

MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT CO INC
Form 10-K
October 31, 2017

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended September 2, 2017

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 1-14130

MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT CO., INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

| | |
|---|---|
| New York | 11-3289165 |
| (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization) | (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.) |

| | |
|--|------------|
| 75 Maxess Road, Melville, New York | 11747 |
| (Address of Principal Executive Offices) | (Zip Code) |

(516) 812-2000

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(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

| Title of Each Class | Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered |
|--|---|
| Class A Common Stock, par value \$.001 | The New York Stock Exchange |

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 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 (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

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

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Large accelerated filer | Accelerated filer | Non accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) | Smaller reporting company | Emerging growth company |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the

Exchange Act.

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 Class A common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of March 4, 2017 was approximately \$4,574,781,997. As of October 16, 2017, 44,541,074 shares of Class A common stock and 11,850,636 shares of Class B common stock of the registrant were outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The registrant's Proxy Statement for its 2018 annual meeting of shareholders is hereby incorporated by reference into Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT CO., INC.

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PART I.

FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

Except for historical information contained herein, certain matters included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K are, or may be deemed to be, forward looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933. The words “will,” “may,” “designed to,” “believe,” “should,” “anticipate,” “plan,” “expect,” “intend,” “estimate” and similar expressions identify forward looking statements, which speak as of the date of this annual report. These forward looking statements are contained principally under Item 1, “Business,” and under Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.” Because these forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, actual results could differ materially from the expectations expressed in the forward looking statements. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the expectations reflected in the forward looking statements include those described in Item 1A, “Risk Factors” and Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.” In addition, new risks emerge from time to time and it is not possible for management to predict all such risk factors or to assess the impact of such risk factors on our business. Given these risks and uncertainties, the reader should not place undue reliance on these forward looking statements. We undertake no obligation to update or revise these forward looking statements to reflect subsequent events or circumstances.

ITEM 1. BUSINESS.

General

MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. (together with its subsidiaries, “MSC,” the “Company,” “we,” “our,” or “us”) is a leading North American distributor of metalworking and maintenance, repair and operations (“MRO”) products and services.

With more than a 75-year history of driving innovation in industrial product distribution, we help solve our manufacturing customers’ metalworking, MRO and operational challenges. Through our technical metalworking expertise and inventory management and other supply chain solutions, our team of more than 6,500 associates keep our customers’ manufacturing operations up and running and improve their efficiency, productivity and profitability.

We serve a broad range of customers throughout the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom (“U.K.”), from individual machine shops, to Fortune 100 manufacturing companies, to government agencies such as the General Services Administration and the Department of Defense. We operate a sophisticated network of 12 customer fulfillment centers (eight in the United States, three in Canada and one in the U.K.) and 93 branch offices (92 in the United States and one in the U.K.). Our primary customer fulfillment centers are located in or near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Atlanta, Georgia; Elkhart, Indiana; Reno, Nevada; and Columbus, Ohio in the United States. In addition, we operate seven smaller customer fulfillment centers in or near Hanover Park, Illinois; Dallas, Texas; Shelbyville, Kentucky (repackaging and replenishment center); Wednesbury, England; Edmonton, Canada; Beamsville, Canada; and Moncton, Canada.

We offer approximately 1,565,000 active, saleable stock-keeping units (“SKUs”) through our catalogs; brochures; eCommerce channels, including our website, mscdirect.com (“MSC website”); our inventory management solutions; and call-centers and branches. We carry many of the products we sell in our inventory, so that orders for these in-stock products are processed and fulfilled the day the order is received. We offer next-day delivery nationwide for qualifying orders placed by 8 p.m. Eastern Time (excluding Class C category products). Our customers can choose among many convenient ways to place orders: mscdirect.com, eProcurement platforms, call

centers or direct communication with our outside sales associates.

We endeavor to save our customers money when they partner with us for their MRO and metalworking product needs. We do this in multiple ways:

- our experienced team of more than 6,500 associates includes customer care team members, metalworking specialists and technical support teams, and sales associates focused on driving our customers' success by reducing their operational costs;
- our robust systems and transactional data enable us to provide insights to our customers to help them take cost out of their supply chains and operations;

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- our extensive product inventory enables customers to deal with fewer suppliers, streamlining their purchasing work and reducing their administrative costs;
- our timely shipping enables our customers to reduce their inventory investment and carrying costs;
- our purchasing process consolidates multiple purchases into a single order, providing a single invoice for multiple purchases over time, and offering direct shipments to specific departments and personnel at one or more facilities. This reduces our customers' administrative costs;
- our extensive eCommerce capabilities provide sophisticated search and transaction capabilities, access to real-time inventory, customer-specific pricing, workflow management tools, customized reporting and other features. We can also interface directly with many purchasing portals, such as ARIBA and Perfect Commerce, in addition to ERP Procurement Solutions, such as Oracle and SAP; and
- our inventory management solutions enable our customers to carry less inventory and still dramatically reduce situations when a critical item is out of stock.

Industry Overview

MSC operates in a large, fragmented industry. National, regional and local distributors, retail outlets, small distributorships, online distributors, direct mail suppliers, large warehouse stores and manufacturers' own sales forces all serve MRO customers.

Nearly every industrial and service business has an ongoing need for MRO supplies. These businesses, with the exception of the largest industrial plants, often do not have the resources to manage and monitor their MRO inventories effectively. They spend more than necessary to purchase and track their supplies, providing an opportunity for MSC to serve as their one-stop MRO product supplier.

Even the larger facilities often store their supplies in multiple locations, so they often carry excess inventories and duplicate purchase orders. In many organizations, multiple people often acquire the same item in small quantities via expensive, one-off purchases, resulting in higher purchasing costs and administrative efforts to keep track of supplies.

With limited capital availability, and limited eCommerce capabilities and operating leverage, smaller industrial distributors are under increasing pressure to consolidate and/or curtail services and product lines to remain competitive. Their challenge represents MSC's opportunity. Market surveys validate that we continue to capture increased market share by providing lower total purchasing costs, broader product selection and a higher level of service to our customers.

We improve purchasing efficiency and reduce costs for our customers because our offerings enable our customers to consolidate suppliers, purchase orders and invoices, and reduce inventory tracking, stocking decisions, purchases and out-of-stock situations. In addition, through Vendor Managed Inventory (“VMI”), Customer Managed Inventory (“CMI”) and vending solutions, we empower our customers to utilize sophisticated inventory management solutions.

Business Strategy

MSC’s business strategy is based on helping our customers become more productive and profitable by reducing their total cost for purchasing, using and maintaining MRO supplies. Our strategy includes the following key elements:

Inventory Management Solutions. Our approach starts with a thorough customer assessment. Our expert associates develop and recommend solutions that provide exceptional value to the customer. Depending on the customer’s size and needs, we customize options to address complexity and processes, as well as specific product, technical issues and cost targets. The options might include eProcurement, CMI, VMI, vending, tool crib control, or part-time or full-time on-site resources. Our world-class sourcing, logistics and business systems provide predictable, reliable and scalable service.

Broad Selection of Products. Customers want a full range of product options, even as they look to reduce the number of suppliers they partner with. We provide “good-better-best” alternatives, comprising a spectrum of brand name, MSC exclusive brand and generic MRO products. MSC’s broad selection of products enables customers to choose the right combination of price and quality on every purchase to meet their needs.

Same-Day Shipping and Next-Day Delivery. We guarantee same-day shipping of our core metalworking and MRO products, enabling customers to reduce supply inventories. We fulfill our same-day shipment guarantee about 99% of the time. We offer next-day delivery nationwide for qualifying orders placed by 8 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (Excluding Class C category products). We know that our customers value this service, because areas accessible by next-day delivery tend to generate significantly greater sales for MSC than areas where next-day delivery is not available.

Superior Customer Service. Our commitment to customer service starts with our more than 6,500 associates who share their deep expertise and knowledge of metalworking and MRO products to help our customers achieve greater success. We invest in sophisticated information systems and provide extensive training to empower our associates to better support our customers. Using our proprietary customer support software, our in-bound sales representatives can inform customers on a real-time basis of product availability; recommend substitute products; verify credit information; receive special, custom or manufacturer direct orders; cross check inventory items using previously entered customer product codes; and arrange or provide technical assistance. We offer customized billing; customer savings reports; electronic data interchange ordering; eCommerce capabilities; bulk discounts; and stocking of specialty items requested by customers.

Technical Support. We provide technical support and one-on-one service through our field and customer care center representatives. We have a dedicated team of nearly 100 metalworking specialists, who work with customers to improve their manufacturing processes and efficiency, as well as a technical support team that provides assistance to our sales teams and customers via phone and email. Our customers recognize the value of a distributor that can provide technical support to improve their operations and productivity.

Commitment to Technological Innovation. We embrace technological innovations to support our growth, improve customer service and reduce our operating costs. The innovations make our buying practices more effective, improve our automated inventory replenishment and streamline order fulfillment. MSC's proprietary software helps our customers and sales representatives determine the availability of products in real time and evaluate alternative products and pricing. The MSC website contains a searchable online catalog with electronic ordering capabilities. The MSC website also offers an array of services, workflow management tools and related information.

We also continually upgrade our distribution methods and systems and provide comprehensive electronic ordering capabilities ("EDI" and "XML") to support our customers' purchase order processing. We continue to invest in our VMI, CMI and vending solutions that streamline customer replenishment and trim our customers' inventories. Our vending solutions include different kinds of machines, such as storage lockers or carousels, which can stand alone or be combined with other machines. MSC vending machines use network or web-based software to enable customers to gain inventory visibility, save time and drive profitability.

Advanced Technologies and www.mscdirect.com. The MSC website is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, providing personalized real-time inventory availability, superior search capabilities, online bill payment, delivery tracking status and other enhancements, including work-flow management tools. The user-friendly search engine allows customers to find SKUs by keyword, part description, competitive part number, vendor number or brand. The

MSC website is a key component of our strategy to reduce our customers' transaction costs and delivery time.

Competitive Pricing. Customers increasingly evaluate their total cost of purchasing, using and maintaining industrial supplies and recognize that price is an important aspect of their procurement costs. We make sure our pricing is competitive while reflecting the value that we bring through our comprehensive services.

Growth Strategy

We continue to show share gains as indicated by growth rates from the markets we serve. Our growth strategy includes a number of strategies to continue to gain market share.

Expanding and enhancing our metalworking capabilities to aggressively penetrate customers in heavy and light manufacturing. MSC is a leading distributor of metalworking products in the United States. We have continued to expand our metalworking sales team, increase technical support and enhance supplier relationships. We are developing high-performance metalworking products marketed under MSC exclusive brands, providing high-value product alternatives for our customers. Our metalworking field specialists and centralized technical support team members have diverse backgrounds in machining, programming, management and engineering. They help our customers select the right tool for the job from our deep supplier base and exclusive brands.

Expanding programs for government and national account customers. Although MSC has been providing MRO and metalworking supplies to the commercial sector for more than 75 years, we have more recently focused on government

customers and have a large, growing contract business with numerous federal, state, and local/education agencies. We have developed customized government and national account programs. Even with our recent success, we see plenty of opportunity for additional growth.

We provide customized national account programs for larger customers, often as enterprise-wide engagements. These national account customers value our ability to support their procurement needs electronically to reduce their transactional costs. Our dedicated national account managers and operations experts provide supply chain solutions that reduce these customers' total costs of procurement and ownership through increased visibility into their MRO purchases and improved management. We demonstrate these savings through detailed reporting at both the enterprise and site level.

Increasing the size and improving the productivity of our direct sales force. We have invested resources to give our sales representatives more time with our customers and provide increased support during the MRO purchasing process. Our field sales and service associate headcount was 2,370 and our in-bound sales representative headcount was 1,007 at September 2, 2017. We believe that our sales force investment has played a critical role in boosting our market share.

Increasing sales from existing customers and generating new customers with various value added programs. Our value added programs include business needs analysis, inventory management solutions and workflow management tools. Our customers particularly value our industrial vending solutions that can accommodate a range of products from precision cutting tools to MRO supplies.

Increasing the number of product lines and productive SKUs. We offer approximately 1,565,000 active, saleable SKUs through our catalogs; brochures; eCommerce channels, including our MSC website; our inventory management solutions; and call-centers and branches. We are increasing the breadth and depth of our product offerings and pruning non-value-added SKUs. In fiscal year 2017, we added approximately 65,000 SKUs, net of SKU removals, to our active, saleable SKU count. We plan to continue adding online SKUs in fiscal 2018.

The most recent MSC catalog issued in September 2017 merchandises approximately 500,000 core metalworking and MRO products, which are included in the SKU totals above. Approximately 29% of these SKUs are MSC exclusive brands. We also leverage the depth and breadth of MSC's product portfolio within our Class C category sales channel.

Improving our marketing programs. MSC has built an extensive buyer database, which we use to prospect for new customers. We deliver our master catalogs to the best prospects. We supplement our master catalogs with direct mail, digital and search engine marketing, and email. Our industry-specific expertise allows us to focus our outreach on the most promising growth areas.

Enhancing eCommerce capabilities. The MSC website is a proprietary, business-to-business, horizontal marketplace serving the metalworking and MRO market. The MSC website allows customers to enjoy added convenience without sacrificing customized service. Our MSC website is a key component of our strategy to reduce customers' transaction costs and internal requisition time. Most orders move directly from the customer's desktop to our customer fulfillment center floor, removing human error, reducing handling costs and speeding up the transaction flow. MSC continues to evaluate the MSC website and solicit customer feedback, making on-going improvements to ensure that it remains a premier website in our marketplace. In June 2016, Internet Retailer magazine recognized MSC as the "B2B eCommerce Player of the Year," citing MSC's online purchasing experience for customers as a factor for the award. Internet Retailer also ranked MSC as the 30th largest e-retailer based on annual revenue generated from online sales, growth over the previous five years, and key metrics such as customer conversion rates and average order value by category. In addition, many large customer accounts transact business with MSC using eProcurement solution providers that sell a suite of eCommerce products. We have associations with many of these providers and continue to evaluate and expand our eProcurement capabilities.

Improving our excellent customer support service. MSC consistently receives high customer satisfaction ratings, according to customer surveys. We don't just strive to meet our customers' service needs, we work to anticipate them. This focus on our customers' needs makes us stand apart in the market. We use customer comment cards, surveys and other customer outreach tools, using their feedback to drive the next generation of improvements to the customer experience.

Selectively pursuing strategic acquisitions. We actively pursue strategic acquisitions that expand or complement our business in new and existing markets or further enhance the value and offerings we provide. In July 2017, MSC completed the acquisition of DECO Tool Supply Co. ("DECO"), an industrial supply distributor based in Davenport, Iowa. DECO brings 190-plus associates across 10 branch offices located primarily in the Midwest. DECO's sales force and branch footprint complements MSC's coverage in the region. MSC will be able to provide DECO customers access to MSC's product portfolio to support their full metalworking and MRO needs. The acquisition enhances our metalworking business, because

DECO associates bring considerable experience and expertise in metalworking solutions. We believe the highly fragmented nature of the industrial distribution sector will continue to provide acquisition opportunities.

Products

Our broad range of MRO products includes cutting tools, measuring instruments, tooling components, metalworking products, fasteners, flat stock, raw materials, abrasives, machinery hand and power tools, safety and janitorial supplies, plumbing supplies, materials handling products, power transmission components, and electrical supplies. Our large and growing number of SKUs makes us an increasingly valuable partner to our customers as they look to trim their supplier base. Our assortment from multiple product suppliers, prices and quality levels enables our customers to select from “good-better-best” options on nearly all their purchases. We stand apart from our competitors by offering name brand, exclusive brand, and generic products; depth in our core product lines; and competitive pricing.

We purchase substantially all of our products directly from approximately 3,000 suppliers. No single supplier accounted for more than 6% of our total purchases in fiscal 2017, fiscal 2016, or fiscal 2015.

Customer Fulfillment Centers

A significant number of our products are carried in stock. Approximately 77% of sales are fulfilled from our 12 customer fulfillment centers and 93 branch offices. Some specialty or custom items and very large orders are shipped directly from the manufacturer. We manage our primary customer fulfillment centers via computer based SKU tracking systems and radio frequency devices that locate specific stock items to make the selection process more efficient.

Sales and Marketing

We serve individual machine shops, Fortune 100 companies, government agencies and manufacturers of all sizes. We focus on relatively higher-margin, lower-volume products. With the acquisition of Barnes Distribution North America in fiscal 2013, we have increased our presence in the fastener and Class C (“Consumables”) product categories and significantly increased our presence in the VMI space. VMI involves not only the selling of the maintenance consumables by our associates, but also the management of appropriate stock levels for the customer, writing the necessary replenishment orders, putting away the stock, and maintaining a clean and organized inventory area.

Federal government customers include large and small military bases, Veterans Affairs hospitals, federal correctional facilities, the U.S. Postal Service and the Department of Defense. We have individual state contracts but also are engaged in several state cooperatives.

Our national account program also includes Fortune 1000 companies, large privately held companies, and international companies doing business in the United States. We have identified hundreds of additional national account prospects and have given our sales team tools to ensure we are targeting prospective customers that best fit the MSC model.

We have implemented advanced analytics and significantly increased the return on our direct marketing investments designed to acquire new customers and increase our share of business with current customers. While master catalogs, promotional catalogs and brochures continue to play an important role in our efforts, we accelerated a shift to search engine marketing, email marketing and online advertising to address changes in our customers' buying behavior. We use our own database of over 3 million contacts together with external mailing lists to target buyers with the highest likelihood to buy.

Our sales representatives are highly trained individuals who build relationships with customers, assist customers in reducing costs, provide technical support, coordinate special orders and shipments with vendors and update customer account profiles in our information systems databases. Our approach is based on the ability of the sales representative, armed with our comprehensive databases as a resource, to respond effectively to the customer's needs. When a customer places a call to MSC, the sales representative on the other end of the line has immediate access to that customer's company and specific buyer profile, which includes billing and purchasing track records and plant and industry information. Meanwhile, the sales representative has access to inventory levels on every SKU we carry.

Our in-bound sales representatives at our customer care centers undergo an intensive seven-week training course, followed up by regular on-site training seminars and workshops. We monitor and evaluate our sales associates at regular intervals, and provide our sales associates with technical training by our in-house specialists and product vendors. We maintain a separate technical support group dedicated to answering customer inquiries and assisting our customers with product operation information and finding the most efficient solutions to manufacturing problems.

Branch Offices

We operate 93 branch offices. There are 92 branch offices within the United States located in 40 states, and one located in the U.K. We have experienced higher sales growth and market penetration in areas around our branch offices and believe they play an integral role in obtaining new accounts and penetrating existing ones. This includes 10 branch offices added throughout the Midwest due to the acquisition of DECO in July 2017. Furthermore, during fiscal year 2017, we consolidated some branch offices that were relatively close in proximity in order to gain leverage, operational efficiencies and cost savings.

Publications

Our primary reference publications are our master catalogs, which are supported by specialty and promotional catalogs and brochures. MSC produces two annual catalogs: the MSC Big Book, which contains a comprehensive offering across all product lines, and the MSC Metalworking catalog. We use specialty and promotional publications to target customers in specific areas, such as metal fabrication, facilities management, safety and janitorial. Specialty and promotional catalogs, targeted to our best prospects, offer a more focused selection of products at a lower catalog production cost and more efficient use of advertising space.

We periodically balance ongoing strategies to improve direct marketing productivity and increase return on advertising dollars spent against programs to increase revenue and lifetime value. While master catalogs, promotional catalogs and brochures continue to play an important role in our efforts, we continue to experience a shift to search engine marketing, email marketing and online advertising to address changes in our customers' buying behavior. As such, our mailing volume represents:

| | Fiscal Years Ended (1) | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | September 2, 2017 (52 weeks) | September 3, 2016 (53 weeks) | August 29, 2015 (52 weeks) |
| Number of publication titles | 73 | 94 | 98 |
| Number of publications mailed | 15,602,818 | 16,851,194 | 18,265,589 |

(1) Excludes U.K. operations.

Customer Service

One of our goals is to make purchasing our products as convenient as possible. Customers submit more than 60% of their orders digitally through our technology platform (website, vending machines, and eProcurement). The remaining orders are placed via telephone, fax and mail. The efficient handling of orders is a critical aspect of our business. Order entry and fulfillment occurs at each of our branches and our main customer care centers, mostly located at our customer fulfillment centers. Customer care phone representatives enter non-digital orders into computerized order processing systems. In the event of a local or regional breakdown, a call can usually be re-routed to an alternative location. When an order enters the system, a credit check is performed; if the credit is approved, the order is usually transmitted to the customer fulfillment center closest to the customer. Customers are invoiced for merchandise, shipping and handling promptly after shipment.

Information Systems

Our information systems enable us to centralize management of key functions, including communication links between customer fulfillment centers; inventory and accounts receivable; purchasing; pricing; sales and distribution; and the preparation of daily operating control reports. These systems help us ship on a same-day basis, respond quickly to order changes, provide a high level of customer service, and reduce costs. Our eCommerce environment is built upon a combined platform of our own intellectual property, state-of-the-art software from the world's leading internet technology providers and world-class product data. This powerful combination of resources helps us deliver a superior online shopping experience with extremely high levels of reliability.

