

ROSS STORES INC  
Form 10-Q  
December 12, 2007

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 10-Q**

(Mark one)

X

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

**For the quarterly period ended November 3, 2007**

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: 0-14678

**Ross Stores, Inc.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or  
organization)

**94-1390387**

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**4440 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton, California**

(Address of principal executive offices)

**94588-3050**

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code

**(925) 965-4400**

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

N/A

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of "accelerated filer and large accelerated filer" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one): Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer

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

The number of shares of Common Stock, with \$.01 par value, outstanding on November 21, 2007 was 135,475,503.

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**PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**Item 1. Financial Statements**

**Condensed Consolidated Statements of Earnings**

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	November 3, 2007	October 28, 2006	November 3, 2007	October 28, 2006
(\$000, except per share data, unaudited)				
<b>Sales</b>	<b>\$ 1,468,337</b>	\$ 1,362,045	<b>\$ 4,323,510</b>	\$ 3,961,773
<b>Costs and expenses</b>				
Cost of goods sold	1,150,754	1,073,820	3,353,318	3,086,786
Selling, general and administrative	238,847	217,586	698,376	635,388
Interest income, net	(12)	(1,775)	(1,338)	(5,213)
Total costs and expenses	1,389,589	1,289,631	4,050,356	3,716,961
Earnings before taxes	78,748	72,414	273,154	244,812
Provision for taxes on earnings	30,066	28,481	106,565	96,285
Net earnings	\$ 48,682	\$ 43,933	\$ 166,589	\$ 148,527
<b>Earnings per share</b>				
Basic	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.32	\$ 1.23	\$ 1.06
Diluted	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.31	\$ 1.21	\$ 1.04
<b>Weighted average shares outstanding (000)</b>				
Basic	134,429	138,570	135,856	140,184
Diluted	136,215	140,887	138,172	142,672
<b>Dividends per share</b>				
Cash dividends declared per share	\$ 0.08	\$ 0.06	\$ 0.15	\$ 0.12
Stores open at end of period	893	798	893	798

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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**Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets**

November 3,

October 28,

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(\$000, unaudited)	<b>2007</b>	February 3, 2007 (Note A)	2006
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 151,548	\$ 367,388	\$ 122,069
Short-term investments	6,177	5,247	4,857
Accounts receivable	47,515	30,105	36,823
Merchandise inventory	1,119,070	1,051,729	1,065,549
Prepaid expenses and other	57,392	44,245	51,326
Deferred income taxes	32,647	16,242	20,014
Total current assets	1,414,349	1,514,956	1,300,638
<b>Property and Equipment</b>			
Land and buildings	155,763	134,804	141,098
Fixtures and equipment	921,026	859,750	810,115
Leasehold improvements	459,964	402,921	392,699
Construction-in-progress	45,224	22,681	41,684
	1,581,977	1,420,156	1,385,596
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	753,490	671,923	645,211
Property and equipment, net	828,487	748,233	740,385
Other long-term assets	67,979	64,266	60,267
Long-term investments	32,827	31,136	30,838
Total assets	\$ 2,343,642	\$ 2,358,591	\$ 2,132,128
<b>Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable	\$ 654,341	\$ 698,063	\$ 670,578
Accrued expenses and other	223,892	206,516	224,260
Accrued payroll and benefits	134,671	145,101	152,688
Income taxes payable	-	33,577	-
Total current liabilities	1,012,904	1,083,257	1,047,526
Long-term debt	150,000	150,000	-
Other long-term liabilities	170,214	129,303	128,503
Deferred income taxes	79,621	86,201	97,363
Commitments and contingencies			
<b>Stockholders' Equity</b>			
Common stock	1,354	1,402	1,406
Additional paid-in capital	568,766	545,702	520,394
Treasury stock	(25,660)	(22,031)	(21,180)
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	408	(163)	25
Retained earnings	386,035	384,920	358,091
Total stockholders' equity	930,903	909,830	858,736
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 2,343,642	\$ 2,358,591	\$ 2,132,128

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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**Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows**

(\$000, unaudited)	<b>Nine Months Ended</b>	
	<b>November 3, 2007</b>	October 28, 2006
<b>Cash Flows From Operating Activities</b>		
Net earnings	\$ 166,589	\$ 148,527
Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	88,471	78,680
Stock-based compensation	19,535	20,121
Deferred income taxes	(22,987)	(496)
Tax benefit from equity issuance	5,601	11,943
Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation	(4,697)	(4,509)
Change in assets and liabilities:		
Merchandise inventory	(67,341)	(127,458)
Other current assets, net	(30,557)	(21,937)
Accounts payable	(33,277)	204,604
Other current liabilities	(19,933)	15,145
Other long-term, net	31,001	5,629
Net cash provided by operating activities	<b>132,405</b>	330,249
<b>Cash Flows From Investing Activities</b>		
Purchase of assets under lease	-	(87,329)
Additions to property and equipment	(176,790)	(93,365)
Purchases of investments	(63,213)	(67,328)
Proceeds from investments	61,162	55,602
Net cash used in investing activities	<b>(178,841)</b>	(192,420)
<b>Cash Flows From Financing Activities</b>		
Payment of term debt	-	(50,000)
Issuance of common stock related to stock plans	12,789	13,991
Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation	4,697	4,509
Treasury stock purchased	(3,638)	(2,935)
Repurchase of common stock	(152,598)	(147,726)
Dividends paid	(30,654)	(25,366)
Net cash used in financing activities	<b>(169,404)</b>	(207,527)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	<b>(215,840)</b>	(69,698)
Cash and cash equivalents:		
Beginning of period	367,388	191,767
End of period	\$ 151,548	\$ 122,069

**Supplemental Cash Flow Disclosures**

Interest paid	\$	<b>4,834</b>	\$	759
Income taxes paid	\$	<b>142,767</b>	\$	125,522

**Non-Cash Investing Activities**

Change in fair value of investment securities	\$	<b>570</b>	\$	5
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See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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**Notes to Interim Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements**

Three and Nine Months Ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006  
(Unaudited)

**Note A: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**Basis of Presentation.** The accompanying unaudited interim condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared from the records of Ross Stores, Inc. and subsidiaries (the "Company") without audit and, in the opinion of management, include all adjustments (consisting of only normal, recurring adjustments) necessary to present fairly the Company's financial position as of November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006, the results of operations for the three and nine months ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006, and cash flows for the nine months ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006. The Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet as of February 3, 2007, presented herein, has been derived from the Company's audited consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year then ended.

Accounting policies followed by the Company are described in Note A to the audited consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended February 3, 2007. Certain information and disclosures normally included in the notes to annual consolidated financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America have been condensed or omitted for purposes of the interim condensed consolidated financial statements. The interim condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements, including notes thereto, contained in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 3, 2007.

