.6 | First Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated November 10, 1994, between NewBevCo and lender therein (4) |
| 10.7 | Second Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated November 21, 1995, between NewBevCo and lender therein (5) |
| 10.8 | Third Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated February 29, 1996, between NewBevCo and lender therein (6) |
| 10.9 | Fourth Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated April 24, 1996, between NewBevCo and lender therein (6) |
| 10.10 | Fifth Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated November 14, 1996, between NewBevCo and lender therein (7) |
| 10.11 | Amendment No. 1 to the National Beverage Corp. Omnibus Incentive Plan (6) |
| 10.12 | National Beverage Corp. Special Stock Option Plan (8) |
| 10.13 | Amendment No. 2 to the National Beverage Corp. Omnibus Incentive Plan (9) |
| 10.14 | National Beverage Corp. Key Employee Equity Partnership Program (9) |
| 10.15 | Tenth Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated April 26, 2002, between NewBevCo and lender therein (10) |
| 10.16 | Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated June 30, 2008, between NewBevCo and lender therein (11) |
| 10.17 | Amendment to National Beverage Corp. Special Stock Option Plan (12) |

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| | |
|-------|---|
| 10.18 | Amendment to National Beverage Corp. Key Employee Equity Partnership Program (12) |
| 21.1 | Subsidiaries of Registrant (13) |
| 23.1 | Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm (13) |
| 31.1 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (13) |
| 31.2 | Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (13) |
| 32.1 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (13) |
| 32.2 | Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (13) |

(1) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to the Form S-1 Registration Statement (File No. 33-38986) on February 19, 1991 and is incorporated herein by reference.

(2) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Amendment No. 1 to Form S-1 Registration Statement (File No. 33-38986) on July 26, 1991 and is incorporated herein by reference.

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- (3) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal period ended October 30, 1993 and is incorporated herein by reference.
- (4) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal period ended October 29, 1994 and is incorporated herein by reference.
- (5) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal period ended January 27, 1996 and is incorporated herein by

reference.

(6) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended April 27, 1996 and is incorporated herein by reference.

(7) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal period ended January 25, 1997 and is incorporated herein by reference.

(8) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Registration Statement on Form

S-8 (File No. 33-95308) on August 1, 1995 and is incorporated herein by

reference.

- (9) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 3, 1997 and is incorporated herein by reference.
- (10) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended April 27, 2002 and is incorporated herein by reference.
- (11) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal period ended August 2, 2008 and is incorporated herein by reference.

(12)

Previously filed
with the
Securities and
Exchange
Commission as
an exhibit to
Quarterly
Report on Form
10-Q for the
fiscal period
ended
January 31,
2009 and is
incorporated
herein by
reference.

(13) Filed herein.

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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 its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

National Beverage Corp.

(Registrant)

By: /s/ Dean A. McCoy
Dean A. McCoy
Senior Vice President and
Chief Accounting Officer
Date: July 16, 2009

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

/s/ Nick A. Caporella

Nick A. Caporella
Chairman of the Board and
Chief Executive Officer
Date: July 16, 2009

/s/ Cecil D. Conlee

Cecil D. Conlee
Director
Date: July 16, 2009

/s/ Joseph G. Caporella

Joseph G. Caporella
President and Director
Date: July 16, 2009

/s/ Samuel C. Hathorn, Jr.

Samuel C. Hathorn, Jr.
Director
Date: July 16, 2009

/s/ George R. Bracken

George R. Bracken
Senior Vice President Finance
(Principal Financial Officer)
Date: July 16, 2009

/s/ Joseph P. Klock, Jr.

Joseph P. Klock, Jr.
Director
Date: July 16, 2009