Most of our information systems operate in real time over a wide area network, letting each customer fulfillment center and branch office share information and monitor daily progress on sales activity, credit approval, inventory levels, stock balancing, vendor returns, order fulfillment and other performance measures. We maintain a sophisticated buying and inventory management system that monitors all of our SKUs and automatically purchases inventory from vendors for

replenishment based on projected customer ordering models. We also maintain an Electronic Data Interchange (“EDI”) purchasing program with our vendors to boost order placement efficiency, reduce order cycle processing time, and increase order accuracy.

In addition to developing the proprietary computer software programs for use in the customer service and distribution operations, we also provide a comprehensive EDI and Extensible Markup Language (“XML”) ordering system to support our customer-based purchase order processing. We also maintain a proprietary hardware and software platform to support our VMI program, which allows customers to integrate scanner accumulated orders directly into our Sales Order Entry system and website. Our CMI program enables customers to simply and effectively replenish inventory by submitting orders directly to our website. Our customized vending systems are used by customers in manufacturing plants across the United States to help them achieve supply chain and shop floor optimization, through inventory management and reduced tooling and labor costs. Our VMI, CMI and vending capabilities function directly as front-end ordering systems for our e-Portal based customers. These solutions take advantage of advanced technologies built upon the latest innovations in wireless and cloud based computing.

Our core business systems run in a highly distributed computing environment and utilize world-class software and hardware platforms from key partners. We utilize disaster recovery techniques and procedures, which are consistent with best practices in enterprise IT. Given such a distributed IT environment, we regularly review and upgrade our systems. We believe that our current systems and practice of implementing regular updates are adequate to support our current needs. In fiscal 2017, we went live on our upgraded core financial systems, including the receivables, payables, treasury, fixed assets and general ledger. We are continuing to upgrade our systems and plan to make investments as necessary to enhance our operational effectiveness.

With the advent of advanced mobile technologies such as smart phones and tablets, access to information and decision-making can now be made anytime, anywhere. Recognizing this need, we have deployed technology to securely manage and maintain access to enterprise information from mobile devices that meet our security standards. Our sales representatives are equipped with proprietary mobile technology that allows them to tap into MSC’s supply chain directly from our customers’ manufacturing plants and make sure that critical inventory is always on site and available. In addition, we are enhancing our customer websites and portals to reflect this new mobile reality at a pace in line with customer adoption of mobile technology.

Our customer care centers and branch offices implemented a state-of-the-art phone system and workforce optimization platform in fiscal 2017. The features within the platform create a seamless environment equipped with advanced applications that assist our associates in optimizing our customer’s experience. The architecture has established a dynamic infrastructure that is scalable both in terms of operations and future capabilities. We are continuing to implement additional functionality aimed at enhancing the engagement and personalization of the customer experience regardless of the contact method chosen.

Competition

The MRO supply industry is a large, fragmented industry that is highly competitive. We face competition from traditional channels of distribution, such as retail outlets; small dealerships; regional or national distributors utilizing direct sales forces; manufacturers of MRO supplies; large warehouse stores; and larger direct mail distributors. We also face emerging competitors primarily in the online distribution space that compete with price transparency. We believe that sales of MRO supplies will become more concentrated over the next few years, which may make MRO supply distribution more competitive. Some of our competitors challenge us with a large variety of product offerings, financial resources, services or a combination of all of these factors. In the industrial products market, customer purchasing decisions are based primarily on one or more of the following criteria: price, product selection, product availability, technical support relationship, level of service and convenience. We believe we compete effectively on all such criteria.

Seasonality

During any given time period, we may be impacted by our industrial customers' plant shutdowns, particularly during the summer months (our fourth fiscal quarter), as well as the winter months for the Christmas and New Year holiday period (our fiscal second quarter). In addition, we may be impacted by weather-related disruptions.

Compliance with Health and Safety and Environmental Protection Laws

Our operations are subject to and affected by a variety of federal, state, local and non-U.S. health and safety and environmental laws and regulations relating to the discharge, treatment, storage, disposal, investigation and remediation of

certain materials, substances and wastes. We continually assess our compliance status and management of environmental matters to ensure that our operations are in compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations.

Operating and maintenance costs, associated with environmental compliance and management of sites, are a normal and recurring part of our operations. With respect to all other matters that may currently be pending, in the opinion of management, based on our analysis of relevant facts and circumstances, compliance with applicable environmental laws is not likely to have a material adverse effect upon our capital expenditures, earnings or competitive position.

Associates

As of September 2, 2017, we employed 6,563 associates, which includes our U.K. and Canada operations. No associate is represented by a labor union. We consider our relationships with associates to be good and have experienced no work stoppages.

Available Information

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, and other reports and documents with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). The public may read and copy any materials we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at Station Place, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. The public may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC also maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. The address of that website is www.sec.gov.

The Company's Internet address is www.mscdirect.com. We make available on or through our investor relations page on our website, free of charge, our Annual Report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and beneficial ownership reports on Forms 3, 4, and 5 and amendments to those reports as soon as reasonably practicable after this material is electronically filed with or furnished to the SEC. We also make available, on our website, the charters of the committees of our Board of Directors and Management's Code of Ethics, the Code of Business Conduct and Corporate Governance Guidelines pursuant to SEC requirements and New York Stock Exchange listing standards. Information on our website does not constitute a part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

In addition to the other information in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, the following factors should be considered in evaluating the Company and its business. Our future operating results depend upon many factors and are subject to various risks and uncertainties. The known material risks and uncertainties which may cause our operating results to vary from anticipated results or which may negatively affect our operating results and profitability are as follows:

Our business depends heavily on the operating levels of our customers and the economic factors that affect them.

Many of the primary markets for the products and services we sell are subject to cyclical fluctuations that affect demand for goods and materials that our customers produce. Consequently, demand for our products and services has been and will continue to be influenced by most of the same economic factors that affect demand for and production of our customers' products.

When, as occurs in economic downturns, customers or prospective customers reduce production levels because of lower demand or tight credit conditions, their need for our products and services diminishes. Selling prices and terms of sale come under pressure, adversely affecting the profitability and the durability of customer relationships. Credit losses increase as well. Volatile economic and credit conditions also make it more difficult for distributors, as well as customers and suppliers, to forecast and plan future business activities.

In addition, as various sectors of our industrial customer base face increased foreign competition, and in fact lose business to foreign competitors or shift their operations overseas in an effort to reduce expenses, we may face increased difficulty in growing and maintaining our market share and growth prospects.

Changes in our customer and product mix, or adverse changes to the cost of goods we sell, could cause our gross margin percentage to fluctuate, or decrease.

From time to time, we have experienced changes in our customer mix and in our product mix. Changes in our customer mix have resulted from geographic expansion, daily selling activities within current geographic markets, and

targeted selling activities to new customers. Changes in our product mix have resulted from marketing activities to existing customers and needs communicated to us from existing and prospective customers as well as from business acquisitions. As our large account customer program sales grow, we will face continued pressures on maintaining gross margin because these customers receive lower pricing due to their higher level of purchases from MSC. In addition, our continued expansion of our vending program and other e-commerce platforms has placed pressure on our gross margin. There can be no assurance that we will be able to maintain our historical gross margins. In addition, we may also be subject to price increases from vendors that we may not be able to pass along to our customers.

We operate in a highly competitive industry.

The MRO supply industry, although consolidating, still remains a large, fragmented industry that is highly competitive. We face competition from traditional channels of distribution such as retail outlets, small dealerships, regional or national distributors utilizing direct sales forces, manufacturers of MRO supplies, large warehouse stores and larger direct mail distributors. We believe that sales of MRO supplies will become more concentrated over the next few years, which may make the industry more competitive. Our competitors challenge us with a greater variety of product offerings, financial resources, services or a combination of all of these factors. In addition, we also face the risk of companies which operate primarily outside of our industry entering our marketplace.

We also face emerging competitors participating primarily in the online distribution space that compete with price transparency. Increased competition from online retailers (particularly those major internet providers who can offer a wide range of products and rapid delivery), and the adoption by competitors of aggressive pricing strategies and sales methods, could cause us to lose market share or reduce our prices, adversely affecting our sales, margins and profitability.

Our industry is consolidating, which could adversely affect our business and financial results.

The business of selling MRO supplies in North America is currently undergoing some consolidation. This consolidation is being driven by customer needs. Customers are increasingly aware of the total costs of fulfillment, and of their need to have consistent sources of supply at multiple locations. Consistent sources of supply provide not just reliable product quantities, but also consistent pricing, quality and service capabilities. We believe these customer needs could result in fewer suppliers as the industry consolidates, and as the remaining suppliers become larger and capable of being a consistent source of supply.

Traditional MRO suppliers are attempting to consolidate the market through internal expansion, through acquisitions or mergers with other industrial and construction suppliers, or through a combination of both. This consolidation allows suppliers to improve efficiency and spread fixed costs over a greater number of sales, and to achieve other benefits derived from economies of scale.

The trend of our industry toward consolidation could cause the industry to become more competitive as greater economies of scale are achieved by competitors, or as competitors with new lower cost business models are able to operate with lower prices and gross profit on products. These trends may adversely affect our sales, margins and profitability.

Volatility in commodity and energy prices may adversely affect operating margins.

In times of commodity and energy price increases, we may be subject to price increases from our vendors and freight carriers that we may be unable to pass along to our customers. Raw material costs used in our vendors' products (steel, tungsten, etc.) and energy costs may increase, which may result in increased production costs for our vendors. The fuel costs of our independent freight companies have been volatile. Our vendors and independent freight carriers typically look to pass increased costs along to us through price increases. When we are forced to accept these price increases, we may not be able to pass them along to our customers, resulting in lower margins.

In addition to increases in commodity and energy prices, decreases in those costs, particularly if severe, could also adversely impact us by creating deflation in selling prices, which could cause our gross profit margin to deteriorate, or by negatively impacting customers in certain industries, which could cause our sales to those customers to decline.

Inflation impacts the costs at which we can procure products and our ability to increase prices at which we sell to customers over time. Prolonged periods of low inflation or deflation could adversely affect our ability to increase the prices at which we sell to customers.

As a United States government contractor, we are subject to certain laws and regulations which may increase our costs of doing business and which subject us to certain compliance requirements and potential liabilities.

As a supplier to the United States government, we must comply with certain laws and regulations, including the Trade Agreements Act, the Buy American Act and the Federal Acquisition Regulation, relating to the formation, administration and performance of United States government contracts. These laws and regulations affect how we do business with government customers, and in some instances, impose added compliance and other costs on our business. From time to time, we are subject to governmental or regulatory inquiries or audits relating to our compliance with these laws and regulations. A violation of specific laws and regulations could result in the imposition of fines and penalties or the termination of our United States government contracts and could harm our reputation and cause our business to suffer.

Our business is exposed to the credit risk of our customers which could adversely affect our operating results.

We perform periodic credit evaluations of our customers' financial condition and collateral is generally not required. Our standard receivable terms are generally due within 30 days. We evaluate the collectability of accounts receivable based on numerous factors, including past transaction history with customers and their creditworthiness and we provide a reserve for accounts that we believe to be uncollectible. A significant deterioration in the economy could have an adverse effect on the servicing of these accounts receivable, which could result in longer payment cycles, increased collection costs and defaults.

The risk of cancellation or rescheduling of orders may cause our operating results to fluctuate.

The cancellation or rescheduling of orders may cause our operating results to fluctuate. Although we strive to maintain ongoing relationships with our customers, there is an ongoing risk that orders may be cancelled or rescheduled due to fluctuations in our customers' business needs or purchasing budgets, including changes in national and local government budgets. Additionally, although our customer base is diverse, ranging from individual machine shops to Fortune 100 companies and large governmental agencies, the cancellation or rescheduling of significant orders by larger customers may still have a material adverse effect on our operating results from time to time.

Work stoppages and other disruptions, including those due to extreme weather conditions, at transportation centers or shipping ports may adversely affect our ability to obtain inventory and make deliveries to our customers.

Our ability to provide same-day shipping and next-day delivery of our core metalworking and MRO products is an integral component of our overall business strategy. Disruptions at transportation centers or shipping ports, due to labor stoppages or severe weather conditions affect both our ability to maintain core products in inventory and deliver products to our customers on a timely basis, which may in turn adversely affect our customer relationships and results

of operations. In addition, severe weather conditions, including winter storms, could adversely affect demand for our products in particularly hard hit regions and impact our sales.

Disruptions or breaches of our information systems could adversely affect us.

We believe that our information technology (“IT”) systems are an integral part of our business and growth strategies. We depend upon our IT systems to help process orders, to manage inventory and accounts receivable collections, to manage financial reporting, to purchase, sell and ship products efficiently and on a timely basis, to maintain cost-effective operations, to operate our websites and to help provide superior service to our customers. Our IT systems may be vulnerable to damage or disruption caused by circumstances beyond our control or anticipation, such as catastrophic events, power outages, natural disasters, computer system or network failures, computer viruses, physical or electronic break-ins, and cyber-attacks. The failure of our IT systems to perform as we anticipate could disrupt our business and could result in transaction errors, loss of data, processing inefficiencies, downtime, litigation, substantial remediation costs (including potential liability for stolen assets or information and the costs of repairing system damage), and the loss of sales and customers. In addition, changes to our information systems could disrupt our business operations. Any one or more of these consequences could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our success is dependent on certain key personnel.

Our success depends largely on the efforts and abilities of certain key senior management. The loss of the services of one or more of such key personnel could have a material adverse effect on our business and financial results. We do not maintain any key-man insurance policies with respect to any of our executive officers.

Our business depends on our ability to retain and to attract qualified sales and customer service personnel and metalworking specialists.

There are significant costs associated with hiring and training sales and customer service professionals and metalworking specialists. We greatly benefit from having associates who are familiar with the products we sell and their applications, as well as with our customer and supplier relationships. We could be adversely affected by a shortage of available skilled workers or the loss of a significant number of our sales or customer service professionals and metalworking specialists.

The loss of key suppliers or contractors or supply chain disruptions could adversely affect our operating results.

We believe that our ability to offer a combination of well-known brand name products and competitively priced exclusive brand products is an important factor in attracting and retaining customers. Our ability to offer a wide range of products and services is dependent on obtaining adequate product supply and services from our key suppliers and contractors. The loss of, or a substantial decrease in the availability of products or services from key suppliers or contractors at competitive prices, or the loss of a key brand could cause our revenues and profitability to decrease. In addition, supply interruptions could arise due to transportation disruptions, labor disputes or other factors beyond our control. Disruptions in our supply chain could result in a decrease in revenues and profitability.

New trade policies could make sourcing products from overseas more difficult and/or more costly.

Any changes to trade policies, including the imposition of significant restrictions or tariffs, whether as a result of amendments to or elimination of existing trade agreements, could adversely affect our ability to secure sufficient products to service our customers and/or result in increases product costs that we may not be able to pass on to our customers, resulting in lower margins.

Opening or expanding our customer fulfillment centers exposes us to risks of delays and may affect our operating results.

In the future, as part of our long-term strategic planning, we may open new customer fulfillment centers to improve our efficiency, geographic distribution and market penetration. In addition, we intend to make, as we have in the past, capital improvements and operational enhancements to certain of our existing customer fulfillment centers. Moving or opening customer fulfillment centers and effecting such improvements requires a substantial capital investment, including expenditures for real estate and construction, and opening new customer fulfillment centers requires a substantial investment in inventory. In addition, the opening of new customer fulfillment centers or the expansion of existing customer fulfillment centers would have an adverse impact on distribution expenses as a percentage of sales, inventory turnover and return on investment in the periods prior to and for some time following the commencement of

operations of each new customer fulfillment center or the completion of such expansions. Additionally, until sales volumes mature at new customer fulfillment centers, operating expenses as a percentage of sales may be adversely impacted. Further, substantial or unanticipated delays in the commencement of operations at new customer fulfillment centers could have a material adverse effect on our geographic expansion and may impact results of operations.

An interruption of operations at our headquarters or customer fulfillment centers could adversely impact our business.

Our business depends on maintaining operations at our co-located headquarters and customer fulfillment centers. A serious, prolonged interruption due to power outage, telecommunications outage, terrorist attack, earthquake, hurricane, fire, flood or other natural disaster, or other interruption could have a material adverse effect on our business and financial results.

We are subject to litigation risk due to the nature of our business, which may have a material adverse effect on our business.

From time to time, we are involved in lawsuits or other legal proceedings that arise from business transactions. These may, for example, relate to product liability claims, commercial disputes, or employment matters. In addition, we could face claims over other matters, such as claims arising from our status as a government contractor, intellectual property matters, or corporate or securities law matters. The defense and ultimate outcome of lawsuits or other legal proceedings may result in higher operating expenses, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, or results of operations.

We may encounter difficulties with acquisitions and other strategic transactions, which could harm our business.

We have completed several acquisitions and we expect to continue to pursue acquisitions and other strategic transactions, such as joint ventures, that we believe will either expand or complement our business in new or existing markets or further enhance the value and offerings we are able to provide to our existing or future potential customers.

Acquisitions and other strategic transactions involve numerous risks and challenges, including the following:

- diversion of management's attention from the normal operation of our business;
- potential loss of key associates and customers of the acquired companies;
- difficulties managing and integrating operations in geographically dispersed locations;
- the potential for deficiencies in internal controls at acquired companies;
- increases in our expenses and working capital requirements, which reduce our return on invested capital;
- lack of experience operating in the geographic market or industry sector of the acquired business; and
- exposure to unanticipated liabilities of acquired companies.

To integrate acquired businesses, we must implement our management information systems, operating systems and internal controls, and assimilate and manage the personnel of the acquired operations. The difficulties of this integration may be further complicated by geographic distances. The integration of acquired businesses may not be successful and could result in disruption to other parts of our business.

The terms of our credit facility and senior notes impose operating and financial restrictions on us, which may limit our ability to respond to changing business and economic conditions.

We currently have a \$600.0 million unsecured revolving loan facility. The facility matures on April 14, 2022. The facility permits us, subject to approval of the administrative agent and the lenders providing the financing, to request incremental term loans and revolving commitment increases up to an aggregate amount of \$300.0 million, in increments not less than \$50.0 million or the remaining availability. In addition, we have outstanding \$175.0 million aggregate principal amount of senior notes. The senior notes mature in July 2023 (\$75.0 million) and July 2026 (\$100.0 million). We are subject to various operating and financial covenants under the credit facility and senior notes which restrict our ability to, among other things, incur additional indebtedness, make particular types of investments, incur certain types of liens, engage in fundamental corporate changes, enter into transactions with affiliates or make substantial asset sales. Any failure to comply with these covenants may constitute a breach under the credit facility and senior notes, which could result in the acceleration of all or a substantial portion of any outstanding indebtedness and termination of revolving credit commitments under the facility. Our inability to maintain our credit facility could materially adversely affect our liquidity and our business. At September 2, 2017, we were in compliance with the operating and financial covenants under the credit facility and senior notes.

We are subject to environmental, health and safety laws and regulations.

We are subject to federal, state, local, foreign and provincial environmental, health and safety laws and regulations. Fines and penalties may be imposed for non-compliance with applicable environmental, health and safety requirements and the failure to have or to comply with the terms and conditions of required permits. The failure by us to comply with applicable environmental, health and safety requirements could result in fines, penalties, enforcement actions, third party claims for property damage and personal injury, requirements to clean up property or to pay for the costs of cleanup, or regulatory or judicial orders requiring corrective measures, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, or results of operations.

Goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets recorded as a result of our acquisitions could become impaired.

As of September 2, 2017, our combined goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets amounted to \$647.9 million. To the extent we do not generate sufficient cash flows to recover the net amount of any investments in goodwill and other indefinite-lived intangible assets recorded, the investment could be considered impaired and subject to write-off. We expect to record further goodwill and other indefinite-lived intangible assets as a result of future acquisitions we may complete.

Future amortization of such assets or impairments, if any, of goodwill or indefinite-lived intangible assets would adversely affect our results of operations in any given period.

Our common stock price may be volatile.

We believe factors such as fluctuations in our operating results or the operating results of our competitors, changes in economic conditions in the market sectors in which our customers operate, notably the durable and non-durable goods manufacturing industry, which accounted for a substantial portion of our revenue for fiscal year 2017, fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2015, and changes in general market conditions, could cause the market price of our Class A common stock to fluctuate substantially.

Our principal shareholders exercise significant control over us.

We have two classes of common stock. Our Class A common stock has one vote per share and our Class B common stock has ten votes per share. As of October 16, 2017, the Chairman of our Board of Directors, his sister, certain of their family members including our President and Chief Executive Officer, and related trusts collectively owned 100% of the outstanding shares of our Class B common stock and approximately 2.5% of the outstanding shares of our Class A common stock, giving them control over approximately 73.4% of the combined voting power of our Class A common stock and our Class B common stock. Consequently, such shareholders will be in a position to elect all of the directors of the Company and to determine the outcome of any matter submitted to a vote of the Company's shareholders for approval, including amendments to our certificate of incorporation and our amended and restated by-laws, any proposed merger, consolidation or sale of all or substantially all of our assets and other corporate transactions. Because this concentrated control could discourage others from initiating any potential merger, takeover or other change of control transaction that may otherwise be beneficial to our shareholders, the market price of our Class A common stock could be adversely affected.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS.

None.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES.