The results of operations for the three and nine-month periods ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006 herein presented are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full fiscal year.

**Total comprehensive income.** The components of total comprehensive income for the three and nine-month periods ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006 are as follows (in \$000):

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	November 3, 2007	October 28, 2006	November 3, 2007	October 28, 2006
Net income	\$ 48,682	\$ 43,933	\$ 166,589	\$ 148,527
Unrealized gain on investments, net of taxes	318	120	348	2
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	<b>\$ 49,000</b>	<b>\$ 44,053</b>	<b>\$ 166,937</b>	<b>\$ 148,529</b>

**FIN 48.** Effective in fiscal year 2007, the Company adopted the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Interpretation No. 48, "Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes, an interpretation of FASB Statement 109" ("FIN 48"). This interpretation prescribes a recognition threshold of more-likely-than-not and a measurement attribute for financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. See Note E for more information on the Company's adoption of FIN 48.

**Stock-based compensation.** Effective in fiscal year 2006, the Company adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 123(R), "Share-Based Payment," using the modified prospective transition method. This accounting standard requires recognition of compensation expense based upon the grant date fair value of all stock-based awards, typically over the vesting period. See Note B for more information on the Company's stock-based compensation plans.

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**Dividends.** Dividends included in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows reflect actual dividends paid during the periods shown. Dividends per share reported in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Earnings reflects dividends declared during the period shown. In January, May, and August of 2007, the Company's Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$.075 per common share, paid in March, July and October of 2007, respectively. The Company's Board of Directors declared quarterly cash dividends of \$.06 per common share in January, May, August, and November 2006, paid in March 2006, June 2006, October 2006, and January 2007, respectively.

In November 2007, the Company's Board of Directors declared a cash dividend payment of \$.075 per common share, payable on or about January 2, 2008.

**Provision for litigation expense and other legal proceedings.** Like many California retailers, the Company has been named in class action lawsuits regarding wage and hour claims. In February 2007, the Orange County Superior Court approved a settlement of the cases involving whether the Company's assistant store managers in California are correctly classified as exempt under California Wage Orders. The approved settlement obligation was paid during the quarter ended May 5, 2007.

Other class action litigation involving allegations that hourly associates have missed meal and/or rest break periods, as well as allegations of unpaid overtime wages to assistant store managers at all Company stores under federal law, remains pending as of November 3, 2007. Resolution of these matters is not expected to have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition or results of operations.

The Company is also party in various other legal proceedings arising in the normal course of business. Actions filed against the Company include commercial, customer, and labor and employment-related claims. Actions against the Company are in various procedural stages. Many of these proceedings raise factual and legal issues and are subject to uncertainties. In the opinion of management, resolution of these matters is not expected to have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition or results of operations.

#### **Note B: Stock-Based Compensation**

**Stock options and restricted stock.** The Company has one equity incentive compensation plan, the 2004 Equity Incentive Plan (the "2004 Plan"). The 2004 Plan provides for various types of incentive awards, which may potentially include the grant of non-qualified and incentive stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock purchase rights, restricted stock shares, restricted stock units, performance shares, performance units and deferred stock units. The 2004 Plan also provides for the automatic grant of stock options to each non-employee director at pre-established times and at a predetermined formula to determine the number of shares subject to stock options. Under the 2004 Plan, stock options are granted at exercise prices not less than the fair market value on the date the option is granted, expire not more than ten years from the date of grant, and normally vest over a period not exceeding five years from the date of grant.

**Restricted stock.** The Company grants restricted shares to officers and key employees. The fair value of these shares at the date of grant is expensed on a straight-line basis over the vesting period of generally two to five years. During the nine-month period ended November 3, 2007, restricted stock awards totaling 524,000 shares were issued and awards totaling 38,000 shares were forfeited. The aggregate unamortized compensation expense at November 3, 2007 was \$32.2 million. During the period, shares withheld for tax withholding totaled 115,000 shares, and are considered treasury shares which are available for reissuance. As of November 3, 2007, shares subject to repurchase related to unvested restricted stock totaled 2.0 million shares. A total of 2.8 million shares were available for future restricted stock awards under the 2004 Plan as of November 3, 2007.

**Performance shares.** Beginning in fiscal 2007, the Company initiated a performance share award program for senior executives. The performance share program represents a right to receive shares of common stock on a

specified settlement date based on the Company's attainment of a profitability-based performance goal during a performance period. If attained, the common stock then granted vests over a specified remaining service period, generally 2 years.

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**Employee stock purchase plan.** Under the Employee Stock Purchase Plan ( ESPP ), eligible full-time employees participating in the offering period can choose to have up to the lesser of 10% or \$21,250 of their annual base earnings withheld to purchase the Company's common stock. The purchase price of the stock is the lower of 85% of the market price at the beginning of the offering period or end of the offering period.

**Stock-based compensation.** For the three and nine-month periods ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006, the Company recognized stock-based compensation expense as follows (in \$000):

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>		<b>Nine Months Ended</b>	
	<b>November 3, 2007</b>	October 28, 2006	<b>November 3, 2007</b>	October 28, 2006
Stock options and ESPP	\$ 2,369	\$ 3,232	\$ 7,279	\$ 10,004
Restricted stock and performance shares	4,117	3,268	12,256	10,117
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,486</b>	<b>\$ 6,500</b>	<b>\$ 19,535</b>	<b>\$ 20,121</b>

Capitalized stock-based compensation cost was not significant.

The determination of the fair value of stock options and ESPP shares, using the Black-Scholes model, is affected by the Company's stock price as well as assumptions as to the Company's expected stock price volatility over the term of the awards, actual and projected employee stock option exercise behavior, the risk-free interest rate, and expected dividends.

The Company estimates the expected term of options granted taking into account historical and expected future exercise, cancellation and forfeiture behavior. The Company estimates the volatility of the common stock by using historical volatility over a period equal to the award's expected term. The risk-free interest rates used in the valuation models are based upon yields of U.S. Treasury issues with remaining terms similar to the expected term of the options. Dividend yield has been estimated based on the Company's expectation as to future dividend payouts.

The Company uses historical data to estimate pre-vesting forfeiture rates in determining the amount of stock-based compensation expense to recognize. All stock-based compensation awards are amortized on a straight-line basis over the requisite service periods of the awards.