We have customer fulfillment centers in or near the following locations:

| Location | Approx. Sq. Ft. | Operational Date | Leased/ Owned |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Atlanta, Georgia | 721,000 | 1990 | Owned |
| Elkhart, Indiana | 545,000 | 1996 | Owned |
| Harrisburg, Pennsylvania | 821,000 | 1997 | Owned |
| Reno, Nevada | 419,000 | 1999 | Owned |
| Wednesbury, United Kingdom | 75,000 | 1998 | Leased |
| Columbus, Ohio | 468,000 | 2014 | Owned |
| Hanover Park, Illinois | 182,000 | 2003 | Leased |
| Dallas, Texas | 135,000 | 2003 | Leased |
| Edmonton, Canada | 40,500 | 2007 | Leased |
| Beamsville, Canada | 85,000 | 2004 | Owned |
| Moncton, Canada | 16,000 | 1981 | Owned |
| Shelbyville, Kentucky(1) | 110,000 | 1973 | Owned |

(1) Repackaging and replenishment center.

We maintain 92 branch offices within the United States located in 40 states and one branch office located in the U.K. The branches range in size from 1,800 to 25,000 square feet. Most of these branch offices are leased. These leases will expire at various periods between October 2017 and March 2027. We added 10 branch offices, primarily in the Midwest, as a result of the DECO acquisition that was completed during fiscal 2017, and which are included in the total above. The aggregate annual lease payments on leased branch offices and the leased customer fulfillment centers in fiscal 2017 were approximately \$11.7 million.

We maintain our co-located headquarters at a 170,000 square foot facility that we own in Melville, New York and a 162,000 square foot facility that we own in Davidson, North Carolina. In addition, we maintain office space in a 50,000 square foot facility that we lease in Southfield, Michigan. We believe that our existing facilities are adequate for our current needs and will be adequate for the foreseeable future; we also expect that suitable additional space will be available as needed.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

There are various claims, lawsuits, and pending actions against the Company incidental to the operation of its business. Although the outcome of these matters is currently not determinable, management does not expect that the ultimate costs to resolve these matters will have a material adverse effect on the Company's consolidated financial position, results of operations, or liquidity.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

PART II.

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

MSC's Class A common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") under the symbol "MSM". MSC's Class B common stock is not traded in any public market.

The following table sets forth the range of the high and low sales prices as reported by the NYSE and cash dividends per share for the period from August 30, 2015 to September 2, 2017:

| Fiscal Year Ended September 2, 2017 | Price of Class A Common Stock | | Dividend Per Share Common Stock Class A & Class B |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|---|
| | High | Low | |
| First Quarter – December 3, 2016 | \$ 91.02 | \$ 69.96 | \$ 0.45 |
| Second Quarter – March 4, 2017 | 105.70 | 90.20 | 0.45 |
| Third Quarter – June 3, 2017 | 105.29 | 81.58 | 0.45 |
| Fourth Quarter – September 2, 2017 | 89.57 | 65.42 | 0.45 |

| Fiscal Year Ended September 3, 2016 | Price of Class A Common Stock | | Dividend Per Share Common Stock Class A & Class B |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|---|
| | High | Low | |
| First Quarter – November 28, 2015 | \$ 68.18 | \$ 58.17 | \$ 0.43 |
| Second Quarter – February 27, 2016 | 70.86 | 54.19 | 0.43 |
| Third Quarter – May 28, 2016 | 78.35 | 68.34 | 0.43 |
| Fourth Quarter – September 3, 2016 | 75.99 | 67.74 | 0.43 |

In 2003, our Board of Directors instituted a policy of paying regular quarterly cash dividends to our shareholders. The Company paid total annual cash dividends of \$1.80 and \$1.72 per share for fiscal 2017 and fiscal 2016, respectively. This policy is reviewed periodically by the Board of Directors.

On October 24, 2017, the Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.48 per share, payable on November 28, 2017 to shareholders of record at the close of business on November 14, 2017. The dividend will result in a payout of approximately \$27.1 million, based on the number of shares outstanding at October 16, 2017.

On October 16, 2017, the last reported sales price for MSC's Class A common stock on the NYSE was \$75.57 per share. The approximate number of holders of record of MSC's Class A common stock as of October 16, 2017 was 588. The number of holders of record of MSC's Class B common stock as of October 16, 2017 was 57.

Purchases of Equity Securities

The following table sets forth repurchases by the Company of its outstanding shares of Class A common stock, during the quarter ended September 2, 2017:

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased(1) | Average Price Paid Per Share(2) | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs(3) | Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 06/04/17-07/03/17 | 82 | \$ 82.81 | — | 1,444,034 |
| 07/04/17-08/03/17 | 400,103 | 72.82 | 400,000 | 1,044,034 |
| 08/04/17-09/02/17 | 241,975 | 68.75 | 241,700 | 802,334 |
| Total | 642,160 | \$ 71.29 | 641,700 | |

(1)During the three months ended September 2, 2017, 460 shares of our Class A common stock were purchased by the Company as payment to satisfy our associate's tax withholding liability associated with our share-based compensation program and are included in the total number of shares purchased.

(2)Activity is reported on a trade date basis.

(3) During fiscal 1999, our Board of Directors established the MSC Stock Repurchase Plan, which we refer to as the Repurchase Plan. The total number of shares of our Class A common stock initially authorized for future repurchase was set at 5,000,000 shares. On January 8, 2008, our Board of Directors reaffirmed and replenished the Repurchase Plan and set the total number of shares of Class A common stock authorized for future repurchase at 7,000,000 shares. On October 21, 2011, the Board of Directors reaffirmed and replenished the Repurchase Plan and set the total number of shares of Class A common stock authorized for future repurchase at 5,000,000 shares. As of September 2, 2017, the maximum number of shares that may yet be repurchased under the Repurchase Plan was 802,334 shares. There is no expiration date for the Repurchase Plan.

Performance Graph

The following stock price performance graph and accompanying information is not deemed to be “soliciting material” or to be “filed” with the SEC, nor shall such information be incorporated by reference into any filings under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which we refer to as the Exchange Act, or be subject to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Exchange Act, regardless of any general incorporation language in any such filing.

The following graph compares the cumulative total return on an investment in our common stock with the cumulative total return of an investment in each of the S&P Midcap 400 Index and the Dow Jones US Industrial Supplier Index.

The graph assumes \$100 invested at the closing price of our Class A common stock on the New York Stock Exchange and each index on September 1, 2012 and assumes that all dividends paid on such securities during the applicable fiscal years were reinvested. Indices are calculated on a month-end basis. The comparisons in this table are based on historical data and are not intended to forecast or to be indicative of the possible future performance of our Class A common stock.

Cumulative Total Stockholder Return

for the Period from September 1, 2012 through September 2, 2017

| | 9/1/2012 | 8/31/2013 | 8/30/2014 | 8/29/2015 | 9/3/2016 | 9/2/2017 |
|----------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. | 100.00 | 111.45 | 134.22 | 106.43 | 120.06 | 114.37 |
| S&P Midcap 400 | 100.00 | 123.71 | 152.47 | 153.48 | 172.82 | 193.24 |
| Dow Jones US Industrial Supplier | 100.00 | 113.12 | 117.44 | 97.80 | 104.64 | 89.72 |

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA.

The following selected financial information is qualified by reference to, and should be read in conjunction with, the Company's consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto, and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" contained elsewhere herein. The selected consolidated income statement data for the fiscal years ended September 2, 2017, September 3, 2016 and August 29, 2015 and the selected consolidated balance sheet data as of September 2, 2017 and September 3, 2016 are derived from MSC's audited consolidated financial statements which are included elsewhere herein. The selected consolidated income statement data for the fiscal years ended August 30, 2014, and August 31, 2013, and the selected consolidated balance sheet data as of August 29, 2015, August 30, 2014, and August 31, 2013 are derived from MSC's audited consolidated financial statements not included herein.

| | Fiscal Years Ended | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | September 2, 2017 | September 3, 2016 | August 29, 2015 | August 30, 2014 | August 31, 2013 |
| | (52 weeks) | (53 weeks) | (52 weeks) | (52 weeks) | (52 weeks) |
| | (In thousands, except per share data) | | | | |
| Consolidated Income Statement Data: | | | | | |
| Net sales | \$ 2,887,744 | \$ 2,863,505 | \$ 2,910,379 | \$ 2,787,122 | \$ 2,457,649 |
| Gross profit | 1,286,247 | 1,288,858 | 1,316,575 | 1,286,256 | 1,118,516 |
| Operating expenses | 907,247 | 912,898 | 937,046 | 903,072 | 732,990 |
| Income from operations | 379,000 | 375,960 | 379,529 | 383,184 | 385,526 |
| Income taxes | 136,561 | 140,515 | 141,833 | 143,458 | 145,434 |
| Net income | 231,431 | 231,216 | 231,308 | 236,067 | 237,995 |
| Net income per common share: | | | | | |
| Basic | 4.08 | 3.78 | 3.75 | 3.78 | 3.77 |
| Diluted | 4.05 | 3.77 | 3.74 | 3.76 | 3.75 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding: | | | | | |
| Basic | 56,591 | 60,908 | 61,292 | 62,026 | 62,695 |
| Diluted | 56,971 | 61,076 | 61,487 | 62,339 | 63,011 |
| Cash dividends declared per common share(1) | \$ 1.80 | \$ 1.72 | \$ 4.60 | \$ 1.32 | \$ 1.20 |
| Consolidated Balance Sheet Data (at period end): | | | | | |
| Working capital(2) | \$ 447,854 | \$ 502,889 | \$ 610,089 | \$ 652,601 | \$ 680,292 |
| Total assets(2) | 2,098,912 | 2,064,951 | 2,100,186 | 2,059,377 | 1,941,232 |
| Short-term debt including capital lease and | | | | | |
| financing obligations(2) | 331,986 | 267,050 | 213,165 | 96,479 | 13,802 |
| Long-term debt including capital lease obligations, | 200,991 | 339,772 | 214,119 | 239,215 | 240,177 |

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| net of current maturities(2) | | | | | |
| Deferred income taxes and tax uncertainties | 115,056 | 148,201 | 131,210 | 112,785 | 97,475 |
| Shareholders' equity | 1,225,140 | 1,098,376 | 1,332,870 | 1,398,563 | 1,390,383 |

- (1) In the first quarter of fiscal 2015, the Company paid a special cash dividend of \$3.00 per share.
- (2) Prior periods have been adjusted to reflect the adoption of Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) No. 2015-03, Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs (Subtopic 835-30). See Note 1 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

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

Overview

We are a leading North American distributor of a broad range of metalworking and maintenance, repair, and operations ("MRO") products and services. We help our customers drive greater productivity, profitability and growth with more than 1.5 million products, inventory management and other supply chain solutions, and deep expertise from more than 75 years of working with customers across industries. We continue to implement our strategies to gain market share, generate new customers, increase sales to existing customers, and diversify our customer base.

Our experienced team of over 6,500 associates works with our customers to help drive results for their businesses, from keeping operations running efficiently today to continuously rethinking, retooling, and optimizing for a more productive tomorrow. We offer approximately 1,565,000 active, saleable stock-keeping units ("SKUs") through our catalogs; brochures; eCommerce channels, including the MSC website; our inventory management solutions; and call-centers and branches. We service our customers from 12 customer fulfillment centers (eight customer fulfillment centers are located within the United States which includes five primary customer fulfillment centers, one is located in the U.K., and three are located in Canada) and 93 branch offices. Many of our products are carried in stock, and orders for these in-stock products are typically fulfilled the day on which the order is received.

Our field sales and service associate headcount was 2,370 at September 2, 2017, compared to 2,370 at September 3, 2016 and 2,377 at August 29, 2015. We will continue to manage our sales and service headcount based on economic conditions and our business plans.

The chart below displays a three-year comparison of our net sales:

-
- (1) Pricing includes changes in customer and product mix, discounting and other items.
 - (2) Fiscal years 2015, 2016, and 2017 had 253, 258, and 252 sales days, respectively.

Recent Developments

On July 31, 2017, we acquired certain assets and assumed certain liabilities of DECO, an industrial supply distributor based in Davenport, Iowa. MSC will be able to provide DECO customers access to MSC's 1.5 million-plus product portfolio to support their full metalworking and MRO needs.

Our Strategy

Our objective is to continue to grow sales profitably while helping our customers become more productive and profitable by reducing their total cost for purchasing, using and maintaining MRO supplies. We continue to pursue strategic acquisitions that expand or complement our business in new and existing markets or further enhance the value and offerings we provide.

Business Environment

We utilize various indices when evaluating the level of our business activity. Approximately 67% of our revenues came from sales in the manufacturing sector in our fiscal year 2017, including certain national account customers. Through statistical analysis, we have found that trends in our customers' activity is most strongly correlated to changes in the Metalworking Business Index ("MBI"). The MBI is a sentiment index developed from a monthly survey of the US metalworking industry, focusing on durable goods manufacturing. We have experienced the highest correlation between our sales trends and the MBI by using the rolling 12-month MBI average on a four-month lag. For the MBI, a value below 50.0 generally indicates contraction and a value above 50.0 generally indicates expansion. The MBI index over the last three months of fiscal 2017 and for the past 12-month period was as follows:

| Period | MBI |
|-------------------------------|------|
| June | 56.2 |
| July | 55.0 |
| August | 54.7 |
| Fiscal 2017 Q4 average | 55.3 |
| Fiscal 2017 full year average | 53.4 |

The MBI declined slightly throughout our fiscal fourth quarter, decreasing from 56.2 to 54.7. This implies continued, but slower growth in the metalworking manufacturing environment. Details released with the September MBI of 56.2 indicate expansion for the ninth consecutive month, including accelerated growth in both new orders and production.

We will continue to monitor the current economic conditions for its impact on our customers and markets and continue to assess both risks and opportunities that may affect our business.

Results of Operations

Fiscal Year Ended September 2, 2017 Compared to the Fiscal Year Ended September 3, 2016

The table below summarizes the Company's results of operations both in dollars (in thousands) and as a percentage of net sales for the periods indicated:

| | Fiscal Years Ended | | September 3, 2016 | | Change | |
|--|---------------------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|-----------|--------|
| | September 2, 2017 (52 weeks) | | (53 weeks) | | | |
| | \$ | % | \$ | % | \$ | % |
| Net sales | \$ 2,887,744 | 100.0% | \$ 2,863,505 | 100.0% | \$ 24,239 | 0.8% |
| Cost of goods sold | 1,601,497 | 55.5% | 1,574,647 | 55.0% | 26,850 | 1.7% |
| Gross profit | 1,286,247 | 44.5% | 1,288,858 | 45.0% | (2,611) | (0.2)% |
| Operating expenses | 907,247 | 31.4% | 912,898 | 31.9% | (5,651) | (0.6)% |
| Income from operations | 379,000 | 13.1% | 375,960 | 13.1% | 3,040 | 0.8% |
| Total other expense | (11,008) | (0.4)% | (4,229) | (0.1)% | (6,779) | 160.3% |
| Income before provision for income taxes | 367,992 | 12.7% | 371,731 | 13.0% | (3,739) | (1.0)% |
| Provision for income taxes | 136,561 | 4.7% | 140,515 | 4.9% | (3,954) | (2.8)% |
| Net income | \$ 231,431 | 8.0% | \$ 231,216 | 8.1% | \$ 215 | 0.1% |

Net Sales

Net sales increased 0.8% or approximately \$24.2 million, for the fiscal year ended 2017. We estimate that this increase in net sales is comprised of (i) approximately \$113.8 million of higher sales volume; and (ii) approximately \$10.4 million from DECO operations, which we acquired in July 2017; partially offset by (iii) approximately \$66.0 million in lower sales attributable to six fewer days of sales in fiscal 2017 as compared to fiscal 2016; (iv) approximately \$27.2 million in reductions from pricing, resulting from changes in customer and product mix, discounting and other items; and (v) approximately \$6.8 million from an unfavorable foreign exchange impact. Of the total increase in net sales, sales to our government and national account programs ("Large Account Customers") increased by approximately \$27.4 million and sales other than to our Large Account Customers decreased by approximately \$3.2 million.

The table below shows the change in our fiscal quarterly and annual 2017 average daily sales by total company and by customer type compared to the same periods in the prior fiscal year:

Average Daily Sales Percentage Change
(unaudited)

| 2017 vs. 2016 Fiscal Period | Thirteen Week Period Ended Fiscal Q1 | Thirteen Week Period Ended Fiscal Q2 | Thirteen Week Period Ended Fiscal Q3 | Thirteen Week Period Ended Fiscal Q4 | Fiscal Year Ended | % of Total Business |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Total Company | (2.9) % | 2.9 % | 3.8 % | 9.2 % | 3.2 % | |
| Manufacturing Customers(1) | (4.2) % | 2.6 % | 2.8 % | 8.4 % | 2.4 % | 67 % |
| Non-Manufacturing Customers(1) | 0.6 % | 4.5 % | 6.5 % | 10.8 % | 5.6 % | 33 % |

(1) Excludes U.K. operations.

We believe that our ability to transact business with our customers through various electronic portals and directly through the MSC website gives us a competitive advantage over smaller suppliers. Sales made through our eCommerce platforms, including sales made through EDI systems, VMI systems, Extensible Markup Language ordering based systems, vending machine systems, hosted systems and other electronic portals, represented 60.1% of consolidated net sales in fiscal 2017 compared to 58.2% of consolidated net sales in fiscal 2016. This increase was primarily associated with the MSC website and vending machine systems.

Gross Profit

Gross profit margin was 44.5% in fiscal 2017 as compared to 45.0% in fiscal 2016. The decline was primarily a result of changes in pricing and customer and product mix. We experienced growth in both our vending program and Large Account Customer sales, which are typically transacted at lower gross margins.

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses decreased 0.6% to \$907.2 million in fiscal 2017, as compared to \$912.9 million in fiscal 2016. After removing the impact from the 53rd week, operating expenses are slightly higher than the prior year due to volume-related expenses, primarily payroll and payroll-related costs. This was offset by the decrease in depreciation and amortization as a result of certain intangible assets acquired from our fiscal 2006 J&L acquisition becoming fully amortized during the second half of fiscal 2016. Operating expenses represented approximately 31.4% of net sales in fiscal 2017, as compared to approximately 31.9% in fiscal 2016.

Payroll and payroll-related costs represented approximately 56.0% of total operating expenses in fiscal 2017, as compared to approximately 55.0% in fiscal 2016. Salaries, commissions, and the incentive compensation accrual all increased in fiscal 2017 as compared to fiscal 2016, with the majority of the increase attributable to the incentive compensation accrual. This increase was partially offset by lower fringe benefit costs. As a result of transitioning from a self-insured plan to a fully insured private healthcare exchange during the second quarter of fiscal 2016, we experienced large claims and increased costs in the first half of fiscal 2016 as compared to the comparable period in fiscal 2017.

Income from Operations

Income from operations increased 0.8% to \$379.0 million in fiscal 2017, as compared to \$376.0 million in fiscal 2016, despite having a 53rd week in fiscal 2016. This increase was due to overall lower operating expenses in fiscal 2017. Income from operations as a percentage of net sales remained unchanged at 13.1% in fiscal 2017 as compared to fiscal 2016.

Total Other Expense

The increase in total other expense in fiscal 2017 compared to fiscal 2016 was primarily due to an increase in interest expense related to the Private Placement Debt (as defined below) that was entered into in July 2016 in connection with our August 2016 self tender offer and related stock purchase.

Provision for Income Taxes

Our fiscal 2017 effective tax rate was 37.1% as compared to 37.8% in fiscal 2016. The decrease in the effective tax rate is primarily due to the adoption of ASU 2016-09 in the second quarter of fiscal 2017, which requires excess tax benefits and deficiencies resulting from the vesting and exercises of stock-based compensation awards to be recognized in the income statement. During fiscal 2017, \$1.8 million of net excess tax benefits were recognized as a reduction of income tax expense. In addition, we applied a research and development tax credit in the amount of \$1.8 million resulting from a study completed during the third quarter of fiscal 2017. These items in total reduced the effective income tax rate for fiscal 2017 by approximately 100 basis points. We expect our income tax rate for fiscal 2018 to be in the range of 38.0% and 38.5%, which assumes no significant excess tax benefits or expenses recognized as a result of ASU 2016-09.

Net Income

The factors which affected net income for fiscal 2017 as compared to the prior period have been discussed above.

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Fiscal Year Ended September 3, 2016 Compared to the Fiscal Year Ended August 29, 2015

The table below summarizes the Company's results of operations both in dollars (in thousands) and as a percentage of net sales for the periods indicated:

| | Fiscal Years Ended | | | | Change | |
|--|---------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|--------|-------------|---------|
| | September 3, 2016 (53 weeks) | | August 29, 2015 (52 weeks) | | | |
| | \$ | % | \$ | % | \$ | % |
| Net sales | \$ 2,863,505 | 100.0% | \$ 2,910,379 | 100.0% | \$ (46,874) | (1.6)% |
| Cost of goods sold | 1,574,647 | 55.0% | 1,593,804 | 54.8% | (19,157) | (1.2)% |
| Gross profit | 1,288,858 | 45.0% | 1,316,575 | 45.2% | (27,717) | (2.1)% |
| Operating expenses | 912,898 | 31.9% | 937,046 | 32.2% | (24,148) | (2.6)% |
| Income from operations | 375,960 | 13.1% | 379,529 | 13.0% | (3,569) | (0.9)% |
| Total other expense | (4,229) | (0.1)% | (6,388) | (0.2)% | 2,159 | (33.8)% |
| Income before provision for income taxes | 371,731 | 13.0% | 373,141 | 12.8% | (1,410) | (0.4)% |
| Provision for income taxes | 140,515 | 4.9% | 141,833 | 4.9% | (1,318) | (0.9)% |
| Net income | \$ 231,216 | 8.1% | \$ 231,308 | 7.9% | \$ (92) | (0.0)% |

Net Sales

Net sales decreased 1.6% or approximately \$46.9 million, for the fiscal year ended 2016. We estimate that this decrease in net sales is comprised of: (i) approximately \$82.0 million of lower sales volume; (ii) approximately \$13.6 million from pricing, which includes changes in customer and product mix, discounting and other items; and (iii) approximately \$7.3 million from unfavorable foreign currency fluctuations; partially offset by (iv) approximately \$56.0 million in sales attributable to an extra week in fiscal 2016. Of the total decrease in net sales, sales other than to our Large Account Customers decreased by approximately \$72.2 million, partially offset by an increase in sales to our Large Account Customers of approximately \$25.3 million.

The table below shows the change in our fiscal quarterly and annual 2016 average daily sales by total company and by customer type compared to the same periods in the prior fiscal year:

Average Daily Sales Percentage Change
(unaudited)

| 2016 vs. 2015 Fiscal Period | Thirteen Week Period Ended Fiscal Q1 | Thirteen Week Period Ended Fiscal Q2 | Thirteen Week Period Ended Fiscal Q3 | Thirteen Week Period Ended Fiscal Q4 | Fourteen Week Period Ended Fiscal Q4 | Fiscal Year Ended | % of Total Business |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Total Company | (3.3) % | (3.2) % | (3.9) % | (3.6) % | (3.5) % | (3.5) % | |
| Manufacturing Customers(1) | (4.9) % | (5.6) % | (6.8) % | (6.1) % | (5.8) % | (5.8) % | 68 % |
| Non-Manufacturing Customers(1) | 1.3 % | 2.6 % | 2.6 % | 3.3 % | 2.5 % | 2.5 % | 32 % |

(1) Excludes U.K. operations.

We believe that our ability to transact business with our customers through various electronic portals and directly through the MSC website gives us a competitive advantage over smaller suppliers. Sales made through our eCommerce platforms, including sales made through EDI systems, VMI systems, Extensible Markup Language ordering based systems, vending machine systems, hosted systems and other electronic portals, represented 58.2% of consolidated net sales in fiscal 2016, compared to 55.6% of consolidated net sales in fiscal 2015. This increase was primarily associated with the MSC website, EDI, and vending machine systems.

Gross Profit

Gross profit margin was 45.0% in fiscal 2016 as compared to 45.2% in fiscal 2015. The decline was primarily a result of changes in pricing and customer mix.

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses decreased 2.6% to \$912.9 million in fiscal 2016, as compared to \$937.0 million in fiscal 2015 despite having a 53rd week in fiscal 2016. This decrease was primarily the result of cost savings initiatives implemented throughout the full fiscal 2016, including lower payroll costs and discretionary spending. As a result, spending on items such as outside personnel, advertising, professional fees, and travel and entertainment expenses decreased compared to fiscal 2015. While lower volume did contribute a portion of the operating expense reduction, volume-related expenses such as freight reduced faster than sales. These decreases were partially offset by increases in medical costs. Also, approximately \$1.1 million of expenses related to non-recurring integration costs and restructuring charges associated with the CCSG acquisition and approximately \$3.4 million of executive separation costs were included in operating expenses for fiscal year 2015.

Operating expenses represented approximately 31.9% of net sales in fiscal 2016, as compared to approximately 32.2% in fiscal 2015. Excluding the reduction in non-recurring charges discussed above, operating expenses as a percentage of net sales in fiscal 2016 remained below the prior fiscal year level. This is due to the cost savings initiatives mentioned above.

Payroll and payroll-related costs represented approximately 55.0% of total operating expenses in fiscal 2016, as compared to approximately 53.3% in fiscal 2015. Included in these costs are salary, incentive compensation, sales commission and fringe benefit costs. An increase in fringe benefit costs was the main driver for the increase in payroll and payroll-related costs in fiscal 2016 as compared to fiscal 2015. Effective January 1, 2016, the Company transitioned from a self-insured plan to a fully insured private healthcare exchange. As a result of associates anticipating this transition, the Company experienced increased medical costs towards the end of calendar year 2015. These increases were offset by lower payroll costs, including sales commissions and overtime costs.

Freight expense was approximately \$118.2 million in fiscal 2016, as compared to \$123.9 million in fiscal 2015. The primary driver of this decrease was decreased sales.

Income from Operations

Income from operations decreased 0.9% to \$376.0 million in fiscal 2016, as compared to \$379.5 million in fiscal 2015. This decrease was primarily attributable to a decrease in gross profit, offset in part by a decrease in operating expenses described above. Income from operations as a percentage of net sales increased to 13.1% in fiscal 2016 as compared to 13.0% for the prior fiscal year primarily due to a decrease in operating expenses as discussed above, partially offset by a decrease in gross margin.

Total Other Expense

The decrease in total other expense in fiscal 2016 compared to fiscal 2015 was primarily due to decreases in interest expense resulting from lower credit facility balances during the first three quarters of fiscal 2016.

Provision for Income Taxes

Our fiscal 2016 effective tax rate was 37.8% as compared to 38.0% in fiscal 2015. This fluctuation resulted from changes in the tax laws, income allocation and regulations in the various jurisdictions in which we operate and expiring statutes of limitations.

Net Income

The factors which affected net income for fiscal 2016 as compared to the prior period have been discussed above.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

| | September 2, 2017 | September 3, 2016 | \$ Change |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Total debt | \$ 532,977 | \$ 606,822 | \$ (73,845) |
| Less: Cash and cash equivalents | (16,083) | (52,890) | 36,807 |
| Net debt | \$ 516,894 | \$ 553,932 | \$ (37,038) |
| Equity | \$ 1,225,140 | \$ 1,098,376 | \$ 126,764 |

As of September 2, 2017, we held \$16.1 million in cash, substantially all with well-known financial institutions. Historically, our primary capital needs have been to fund our working capital requirements necessitated by our sales growth, the costs of acquisitions, new products, new facilities, facility expansions, investments in vending solutions, technology investments, and productivity investments. Cash generated from operations, together with borrowings under our credit facilities and Private Placement Debt, have been used to fund these needs, to repurchase shares of our Class A common stock, and to pay dividends. At September 2, 2017, total borrowings outstanding, representing amounts due under the New Credit Facility (as defined below) and Private Placement Debt, as well as all capital leases and financing arrangements, were approximately \$533.0 million, net of unamortized debt issuance costs of \$1.9 million. At September 3, 2016, total borrowings outstanding, representing amounts due under our previous credit facility and Private Placement Debt, as well as all capital leases and financing arrangements, were approximately \$606.8 million, net of unamortized debt issuance costs of \$0.9 million. We believe, based on our current business plan, that our existing cash, funds available under our revolving credit facility, and cash flow from operations will be sufficient to fund our planned capital expenditures and operating cash requirements for at least the next 12 months.

The table below summarizes information regarding the Company's liquidity and capital resources:

| | Fiscal Years Ended | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| | September 2, 2017 | September 3, 2016 | August 29, 2015 |
| | (Amounts in thousands) | | |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | \$ 246,841 | \$ 401,103 | \$ 249,791 |
| Net cash used in investing activities | \$ (88,893) | \$ (87,930) | \$ (51,405) |
| Net cash used in financing activities | \$ (194,746) | \$ (298,368) | \$ (207,045) |

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| | | | |
|--|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Effect of foreign exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents | \$ (9) | \$ (182) | \$ (228) |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | \$ (36,807) | \$ 14,623 | \$ (8,887) |

Operating Activities

Net cash provided by operating activities for the fiscal years ended September 2, 2017 and September 3, 2016 was \$246.8 million and \$401.1 million, respectively. There are various increases and decreases contributing to this change. Increases in inventories and accounts receivable, resulting from increased sales volume, contributed to the majority of the decrease in net cash provided by operating activities.

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Net cash provided by operating activities for the fiscal years ended September 3, 2016 and August 29, 2015 was \$401.1 million and \$249.8 million, respectively. Decreases in inventories and accounts receivable as a result of decreased sales volume contributed to the majority of the increase in net cash provided by operating activities.

| | Fiscal Years Ended | | |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| | September 2, 2017 | September 3, 2016 | August 29, 2015 |
| | (Dollars in thousands) | | |
| Working Capital | \$ 447,854 | \$ 502,889 | \$ 610,089 |
| Current Ratio | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.4 |
| Days Sales Outstanding (excluding DECO) | 54.0 | 50.8 | 50.2 |
| Inventory Turnover (excluding DECO) | 3.5 | 3.2 | 3.2 |

The decrease in working capital and the current ratio at September 2, 2017 compared to September 3, 2016 is related to the adoption of ASU 2015-17, Balance Sheet Classification of Deferred Taxes, which resulted in a prospective reclassification of \$46.6 million from current deferred income tax assets to long-term liabilities during the first quarter of fiscal 2017. See Note 1 “Business and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies” in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for more information about this ASU adoption. The decrease in working capital and the current ratio at September 3, 2016 compared to August 29, 2015 is primarily related to the decreases in inventories, as well as additional borrowings under the revolving loan facility in fiscal 2016.

The increase in days sales outstanding (“DSO”) is primarily due to an aging receivables portfolio consisting of a greater percentage of Large Account Customer sales. We expect our DSO to improve slightly in fiscal 2018 from fiscal 2017 levels. Inventory turns, calculated using a thirteen-point average inventory balance, improved slightly in fiscal 2017 due to sales volume increasing.

Investing Activities

Net cash used in investing activities for the fiscal years ended September 2, 2017 and September 3, 2016 was \$88.9 million and \$87.9 million, respectively. The use of cash for fiscal 2017 is attributable to expenditures for property, plant, and equipment, as well as the acquisition of DECO. The use of cash for fiscal 2016 is attributable to expenditures for property, plant, and equipment, as well as the purchase of the Atlanta Customer Fulfillment Center (“Atlanta CFC”) and the real property on which the Atlanta CFC is situated.

Net cash used in investing activities for the fiscal years ended September 3, 2016 and August 29, 2015 was \$87.9 million and \$51.4 million, respectively. The increase in net cash used in investing activities resulted primarily from cash used of approximately \$33.7 million for the purchase of the Atlanta CFC and the real property on which the Atlanta CFC is situated.

Financing Activities

Net cash used in financing activities for the fiscal years ended September 2, 2017 and September 3, 2016 was \$194.7 million and \$298.4 million, respectively. The major components contributing to the use of cash for fiscal 2017 were repayments on our credit facilities of \$72.5 million, net of borrowings, and cash dividends paid of \$102.2 million. The major components contributing to the use of cash for fiscal 2016 were repurchases of shares of Class A common stock of \$383.8 million, mostly related to our August 2016 self tender offer and related stock purchase referenced above, repayments on our previous credit facility of \$301.0 million related to both the revolving loan facility and term loan facility, and cash dividends paid of \$105.8 million. This was partially offset by borrowings under the revolving loan facility and Private Placement Debt in the amount of \$305.0 million and \$175.0 million, respectively.

Net cash used in financing activities for the fiscal years ended September 3, 2016 and August 29, 2015 was \$298.4 million and \$207.0 million, respectively. The major components contributing to the use of cash for fiscal 2016 were repurchases of shares of Class A common stock of \$383.8 million, mostly related to our August 2016 “modified Dutch auction” tender offer and related stock purchase from certain of our Class B shareholders, repayments on our previous credit facility of \$301.0 million related to both the revolving loan facility and term loan facility, and cash dividends paid of \$105.8 million. This was partially offset by borrowings under the revolving loan facility and Private Placement Debt in the amounts of \$305.0 million and \$175.0 million, respectively. The major components contributing to the use of cash for fiscal

2015 were cash dividends paid of \$284.2 million, repayments on our previous credit facility of \$243.0 million related to both the revolving loan facility and term loan, and the repurchase of shares of Class A common stock of \$33.4 million. This was partially offset by borrowings under the revolving loan facility in the amount of \$336.0 million.

Long-term Debt

New Credit Facility

In April 2017, the Company entered into a new \$600 million credit facility (the “New Credit Facility”). See Note 8 “Debt and Capital Lease Obligations” in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for more information about the New Credit Facility.

At September 2, 2017, we were in compliance with the operating and financial covenants of the New Credit Facility. The Company had additional repayments of \$60.0 million, net of borrowings, in September and October 2017. The current unused balance of \$325.0 million of the New Credit Facility, which is reduced by outstanding letters of credit, is available for working capital purposes if necessary.

Private Placement Debt

In July 2016, in connection with our self tender offer and related stock purchase, we completed the issuance and sale of unsecured senior notes (the “Private Placement Debt”). At September 2, 2017, we were in compliance with the operating and financial covenants of the Private Placement Debt. See Note 8 “Debt and Capital Lease Obligations” in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for more information about this transaction.

Capital Expenditures

Upgrade of Core Financial Systems

In fiscal 2016, we initiated the upgrade of our core financial systems, including the receivables, payables, treasury, fixed assets and general ledger. Capital expenditures relating to this project were approximately \$10.3 million and \$6.6 million in the fiscal 2017 and fiscal 2016, respectively. This project was completed in April 2017.

In addition, we continue to invest in sales productivity initiatives, eCommerce and vending platforms, CFCs and distribution network, and in other infrastructure and technology.

Related Party Transactions

Atlanta CFC Infrastructure Investment

In August 2016, the Company's subsidiary, Sid Tool Co., Inc., completed a transaction with Mitchmar Atlanta Properties, Inc. to purchase the Company's Atlanta CFC and the real property on which the Atlanta CFC is situated for a purchase price of \$33.7 million. The Atlanta CFC had previously been leased since 1989. See Note 1 "Business and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies" in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for more information about this transaction.

Stock Purchase Agreement

In August 2016, the Company entered into a stock purchase agreement with the holders of the Company's Class B common stock. See Note 1 "Business and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies" in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for more information about the stock purchase.

Contractual Obligations

The following table summarizes our contractual obligations at September 2, 2017 (in thousands):

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| Contractual Obligations | Total | Less than | | | More than |
|---|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| | | 1 year | 1 – 3 years | 3 – 5 years | 5 years |
| Operating lease obligations(1) | \$ 34,330 | \$ 10,829 | \$ 14,994 | \$ 6,256 | \$ 2,251 |
| Capital lease obligations, net of interest(2) | 27,829 | 373 | 27,456 | — | — |
| Maturities of long-term debt obligations, net of interest | 507,000 | 332,000 | — | — | 175,000 |
| Estimated interest on debt, capital lease obligations | 39,538 | 5,536 | 10,640 | 9,775 | 13,587 |
| Total contractual obligations | \$ 608,697 | \$ 348,738 | \$ 53,090 | \$ 16,031 | \$ 190,838 |

- (1) Certain of our operations are conducted on leased premises. These leases (most of which require us to provide for the payment of real estate taxes, insurance and other operating costs) are for varying periods, the longest extending to the fiscal year 2027. In addition, we are obligated under certain equipment and automobile operating leases, which expire on varying dates through fiscal 2021.
- (2) As of September 2, 2017, the Company has entered into various capital leases for certain information technology equipment, which expire on varying dates through fiscal 2020. In addition, included in this table is the long-term capital lease with the Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority entered into in connection with the construction of the Company's customer fulfillment center in Columbus, Ohio.

The Company has recorded a non-current liability of \$6.0 million for tax uncertainties and interest for the fiscal year ended September 2, 2017. This amount is excluded from the table above, as the Company cannot make reliable estimates of these cash flows by period. See Note 6 "Income Taxes" in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We have not entered into any off-balance sheet arrangements.

Critical Accounting Estimates

We make estimates, judgments and assumptions in determining the amounts reported in the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes. Estimates are based on historical experience and on various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The estimates are used to form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities and the amount of revenues and expenses reported that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates. Our significant accounting policies are described in the notes to the consolidated financial statements. The accounting policies described below are impacted by our critical accounting estimates.

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

We perform periodic credit evaluations of our customers' financial condition and collateral is generally not required. The Company considers several factors to estimate the allowance for uncollectible accounts receivable including the age of the receivables and the historical ratio of actual write-offs to the age of the receivables. The analyses performed also take into consideration economic conditions that may have an impact on a specific industry, group of customers or a specific customer. Based on our analysis of actual historical write-offs of uncollectible accounts receivable, the Company's estimates and assumptions have been materially accurate in regards to the valuation of its allowance for doubtful accounts. For fiscal years 2017, 2016 and 2015, actual results did not vary materially from estimated amounts.

Inventory Valuation Reserve

We establish inventory valuation reserves for shrinkage and slow-moving or obsolete inventory. The analysis includes inventory levels, sales information, inventory count adjustments, and the on-hand quantities relative to the sales history for the product.

Inventories consist of merchandise held for resale and are stated at the lower of weighted average cost or market. We evaluate the recoverability of our slow-moving or obsolete inventories at least quarterly. We estimate the recoverable cost of such inventory by product type while considering factors such as its age, historic and current demand trends, the physical condition of the inventory, as well as assumptions regarding future demand. Our ability to recover our cost for slow-moving or obsolete inventory can be affected by such factors as general market conditions, future customer demand and relationships with suppliers.

Goodwill and Indefinite-Lived Intangible Assets

The purchase price of an acquired company is allocated between intangible assets and the net tangible assets of the acquired business with the residual of the purchase price recorded as goodwill. The determination of the value of the intangible assets acquired involves certain judgments and estimates. These judgments can include, but are not limited to, the cash flows that an asset is expected to generate in the future and the appropriate weighted average cost of capital.

At September 2, 2017, our goodwill totaled \$633.7 million and our indefinite-lived intangible assets totaled \$14.2 million. The Company annually reviews goodwill at the reporting unit level and intangible assets that have indefinite lives for impairment in its fiscal fourth quarter and when events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value of these assets might exceed their current fair values. Events or circumstances that may result in an impairment review include changes in macroeconomic conditions, industry and market considerations, cost fact events affecting the reporting unit or sustained decrease in share price. Each year, the Company may elect to perform a qualitative assessment to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying value. If impairment is indicated in the qualitative assessment, or, if management elects to initially perform a quantitative assessment of goodwill or intangible assets, the impairment test uses a two-step approach. Step one compares the fair value of a reporting unit with its carrying amount, including goodwill and intangible assets. If the fair value of the reporting unit exceeds its carrying amount, goodwill and intangible assets of the reporting unit are not impaired, and the second step of goodwill or intangible asset impairment test is unnecessary. If the carrying amount of a reporting unit exceeds its fair value, the second step of the goodwill or intangible asset impairment test is performed to measure the amount of impairment loss (if any). Step two compares the implied fair value of the reporting unit's goodwill or intangible assets with the carrying amount of goodwill or intangible assets. The implied fair value of goodwill is determined in the same manner as the amount of goodwill recognized in a business combination, meaning the reporting unit's fair value is allocated to all the assets and liabilities of the reporting unit (including unrecognized intangible assets) as if the reporting unit had been acquired in a business combination and the fair value of the reporting unit is the price paid to acquire the reporting unit. If the carrying amount of a reporting unit's goodwill exceeds the implied fair value of its goodwill, an impairment loss is recognized in an amount equal to the excess.

We conducted our qualitative assessment of goodwill and intangibles in the fiscal fourth quarters of 2017 and 2016. The results of the assessments indicated that based on the qualitative assessment of goodwill and intangible assets that have indefinite lives, it was not likely that the fair values are less than the carrying amounts.

Income Taxes

The Company recognizes deferred tax assets and liabilities for the expected future tax consequences of events that have been included in the financial statements or tax returns. Under this method, deferred tax assets and liabilities are determined based on the differences between the financial reporting and tax basis of assets and liabilities, using

enacted tax rates in effect for the year in which the differences are expected to reverse. The tax balances and income tax expense recognized by the Company are based on management's interpretations of the tax laws of multiple jurisdictions. Income tax expense reflects the Company's best estimates and assumptions regarding, among other items, the level of future taxable income, interpretation of tax laws and uncertain tax positions.

Other

Other significant accounting policies, not involving the same level of measurement uncertainties as those discussed above, are nevertheless important to an understanding of the financial statements. Policies such as revenue recognition, depreciation, intangibles, long-lived assets and warranties require judgments on complex matters that are often subject to multiple external sources of authoritative guidance such as the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the "FASB") and the SEC. Possible changes in estimates or assumptions associated with these policies are not expected to have a material effect on the financial condition or results of operations of the Company. More information on these additional accounting policies can be found in Note 1 "Business and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies" in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

Refer to Note 1 "Business and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies" in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK.

Interest Rate Risks

We are exposed to interest rate risk on our variable-rate debt. In April 2017, the Company entered into the New Credit Facility. See Note 8 “Debt and Capital Lease Obligations” in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for more information about the New Credit Facility.

Borrowings under our New Credit Facility are subject to fluctuations in the interest rate, which have a corresponding effect on our interest expense. A 100 basis point increase or decrease in interest rates would impact our interest costs by approximately \$3.2 million under our current capital structure. We have monitored and will continue to monitor our exposure to interest rate fluctuations.