The fair value of stock options and ESPP rights granted during the respective periods (no stock option grants were made for the three months ended November 3, 2007) were estimated using the following assumptions:

<b>Stock Options</b>	<b>Three Months Ended</b>		<b>Nine Months Ended</b>	
	<b>November 3, 2007</b>	October 28, 2006	<b>November 3, 2007</b>	October 28, 2006
Expected term from grant date (years)	--	3.9	3.9	4.2
Expected volatility	--	30.3%	28.4%	32.5%
Risk-free interest rate	--	5.1%	4.7%	4.6%
Dividend yield	--	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%

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Employee Stock Purchase Plan	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	November 3, 2007	October 28, 2006	November 3, 2007	October 28, 2006
Expected term from grant date (years)	0.5	0.5	1.0	1.0
Expected volatility	21.2%	26.6%	26.4%	26.7%
Risk-free interest rate	5.0%	4.5%	5.0%	4.5%
Dividend yield	0.9%	0.8%	0.9%	0.8%

Total stock-based compensation recognized in the Company's Condensed Consolidated Statements of Earnings for the periods ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006 is classified as follows (in \$000):

Statements of Earnings Classification	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	November 3, 2007	October 28, 2006	November 3, 2007	October 28, 2006
Cost of goods sold	\$ 2,695	\$ 2,591	\$ 8,274	\$ 8,464
Selling, general and administrative	3,791	3,909	11,261	11,657
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,486</b>	<b>\$ 6,500</b>	<b>\$ 19,535</b>	<b>\$ 20,121</b>

The weighted average fair values per share of stock options granted for the three-month period ended October 28, 2006 was \$7.31, and for the nine-month periods ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006, were \$9.18 and \$8.52, respectively. The weighted average fair values per share of employee stock purchase awards for the three-month periods ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006, were \$8.02 and \$7.72, and for the nine-month periods ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006, were \$8.02 and \$7.72, respectively.

**Stock option activity.** The following table summarizes stock option activity for the nine months ended November 3, 2007:

	Number of shares	Weighted average exercise price	Weighted average remaining contractual term	Aggregate intrinsic value
(000, except per share data)				
Outstanding at February 3, 2007	7,227	\$ 22.47		
Granted	580	\$ 34.21		
Exercised	(776)	\$ 16.48		
Forfeited	(169)	\$ 27.31		
<b>Outstanding at November 3, 2007</b>	<b>6,862</b>	<b>\$ 24.02</b>	<b>6.01</b>	<b>\$ 25,893</b>
<b>Vested or Expected to Vest at November 3, 2007</b>	<b>6,718</b>	<b>\$ 23.88</b>	<b>5.96</b>	<b>\$ 25,877</b>
<b>Exercisable at November 3, 2007</b>	<b>4,808</b>	<b>\$ 21.59</b>	<b>5.08</b>	<b>\$ 25,654</b>

The following table summarizes information about the weighted average remaining contractual term (in years) and the weighted average exercise price for stock options both outstanding and exercisable as of November 3, 2007 (number of shares in thousands):

Exercise price range	Options outstanding			Options exercisable	
	Number of shares	Remaining life	Exercise price	Number of shares	Exercise price
\$ 6.69 to \$ 18.89	1,509	2.35	\$ 12.39	1,509	\$ 12.39
18.90 to 26.47	1,432	5.75	21.92	1,279	21.63
26.50 to 28.35	1,451	7.46	27.69	926	27.68
28.36 to 29.14	1,379	7.20	28.64	677	28.66
\$ 29.17 to \$ 34.37	1,091	7.99	32.13	417	29.77
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,862</b>	<b>6.01</b>	<b>\$ 24.02</b>	<b>4,808</b>	<b>\$ 21.59</b>

**Note C: Earnings Per Share**

SFAS No. 128, "Earnings Per Share," requires both basic and diluted earnings per share ("EPS") to be computed and reported. Basic EPS is computed by dividing net earnings by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted EPS is computed by dividing net earnings by the sum of the weighted average number of common shares and dilutive common stock equivalents outstanding during the period. Dilutive EPS reflects the potential dilution that could occur if outstanding options to issue common stock were exercised into common stock.

For the three and nine-month periods ended November 3, 2007, there were approximately 4,242,700 and 822,500 shares, respectively, that could potentially dilute basic EPS in the future that were excluded from the calculation of diluted EPS because their effect would have been anti-dilutive in the periods presented. For the three and nine-month periods ended October 28, 2006, there were approximately 4,087,500 and 3,757,800 shares, respectively, that could potentially dilute basic EPS in the future that were excluded from the calculation of diluted EPS because their effect would have been anti-dilutive in the periods presented.

The following is a reconciliation of the number of shares (denominator) used in the basic and diluted EPS computations (shares in thousands):

	Three Months Ended			Nine Months Ended		
	Basic EPS	Effect of Dilutive Common Stock Equivalents	Diluted EPS	Basic EPS	Effect of Dilutive Common Stock Equivalents	Diluted EPS
<b>November 3, 2007</b>						
Shares	134,429	1,786	136,215	135,856	2,316	138,172
Amount	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.36	\$ 1.23	\$ (0.02)	\$ 1.21
<b>October 28, 2006</b>						
Shares	138,570	2,317	140,887	140,184	2,488	142,672
Amount	\$ 0.32	\$ (0.01)	\$ 0.31	\$ 1.06	\$ (0.02)	\$ 1.04

**Note D: Debt and Revolving Credit**

In July 2006, the Company amended its existing \$600.0 million revolving credit facility, extending the expiration date to July 2011, and changing the interest pricing to LIBOR plus 45 basis points.

In October 2006, the Company entered into a Note Purchase Agreement with various institutional investors for \$150.0 million of unsecured, senior notes. The notes were issued in two series and funding occurred in December 2006. The series A notes were issued for an aggregate of \$85.0 million, are due in December 2018, and bear interest at a rate of 6.38%. The series B notes were issued for an aggregate of \$65.0 million, are due in December 2021, and bear interest at a rate of 6.53%. Borrowings under these notes are subject to certain operating and

financial covenants including maintaining certain interest coverage and leverage ratios. As of November 3, 2007, the Company was in compliance with these covenants.

**Note E: Income Taxes**

In June 2006, the FASB issued FIN 48. This statement clarifies the criteria that an individual tax position must satisfy for some or all of the benefits of that position to be recognized in a company's consolidated financial statements. FIN 48 prescribes a recognition threshold of more-likely-than-not, and a measurement attribute for all tax positions taken or expected to be taken on a tax return, in order for those tax positions to be recognized in the consolidated financial statements.

Effective February 4, 2007, the Company adopted the provisions of FIN 48. As a result, the Company established a \$26.3 million reserve for unrecognized tax benefits, inclusive of \$6.0 million of related interest. The reserve is classified as a long-term liability and included in other long-term liabilities on the Company's condensed consolidated balance sheet. Upon adoption of FIN 48, the Company also recognized a reduction in retained earnings of \$7.4 million and certain other deferred income tax assets and liabilities were reclassified.