In addition, our interest income is most sensitive to changes in the general level of interest rates. In this regard, changes in interest rates affect the interest earned on our cash.

We do not currently use interest rate derivative instruments to manage exposure to interest rate changes.

Foreign Currency Risks

Approximately 97% of our sales are denominated in U.S. dollars and are primarily from customers in the United States. As a result, currency fluctuations are currently not material to our operating results. To the extent that we engage in more significant international sales in the future, an increase in the value of the U.S. dollar relative to foreign currencies could make our products less competitive in international markets. We have monitored and will continue to monitor our exposure to currency fluctuations.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA.

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Shareholders of MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. and Subsidiaries (the "Company") as of September 2, 2017 and September 3, 2016, and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three fiscal years in the period ended September 2, 2017. Our audits also included the financial statement schedule listed in the Index at Item 15(a). These financial statements and schedule are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and schedule 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 audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. and Subsidiaries at September 2, 2017 and September 3, 2016, and the consolidated results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three fiscal years in the period ended September 2, 2017, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Also, in our opinion, the related financial statement schedule, when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole, presents fairly in all material respects the information set forth therein.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. and Subsidiaries' internal control over financial reporting as of September 2, 2017, based on criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (2013 Framework) and our report dated October 31, 2017 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Jericho, New York
October 31, 2017

MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT CO., INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(In thousands, except share data)

| | September 2, 2017 | September 3, 2016 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 16,083 | \$ 52,890 |
| Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$13,278 and \$12,353, respectively | 471,795 | 392,463 |
| Inventories | 464,959 | 444,221 |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | 52,742 | 45,290 |
| Deferred income taxes | — | 46,627 |
| Total current assets | 1,005,579 | 981,491 |
| Property, plant and equipment, net | 316,305 | 320,544 |
| Goodwill | 633,728 | 624,081 |
| Identifiable intangibles, net | 110,429 | 105,307 |
| Other assets | 32,871 | 33,528 |
| Total assets | \$ 2,098,912 | \$ 2,064,951 |
| LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES: | | |
| Short-term debt | \$ 331,986 | \$ 267,050 |
| Accounts payable | 121,266 | 110,601 |
| Accrued liabilities | 104,473 | 100,951 |
| Total current liabilities | 557,725 | 478,602 |
| Long-term debt | 200,991 | 339,772 |
| Deferred income taxes and tax uncertainties | 115,056 | 148,201 |
| Total liabilities | 873,772 | 966,575 |
| COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES | | |
| SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY | | |
| Preferred stock; \$0.001 par value; 5,000,000 shares authorized; none issued and outstanding | — | — |
| Class A common stock (one vote per share); \$0.001 par value; 100,000,000 shares authorized; 53,513,806 and 52,992,682 shares issued, respectively | 54 | 53 |
| Class B common stock (ten votes per share); \$0.001 par value; 50,000,000 shares authorized; 11,850,636 and 11,933,233 shares issued and outstanding, respectively | 12 | 12 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 626,995 | 584,017 |
| Retained earnings | 1,168,812 | 1,040,148 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (17,263) | (19,098) |
| Class A treasury stock, at cost, 8,972,729 and 8,344,514 shares, respectively | (553,470) | (506,756) |

| | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Total shareholders' equity | 1,225,140 | 1,098,376 |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity | \$ 2,098,912 | \$ 2,064,951 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT CO., INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

(In thousands, except net income per share data)

| | For the Fiscal Years Ended | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | September 2, 2017 (52 weeks) | September 3, 2016 (53 weeks) | August 29, 2015 (52 weeks) |
| NET SALES | \$ 2,887,744 | \$ 2,863,505 | \$ 2,910,379 |
| COST OF GOODS SOLD | 1,601,497 | 1,574,647 | 1,593,804 |
| Gross profit | 1,286,247 | 1,288,858 | 1,316,575 |
| OPERATING EXPENSES | 907,247 | 912,898 | 937,046 |
| Income from operations | 379,000 | 375,960 | 379,529 |
| OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE): | | | |
| Interest expense | (12,370) | (5,807) | (6,340) |
| Interest income | 658 | 654 | 771 |
| Other income (expense), net | 704 | 924 | (819) |
| Total other expense | (11,008) | (4,229) | (6,388) |
| Income before provision for income taxes | 367,992 | 371,731 | 373,141 |
| Provision for income taxes | 136,561 | 140,515 | 141,833 |
| Net income | \$ 231,431 | \$ 231,216 | \$ 231,308 |
| PER SHARE INFORMATION: | | | |
| Net income per common share: | | | |
| Basic | \$ 4.08 | \$ 3.78 | \$ 3.75 |
| Diluted | \$ 4.05 | \$ 3.77 | \$ 3.74 |
| Weighted average shares used in computing net income per common share: | | | |
| Basic | 56,591 | 60,908 | 61,292 |
| Diluted | 56,971 | 61,076 | 61,487 |
| Cash dividends declared per common share | \$ 1.80 | \$ 1.72 | \$ 4.60 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT CO., INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(In thousands)

| | For the Fiscal Years Ended | | |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | September 2, 2017 (52 weeks) | September 3, 2016 (53 weeks) | August 29, 2015 (52 weeks) |
| Net income, as reported | \$ 231,431 | \$ 231,216 | \$ 231,308 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | 1,835 | (1,846) | (12,198) |
| Comprehensive income | \$ 233,266 | \$ 229,370 | \$ 219,110 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT CO., INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 2, 2017 (52 weeks), SEPTEMBER 3, 2016 (53 weeks), AND AUGUST 29, 2015 (52 weeks)

(In thousands)

| | Class A Common Stock | | Class B Common Stock | | Additional Paid-In Capital | Retained Earnings | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss | Class A Treasury Stock | | Total |
|---|----------------------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| | Shares | Amount | Shares | Amount | | | | Shares | Amount at Cost | |
| BALANCE at August 30, 2014 | 55,980 | \$ 56 | 13,296 | \$ 13 | \$ 573,730 | \$ 1,286,068 | \$ (5,054) | 7,657 | \$ (456,250) | \$ 1,3 |
| Exercise of common stock options, including income tax benefits of \$3,299 | 185 | — | — | — | 14,418 | — | — | — | — | 14, |
| Common stock issued under associate stock purchase plan | — | — | — | — | 1,854 | — | — | (63) | 2,431 | 4,2 |
| Issuance of restricted common stock, net of cancellations | 97 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Shares issued from restricted stock units, including dividend equivalent units | 138 | — | — | — | 708 | — | — | — | — | 708 |
| Stock-based compensation | — | — | — | — | 14,195 | — | — | — | — | 14, |
| | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 444 | (33,414) | (33, |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|-------|---------|-------|------------|--------------|-------------|-------|--------------|--------------|
| Repurchases of common stock | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cash dividends paid on Class A common stock | — | — | — | — | — | (223,071) | — | — | — | (223,071) |
| Cash dividends paid on Class B common stock | — | — | — | — | — | (61,160) | — | — | — | (61,160) |
| Dividend equivalent units declared | — | — | — | — | — | (764) | — | — | — | (764) |
| Foreign currency translation adjustment | — | — | — | — | — | — | (12,198) | — | — | (12,198) |
| Net income | — | — | — | — | — | 231,308 | — | — | — | 231,308 |
| BALANCE at August 29, 2015 | 56,400 | \$ 56 | 13,296 | \$ 13 | \$ 604,905 | \$ 1,232,381 | \$ (17,252) | 8,038 | \$ (487,233) | \$ 1,338,131 |
| Exchange of Class B common stock for Class A common stock | 1,363 | 1 | (1,363) | (1) | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Exercise of common stock options, including income tax benefits of \$830 | 144 | 1 | — | — | 8,239 | — | — | — | — | 8,239 |
| Common stock issued under associate stock purchase plan | — | — | — | — | 1,649 | — | — | (64) | 2,435 | 4,060 |
| Issuance of restricted common stock, net of cancellations | (15) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Shares issued from restricted | 74 | — | — | — | 147 | — | — | — | — | 147 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|-----|---|---|----------|-----------|---|---------|-----------|-----------|
| stock units, including dividend equivalent units | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stock-based compensation | — | — | — | — | 13,985 | — | — | — | — | 13,985 |
| Repurchases of common stock | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 5,344 | (384,111) | (378,767) |
| Retirement of treasury stock | (4,973) | (5) | — | — | (44,908) | (317,240) | — | (4,973) | 362,153 | (4,973) |
| Cash dividends paid on Class A common stock | — | — | — | — | — | (83,000) | — | — | — | (83,000) |
| Cash dividends paid on Class B common stock | — | — | — | — | — | (22,778) | — | — | — | (22,778) |
| Dividend equivalent units declared | — | — | — | — | — | (431) | — | — | — | (431) |

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| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|-------|--------|-------|------------|--------------|-------------|-------|--------------|--------------|
| Foreign currency translation adjustment | — | — | — | — | — | — | (1,846) | — | — | (1,846) |
| Net income | — | — | — | — | — | 231,216 | — | — | — | 231,216 |
| BALANCE at September 3, 2016 | 52,993 | \$ 53 | 11,933 | \$ 12 | \$ 584,017 | \$ 1,040,148 | \$ (19,098) | 8,345 | \$ (506,756) | \$ 1,098,376 |
| Exchange of Class B common stock for Class A common stock | 82 | — | (82) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Exercise of common stock options | 399 | 1 | — | — | 26,887 | — | — | — | — | 26,888 |
| Common stock issued under associate stock purchase plan | — | — | — | — | 2,088 | — | — | (57) | 2,155 | 4,243 |
| Issuance of restricted common stock, net of cancellations | (7) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Shares issued from restricted stock units, including dividend equivalent units | 47 | — | — | — | 78 | — | — | — | — | 78 |
| Stock-based compensation | — | — | — | — | 13,925 | — | — | — | — | 13,925 |
| Repurchases of common stock | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 685 | (48,869) | (48,869) |
| Cash dividends paid on Class A common stock | — | — | — | — | — | (80,848) | — | — | — | (80,848) |
| Cash dividends paid on Class B common stock | — | — | — | — | — | (21,368) | — | — | — | (21,368) |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|-------|--------|-------|------------|-----------|-------------|-------|--------------|--------------|
| Dividend equivalent units declared, net of cancellations | — | — | — | — | — | (551) | — | — | — | (551) |
| Foreign currency translation adjustment | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1,835 | — | — | 1,835 |
| Net income | — | — | — | — | — | 231,431 | — | — | — | 231,431 |
| BALANCE at September 2, 2017 | 53,514 | \$ 54 | 11,851 | \$ 12 | \$ 626,995 | 1,168,812 | \$ (17,263) | 8,973 | \$ (553,470) | \$ 1,225,140 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT CO., INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 2, 2017, SEPTEMBER 3, 2016 AND AUGUST 29, 2015

(In thousands)

| | For the Fiscal Years Ended | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | September 2, 2017 (52 weeks) | September 3, 2016 (53 weeks) | August 29, 2015 (52 weeks) |
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES: | | | |
| Net income | \$ 231,431 | \$ 231,216 | \$ 231,308 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 62,980 | 71,930 | 69,729 |
| Stock-based compensation | 13,925 | 13,985 | 14,195 |
| Loss on disposal of property, plant, and equipment | 678 | 752 | 1,453 |
| Provision for doubtful accounts | 7,048 | 6,997 | 6,665 |
| Deferred income taxes and tax uncertainties | 13,482 | 15,007 | 15,035 |
| Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation | — | (1,536) | (3,956) |
| Write-off of deferred financing costs on previous credit facility | 94 | — | — |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities, net of amounts associated with business acquired: | | | |
| Accounts receivable | (72,230) | 2,595 | (29,347) |
| Inventories | (15,871) | 61,047 | (59,008) |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | (7,428) | (6,303) | 1,268 |
| Other assets | 548 | 142 | (1,354) |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 12,184 | 5,271 | 3,803 |
| Total adjustments | 15,410 | 169,887 | 18,483 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 246,841 | 401,103 | 249,791 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES: | | | |
| Expenditures for property, plant and equipment | (46,548) | (87,930) | (51,405) |
| Cash used in business acquisition | (42,345) | — | — |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (88,893) | (87,930) | (51,405) |
| CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES: | | | |
| Repurchases of common stock | (49,182) | (383,798) | (33,414) |
| Payments of regular cash dividends | (102,216) | (105,778) | (98,828) |
| Payment of special cash dividend | — | — | (185,403) |
| Payments on capital lease and financing obligations | (1,175) | (1,090) | (2,290) |
| Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation | — | 1,536 | 3,956 |
| Proceeds from sale of Class A common stock in connection with associate stock purchase plan | 4,243 | 4,084 | 4,285 |
| Proceeds from exercise of Class A common stock options | 26,887 | 7,410 | 11,119 |
| Borrowings under financing obligations | 739 | 453 | 530 |
| Borrowings under Credit Facility | 546,000 | 305,000 | 336,000 |

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| | | | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|
| Proceeds from Private Placement Loan | — | 175,000 | — |
| Private Placement Loan financing costs | — | (185) | — |
| Credit Facility financing costs | (1,542) | — | — |
| Payment of notes payable and revolving credit note under the Credit Facility | (618,500) | (301,000) | (243,000) |
| Net cash used in financing activities | (194,746) | (298,368) | (207,045) |
| Effect of foreign exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents | (9) | (182) | (228) |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | (36,807) | 14,623 | (8,887) |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of the year | 52,890 | 38,267 | 47,154 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of the year | \$ 16,083 | \$ 52,890 | \$ 38,267 |
| SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION: | | | |
| Cash paid for income taxes | \$ 121,691 | \$ 127,965 | \$ 122,988 |
| Cash paid for interest | \$ 11,695 | \$ 4,986 | \$ 5,843 |
| See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements. | | | |

MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT CO., INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Dollar amounts and shares in thousands, except per share data)

1. BUSINESS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Business

MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. (together with its subsidiaries, the “Company” or “MSC”) is a distributor of metalworking and maintenance, repair and operations (“MRO”) supplies with co-located headquarters in Melville, New York and Davidson, North Carolina. The Company has an additional office support center in Southfield, Michigan and serves primarily domestic markets through its distribution network of 93 branch offices and 12 customer fulfillment centers.

Principles of Consolidation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of MSC and its subsidiaries, all of which are wholly owned. All intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

Fiscal Year

The Company’s fiscal year is on a 52 or 53 week basis, ending on the Saturday closest to August 31st of each year. The financial statements for fiscal years 2017 and 2015 contain activity for 52 weeks while fiscal year 2016 contains activity for 53 weeks. Unless the context requires otherwise, references to years contained herein pertain to the Company’s fiscal year.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and

liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates and assumptions used in preparing the accompanying consolidated financial statements.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Company considers all short-term, highly liquid investments with maturities of three months or less at the date of purchase to be cash equivalents. Cash and cash equivalents are carried at cost, which approximates fair value.

Concentrations of Credit Risk

The Company's mix of receivables is diverse, selling its products primarily to end-users. The Company's customer base represents many diverse industries primarily concentrated in the United States. The Company performs periodic credit evaluations of its customers' financial condition and collateral is generally not required. Our standard receivable terms generally provide for payment of invoices within 30 days. The Company evaluates the collectability of accounts receivable based on numerous factors, including past transaction history with customers and their creditworthiness and provides a reserve for accounts that are potentially uncollectible.

The Company's cash includes deposits with commercial banks. The terms of these deposits and investments provide that all monies are available to the Company upon demand. The Company maintains the majority of its cash with high quality financial institutions. Deposits held with banks may exceed insurance limits. While MSC monitors the creditworthiness of these commercial banks and financial institutions, a crisis in the United States financial systems could limit access to funds and/or result in a loss of principal.

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

The Company establishes reserves for customer accounts that are deemed uncollectible. The method used to estimate the allowances is based on several factors, including the age of the receivables and the historical ratio of actual write-offs to the age of the receivables. These analyses also take into consideration economic conditions that may have an

impact on a specific industry, group of customers or a specific customer. While the Company has a broad customer base, representing many diverse industries primarily in all regions of the United States, a general economic downturn could result in higher than expected defaults and, therefore, the need to revise estimates for bad debts.

Inventory Valuation

Inventories consist of merchandise held for resale and are stated at the lower of weighted average cost or market. The Company evaluates the recoverability of its slow-moving or obsolete inventories quarterly. The Company estimates the recoverable cost of such inventory by product type while considering such factors as its age, historic and current demand trends, the physical condition of the inventory, as well as assumptions regarding future demand. The Company's ability to recover its cost for slow-moving or obsolete inventory can be affected by such factors as general market conditions, future customer demand, and relationships with suppliers. Substantially all of the Company's inventories have demonstrated long shelf lives and are not highly susceptible to obsolescence. In addition, many of the Company's inventories are eligible for return under various supplier rebate programs.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment and capitalized computer software are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Expenditures for maintenance and repairs are charged to expense as incurred; costs of major renewals and improvements are capitalized. At the time property and equipment are retired or otherwise disposed of, the cost and accumulated depreciation are eliminated from the asset and accumulated depreciation accounts and the profit or loss on such disposition is reflected in income.

Depreciation and amortization of property, plant and equipment are computed for financial reporting purposes on the straight-line method based on the estimated useful lives of the assets. Leasehold improvements are amortized over either their respective lease terms or their estimated lives, whichever is shorter. Estimated useful lives range from three to forty years for leasehold improvements and buildings and three to twenty years for furniture, fixtures, and equipment.

Capitalized computer software costs are amortized using the straight-line method over the estimated useful life. These costs include purchased software packages, payments to vendors and consultants for the development, implementation or modification of purchased software packages for Company use, and payroll and related costs for employees associated with internal-use software projects. Capitalized computer software costs are included within property, plant and equipment on the Company's consolidated balance sheets.

Goodwill and Other Indefinite-Lived Intangible Assets

The Company's business acquisitions typically result in the recording of goodwill and other intangible assets, which affect the amount of amortization expense and possibly impairment write-downs that the Company may incur in future periods. Goodwill represents the excess of the purchase price paid over the fair value of the net assets acquired in connection with business acquisitions. The Company annually reviews goodwill and intangible assets that have indefinite lives for impairment in its fiscal fourth quarter and when events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying values of these assets might exceed their current fair values. Goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets are tested for impairment by first evaluating qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of the reporting unit and indefinite-lived intangible assets are less than their carrying value. If it is concluded that this is the case, it is necessary to perform the currently prescribed quantitative impairment test. Otherwise, the quantitative impairment test is not required. Based on the qualitative assessment of goodwill performed by the Company in its respective fiscal fourth quarters, there was no indicator of impairment of goodwill for fiscal years 2017, 2016 and 2015. Based on the qualitative assessment of intangible assets that have indefinite lives performed by the Company in its fiscal fourth quarters of 2017 and 2016 and the quantitative assessment performed by the Company in its fiscal fourth quarter of 2015, there were no indicators of impairment of intangible assets that have indefinite lives.

The balances and changes in the carrying amount of goodwill are as follows:

| | |
|--|------------|
| Balance as of August 29, 2015 | \$ 623,626 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | 455 |
| Balance as of September 3, 2016 | 624,081 |
| Acquisition(1) | 8,318 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | 1,329 |
| Balance as of September 2, 2017 | \$ 633,728 |

(1) Acquired DECO Tool Supply Co. (“DECO”) in July 2017. See Note 4 “Business Combination” for further discussion on this transaction.

The components of the Company’s other intangible assets for the fiscal years ended September 2, 2017 and September 3, 2016 are as follows:

| | Weighted Average Useful Life (in years) | For the Fiscal Years Ended | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | September 2, 2017 | | September 3, 2016 | |
| | | Gross Carrying Amount | Accumulated Amortization | Gross Carrying Amount | Accumulated Amortization |
| Customer Relationships | 5 - 18 | \$ 187,260 | \$ (92,381) | \$ 175,160 | \$ (85,316) |
| Contract Rights | 10 | 23,100 | (23,100) | 23,100 | (23,100) |
| Trademark | 1 - 5 | 4,403 | (3,058) | 3,613 | (2,282) |
| Trademarks | Indefinite | 14,205 | — | 14,132 | — |
| Total | | \$ 228,968 | \$ (118,539) | \$ 216,005 | \$ (110,698) |

For fiscal years 2017 and 2016, the Company recorded approximately \$12,980 and \$112 of intangible assets, respectively, consisting of intangible assets acquired through the DECO acquisition and from the registration and application of new trademarks. See Note 4 “Business Combination” for further discussion. Approximately \$17 and \$397 in gross intangible assets, and any related accumulated amortization, were written off related to trademarks that are no longer being utilized during fiscal years 2017 and 2016, respectively. The Company’s amortizable intangible assets are recorded on a straight-line basis, including customer relationships, as it approximates customer attrition patterns and best estimates the use pattern of the asset. Amortization expense of the Company’s intangible assets was \$8,223, \$14,478, and \$16,580 during fiscal years 2017, 2016, and 2015, respectively. Estimated amortization expense for each of the five succeeding fiscal years is as follows:

| Fiscal Year | |
|-------------|---------|
| 2018 | \$9,737 |
| 2019 | 8,559 |
| 2020 | 7,685 |
| 2021 | 7,001 |
| 2022 | 6,986 |

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets

The Company periodically evaluates the net realizable value of long-lived assets, including definite-lived intangible assets and property and equipment, relying on a number of factors, including operating results, business plans, economic projections, and anticipated future cash flows. Impairment is assessed by evaluating the estimated undiscounted cash flows over the asset's remaining life. If estimated cash flows are insufficient to recover the investment, an impairment loss is recognized. No impairment loss was required to be recorded by the Company during fiscal years 2017, 2016 and 2015.

Deferred Catalog Costs

The costs of producing and distributing the Company's principal catalogs are deferred (\$4,778 and \$5,174 at September 2, 2017 and September 3, 2016, respectively) and included in other assets in the Company's consolidated balance sheets. These costs are charged to expense over the period that the catalogs remain the most current source of sales, which is typically one year or less from the date the catalogs are mailed. The costs associated with brochures and catalog supplements are charged to expense as distributed. The total amount of advertising costs, net of co-operative advertising income from vendor-sponsored programs, included in operating expenses in the consolidated statements of income was approximately \$16,289, \$19,242 and \$24,101 during the fiscal years 2017, 2016, and 2015, respectively.

Revenue Recognition

The Company recognizes revenue when persuasive evidence of an arrangement exists, delivery has occurred or services have been rendered, the sales price is fixed or determinable, and collectability is reasonably assured. In most cases, these conditions are met when the product is shipped to the customer or services have been rendered. In cases where the product is shipped directly to the customer, the Company recognizes revenue at the time of shipment primarily on a gross basis. The Company's standard shipping terms are FOB shipping point. Sales made through the Company's eCommerce platforms, which accounted for 60.1% of our fiscal 2017 revenues, are recognized on the same terms as revenues through other channels. The Company reports its sales net of the amount of actual sales returns and the amount of reserves established for anticipated sales returns based upon historical return rates. Sales tax collected from customers is excluded from net sales in the accompanying consolidated statements of income.

Gross Profit

Gross profit primarily represents the difference between the sale price to our customers and the product cost from our suppliers (net of earned rebates and discounts) including the cost of inbound freight. The cost of outbound freight (including internal transfers), purchasing, receiving and warehousing are included in operating expenses. The Company's gross profit may not be comparable to those of other companies, as other companies may include all of the costs related to their distribution network in cost of sales.

Vendor Consideration

The Company records cash consideration received for advertising costs incurred to sell the vendor's products as a reduction of the Company's advertising costs and is reflected in operating expenses in the consolidated statements of income. In addition, the Company receives volume rebates from certain vendors based on contractual arrangements with such vendors. Rebates received from these vendors are recognized as a reduction to the cost of goods sold in the consolidated statements of income when the inventory is sold.

Product Warranties

The Company generally offers a maximum one-year warranty, including parts and labor, for some of its machinery products. The specific terms and conditions of those warranties vary depending upon the product sold. The Company may be able to recoup some of these costs through product warranties it holds with its original equipment manufacturers, which typically range from thirty to ninety days. In general, many of the Company's general merchandise products are covered by third-party original equipment manufacturers' warranties. The Company's warranty expense has been minimal.

Shipping and Handling Costs

The Company includes shipping and handling fees billed to customers in net sales and shipping and handling costs associated with outbound freight in operating expenses in the accompanying consolidated statements of income. The shipping and handling costs in operating expenses were approximately \$119,979, \$118,174, and \$123,900 during fiscal years 2017, 2016, and 2015, respectively.

Stock-Based Compensation

In accordance with Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) Topic 718, “Compensation — Stock Compensation” (“ASC 718”), the Company estimates the fair value of share-based payment awards on the date of grant. The value of awards that are ultimately expected to vest is recognized as an expense over the requisite service periods. The fair value of the Company’s restricted stock awards and units is based on the closing market price of the Company’s common stock on the date of grant. The Company estimated the fair value of stock options granted using a Black-Scholes option-pricing model. This model requires the Company to make estimates and assumptions with respect to the expected term of the option, the expected volatility of the price of the Company’s common stock and the expected forfeiture rate. The fair value is then amortized on a straight-line basis over the requisite service periods of the awards, which is generally the vesting period.

The expected term is based on the historical exercise behavior of grantees, as well as the contractual life of the option grants. The expected volatility factor is based on the volatility of the Company's common stock for a period equal to the expected term of the stock option. In addition, forfeitures of share-based awards are estimated at the time of grant and revised, if necessary, in subsequent periods if actual forfeitures differ from those estimates. The Company uses historical data to estimate pre-vesting option and restricted stock award and unit forfeitures and record stock-based compensation expense

only for those awards that are expected to vest.

In fiscal 2017, the Company adopted Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) 2016-09, Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting, which includes provisions intended to simplify various aspects related to how share-based payments are accounted for and presented in the financial statements.

Treasury Stock

The Company accounts for treasury stock under the cost method, using the first-in, first-out flow assumption, and is included in “Class A treasury stock, at cost” on the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. When the Company reissues treasury stock, the gains are recorded in additional paid-in capital (“APIC”), while the losses are recorded to APIC to the extent that the previous net gains on the reissuance of treasury stock are available to offset the losses. If the loss is larger than the previous gains available, then the loss is recorded to retained earnings. When treasury stock is retired, the par value of the repurchased shares is deducted from common stock and the excess repurchase price over par is deducted by allocation to both APIC and retained earnings. The amount allocated to APIC is calculated as the original cost of APIC per share outstanding using the first-in, first-out flow assumption and is applied to the number of shares repurchased. Any remaining amount is allocated to retained earnings.

Related Party Transactions

Atlanta CFC Purchase

In August 2016, the Company’s subsidiary, Sid Tool Co., Inc. (“Sid Tool”) completed a transaction with Mitchmar Atlanta Properties, Inc. (“Mitchmar”) to purchase the Atlanta Customer Fulfillment Center (“CFC”) and the real property on which the Atlanta CFC is situated for a purchase price of \$33,650. Sid Tool had leased the Atlanta CFC from Mitchmar since 1989. Mitchmar is owned by Mitchell Jacobson, the Company’s Chairman, and his sister, Marjorie Gershwind Fiverson, and two family-related trusts, and the beneficiaries of one of such trusts include the children of Erik Gershwind, the Company’s Chief Executive Officer. The purchase price was determined by an independent appraisal process, as provided in the lease agreement for the Atlanta facility.

The transaction was approved by the Company’s Board of Directors upon the recommendation of a special committee of independent directors which was responsible for evaluating the terms of the transaction. Both the Company’s Board of Directors and the special committee determined that the transaction was in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders. The special committee was advised by independent counsel in connection with its evaluation and negotiation of the terms of the transaction and the purchase agreement.

The Company paid rent under an operating lease to Mitchmar of approximately \$2,110 and \$2,318, respectively, for fiscal years 2016 and 2015 in connection with our occupancy of our Atlanta CFC.

Stock Purchase Agreement

In connection with a “modified Dutch auction” tender offer commenced on July 7, 2016, the Company purchased an aggregate of 1,152 shares of its Class A common stock from Mitchell Jacobson, the Company’s Chairman, his sister, Marjorie Gershwind Fiverson, Erik Gershwind, the Company’s President and Chief Executive Officer, and two other beneficial owners (collectively, the “Sellers”) of the Company’s Class B common stock at a purchase price of \$72.50 per share, for an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$83,524. The purchase price per share paid to the Sellers pursuant to the Stock Purchase Agreement was equal to the purchase price per share paid to shareholders whose shares were purchased in the Company’s tender offer.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The carrying values of the Company’s financial instruments, including cash, receivables, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, approximate fair value because of the short maturity of these instruments. In addition, based on borrowing rates currently available to the Company for borrowings with similar terms, the carrying values of the Company’s capital lease obligations also approximate fair value. The fair value of the Company’s taxable bonds is estimated based on observable inputs in non-active markets. Under this method, the Company’s fair value of the taxable bonds was not significantly different than the carrying value at September 2, 2017 and September 3, 2016. The fair values of the Company’s long-term debt, including current maturities, are estimated based on quoted market prices for the same or similar issues or on current rates offered to the Company for debt of the same remaining maturities. Under this method, the Company’s fair value

of any long-term obligations was not significantly different than the carrying values at September 2, 2017 and September 3, 2016.

Foreign Currency

The local currency is the functional currency for all of MSC's operations outside the United States. Assets and liabilities of these operations are translated to U.S. dollars at the exchange rate in effect at the end of each period. Income statement accounts are translated at the average exchange rate prevailing during the period. Translation adjustments arising from the use of differing exchange rates from period to period are included as a component of other comprehensive income within shareholders' equity. Gains and losses from foreign currency transactions are included in net income for the period.

Income Taxes

The Company has established deferred income tax assets and liabilities for temporary differences between the financial reporting bases and the income tax bases of its assets and liabilities at enacted tax rates expected to be in effect when such assets or liabilities are realized or settled pursuant to the provisions of ASC Topic 740, "Income Taxes", which prescribes a comprehensive model for the financial statement recognition, measurement, classification, and disclosure of uncertain tax positions. For those benefits to be recognized, a tax position must be more-likely-than-not to be sustained upon examination by taxing authorities. In fiscal 2017, the Company adopted ASU 2015-17, "Balance Sheet Classification of Deferred Taxes", and reclassified all current deferred taxes and the related valuation allowances to noncurrent positions on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. The amounts of unrecognized tax benefits, exclusive of interest and penalties that would affect the effective tax rate, were \$5,689 and \$4,432 as of September 2, 2017 and September 3, 2016, respectively.

Comprehensive Income

Comprehensive income consists of consolidated net income and foreign currency translation adjustments. Foreign currency translation adjustments included in comprehensive income were not tax-effected as investments in international affiliates are deemed to be permanent.

Geographic Regions

The Company's sales and assets are predominantly generated from United States locations. Sales and assets related to the United Kingdom (the "U.K.") and Canada branches are not significant to the Company's total operations. For fiscal

2017, U.K. and Canadian operations represented approximately 3% of the Company's consolidated net sales.

Segment Reporting

The Company utilizes the management approach for segment disclosure, which designates the internal organization that is used by management for making operating decisions and assessing performance as the source of our reportable segments. We operate in one operating and reportable segment as a distributor of metalworking and MRO products and services. The Company's chief operating decision maker, its Chief Executive Officer, manages the Company's operations on a consolidated basis for purposes of allocating resources. Substantially all of the Company's revenues and long-lived assets are in the United States. We do not disclose revenue information by product category as it is impracticable to do so as a result of our numerous product offerings and the way our business is managed.

Business Combinations

The Company accounts for business combinations in accordance with ASC Topic 805, "Business Combinations" ("ASC 805"). ASC 805 established principles and requirements for recognizing the total consideration transferred to and the assets acquired, liabilities assumed and any non-controlling interest in the acquired target in a business combination. ASC 805 also provides guidance for recognizing and measuring goodwill acquired in a business combination and requires the acquirer to disclose information that users may need to evaluate and understand the financial impact of the business combination. See Note 4 "Business Combination" for further discussion.

Recently Adopted Accounting Pronouncements

Share-based Payments

In March 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued ASU 2016-09, which includes

provisions intended to simplify various aspects related to how share-based payments are accounted for and presented in the financial statements. The Company early adopted ASU 2016-09 in the second quarter of fiscal 2017, which required us to reflect any adjustments as of September 4, 2016, the beginning of the annual period that includes the interim period of adoption. Prior fiscal year periods were not retrospectively adjusted.

The new standard requires that excess tax benefits and deficiencies resulting from stock-based compensation awards vesting and exercises be recognized in the income statement. Previously, these amounts were recognized in additional paid-in

capital. In addition, ASU 2016-09 requires excess tax benefits and deficiencies to be excluded from the assumed future proceeds in the calculation of diluted shares.

Furthermore, the Company has elected to continue to estimate the number of stock-based awards expected to vest, as permitted by ASU 2016-09, rather than electing to account for forfeitures as they occur. The standard also requires that excess tax benefits from share-based compensation awards be reported as operating activities in the consolidated statements of cash flows. Previously, these cash flows were included in financing activities. The Company elected to apply this change on a prospective basis. Additionally, ASU 2016-09 requires that employee taxes paid when an employer withholds shares for tax withholding purposes be reported as financing activities in the consolidated statements of cash flows, which is how the Company has historically classified these. Finally, the new guidance will allow an employer with a statutory income tax withholding obligation to withhold shares with a fair value up to the amount of tax owed using the maximum statutory tax rate in the employee's applicable jurisdiction. The Company will continue to withhold the minimum statutory withholding obligation for outstanding awards.

Adoption of the new standard affected our previously reported fiscal first quarter of 2017 net income per share as follows:

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended December 3, 2016 (unaudited) | |
|--|--|----------------|
| | As Reported | As Adjusted |
| | (in thousands, except per share data) | |
| Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income: | | |
| Provision for income taxes | \$ 33,442 | \$ 33,257 |
| Net income | \$ 54,103 | \$ 54,288 |
| Per share information: | | |
| Net income per common share: | | |
| Basic | \$ 0.96 | \$ 0.96 |
| Diluted | \$ 0.95 | \$ 0.96 |
| Weighted average shares used in computing net income per common share: | | |
| Basic | 56,381 | 56,381 |

| | | |
|---------|--------|--------|
| Diluted | 56,572 | 56,608 |
|---------|--------|--------|

Deferred Taxes

In November 2015, the FASB issued ASU No. 2015-17, Balance Sheet Classification of Deferred Taxes. This update requires an entity to classify deferred tax liabilities and assets as non-current within a classified balance sheet. ASU 2015-17 is effective for annual reporting periods, and interim periods therein, beginning after December 15, 2016. This update may be applied either prospectively to all deferred tax liabilities and assets or retrospectively to all periods presented. The FASB allowed early adoption of this standard and, therefore, the Company prospectively adopted ASU 2015-17 during its first quarter of fiscal 2017. As a result of adopting this standard, \$46,627 of deferred income taxes that were previously presented as a current asset are now included within long-term liabilities, as the Company was in a net deferred tax liability position in its first quarter of fiscal 2017 which was the time of adoption. Prior periods were not retrospectively adjusted.

Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs

In April 2015, the FASB issued ASU No. 2015-03, Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs (Subtopic 835-30), which requires that debt issuance costs related to a recognized debt liability be presented in the balance sheet as a direct deduction from the carrying amount of that debt liability. For public business entities, this ASU is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2015, and interim periods within those fiscal years. Entities should apply the new guidance on a retrospective basis, wherein the balance sheet of each individual period

presented should be adjusted to reflect the period-specific effects of applying the new guidance. The FASB allowed early adoption of this standard and, therefore, the Company adopted ASU 2015-03 during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2016. As a result of adopting this standard on a retrospective basis, \$1,020 of debt issuance costs that were previously presented in long-term other assets as of August 29, 2015 are now included within current maturities of long-term debt and long-term debt, net of current maturities.

Accounting Pronouncements Not Yet Adopted

Goodwill Impairment

In January 2017, the FASB issued ASU No. 2017-04, Intangibles - Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Simplifying the Test for Goodwill Impairment. ASU 2017-04 simplifies the subsequent measurement of goodwill by eliminating Step 2 in the goodwill impairment test that required an entity to calculate the implied fair value of goodwill. An entity will now apply a one-step quantitative test and record an impairment charge based on the excess of a reporting unit's carrying amount over its fair value. ASU 2017-04 will be applied prospectively and is effective for annual and interim goodwill impairment tests conducted in fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2019. The new standard is effective for the Company for its fiscal 2021 fourth quarter goodwill impairment test. Early adoption is permitted for annual and interim goodwill impairment testing dates after January 1, 2017. The Company does not expect the adoption of ASU 2017-04 to have a material impact on its consolidated financial statements.

Business Combinations

In January 2017, the FASB issued ASU No. 2017-01, Business Combinations – Clarifying the Definition of a Business. ASU 2017-01 clarifies the definition of a business to assist entities with evaluating when a set of transferred assets and activities is considered a business. The amendment is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017, including interim periods within those fiscal years. The new standard is effective for the Company for its fiscal 2019 first quarter, with early adoption permitted. The amendments are to be applied prospectively to business combinations that occur after the effective date.

Leases

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-02, Leases (Topic 842), to increase transparency and comparability by providing additional information to users of financial statements regarding an entity's leasing activities. ASU 2016-02 requires reporting entities to recognize lease assets and lease liabilities on the balance sheet for substantially all lease arrangements. ASU 2016-02 is effective for annual reporting periods, and interim periods therein, beginning after December 15, 2018. The new standard is effective for the Company for its fiscal 2020 first quarter. The guidance will be applied on a modified retrospective basis beginning with the earliest period presented.

The Company is currently evaluating this standard to determine the impact of adoption on its consolidated financial statements.

Simplifying the Measurement of Inventory

In July 2015, the FASB issued ASU No. 2015-11, Simplifying the Measurement of Inventory (Topic 330), which requires an entity to measure inventory at the lower of cost or net realizable value, which consists of the estimated selling prices in the ordinary course of business, less reasonably predictable cost of completion, disposal, and transportation. For public entities, the updated guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016, including interim periods within those fiscal years. The guidance is to be applied prospectively with earlier application permitted as of the beginning of an interim or annual reporting period. The new standard is effective for the Company for its fiscal 2018 first quarter. The Company does not expect adoption of ASU 2015-11 to have a material impact on its financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Revenue from Contracts with Customers

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606), which requires an entity to recognize the amount of revenue to which it expects to be entitled for the transfer of promised goods or services to customers. The ASU will replace most existing revenue recognition guidance in GAAP when it becomes effective. The new standard is effective for the Company for its fiscal 2019 first quarter. Early application is permitted. The standard permits the use of either the retrospective or cumulative effect transition method. To date, the Company has performed a preliminary detailed review of key contracts and compared historical accounting policies and practices to the new standard. While the Company is still evaluating this standard, it is not expected that this standard will have a material

impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements. The Company will continue to evaluate ASU 2014-09 and other amendments and related interpretive guidance through the date of adoption. The Company expects to adopt ASU 2014-09 under the modified retrospective approach in the first quarter of fiscal 2019.

Reclassifications

The Company combined the revolving credit note and current maturities of long-term debt into short-term debt for the prior year in the Consolidated Balance Sheets in order to conform to the current period's presentation.

2. FAIR VALUE

Fair value accounting standards define fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The following fair value hierarchy prioritizes the inputs used to measure fair value into three levels, with Level 1 being of the highest priority. The three levels of inputs used to measure fair value are as follows:

Level 1—Observable inputs that reflect quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets.

Level 2—Include other inputs that are directly or indirectly observable in the marketplace.

Level 3—Unobservable inputs which are supported by little or no market activity.

As of September 2, 2017 and September 3, 2016, the Company did not have any cash equivalents.

In connection with the construction of the Company's customer fulfillment center in Columbus, Ohio, the Company entered into an arrangement during fiscal 2013 with the Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority ("Finance Authority") which provides savings on state and local sales taxes imposed on construction materials to entities that finance the transactions through them. Under this arrangement, the Finance Authority issued taxable bonds to finance the structure and site improvements of the Company's customer fulfillment center. The bonds (\$27,025 at

both September 2, 2017 and September 3, 2016) are classified as available for sale securities in accordance with ASC Topic 320. The securities are recorded at fair value in Other Assets in the Consolidated Balance Sheet. The fair values of these securities are based on observable inputs in non-active markets, which are therefore classified as Level 2 in the hierarchy. The Company did not record any gains or losses on these securities during fiscal year 2017. The outstanding principal amount of each bond bears interest at the rate of 2.4% per year. Interest is payable on a semiannual basis in arrears on each interest payment date.

In addition, based on borrowing rates currently available to the Company for borrowings with similar terms, the carrying values of the Company's capital lease obligations also approximate fair value. The fair value of the Company's short-term and long-term debt is estimated based on quoted market prices for the same or similar issues or on current rates offered to the Company for debt of the same remaining maturities. The carrying amount of the Company's debt at September 2, 2017 approximates its fair value.

The Company's financial instruments, other than those presented in the disclosure above, include cash, receivables, accounts payable, and accrued liabilities. Management believes the carrying amount of the aforementioned financial instruments is a reasonable estimate of fair value as of September 2, 2017 and September 3, 2016 due to the short-term maturity of these items.

During the fiscal years ended September 2, 2017 and September 3, 2016, the Company had no measurements of non-financial assets or liabilities at fair value on a non-recurring basis subsequent to their initial recognition.

3. NET INCOME PER SHARE

The Company's non-vested restricted stock awards contain non-forfeitable rights to dividends and meet the criteria of a participating security as defined by ASC 260, "Earnings Per Share". Under the two-class method, net income per share is computed by dividing net income allocated to common shareholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period. In applying the two-class method, net income is allocated to both common shares and participating securities based on their respective weighted average shares outstanding for the period.