As of November 3, 2007, the reserve for unrecognized tax benefits is \$28.1 million inclusive of \$6.2 million of related interest. The Company accounts for interest related to unrecognized tax benefits as a part of its provision for taxes on earnings. If recognized, \$16.5 million would impact the Company's effective tax rate. The difference between the total amount of unrecognized tax benefits and the amounts that would impact the effective tax rate relates to amounts attributable to deferred income tax assets and liabilities. These amounts are net of federal and state income taxes.

During the next twelve months, it is reasonably possible that the statute of limitations may lapse pertaining to positions taken by the Company in prior year tax returns. As a result, the total amount of unrecognized tax benefits may decrease, which would reduce the provision for taxes on earnings by up to \$3.0 million, net of federal tax benefits.

The Company is currently open to audit by the Internal Revenue Service under the statute of limitations for fiscal years 2004 through 2006. The Company's state income tax returns are open to audit under the statute of limitations for the fiscal years 2003 through 2006. Certain state tax returns are currently under audit by the state tax authorities. The Company does not expect the result of these audits to have a material impact on the consolidated financial statements.

**Note F: Recently Issued Accounting Standards**

SFAS No. 157, "Fair Value Measurements" (SFAS No. 157) is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. SFAS No. 157 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands required disclosures regarding fair value measurements. The Company does not believe the adoption of SFAS No. 157 will have a material impact on its operating results or financial position.

SFAS No. 159, "The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities" (SFAS 159) is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. SFAS No. 159 establishes a fair value option under which entities can elect to report certain financial assets and liabilities at fair value, with changes in fair value recognized in earnings. The Company does not believe the adoption of SFAS No. 159 will have a material impact on its operating results or financial position.

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**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of  
Ross Stores, Inc.  
Pleasanton, California

We have reviewed the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheets of Ross Stores, Inc. and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006, and the related condensed consolidated statements of earnings for the three-month and nine-month periods ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006, and of

cash flows for the nine-month periods ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006. These condensed consolidated interim financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management.

We conducted our reviews in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). A review of interim financial information consists principally of applying analytical procedures and making inquiries of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters. It is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our reviews, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to such condensed consolidated interim financial statements for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We have previously audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheet of Ross Stores, Inc. and subsidiaries as of February 3, 2007, and the related consolidated statements of earnings, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for the year then ended (not presented herein); and in our report (which includes an explanatory paragraph regarding the adoption of a new accounting standard) dated March 29, 2007, we expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements. In our opinion, the information set forth in the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheet as of February 3, 2007, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the consolidated balance sheet from which it has been derived.

/s/Deloitte & Touche LLP

San Francisco, California  
December 11, 2007

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

This section and other parts of this Form 10-Q contain forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Our actual results may differ materially from the results discussed in the forward-looking statements. Factors that might cause such differences include, but are not limited to, those discussed in Part II, Item 1A (Risk Factors) below. The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the condensed consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included elsewhere in this Form 10-Q and the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto in our 2006 Form 10-K. All information is based on our fiscal calendar.

### Overview

We are the second largest off-price apparel and home goods retailer in the United States, with 841 Ross Dress for Less® (Ross) stores in 27 states and Guam, and 52 dd's DISCOUNTS stores in 4 states at November 3, 2007. Ross offers first-quality, in-season, name brand and designer apparel, accessories, footwear and home fashions at everyday savings of 20% to 60% off department and specialty store regular prices. dd's DISCOUNTS features a more moderately-priced assortment of first-quality, in-season, name brand apparel, accessories, footwear and home fashions at everyday savings of 20% to 70% off moderate department and discount store regular prices.

Our primary strategy is to pursue and refine our existing off-price business, and steadily expand our store base. In establishing growth objectives for our business, we closely monitor market share trends for the off-price industry. Sales for the off-price sector grew by 8% during 2006, which is significantly faster than total national apparel sales, which grew by 5%, according to data from the NPD Group, which provides global sales and marketing information on the retail industry. Our strategies are designed to take advantage of these growth trends and continued customer demand for name-brand fashions for the family and the home at competitive everyday discounts.

### Results of Operations

The following table summarizes the results of operations for the three and nine-month periods ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006:

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	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	November 3, 2007	October 28, 2006	November 3, 2007	October 28, 2006
<b>Sales</b>				
Sales (millions)	\$ 1,468	\$ 1,362	\$ 4,324	\$ 3,962
Sales growth	7.8%	10.1%	9.1%	12.1%
Comparable store sales growth	1%	4%	1%	5%
<b>Costs and expenses</b> (as a percent of sales)				
Cost of goods sold	78.4%	78.8%	77.6%	77.9%
Selling, general and administrative	16.3%	16.0%	16.1%	16.0%
Interest income, net	(0.0)%	(0.1)%	(0.0)%	(0.1)%
<b>Earnings before taxes</b>	5.3%	5.3%	6.3%	6.2%
<b>Net earnings</b>	3.3%	3.2%	3.9%	3.7%

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**Stores.** Our operating strategy is to open additional stores based on local market penetration, local demographic characteristics including population, competition, and the ability to leverage overhead expenses. We continually evaluate opportunistic real estate acquisitions and opportunities for potential new store locations. We also evaluate our current store locations and determine store closures based on similar criteria.

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	November 3, 2007	October 28, 2006	November 3, 2007	October 28, 2006
Stores at the beginning of the period	862	770	797	734
Stores opened in the period	32	28	98	65
Stores closed in the period	(1)	-	(2)	(1)
Stores at the end of the period	893	798	893	798

**Sales.** Sales for the three months ended November 3, 2007 increased \$106.3 million, or 7.8%, compared to the three months ended October 28, 2006. This revenue growth was primarily due to the addition of 95 net new stores opened between October 28, 2006 and November 3, 2007, and a 1% increase in sales from comparable stores. Sales for the nine months ended November 3, 2007 increased \$361.7 million, or 9.1%, compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily due to the impact of the 95 net new stores opened between October 28, 2006 and November 3, 2007, and a 1% increase in sales from comparable stores.

Our sales mix for Ross is shown below for the three and nine-month periods ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006:

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	November 3, 2007	October 28, 2006	November 3, 2007	October 28, 2006
Ladies	33%	34%	34%	35%
Home accents and bed and bath	22%	21%	22%	20%
Men's	14%	14%	14%	15%

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Fine jewelry, accessories, lingerie and fragrances	<b>11%</b>	11%	<b>11%</b>	11%
Children's	<b>10%</b>	10%	<b>9%</b>	9%
Shoes	<b>10%</b>	10%	<b>10%</b>	10%
Total	<b>100%</b>	100%	<b>100%</b>	100%

We expect to address the competitive climate for off-price merchandise by pursuing and refining our existing strategies and by continuing to strengthen our organization, to diversify the merchandise mix, and to more fully develop the organization and systems to strengthen regional and local merchandise offerings. Although our strategies and store expansion program contributed to sales gains for the three and nine-month periods ended November 3, 2007, we cannot be sure that they will result in a continuation of sales or profit growth.

**Cost of goods sold.** Cost of goods sold for the three months ended November 3, 2007 increased \$76.9 million compared to the same period in the prior year mainly due to increased sales from the opening of 95 net new stores between October 28, 2006 and November 3, 2007, and a 1% increase in sales from comparable stores.

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Cost of goods sold as a percentage of sales for the three months ended November 3, 2007 decreased approximately 45 basis points from the same period in the prior year. This improvement was driven mainly by a 40 basis point improvement in buying, incentive and equity compensation expenses, a 25 basis point decrease in distribution costs, and a 10 basis point decrease in freight costs. These favorable trends were offset by a 30 basis point increase in store occupancy costs.

Cost of goods sold for the nine months ended November 3, 2007 increased \$266.5 million compared to the same period in the prior year mainly due to increased sales from the opening of 95 net new stores between October 28, 2006 and November 3, 2007, and a 1% increase in sales from comparable stores.

Cost of goods sold as a percentage of sales for the nine months ended November 3, 2007 decreased approximately 35 basis points compared with the same period in the prior year. This decrease was the result of a 25 basis point increase in merchandise gross margin, which benefited from lower markdowns and lower inventory shortage, a 25 basis point improvement in buying, incentive and equity compensation expenses, and a 5 basis point improvement in distribution costs. These favorable trends were partially offset by a 10 basis point increase in freight costs and a 10 basis point increase in store occupancy costs.

We cannot be sure that the gross profit margins realized for the three and nine-month periods ended November 3, 2007 will continue in the future.

**Selling, general and administrative expenses.** For the three months ended November 3, 2007, selling, general and administrative expenses increased \$21.3 million compared to the same period in the prior year, mainly due to increased store operating costs reflecting the opening of 95 net new stores between October 28, 2006 and November 3, 2007.

Selling, general and administrative expenses as a percentage of sales for the three months ended November 3, 2007 increased by approximately 30 basis points compared to the same period in the prior year. This increase was driven by a 65 basis point increase in store operating expenses compared to the prior year primarily due to the de-leveraging effect of a 1% increase in comparable store sales and minimum wage increases. This was partially offset by a 35 basis point decline in other general and administrative costs.

For the nine months ended November 3, 2007, selling, general and administrative expenses increased \$63.0 million compared to the same period in the prior year, mainly due to increased store operating costs reflecting the opening of 95 net new stores between October 28, 2006 and November 3, 2007, and the de-leveraging effect of the 1% increase in comparable store sales.

Selling, general and administrative expenses as a percentage of sales for the nine months ended November 3, 2007 increased by approximately 10 basis points compared to the same period in the prior year. This was the result of a 45 basis point increase in store operating costs that was offset by a 35 basis point decline in general and

administrative costs.

**Taxes on earnings.** Our effective tax rate for the three-month period ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006 was approximately 38% and 39%, respectively. For the nine-month period ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006, the effective tax rate was 39%. These rates represent the applicable combined federal and state statutory rates reduced by the federal benefit of state taxes deductible on federal returns. The effective rate is affected by changes in law, location of new stores, level of earnings and the result of tax audits. We anticipate that our effective tax rate for fiscal 2007 will be approximately 38% to 39%.

**Earnings per share.** Diluted earnings per share increased 16% to \$0.36 for the three months ended November 3, 2007, from \$0.31 in the prior year period, and increased 16% to \$1.21 for the nine-month period ended November 3, 2007 from \$1.04 in the prior year period. The growth for the quarter was due to an 11% increase in net earnings and a 3% decline in weighted average diluted shares outstanding, which was largely attributable to the repurchase of common stock under the Company's stock repurchase program. The growth for the year-to-date period was due to a 12% increase in net earnings and a 3% decline in weighted average diluted shares outstanding, which was largely attributable to the repurchase of common stock under the Company's stock repurchase program.

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## Financial Condition

### Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our primary sources of funds for our business activities are existing cash balances, cash flows from operations, short-term trade credit, and long-term debt. Our primary ongoing cash requirements are for seasonal and new store merchandise inventory purchases, capital expenditures in connection with opening new stores, and expenditures related to distribution centers, information systems and infrastructure. We also use cash to repay debt, repurchase stock under our stock repurchase program and to pay dividends. Our cash flows for the nine months ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006 are as follows:

(\$000)	Nine Months Ended	
	November 3, 2007	October 28, 2006
Cash flows provided by operating activities	\$ 132,405	\$ 330,249
Cash flows used in investing activities	(178,841)	(192,420)
Cash flows used in financing activities	(169,404)	(207,527)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	\$ (215,840)	\$ (69,698)

### Operating Activities

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$132.4 million for the nine months ended November 3, 2007 compared to \$330.2 million for the nine months ended October 28, 2006. The primary sources of cash from operations for the nine months ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006 were net earnings plus non-cash expenses for depreciation and amortization, and stock-based compensation. Short-term trade credit represents a significant source of financing for merchandise inventory. Trade credit arises from customary payment terms and trade practices with our vendors. The decrease in cash flows from operations for the nine months ended November 3, 2007 was primarily due to a decline in accounts payable from the higher than normal level at February 3, 2007, which was mainly due to the timing of payments and receipts associated with the 53<sup>rd</sup> week in fiscal 2006. Accounts payable leverage (defined as accounts payable divided by merchandise inventory) was 66.4% as of February 3, 2007 compared to 58.5% as of November 3, 2007.

Working capital (defined as current assets less current liabilities) was \$401.4 million as of November 3, 2007, compared to \$253.1 million as of October 28, 2006. Our primary source of liquidity is the sale of our merchandise inventory. We regularly review the age and condition of our merchandise and are able to maintain current merchandise inventory in our stores through replenishment processes and liquidation of slower-moving merchandise through clearance markdowns.

### Investing Activities

During the nine-month periods ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006, our capital expenditures were approximately \$176.8 million and \$180.7 million, respectively, (excluding leased equipment) for fixtures and leasehold improvements to open new stores, expand and improve distribution centers, implement information technology systems, and for various other expenditures related to stores, distribution centers, buying and corporate offices. We opened 98 and 65 new stores on a gross basis during the nine months ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006, respectively. For the period ended October 28, 2006, our capital expenditures include the purchase of assets under a lease of \$87.3 million. In addition, for the nine months ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006, we purchased investments of \$63.2 million and \$67.3 million, respectively, and received proceeds from the sale of investments of \$61.2 million and \$55.6 million, respectively.

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We are forecasting approximately \$255 million in total capital expenditures for 2007 to fund store opening improvements for new Ross and dd's DISCOUNTS stores, to fund the relocation or upgrade of existing stores, and to fund investments in store and merchandising systems, distribution center land, buildings, equipment and systems, and various buying and corporate office expenditures. We expect to fund remaining 2007 capital expenditures out of existing cash balances and operating cash flows.