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The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted net income per common share under the two-class method for the fiscal years ended September 2, 2017, September 3, 2016 and August 29, 2015, respectively:

| | For the Fiscal Years Ended | | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | September 2, 2017 (52 weeks) | September 3, 2016 (53 weeks) | August 29, 2015 (52 weeks) |
| Net income as reported | \$ 231,431 | \$ 231,216 | \$ 231,308 |
| Less: Distributed net income available to participating securities | (206) | (308) | (1,350) |
| Less: Undistributed net income available to participating securities | (410) | (601) | — |
| Numerator for basic net income per share: | | | |
| Undistributed and distributed net income available to common shareholders | \$ 230,815 | \$ 230,307 | \$ 229,958 |
| Add: Undistributed net income allocated to participating securities | 410 | 601 | — |
| Less: Undistributed net income reallocated to participating securities | (408) | (600) | — |
| Numerator for diluted net income per share: | | | |
| Undistributed and distributed net income available to common shareholders | \$ 230,817 | \$ 230,308 | \$ 229,958 |
| Denominator: | | | |
| Weighted average shares outstanding for basic net income per share | 56,591 | 60,908 | 61,292 |
| Effect of dilutive securities | 380 | 168 | 195 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding for diluted net income per share | 56,971 | 61,076 | 61,487 |
| Net income per share two-class method: | | | |
| Basic | \$ 4.08 | \$ 3.78 | \$ 3.75 |
| Diluted | \$ 4.05 | \$ 3.77 | \$ 3.74 |

There were no antidilutive stock options included in the computation of diluted earnings per share for the fiscal year ended September 2, 2017. Antidilutive stock options of 843 and 678 were not included in the computation of diluted earnings per share for the fiscal years ended September 3, 2016 and August 29, 2015.

4. BUSINESS COMBINATION

On July 31, 2017, the Company acquired certain assets and assumed certain liabilities of DECO, an industrial supply distributor based in Davenport, Iowa. For the fiscal year ending September 2, 2017, \$10,369 of revenue and a \$250 loss before provision for income taxes relating to the acquired DECO business were included in the

consolidated statements of income since the date of acquisition.

The combined acquisition of the DECO business for \$38,000 and real property of \$4,345 from its affiliates was accounted for as a business combination pursuant to ASC Topic 805. Acquisition-related expenses totaling \$1,002 have been recorded as operating expenses in the Company's consolidated statement of income for the fiscal year ending September 2, 2017. As required by ASC 805-20, the Company allocated the purchase price to assets and liabilities based on their estimated fair value at the acquisition date. The cash purchase price for the combined acquisition was \$42,345.

The purchase price allocation is summarized in the following table:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Accounts receivable | \$ 15,452 |
| Inventories | 4,802 |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | 26 |
| Property, plant and equipment | 6,609 |
| Goodwill | 8,318 |
| Identifiable intangibles | 12,870 |
| Total assets acquired | \$ 48,077 |
| Total liabilities assumed | (5,732) |
| Net assets acquired | \$ 42,345 |

Acquired intangible assets with a fair value of \$12,870 consisted primarily of customer relationships of \$12,100 with a useful life of 10 years. The goodwill amount of \$8,318 represents the excess of the purchase price over the fair value of the net tangible and intangible assets acquired. The primary items that generated the goodwill were the premium paid by the Company for the right to control the business acquired and the expected synergies. This goodwill will not be amortized and will be tested for impairment at least annually. Goodwill recognized as a result of the DECO acquisition is expected to be deductible for tax purposes and will be amortized for tax purposes over 15 years. Pro forma information related to the acquisition is not presented because the impact of the acquisition on the Company's consolidated results of operations is not considered to be significant.

In addition, the Company recorded a post-closing working capital adjustment in the amount of \$738, which was paid out to DECO, in October 2017, related to the acquisition closed in fiscal 2017.

5. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

The following is a summary of property, plant and equipment and the estimated useful lives used in the computation of depreciation and amortization:

| | Number of Years | September 2, 2017 | September 3, 2016 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Land | — | \$ 28,169 | \$ 27,205 |
| Building and improvements | 3 - 40 | 182,032 | 178,828 |

| | The lesser of lease term or | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Leasehold improvements | 31.5 | 2,595 | 2,551 |
| Furniture, fixtures and equipment | 3 - 20 | 178,251 | 172,347 |
| Computer systems, equipment and software | 3 - 5 | 336,685 | 317,096 |
| | | 727,732 | 698,027 |
| Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization | | 411,427 | 377,483 |
| Total | | \$ 316,305 | \$ 320,544 |

The amount of capitalized interest, net of accumulated amortization, included in property, plant and equipment was \$754 and \$796 at September 2, 2017 and September 3, 2016, respectively.

Depreciation expense was \$54,356, \$57,052 and \$52,799 for the fiscal years ended September 2, 2017, September 3, 2016, and August 29, 2015, respectively.

6. INCOME TAXES

The provision for income taxes is comprised of the following:

| | For the Fiscal Years Ended | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| | September 2, 2017 | September 3, 2016 | August 29, 2015 |
| Current: | | | |
| Federal | \$ 108,347 | \$ 109,699 | \$ 109,575 |
| State and local | 16,059 | 15,621 | 17,339 |
| | 124,406 | 125,320 | 126,914 |
| Deferred: | | | |
| Federal | 10,938 | 13,993 | 13,987 |
| State and local | 1,217 | 1,202 | 932 |
| | 12,155 | 15,195 | 14,919 |
| Total | \$ 136,561 | \$ 140,515 | \$ 141,833 |

Significant components of deferred tax assets and liabilities are as follows:

| | September 2, 2017 | September 3, 2016 |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Deferred tax liabilities: | | |
| Depreciation | \$ (56,382) | \$ (53,580) |
| Deferred catalog costs | (1,079) | (1,347) |
| Goodwill | (103,218) | (88,607) |
| | (160,679) | (143,534) |
| Deferred tax assets: | | |
| Accounts receivable | 4,441 | 4,089 |
| Inventory | 9,794 | 9,995 |
| Deferred compensation | 1,280 | 1,710 |
| Stock-based compensation | 9,140 | 9,813 |
| Intangible amortization | 9,517 | 11,933 |
| Other accrued expenses/reserves | 17,445 | 9,087 |
| | 51,617 | 46,627 |
| Net Deferred Tax Liabilities | \$ (109,062) | \$ (96,907) |

Reconciliation of the statutory Federal income tax rate to the Company's effective tax rate is as follows:

| | For the Fiscal Years Ended | | |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | September 2, 2017 | September 3, 2016 | August 29, 2015 |
| U.S. Federal statutory rate | 35.0 % | 35.0 % | 35.0 % |
| State income taxes, net of Federal benefit | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.1 |
| Other, net | (0.9) | (0.2) | (0.1) |
| Effective income tax rate | 37.1 % | 37.8 % | 38.0 % |

The aggregate changes in the balance of gross unrecognized tax benefits during fiscal 2017 and 2016 were as follows:

| | September 2, 2017 | September 3, 2016 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$ 10,610 | \$ 10,333 |
| Additions for tax positions relating to current year | 3,261 | 2,745 |
| Additions for tax positions relating to prior years | 1,015 | — |
| Settlements | — | (174) |
| Lapse of statute of limitations | (2,245) | (2,294) |
| Ending Balance | \$ 12,641 | \$ 10,610 |

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Included in the balance of unrecognized tax benefits at September 2, 2017 is \$1,049 related to tax positions for which it is reasonably possible that the total amounts could significantly change during the next twelve months. This amount represents a decrease in unrecognized tax benefits comprised primarily of items related to expiring statutes of limitations in state jurisdictions.

The Company recognizes interest expense and penalties in the provision for income taxes. The fiscal years 2017, 2016 and 2015 provisions include interest and penalties of \$245, \$6 and \$19, respectively. The Company has accrued \$305 and \$235 for interest and penalties as of September 2, 2017 and September 3, 2016, respectively.

With limited exceptions, the Company is no longer subject to Federal income tax examinations through fiscal 2013 and state income tax examinations through fiscal 2012.

7. ACCRUED LIABILITIES

Accrued liabilities consist of the following:

| | September 2, 2017 | September 3, 2016 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Accrued payroll and fringe | \$ 32,151 | \$ 31,416 |
| Accrued bonus | 19,657 | 12,728 |
| Accrued sales, property and income taxes | 12,622 | 13,541 |
| Accrued sales rebates and returns | 14,458 | 14,206 |
| Accrued other | 25,585 | 29,060 |
| Total accrued liabilities | \$ 104,473 | \$ 100,951 |

8. DEBT AND CAPITAL LEASE OBLIGATIONS

Debt at September 2, 2017 and September 3, 2016 consisted of the following:

| | September 2, 2017 | September 3, 2016 |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Credit Facility: | | |
| Revolver | \$ 332,000 | \$ 217,000 |
| Term loan | - | 187,500 |

| | | |
|---|------------|------------|
| Private Placement Debt: | | |
| Senior notes, series A | 75,000 | 75,000 |
| Senior notes, series B | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Capital lease and financing obligations | 27,829 | 28,268 |
| Less: unamortized debt issuance costs | (1,852) | (946) |
| Total debt | \$ 532,977 | \$ 606,822 |
| Less: short-term debt(1) | (331,986) | (267,050) |
| Long-term debt | \$ 200,991 | \$ 339,772 |

(1) Net of unamortized debt issuance costs expected to be amortized in the next twelve months.

Credit Facility

In April 2017, the Company entered into a new \$600,000 credit facility (the “New Credit Facility”). The New Credit Facility, which matures on April 14, 2022, provides for a five-year unsecured revolving loan facility in the aggregate amount of \$600,000. The New Credit Facility replaced the Company’s previous \$650,000 credit facility (the “Previous Credit Facility”), dated April 22, 2013.

The New Credit Facility permits up to \$50,000 to be used to fund letters of credit. The New Credit Facility also permits the Company to request one or more incremental term loan facilities and/or increase the revolving loan commitments in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$300,000. Subject to certain limitations, each such incremental term loan facility or

revolving commitment increase will be on terms as agreed to by the Company, the Administrative Agent and the lenders providing such financing.

Borrowings under the New Credit Facility bear interest, at the Company's option, either at (i) the LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate) rate plus the applicable margin for LIBOR loans ranging from 1.00% to 1.375%, based on the Company's consolidated leverage ratio; or (ii) the greatest of (a) the Administrative Agent's prime rate in effect on such day, (b) the federal funds effective rate in effect on such day, plus 0.50% and (c) the LIBOR rate that would be calculated as of such day in respect of a proposed LIBOR loan with a one-month interest period, plus 1.00%, plus, in the case of each of clauses (a) through (c), an applicable margin ranging from 0.00% to 0.375%, based on the Company's consolidated leverage ratio. The Company is required to pay a quarterly undrawn fee ranging from 0.10% to 0.20% per annum on the unutilized portion of the New Credit Facility, based on the Company's consolidated leverage ratio. The Company is also required to pay quarterly letter of credit usage fees ranging between 1.00% to 1.375% (based on the Company's consolidated leverage ratio) on the amount of the daily average outstanding letters of credit, and a quarterly fronting fee of 0.125% per annum on the undrawn and unexpired amount of each letter of credit. The applicable borrowing rate for the Company for any borrowings outstanding under the New Credit Facility at September 2, 2017 was 2.36%, which represented LIBOR plus 1.125%. Based on the interest period the Company selects, interest may be payable every one, two, three or six months. Interest is reset at the end of each interest period. The Company currently elects to have loans under the New Credit Facility bear interest based on LIBOR with one-month interest periods.

During fiscal 2017, the Company borrowed \$216,000 under the revolving loan facility and repaid \$236,000 and \$37,500 of the revolving loan facility and term loan facility, respectively. In addition, as a result of entering into the New Credit Facility, the Company borrowed \$330,000 under the New Credit Facility and used an additional \$16,706 in cash on hand to pay down and close the \$345,000 outstanding balance under the Previous Credit Facility plus the applicable interest and fees. During fiscal 2016, the Company borrowed \$305,000 under the revolving loan facility and repaid \$276,000 and \$25,000 of the revolving loan facility and term loan facility, respectively.

Private Placement Debt

In July 2016, in connection with the Company's "modified Dutch auction" tender offer, the Company completed the issuance and sale of the following unsecured senior notes (collectively "Private Placement Debt"):

- \$75,000 aggregate principal amount of 2.65% Senior Notes, Series A, due July 28, 2023; and
- \$100,000 aggregate principal amount of 2.90% Senior Notes, Series B, due July 28, 2026.

The Private Placement Debt is due, in full, on the stated maturity dates. Interest is payable semi-annually at the fixed stated interest rates.

The New Credit Facility and Private Placement Debt contain several restrictive covenants including the requirement that the Company maintain a maximum consolidated leverage ratio of total indebtedness to EBITDA (earnings before interest expense, taxes, depreciation, amortization and stock-based compensation) of no more than 3.00 to 1.00 (or, at the election of the Company after it consummates a material acquisition, a four-quarter temporary increase to 3.50 to 1.00), and a minimum consolidated interest coverage ratio of EBITDA to total interest expense of at least 3.00 to 1.00, during the terms of the New Credit Facility and Private Placement Debt.

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At September 2, 2017 and September 3, 2016, the Company was in compliance with the operating and financial covenants of the New Credit Facility and Private Placement Debt.

Maturities of debt, excluding capital lease and financing obligations, as of September 2, 2017 are as follows:

| Fiscal Year | Maturities of Debt |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| 2018 | \$ 332,000 |
| 2019 | — |
| 2020 | — |
| 2021 | — |
| 2022 | — |
| Thereafter | 175,000 |
| Total | \$ 507,000 |

Capital Lease Obligations

In connection with the construction of the Company's customer fulfillment center in Columbus, Ohio, the Finance Authority holds the title to the building and entered into a long-term lease with the Company. The lease has a 20-year term with a prepayment option without penalty between 7 and 20 years. At the end of the lease term, the building's title is transferred to the Company for a nominal amount when the principal of and interest on the bonds have been fully paid. The lease has been classified as a capital lease in accordance with ASC Topic 840. At September 2, 2017 and September 3, 2016, the capital lease obligation was approximately \$27,025. Under this arrangement, the Finance Authority has issued taxable bonds to finance the structure and site improvements of the Company's customer fulfillment center in the amount of \$27,025 outstanding at both September 2, 2017 and September 3, 2016.

At September 2, 2017, approximate future minimum payments under capital leases and financing arrangements are as follows:

| Fiscal Year | Payments under capital leases and financing arrangements |
|-------------|--|
| 2018 | \$ 1,022 |
| 2019 | 993 |
| 2020 | 27,327 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 2021 | — |
| Total minimum lease payments | \$ 29,342 |
| Less: amount representing interest | 1,513 |
| Present value of minimum lease payments | \$ 27,829 |
| Less: current portion | 373 |
| Long-term capital leases and financing arrangements | \$ 27,456 |

9. SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

Treasury Stock Purchases

In July 2016, the Company commenced a tender offer to purchase for cash up to \$300,000 in value of shares of its Class A common stock through a “modified Dutch auction” tender offer at a price per share of not less than \$66.00 and not greater than \$72.50 (the “Tender Offer”). In addition, the Company entered into a stock purchase agreement with the holders of the Company’s Class B common stock (the “Class B Holders”) to purchase (the “Stock Purchase”) from the Class B Holders a pro rata number of shares at the price per share to be paid by the Company in the Tender Offer, such that the Class B Holders’ percentage ownership and voting power in the Company would remain substantially the same as prior to the Tender Offer. The Class B Holders also agreed not to participate in the Tender Offer.

In August 2016, the Company completed the Tender Offer and purchased 3,821 shares of the Company’s Class A common stock that were validly tendered and not validly withdrawn at a price of \$72.50 per share. The Company also completed the Stock Purchase of an aggregate of 1,152 shares of its Class A common stock from the Class B Holders at a purchase price of \$72.50 per share. In total, as a result of the Tender Offer and Stock Purchase, the Company purchased 4,973 shares at a price of \$72.50 per share for an aggregate cost of \$360,566, excluding fees and expenses. The Company incurred costs of \$1,587 in connection with the Tender Offer and Stock Purchase resulting in a total cost of \$362,153, or

\$72.82 per share for the shares repurchased, which were recorded to treasury stock. The Company retired all 4,973 shares purchased as a result of the Tender Offer and Stock Purchase.

During fiscal 1999, the Board of Directors established the MSC Stock Repurchase Plan (the “Repurchase Plan”). In 2011, the Board of Directors reaffirmed and replenished the Repurchase Plan so that the total number of shares of Class A common stock authorized for future repurchase was 5,000 shares. As of September 2, 2017, the maximum number of shares that may yet be repurchased under the Repurchase Plan was 802 shares. The Repurchase Plan allows the Company to repurchase shares at any time and in any increments it deems appropriate in accordance with Rule 10b-18 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. During fiscal 2017 and 2016, the Company repurchased 685 shares and 5,344 shares, respectively, of its Class A common stock for \$48,869 and \$384,111, respectively. 43 and 72 of these shares were repurchased by the Company to satisfy the Company’s associates’ tax withholding liability associated with its share-based compensation program during fiscal 2017 and 2016, respectively. Shares of the Company’s common stock purchased pursuant to the Tender Offer and the Stock Purchase, as well as shares purchased to satisfy the Company’s associates’ tax withholding liability associated with its share-based compensation program, did not reduce the number of shares that may be repurchased under the Repurchase Plan.

The Company reissued 57 and 64 shares of treasury stock during fiscal 2017 and 2016, respectively, to fund the Associate Stock Purchase Plan (see Note 10).

Common Stock

Each holder of the Company’s Class A common stock is entitled to one vote for each share held of record on the applicable record date on all matters presented to a vote of shareholders, including the election of directors. The holders of Class B common stock are entitled to ten votes per share for each share held of record on the applicable record date and are entitled to vote, together with the holders of the Class A common stock, on all matters which are subject to shareholder approval. Holders of Class A common stock and Class B common stock have no cumulative voting rights or preemptive rights to purchase or subscribe for any stock or other securities and there are no redemption or sinking fund provisions with respect to such stock.

The holders of the Company’s Class B common stock have the right to convert their shares of Class B common stock into shares of Class A common stock at their election and on a one-to-one basis, and all shares of Class B common stock convert into shares of Class A common stock on a one to-one basis upon the sale or transfer of such shares of Class B common stock to any person who is not a member of the Jacobson or Gershwind families or any trust not established principally for members of the Jacobson or Gershwind families or to any person who is not an executor, administrator or personal representative of an estate of a member of the Jacobson or Gershwind families.

Preferred Stock

The Company has authorized 5,000 shares of preferred stock. The Company's Board of Directors has the authority to issue the shares of preferred stock. Shares of preferred stock may have priority over the Company's Class A common stock and Class B common stock with respect to dividend or liquidation rights, or both. As of September 2, 2017, there were no shares of preferred stock issued or outstanding.

Cash Dividend

In 2003, the Board of Directors instituted a policy of regular quarterly cash dividends to shareholders. This policy is reviewed regularly by the Board of Directors.

On October 24, 2017, the Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.48 per share, payable on November 28, 2017 to shareholders of record at the close of business on November 14, 2017. The dividend will result in a payout of approximately \$27,068, based on the number of shares outstanding at October 16, 2017.

10. ASSOCIATE BENEFIT PLANS

The Company accounts for all share-based payments in accordance with ASC 718. Stock based compensation expense included in operating expenses for the fiscal years ended September 2, 2017, September 3, 2016 and August 29, 2015 was as follows:

| | For the Fiscal Years Ended | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| | September 2, 2017 | September 3, 2016 | August 29, 2015 |
| Stock options | \$ 4,369 | \$ 4,382 | \$ 4,614 |
| Restricted share awards | 4,399 | 6,112 | 8,139 |
| Restricted stock units | 4,872 | 3,205 | 1,105 |
| Associate Stock Purchase Plan | 285 | 286 | 337 |
| Total | 13,925 | 13,985 | 14,195 |
| Deferred income tax benefit | (5,292) | (5,206) | (5,266) |
| Stock-based compensation expense, net | \$ 8,633 | \$ 8,779 | \$ 8,929 |

Stock Compensation Plans

2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan

At the Company's annual meeting of shareholders held on January 15, 2015, the shareholders approved the MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. 2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan ("2015 Omnibus Plan"). The 2015 Omnibus Plan replaced the Company's 2005 Omnibus Incentive Plan (the "Prior Plan") and, beginning January 15, 2015, all awards are granted under the 2015 Omnibus Plan. Awards under the 2015 Omnibus Plan may be made in the form of stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units, other share-based awards, and performance cash, performance shares or performance units. All outstanding awards under the Prior Plan will continue to be governed by the terms of the Prior Plan. Upon approval of the 2015 Omnibus Plan, the maximum aggregate number of shares of common stock authorized to be issued under the 2015 Omnibus Plan was 5,217 shares, of which 4,083 authorized shares of common stock were remaining as of September 2, 2017.

Stock Options

A summary of the status of the Company's stock options at September 2, 2017 and changes during the fiscal year then ended is presented in the table and narrative below:

| | 2017 | |
|---------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------|
| | Shares | Weighted-Average Exercise Price |
| Outstanding - beginning of year | 1,645 | \$ 69.86 |
| Granted | 537 | 71.33 |
| Exercised | (399) | 67.36 |
| Canceled/Forfeited | (40) | 70.20 |
| Outstanding - end of year | 1,743 | \$ 70.88 |
| Exercisable - end of year | 585 | \$ 74.23 |

The total intrinsic value of options exercised during the fiscal years ended September 2, 2017, September 3, 2016 and August 29, 2015 was \$9,474, \$3,129, and \$3,390, respectively. The unrecognized share-based compensation cost related to stock option expense at September 2, 2017 was \$7,293 and will be recognized over a weighted average of 2.3 years.