### Financing Activities

During the nine-month periods ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006, our liquidity and capital requirements were provided by available cash and investment balances, cash flows from operations and trade credit. Substantially all of our store locations, buying offices, our corporate headquarters, and one distribution center are leased. We own our distribution centers in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, Moreno Valley, California, and Fort Mill, South Carolina.

In March 2006, we repaid a \$50.0 million term debt in full.

Under our \$400.0 million two-year stock repurchase program announced in 2005, we repurchased 5.0 million and 5.4 million shares of common stock for an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$152.6 million and \$147.7 million during the nine-month periods ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006, respectively.

For the nine-month periods ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006, dividends paid were \$30.7 million and \$25.4 million, respectively.

We regularly review the adequacy of credit available to us from all sources and expect to be able to maintain adequate trade, bank and other credit lines to meet our capital and liquidity requirements, including lease obligations in 2007.

The table below presents our significant contractual payment obligations as of November 3, 2007:

(\$000)	Less than 1 Year	1 - 3 Years	3 - 5 Years	After 5 Years	Total <sup>1</sup>
<b>Contractual Obligations</b>					
Senior notes	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
Interest payment obligations	9,667	19,335	19,335	74,364	122,701
Operating Leases:					

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Rent obligations	297,412	540,623	417,941	457,600	1,713,576
Synthetic leases	9,384	8,908	8,182	3,068	29,542
Other synthetic lease obligations	5,244	658	--	56,000	61,902
Purchase obligations	860,965	36,594	210	--	897,769
Total contractual obligations	\$ 1,182,672	\$ 606,118	\$ 445,668	\$ 741,032	\$ 2,975,490

<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to the guidelines of FIN 48, a \$28.1 million reserve for unrecognized tax benefits is included in other long-term liabilities on the Company's condensed consolidated balance sheet. These obligations are excluded from the schedule above as the timing of payments cannot be reasonably estimated.

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**Senior notes.** In October 2006, we entered into a Note Purchase Agreement with various institutional investors for \$150.0 million of unsecured, senior notes. The notes were issued in two series and funding occurred in December 2006. The Series A notes were issued for an aggregate of \$85.0 million, are due in December 2018, and bear interest at a rate of 6.38%. The Series B notes were issued for an aggregate of \$65.0 million, are due in December 2021, and bear interest at a rate of 6.53%. Interest on these notes is included in interest payment obligations in the table above.

#### Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

**Operating leases.** Substantially all of our store locations, buying offices, one of our distribution centers, and corporate headquarters are leased.

We have lease arrangements for certain equipment in our stores related to our point-of-sale ("POS") hardware and software systems. These leases are accounted for as operating leases for financial reporting purposes. The initial terms of these leases are two years, and we typically have options to renew the leases for two to three one-year periods. Alternatively, we may purchase or return the equipment at the end of the initial or each renewal term. We have guaranteed the value of the equipment of \$5.9 million, at the end of the respective initial lease terms, which is included in other synthetic lease obligations in the table above.

**Other financings.** We lease a 1.3 million square foot distribution center in Perris, California. The land and building for this distribution center is financed under a \$70.0 million ten-year synthetic lease that expires in July 2013. Rent expense on this center is payable monthly at a fixed annual rate of 5.8% on the lease balance of \$70.0 million. At the end of the lease term, we have the option to either refinance the \$70.0 million synthetic lease facility, purchase the distribution center at the amount of the then-outstanding lease obligation, or arrange a sale of the distribution center to a third party. If the distribution center is sold to a third party for less than \$70.0 million, we have agreed under a residual value guarantee to pay the lessor any shortfall amount up to \$56.0 million. Our contractual obligation of \$56.0 million is included in other synthetic lease obligations in the above table.

In accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Interpretation ("FIN") No. 45, "Guarantor's Accounting and Disclosure Requirements for Guarantees, Including Indirect Guarantees of Indebtedness of Others," we have recognized a liability and corresponding asset for the fair value of the residual value guarantee in the amount of \$8.3 million for the Perris, California distribution center and \$1.8 million for the POS lease. These residual value guarantees are being amortized on a straight-line basis over the original terms of the leases. The current portion of the related asset and liability is recorded in prepaid expenses and other, and accrued expenses and other, respectively, and the long-term portion of the related assets and liabilities is recorded in other long-term assets and other long-term liabilities, respectively, in the accompanying Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets.

The synthetic lease facilities described above, as well as our revolving credit facility and senior notes, have covenant restrictions requiring us to maintain certain interest coverage and leverage ratios. In addition, the interest rates under these agreements may vary depending on actual interest coverage ratios achieved. As of November 3, 2007 we were in compliance with these covenants.

In addition, we lease two separate warehouse facilities for packaway storage in Carlisle, Pennsylvania under operating leases expiring through 2011. In June 2006, we entered into a two-year lease extension with one one-year option for a warehouse facility in Fort Mill, South Carolina, extending the term to February 2009. These three leased facilities are being used primarily to store packaway merchandise.

**Purchase obligations.** As of November 3, 2007 we had purchase obligations of \$897.8 million. These purchase obligations primarily consist of merchandise inventory purchase orders, commitments related to store fixtures and supplies, and information technology service and maintenance contracts. Merchandise inventory purchase orders of \$794.0 million represent purchase obligations of less than one year as of November 3, 2007.

**Albertsons real estate transaction.** In October 2006, we announced an agreement with Albertsons LLC to acquire certain leasehold rights to 46 former Albertsons sites in California, Florida, Texas, Arizona, Colorado and Oklahoma. We have opened 37 of these sites in the first nine months of fiscal 2007.

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### Commercial Credit Facilities

The table below presents our significant available commercial credit facilities at November 3, 2007:

(\$000)	Amount of Commitment Expiration Per Period				Total amount committed
	Less than 1 year	1 - 3 years	3 - 5 years	After 5 years	
<b>Commercial Credit Commitments</b>					
Revolving credit facility	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 600,000	\$ --	\$ 600,000
Total commercial commitments	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 600,000	\$ --	\$ 600,000

**Revolving credit facility.** We have available a \$600.0 million revolving credit facility with our banks, which contains a \$300.0 million sublimit for issuances of standby letters of credit, of which \$238.2 million was available at November 3, 2007. This facility which expires in July 2011 has a LIBOR-based interest rate plus an applicable margin (currently 45 basis points) and is payable upon maturity but not less than quarterly. Our borrowing ability under this credit facility is subject to our maintaining certain interest coverage and leverage ratios. We have had no borrowings under this facility.

**Standby letters of credit.** We use standby letters of credit to collateralize certain obligations related to our self-insured workers' compensation and general liability claims. We had \$61.8 million and \$63.9 million in standby letters of credit outstanding at November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006, respectively.

**Trade letters of credit.** We had \$23.3 million and \$16.8 million in trade letters of credit outstanding at November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006, respectively.

**Dividends.** In November 2007, our Board of Directors declared a cash dividend payment of \$.075 per common share, payable on or about January 2, 2008. In January, May, and August of 2007, our Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$.075 per common share, paid in March, July, and October of 2007, respectively. Our Board of Directors declared quarterly cash dividends of \$.06 per common share in January, May, August, and November 2006, paid in March 2006, June 2006, October 2006, and January 2007, respectively.

**Stock repurchase programs.** In November 2005, we announced that our Board of Directors authorized a two-year stock repurchase program of up to \$400.0 million for 2006 and 2007. We repurchased 5.0 million and 5.4 million shares of common stock for aggregate purchase prices of approximately \$152.6 million and \$147.7 million for the nine months ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006, respectively.

We estimate that cash flows from operations, bank credit lines and trade credit are adequate to meet operating cash needs, fund our planned capital investments, repurchase common stock and make quarterly dividend payments for at least the next twelve months.

### **Critical Accounting Policies**

The preparation of our interim consolidated financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the interim consolidated financial statements. These estimates and assumptions are evaluated on an ongoing basis and are based on historical experience and on various other factors that management believes to be reasonable. We believe the following critical accounting policies describe the more significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of our interim condensed consolidated financial statements.

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**Merchandise inventory.** Our merchandise inventory is stated at the lower of cost or market, with cost determined on a weighted average cost method. We purchase manufacturer overruns and canceled orders both during and at the end of a season which are referred to as "packaway" inventory. Packaway inventory is purchased with the intent that it will be stored in our warehouses until a later date, which may even be the beginning of the same selling season in the following year. Included in the carrying value of our merchandise inventory is a provision for shortage. The shortage reserve is based on historical shortage rates as evaluated through our periodic physical merchandise inventory counts and cycle counts. If actual market conditions, markdowns, or shortage are less favorable than those projected by us, or if sales of the merchandise inventory are more difficult than anticipated, additional merchandise inventory write-downs may be required.

**Long-lived assets.** We record a long-lived asset impairment charge when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of a long-lived asset may not be recoverable based on estimated future cash flows. An impairment loss would be recognized if analysis of the undiscounted cash flow of an asset group was less than the carrying value of the asset group. If our actual results differ materially from projected results, an impairment charge may be required in the future. In the course of performing this analysis, we determined that no long-lived asset impairment charges were required in the nine month periods ended November 3, 2007 and October 28, 2006.

**Depreciation and amortization expense.** Property and equipment are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation and amortization. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of the asset, typically ranging from five to twelve years for equipment and 20 to 40 years for buildings and improvements. The cost of leasehold improvements is amortized over the estimated useful life of the asset or the applicable lease term, whichever is less.

**Lease accounting.** When a lease contains "rent holidays" or requires fixed escalations of the minimum lease payments, we record rental expense on a straight-line basis and the difference between the average rental amount charged to expense and the amount payable under the lease is recorded as deferred rent. We amortize deferred rent on a straight-line basis over the lease term commencing on the possession date. Tenant improvement allowances are included in other long-term liabilities and are amortized over the lease term. Tenant improvement allowances are included as a component of operating cash flows in the Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows.

**Self-insurance.** We self insure certain of our workers' compensation and general liability risks as well as certain coverages under our health plans. Our self-insurance liability is determined actuarially, based on claims filed and an estimate of claims incurred but not reported. Should a greater amount of claims occur compared to what is estimated or the costs of medical care and state statutory requirements increase beyond what was anticipated, our recorded reserves may not be sufficient and additional charges could be required.

**Stock-based compensation.** We account for stock-based compensation under the provisions of SFAS No. 123(R). The determination of the fair value of stock options and ESPP shares, using the Black-Scholes model, is affected by our stock price as well as assumptions as to our expected stock price volatility over the term of the awards, actual and projected employee stock option exercise behavior, the risk-free interest rate and expected dividends.

SFAS No. 123(R) requires companies to estimate future expected forfeitures at the date of grant and revise those estimates in subsequent periods if actual forfeitures differ from those estimates. We use historical data to estimate pre-vesting forfeitures and to recognize stock-based compensation expense. All stock-based compensation awards are amortized on a straight-line basis over the requisite service periods of the awards.

The critical accounting policies noted above are not intended to be a comprehensive list of all of our accounting policies. In many cases, the accounting treatment of a particular transaction is specifically dictated by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, with no need for management's judgment in their application. There are also areas in which management's judgment in selecting one alternative accounting principle over another would not produce a materially different result.

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### **New Accounting Pronouncements**

SFAS No. 157, "Fair Value Measurements" (SFAS No. 157) is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. SFAS No. 157 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands required disclosures regarding fair value measurements. We do not believe the adoption of SFAS No. 157 will have a material impact on our operating results or financial position.

SFAS No. 159, "The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities" (SFAS 159) is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. SFAS No. 159 establishes a fair value option under which entities can elect to report certain financial assets and liabilities at fair value, with changes in fair value recognized in earnings. We do not believe the adoption of SFAS No. 159 will have a material impact on our operating results or financial position.

### **Forward-Looking Statements**

This report may contain a number of forward-looking statements regarding, without limitation, planned store growth, new markets, expected sales, projected earnings levels, capital expenditures and other matters. These forward-looking statements reflect our then current beliefs, projections and estimates with respect to future events and our projected financial performance, growth, operations and competitive position. The words "plan," "expect," "anticipate," "estimate," "believe," "forecast," "projected," "guidance," "looking ahead" and similar expressions forward-looking statements.

Future economic and industry trends that could potentially impact revenue, profitability, and growth remain difficult to predict. As a result, our forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties which could cause our actual results to differ materially from those forward-looking statements and our previous expectations and projections. Refer to Part II, Item 1A in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q for a more complete discussion of risk factors for Ross and dd's DISCOUNTS. The factors underlying our forecasts are dynamic and subject to change. As a result, any forecasts or forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are given and do not necessarily reflect our outlook at any other point in time. We disclaim any obligation to update or revise these forward-looking statements.

Other risk factors are detailed in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission including, without limitation, our annual report on Form 10-K for 2006.

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

We are exposed to market risks, which primarily include changes in interest rates. We do not engage in financial transactions for trading or speculative purposes.

We occasionally use forward contracts to hedge against fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates. We had no outstanding forward contracts at November 3, 2007.

Interest that is payable on our revolving credit facilities is based on variable interest rates and is, therefore, affected by changes in market interest rates. As of November 3, 2007, we had no borrowings outstanding under our revolving credit facilities.