Stock option awards outstanding under the Company's incentive plans have been granted at exercise prices that are equal to the market value of its common stock on the date of grant. Such options generally vest over a period of four years and expire at seven years after the grant date. The Company recognizes compensation expense ratably over the vesting period, net of estimated forfeitures. The Company uses the Black-Scholes option-pricing model to estimate the fair value of stock options granted, which requires the input of both subjective and objective assumptions as follows:

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Expected Term — The estimate of expected term is based on the historical exercise behavior of grantees, as well as the contractual life of the option grants.

Expected Volatility — The expected volatility factor is based on the volatility of the Company's common stock for a period equal to the expected term of the stock option.

Risk-free Interest Rate — The risk-free interest rate is determined using the implied yield for a traded zero-coupon U.S. Treasury bond with a term equal to the expected term of the stock option.

Expected Dividend Yield — The expected dividend yield is based on the Company's historical practice of paying quarterly dividends on its common stock.

The Company's weighted-average assumptions used to estimate the fair value of stock options granted during the fiscal years ended September 2, 2017, September 3, 2016 and August 29, 2015 were as follows:

| | | | |
|--|---------|---------|----------|
| | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 |
| Expected life (in years) | 4.1 | 3.9 | 3.9 |
| Risk-free interest rate | 1.16 % | 1.09 % | 1.09 % |
| Expected volatility | 20.5 % | 21.8 % | 24.5 % |
| Expected dividend yield | 2.40 % | 2.40 % | 1.70 % |
| Weighted-Average Grant-Date Fair Value | \$ 9.29 | \$ 8.03 | \$ 14.06 |

The following table summarizes information about stock options outstanding and exercisable at September 2, 2017:

| Range of Exercise Prices | Number of Options Outstanding at September 2, 2017 | Weighted-Average Remaining Contractual Life | Weighted-Average Exercise Price | Weighted-Average Intrinsic Value | Number of Options Exercisable at September 2, 2017 | Weighted-Average Remaining Contractual Life | Weighted-Average Exercise Price | Weighted-Average Intrinsic Value |
|--------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| \$ 58.90 – \$ 66.69 | 554 | 4.8 | \$ 59.61 | \$ 5,296 | 147 | 3.8 | \$ 61.58 | \$ 1,111 |

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| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-------|-----|----------|----------|-----|-----|----------|----------|
| 66.70 – 71.33 | 650 | 5.4 | 70.96 | — | 128 | 2.1 | 69.46 | — |
| 71.34 – 81.76 | 236 | 3.1 | 81.57 | — | 171 | 3.1 | 81.51 | — |
| 81.77 – 83.03 | 303 | 4.1 | 83.02 | — | 139 | 4.1 | 83.03 | — |
| | 1,743 | 4.7 | \$ 70.88 | \$ 5,296 | 585 | 3.3 | \$ 74.23 | \$ 1,111 |

Restricted Stock Awards

A summary of the non-vested restricted share awards (“RSA”) granted under the Company’s incentive plans for the fiscal year ended September 2, 2017 is as follows:

| | 2017 Shares | Weighted-Average Grant-Date Fair Value |
|---|----------------|--|
| Non-vested restricted share awards at the beginning of the year | 265 | \$ 78.58 |
| Granted | — | - |
| Vested | (98) | 75.24 |
| Canceled/Forfeited | (7) | 81.07 |
| Non-vested restricted share awards at the end of the year | 160 | \$ 80.49 |

The fair value of each RSA is the closing stock price on the New York Stock Exchange of the Company’s Class A common stock on the date of grant. Upon vesting, a portion of the RSA may be withheld to satisfy the minimum statutory withholding taxes. The remaining RSAs will be settled in shares of the Company’s Class A common stock after the vesting period.

The fair value of shares vested during the fiscal years ended September 2, 2017, September 3, 2016 and August 29, 2015 was \$7,357, \$7,518 and \$8,107, respectively.

The unrecognized compensation cost related to the non-vested RSAs at September 2, 2017 is \$4,880 and will be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.6 years.

Restricted Stock Units

A summary of the Company's non-vested restricted stock unit ("RSU") award activity for the fiscal year ended September 2, 2017 is as follows:

| | 2017 | |
|--|--------|--|
| | Shares | Weighted-Average Grant-Date Fair Value |
| Non-vested restricted stock unit awards at the beginning of the year | 198 | \$ 58.98 |
| Granted | 174 | 73.33 |
| Vested | (45) | 59.15 |
| Canceled/Forfeited | (14) | 65.21 |
| Non-vested restricted stock unit awards at the end of the year | 313 | \$ 66.66 |

The fair value of each RSU is the closing stock price on the New York Stock Exchange of the Company's Class A common stock on the date of grant. Upon vesting, a portion of the RSU award may be withheld to satisfy the minimum statutory withholding taxes. The remaining RSUs will be settled in shares of the Company's Class A common stock after the vesting period. These awards accrue dividend equivalents on outstanding units (in the form of additional stock units) based on dividends declared on the Company's Class A common stock and these additional RSUs are subject to the same vesting periods as the RSUs in the underlying award. The dividend equivalents are not included in the RSU table above.

The unrecognized compensation cost related to the RSUs at September 2, 2017 was \$14,859 and is expected to be recognized over a period of 3.5 years.

Associate Stock Purchase Plan

The Company has established a qualified Associate Stock Purchase Plan, the terms of which allow for eligible associates (as defined in the Associate Stock Purchase Plan) to participate in the purchase of up to a maximum of 5

shares of the Company's Class A common stock at a price equal to 90% of the closing price at the end of each stock purchase period. On January 7, 2009, the shareholders of the Company approved an increase to the authorized but unissued shares of the Class A common stock of the Company reserved for sale under the Associate Stock Purchase Plan from 800 to 1,150 shares. On January 15, 2015, the shareholders of the Company approved an increase to the authorized but unissued shares of the Class A common stock of the Company reserved for sale under the Associate Stock Purchase Plan from 1,150 to 1,500 shares. As of September 2, 2017, approximately 182 shares remain reserved for issuance under this plan. Associates purchased approximately 57 and 64 shares of common stock during fiscal 2017 and 2016 at an average per share price of \$74.81 and \$61.87, respectively.

Savings Plan

The Company maintains a defined contribution plan with both a profit sharing feature and a 401(k) feature which covers all associates who have completed at least one month of service with the Company. For fiscal years 2017, 2016, and 2015, the Company contributed \$7,048, \$6,594 and \$6,665, respectively, to the plan. The Company contributions are discretionary.

11. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Leases

Certain of the operations of the Company are conducted on leased premises. The leases (most of which require the Company to provide for the payment of real estate taxes, insurance and other operating costs) are for varying periods, the longest extending to the fiscal year 2027. Some of the leased premises contain multiple renewal provisions, exercisable at the Company's option, as well as escalation clauses. In addition, the Company is obligated under certain equipment and automobile operating leases, which expire on varying dates through fiscal 2021. At September 2, 2017, approximate minimum annual rentals on all such leases are as follows:

| Fiscal Year | Total Rental Payments |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 2018 | \$ 10,829 |
| 2019 | 8,380 |
| 2020 | 6,614 |
| 2021 | 3,706 |
| 2022 | 2,550 |
| Thereafter | 2,251 |
| Total | \$ 34,330 |

Total rental expense (exclusive of real estate taxes, insurance and other operating costs) for all operating leases for fiscal years 2017, 2016 and 2015 was approximately \$12,541, \$13,428 and \$14,504, respectively. This included approximately \$1,044 and \$2,401, for fiscal years 2016 and 2015, respectively, of rent expense for the related party lease. As a result of the purchase of our Atlanta CFC, which was previously leased with a related party, rental expense was partially offset by the release of a deferred rent liability during fiscal 2016. See Note 1 "Business and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies" for more information about this transaction.

12. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

There are various claims, lawsuits, and pending actions against the Company incidental to the operation of its business. Although the outcome of these matters is currently not determinable, management does not expect that the ultimate costs to resolve these matters will have a material adverse effect on the Company's consolidated financial position, results of operations, or liquidity.

13. SUMMARY OF QUARTERLY RESULTS (UNAUDITED)

The following table sets forth unaudited financial data for each of the Company's last eight fiscal quarters.

| | Fiscal Year Ended September 2, 2017 | | | | Fiscal Year Ended September 3, 2016 | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | First Quarter | Second Quarter | Third Quarter | Fourth Quarter | First Quarter | Second Quarter | Third Quarter | Fourth Quarter |
| | (Unaudited) | | | | | | | |
| Consolidated Income Statement Data: | | | | | | | | |
| Net sales | \$ 686,271 | \$ 703,780 | \$ 743,923 | \$ 753,770 | \$ 706,819 | \$ 684,117 | \$ 727,495 | \$ 745,074 |
| Gross profit | 308,735 | 314,562 | 329,500 | 333,450 | 318,972 | 308,791 | 327,028 | 334,067 |
| Income from operations | 90,600 | 86,645 | 101,776 | 99,979 | 90,388 | 80,542 | 105,784 | 99,246 |
| Net income | 54,288 | 53,559 | 62,836 | 60,748 | 55,029 | 49,525 | 64,816 | 61,846 |
| Net income per share: | | | | | | | | |
| Basic | 0.96 | 0.94 | 1.10 | 1.07 | 0.89 | 0.81 | 1.06 | 1.03 |
| Diluted | 0.96 | 0.93 | 1.09 | 1.07 | 0.89 | 0.80 | 1.05 | 1.02 |

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

None.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's management, including the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, the Company has evaluated the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Exchange Act) as of September 2, 2017. Based on that evaluation, the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that, as of September 2, 2017, such disclosure controls and procedures were effective in ensuring that information required to be disclosed by the Company in reports that it files or submits under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, is (i) recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms and (ii) accumulated and communicated to our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Management's Annual Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The Company's internal control over financial reporting is 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. The Company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that:

- (i) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the Company's assets;
- (ii) 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 the Company's management and directors; and

- (iii) 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.

Management assessed the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of September 2, 2017. In making this assessment, management used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in Internal Control—Integrated Framework (2013 Framework).

Based on this assessment, management determined that the Company maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of September 2, 2017.

Attestation Report of the Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of September 2, 2017 has been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report which appears in this Item under the heading "Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm."

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There were no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the quarter ended September 2, 2017 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, its internal control over financial reporting.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Shareholders of MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc.

We have audited MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. and Subsidiaries' (the "Company") internal control over financial reporting as of September 2, 2017, based on criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (2013 framework) (the COSO criteria). The Company's management is responsible 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 Annual Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

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.

In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of September 2, 2017, based on the COSO criteria.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of the Company as of September 2, 2017 and September 3, 2016 and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three fiscal years in the period ended September 2, 2017 of the Company and our report dated October 31, 2017 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Jericho, New York

October 31, 2017

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION.

None.

PART III.

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE.

Information called for by Item 10 is set forth under the headings “Election of Directors” and “Corporate Governance” in the Company’s Proxy Statement for the annual meeting of shareholders to be held in January 2018, or the 2017 Proxy Statement, which is incorporated herein by this reference.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION.

Information called for by Item 11 is set forth under the headings “Executive Compensation”, “Corporate Governance—Compensation Committee”, “Compensation Committee Report” and “Director Compensation” in the 2017 Proxy Statement, which is incorporated herein by this reference.

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

Information called for by Item 12 is set forth under the headings “Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management” and “Equity Compensation Plan Information” in the 2017 Proxy Statement, which is incorporated herein by this reference.

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

Information called for by Item 13 is set forth under the heading “Certain Relationships and Related Person Transactions” and “Corporate Governance” in the 2017 Proxy Statement, which is incorporated herein by this reference.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES.

Information called for by Item 14 is set forth under the heading “Ratification of Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm” in the 2017 Proxy Statement, which is incorporated herein by this reference.

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PART IV.

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES.

(a)(1) Index to Financial Statements

Financial statements filed as a part of this report are listed on the “Index to Consolidated Financial Statements” at page 30 herein.

(a)(2) Financial Statement Schedules

For the three fiscal years ended September 2, 2017.

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| Schedule II—Valuation and Qualifying Accounts | S-1 |

All other schedules have been omitted because the information is not applicable or is presented in the Consolidated Financial Statements or Notes thereto.

(a)(3) Exhibits

Reference is made to Item 15(b) below.

(b) Exhibits

The Exhibit Index, which immediately precedes the signature page, is incorporated by reference into this Report.

(c) Financial Statement Schedules

Reference is made to Item 15(a)(2) above.

ITEM 16. FORM 10-K SUMMARY

None

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit

| No. | Description |
|-------|---|
| 2.01 | <u>Stock Purchase Agreement by and among JLK Direct Distribution, Inc., Kennametal Inc., MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. and MSC Acquisition Corp. VI dated as of March 15, 2006 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 16, 2006) (SEC File No. 001-14130).</u> |
| 2.02 | <u>Asset Purchase Agreement, dated February 22, 2013, between MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. and Barnes Group Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on February 26, 2013) (SEC File No. 001-14130).</u> |
| 3.01 | Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant.* |
| 3.02 | <u>Amended and Restated By-laws of the Registrant (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on October 26, 2012) (SEC File No. 001-14130).</u> |
| 4.01 | Specimen Class A Common Stock Certificate.* |
| 4.02 | <u>Amended and Restated Note Purchase Agreement, dated as of April 14, 2017, by and among MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. and the noteholders named therein (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on April 18, 2017) (SEC File No. 001-14130).</u> |
| 4.03 | <u>Form of Form of 2.65% Senior Note, Series A, due July 28, 2023 (included in Exhibit 4.02).</u> |
| 4.04 | <u>Form of Form of 2.90% Senior Note, Series B, due July 28, 2026 (included in Exhibit 4.02).</u> |
| 10.01 | <u>Amended and Restated Change in Control Agreement, dated December 3, 2014 between MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. and Erik Gershwind (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on December 3, 2014) (SEC File No. 001-14130).†</u> |
| 10.02 | <u>Amended and Restated Change in Control Agreement, dated December 3, 2014 between MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. and Douglas Jones (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on December 3, 2014) (SEC File No. 001-14130).†</u> |
| 10.03 | <u>Amended and Restated Change in Control Agreement, dated December 3, 2014 between MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. and Steve Armstrong (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on April 9, 2015) (SEC File No. 001-14130).†</u> |
| 10.04 | <u>Amended and Restated Change in Control Agreement, dated December 3, 2014 between MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. and Charles Bonomo (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.8 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on April 9, 2015) (SEC File No. 001-14130).†</u> |
| 10.05 | <u>Change in Control Agreement, dated December 3, 2014 between MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. and Kari Heerd (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on April 9, 2015) (SEC File No. 001-14130).†</u> |
| 10.06 | <u>Amended and Restated Change in Control Agreement, dated December 3, 2014 between MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. and Christopher Davanzo (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.10 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on April 9, 2015) (SEC File No. 001-14130).†</u> |
| 10.07 | <u>Change in Control Agreement, dated September 24, 2015 between MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. and Rustom Jilla (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on September 24, 2015) (SEC File No. 001-14130).†</u> |
| 10.08 | <u>Amended and Restated Change in Control Agreement, dated December 3, 2014 between MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. and Gregory Polli (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on April 6, 2016) (SEC File No. 001-14130).†</u> |
| 10.09 | <u>Change in Control Agreement, dated March 31, 2016 between MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. and Steven Baruch (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on April 6, 2016) (SEC File No. 001-14130).†</u> |
| 10.10 | |

Change in Control Agreement, dated March 31, 2016 between MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. and David Wright (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on April 6, 2016) (SEC File No. 001-14130).†

| Exhibit | Description |
|---------|---|
| 10.11 | <u>MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. Amended and Restated Associate Stock Purchase Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.04 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (333-201523) filed with the SEC on January 15, 2015).</u> † |
| 10.12 | <u>Executive Incentive Compensation Recoupment Policy (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on January 7, 2010) (SEC File No. 001-14130).</u> † |
| 10.13 | <u>Summary of Non-Executive Directors' Compensation (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on January 7, 2016) (SEC File No. 001-14130).</u> † |
| 10.14 | <u>MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. 2005 Omnibus Incentive Plan, as amended through November 13, 2014 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on January 8, 2015) (SEC File No. 001-14130).</u> † |
| 10.15 | <u>MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. 2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.01 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (333-201522) filed with the SEC on January 15, 2015).</u> † |
| 10.16 | <u>Form of Non-Qualified Stock Option Agreement under the MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. 2005 Omnibus Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on April 7, 2011) (SEC File No. 001-14130).</u> † |
| 10.17 | <u>Form of Restricted Stock Award under the MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. 2005 Omnibus Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on April 7, 2011) (SEC File No. 001-14130).</u> † |
| 10.18 | <u>Form of Non-Qualified Stock Option Agreement under the MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. 2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on January 7, 2016) (SEC File No. 001-14130).</u> † |
| 10.19 | <u>Form of Restricted Stock Unit Agreement under the MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. 2015 Omnibus Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on January 7, 2016) (SEC File No. 001-14130).</u> † |
| 10.20 | <u>MSC Industrial Direct Relocation Policy (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.02 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 30, 2011) (SEC File No. 001-14130).</u> † |
| 10.21 | <u>Relocation Reimbursement Agreement & Policy Acknowledgment (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.03 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 30, 2011) (SEC File No. 001-14130).</u> † |
| 10.22 | <u>Form of Director and Executive Officer Indemnification Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 25, 2016).</u> † |
| 10.23 | <u>Stock Purchase Agreement, dated July 5, 2016, between MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. and the persons listed on Schedule I thereto (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on July 6, 2016) (SEC File No. 001-14130).</u> |
| 10.24 | <u>Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Real Property, dated as of July 1, 2016, by and between Sid Tool Co., Inc., and Mitchmar Atlanta Properties, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit (d)(2) to the Registrant's Schedule TO-I filed with the SEC on July 7, 2016) (SEC File No. 005-44935).</u> |
| 10.25 | <u>MSC Executive Severance Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on October 27, 2016) (SEC File No. 001-14130).</u> † |
| 10.26 | <u>Credit Agreement, dated as of April 14, 2017, by and among MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc., the several banks and other financial institutions or entities from time to time parties thereto, and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as administrative agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on April 18, 2017) (SEC File No. 001-14130).</u> |

| Exhibit | Description |
|---------|---|
| No. | |
| 21.01 | <u>List of Subsidiaries.</u> ** |
| 23.01 | <u>Consent of Ernst & Young LLP.</u> ** |
| 31.1 | <u>Chief Executive Officer's Certificate, pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002.</u> ** |
| 31.2 | <u>Chief Financial Officer's Certificate, pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002.</u> ** |
| 32.1 | <u>Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002.</u> *** |
| 32.2 | <u>Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002.</u> *** |
| 101.INS | XBRL Instance Document.** |
| 101.SCH | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document.** |
| 101.CAL | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document.** |
| 101.DEF | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document.** |
| 101.LAB | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document.** |
| 101.PRE | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document.** |

* Filed as an Exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-1, Registration Statement No. 33-98832, as amended. Exhibits originally filed in paper.

** Filed herewith.

*** Furnished herewith.

† Management contract, compensatory plan or arrangement.

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.

MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc.
By: /s/ ERIK GERSHWIND

Erik Gershwind
Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

Dated: October 31, 2017

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.

| Signature | Title | Date |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------|
| - | | |
| /s/ MITCHELL JACOBSON | Chairman of the Board of Directors | October 31, 2017 |
| Mitchell Jacobson | | |
| /s/ ERIK GERSHWIND | President and Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer) | October 31, 2017 |
| Erik Gershwind | | |
| /s/ RUSTOM JILLA | Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer | October 31, 2017 |
| Rustom Jilla | | |
| | (Principal Financial | |

Officer and
Principal
Accounting
Officer)

/s/
JONATHAN
BYRNES Director October
31, 2017

Jonathan
Byrnes

/s/ ROGER Director October
FRADIN 31, 2017

Roger Fradin

/s/ LOUISE Director October
GOESER 31, 2017

Louise Goeser

/s/ MICHAEL Director October
KAUFMANN 31, 2017

Michael
Kaufmann

/s/ DENIS Director October
KELLY 31, 2017

Denis Kelly

/s/ STEVEN Director October
PALADINO 31, 2017

Steven
Paladino

/s/ PHILIP Director October
PELLER 31, 2017

Philip Peller

MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT CO., INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

SCHEDULE II VALUATION AND QUALIFYING ACCOUNTS

(In thousands)

| Description | Balance at Beginning of Year | Charged to Costs and Expenses | Charged to Other Accounts | Deductions(2) | Balance at End of Year |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Deducted from asset accounts: For the fiscal year ended August 29, 2015 | | | | | |
| Allowance for doubtful accounts(1) | \$ 9,310 | \$ 6,665 | \$ — | \$ 4,663 | \$ 11,312 |
| Deducted from asset accounts: For the fiscal year ended September 3, 2016 | | | | | |
| Allowance for doubtful accounts(1) | \$ 11,312 | \$ 6,997 | \$ — | \$ 5,956 | \$ 12,353 |
| Deducted from asset accounts: For the fiscal year ended September 2, 2017 | | | | | |
| Allowance for doubtful accounts(1) | \$ 12,353 | \$ 7,048 | \$ — | \$ 6,123 | \$ 13,278 |

(1) Included in accounts receivable.

(2) Comprised of uncollected accounts charged against the allowance.

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