A hypothetical 100 basis point increase in prevailing market interest rates would not have materially impacted our consolidated financial position, results of operations, or cash flows as of and for the three and nine-month period ended November 3, 2007. We do not consider the potential losses in future earnings and cash flows from reasonably possible, near term changes in interest rates to be material.

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## **Item 4. Controls and Procedures**

### **Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

Our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our "disclosure controls and procedures" (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(e)) as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by this report.

It should be noted that any system of controls, however well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, and not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the system will be met. In addition, the design of any control system is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events.

### **Quarterly Evaluation of Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

Our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, also conducted an evaluation of our internal control over financial reporting to determine whether any change occurred during the third fiscal quarter of 2007 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting. Based on that evaluation, our management concluded that there was no such change during the quarter.

## **PART II - OTHER INFORMATION**

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

The matters under the caption "Provision for litigation expense and other legal proceedings" in Note A of Notes to Interim Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements are incorporated herein by reference.

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

Our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for our third fiscal quarter 2007, and information we provide in our press releases, telephonic reports and other investor communications, including those on our website, may contain a number of forward-looking statements with respect to anticipated future events and our projected financial performance, growth, operations and competitive position that are subject to risk factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those forward-looking statements and our prior expectations and projections. Refer to Management's Discussion and Analysis for a more complete identification and discussion of "Forward-Looking Statements."

Our financial condition, results of operations, cash flows and the performance of our common stock may be adversely affected by a number of risk factors. Risks and uncertainties that apply to both Ross and dd's DISCOUNTS include, without limitation, the following:

**We are subject to the economic and industry risks that affect large retailers operating in the United States.**

Our business is exposed to the risks of a large, multi-store retailer, which must continually and efficiently obtain and distribute a supply of fresh merchandise throughout a large and growing network of stores. These risks include a number of factors, including:

- An increase in the level of competitive pressures in the retail apparel or home-related merchandise industry.
- Potential changes in the level of consumer spending on or preferences for apparel or home-related merchandise, including the potential impact from uncertainty in mortgage credit markets and higher gas prices.

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- Potential changes in geopolitical and/or general economic conditions that could affect the availability of product and/or the level of consumer spending.
- Unseasonable weather trends that could affect consumer demand for seasonal apparel and apparel-related products.
- A change in the availability, quantity or quality of attractive brand-name merchandise at desirable discounts that could impact our ability to purchase product and continue to offer customers a wide assortment of merchandise at competitive prices.
- Potential disruptions in supply chain that could impact our ability to deliver product to our stores in a timely and cost-effective manner.
- A change in the availability, quality or cost of new store real estate locations.
- A downturn in the economy or a natural disaster in California or in another region where we have a concentration of stores or a distribution center. Our corporate headquarters, two distribution centers and 27% of our stores are located in California.
- Potential pressure on freight costs from higher-than-expected fuel surcharges.

**We are subject to operating risks as we attempt to execute on our merchandising and growth strategies.**

The continued success of our business depends, in part, upon our ability to increase sales at our existing store locations, and to open new stores and to operate stores on a profitable basis. Our existing strategies and store expansion programs may not result in a continuation of our anticipated revenue growth or profit growth. In executing our off-price retail strategies and working to improve our efficiency, expand our store network, and reduce our costs, we face a number of operational risks, including:

- Our ability to attract and retain personnel with the retail talent necessary to execute our strategies.
- Our ability to effectively operate our various supply chain, core merchandising and other information systems.
- Our ability to improve our merchandising capabilities through the implementation of new processes and systems enhancements.
- Our ability to improve new store sales and profitability, especially in newer regions and markets.
- Our ability to achieve and maintain targeted levels of productivity and efficiency in our distribution centers.
- Our ability to continue to acquire or lease acceptable new store locations.
- Our ability to identify and to successfully enter new geographic markets.
- Lower than planned gross margin, including higher than planned markdowns, and higher than expected inventory shortage.
- Greater than planned operating costs including, among other factors, increases in occupancy costs, advertising costs, and wage and benefit costs, including the impact of changes in labor laws or as a result of class action or other lawsuits relating to wage and hour claims and other labor-related matters.
- Our ability to convert certain Albertsons real estate sites to the Ross and dd's DISCOUNTS formats in a timely and cost effective manner and on acceptable terms, and the ability to achieve targeted levels of sales, profits and cash flows from these acquired store locations.

The above risks could significantly affect our operating results and financial condition.

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

Information regarding shares of common stock we repurchased during the third quarter of 2007 is as follows:

Period	Total number of shares (or units) purchased <sup>1</sup>	Average price paid per share (or unit)	Total number of shares (or units) purchased as part of publicly announced plans or programs	Maximum number (or approximate dollar value) of shares (or units) that may yet be purchased under the plans or programs (\$000)
August (8/5/2007-9/1/2007)	440,159	\$27.22	424,904	\$88,000
September (9/2/2007-10/6/2007)	882,291	\$26.51	872,182	\$65,000
October (10/7/2007-11/3/2007)	648,414	\$26.79	647,393	\$47,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,970,864</b>	<b>\$26.76</b>	<b>1,944,479</b>	<b>\$47,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> We acquired 26,385 shares during the quarter ended November 3, 2007 related to income tax withholdings for restricted stock. All remaining shares were repurchased under the two-year \$400.0 million stock repurchase program publicly announced in November 2005.

**Item 6. Exhibits**

Incorporated herein by reference to the list of Exhibits contained in the Exhibit Index within this Report.

**SIGNATURES**

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

**ROSS STORES, INC.**  
(Registrant)

Date: December 12, 2007

By: /s/ J. Call  
John G. Call  
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer,  
Principal Accounting Officer and Corporate Secretary

**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

Exhibit Number	Exhibit
3.1	Amendment of Certificate of Incorporation dated May 21, 2004 and Amendment of Certificate of Incorporation dated June 5, 2002 and Corrected First Restated Certificate of Incorporation, incorporated

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by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores for its quarter ended July 31, 2004.

3.2 Amended By-laws, dated August 25, 1994, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores for its quarter ended July 30, 1994.

10.1 Sixth Amendment to the Independent Contractor Consultancy Agreement executed June 2007 between Norman A. Ferber and Ross Stores, Inc.

10.2 Third Amendment to Independent Contractor Consultancy Agreement between Ross Stores, Inc. and Stuart G. Moldaw executed September 2007.

10.3 Employment Agreement executed October 2007 between John G. Call and Ross Stores, Inc.

15 Letter re: Unaudited Interim Financial Information from Deloitte & Touche LLP dated December 11, 2007.

23.1 Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Sarbanes-Oxley Act Section 302(a).

31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Sarbanes-Oxley Act Section 302(a).

32.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350.

32.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350.