

Core-Mark Holding Company, Inc.  
Form 10-Q  
November 05, 2015  
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UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q  
(MARK ONE)

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2015

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: 000-51515  
Core-Mark Holding Company, Inc.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

20-1489747  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

395 Oyster Point Boulevard, Suite 415  
South San Francisco, CA  
(Address of principal executive offices)  
(650) 589-9445  
(Registrant’s telephone number, including area code)

94080  
(Zip Code)

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of “large accelerated filer,” “accelerated filer” and “smaller reporting company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

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

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

As of October 30, 2015, 23,052,867 shares of the registrant’s common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, were outstanding.



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 FOR THE QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2015  
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## PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## CORE-MARK HOLDING COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(In millions, except share and per share data)

(Unaudited)

	September 30, 2015	December 31, 2014
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$9.4	\$14.4
Restricted cash	9.7	13.0
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$10.9 and \$10.8 as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively	278.6	245.3
Other receivables, net	63.9	61.5
Inventories, net (Note 4)	350.1	417.8
Deposits and prepayments	58.0	43.7
Deferred income taxes	9.1	8.4
Total current assets	778.8	804.1
Property and equipment, net	157.1	148.9
Goodwill	22.9	22.9
Other intangible assets, net	28.4	22.6
Other non-current assets, net	29.6	31.1
Total assets	\$1,016.8	\$1,029.6
Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$148.1	\$128.4
Book overdrafts	28.0	29.1
Cigarette and tobacco taxes payable	170.9	187.3
Accrued liabilities	108.1	93.4
Deferred income taxes	0.2	0.3
Total current liabilities	455.3	438.5
Long-term debt (Note 5)	19.4	68.2
Deferred income taxes	16.6	16.2
Other long-term liabilities	11.5	11.9
Claims liabilities	27.7	27.5
Pension liabilities	8.2	6.0
Total liabilities	538.7	568.3
Contingencies (Note 6)		
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock, \$0.01 par value (100,000,000 shares authorized, 25,970,413 and 25,847,269 shares issued; 23,054,835 and 23,080,110 shares outstanding at September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively)	0.3	0.3
Additional paid-in capital	269.7	263.8
Treasury stock at cost (2,915,578 and 2,767,159 shares of common stock at September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively)	(61.6	) (52.6
Retained earnings	286.1	261.4
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(16.4	) (11.6

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Total stockholders' equity	478.1	461.3
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$1,016.8	\$1,029.6

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See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(In millions, except per share data)

(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended		
	September 30,		September 30,		
	2015	2014	2015	2014	
Net sales	\$2,991.6	\$2,747.4	\$8,254.3	\$7,671.5	
Cost of goods sold	2,820.0	2,596.0	7,786.5	7,252.4	
Gross profit	171.6	151.4	467.8	419.1	
Warehousing and distribution expenses	92.8	83.5	260.9	236.9	
Selling, general and administrative expenses	52.8	47.0	147.6	134.9	
Amortization of intangible assets	0.6	0.7	1.8	2.0	
Total operating expenses	146.2	131.2	410.3	373.8	
Income from operations	25.4	20.2	57.5	45.3	
Interest expense	(0.6	) (0.5	) (1.9	) (1.8	)
Interest income	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.4	
Foreign currency transaction gains (losses), net	(0.7	) 0.2	(1.3	) —	)
Income before income taxes	24.2	20.0	54.7	43.9	
Provision for income taxes (Note 7)	(9.1	) (6.3	) (20.9	) (15.8	)
Net income	\$15.1	\$13.7	\$33.8	\$28.1	
Basic net income per common share (Note 9)	\$0.65	\$0.59	\$1.46	\$1.22	
Diluted net income per common share (Note 9)	\$0.65	\$0.59	\$1.45	\$1.21	
Basic weighted-average shares (Note 9)	23.1	23.1	23.1	23.1	
Diluted weighted-average shares (Note 9)	23.3	23.3	23.3	23.2	
Dividends declared and paid per common share (Note 11)	\$0.13	\$0.11	\$0.39	\$0.33	

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of ContentsCORE-MARK HOLDING COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(In millions)

(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended		
	September 30,		September 30,		
	2015	2014	2015	2014	
Net income	\$ 15.1	\$ 13.7	\$ 33.8	\$ 28.1	
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax:					
Defined benefit plan adjustments	(0.8	) 0.1	(0.7	) 0.2	
Foreign currency translation loss	(1.9	) (1.7	) (4.1	) (1.8	)
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax	(2.7	) (1.6	) (4.8	) (1.6	)
Comprehensive income	\$ 12.4	\$ 12.1	\$ 29.0	\$ 26.5	

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See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of ContentsCORE-MARK HOLDING COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(In millions)

(Unaudited)

	Nine Months Ended		
	September 30,		
	2015	2014	
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net income	\$33.8	\$28.1	
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
LIFO and inventory provisions	9.2	13.4	
Amortization of debt issuance costs	0.2	0.2	
Stock-based compensation expense	6.7	4.3	
Bad debt expense, net	1.1	1.3	
Depreciation and amortization	28.3	23.4	
Foreign currency transaction losses, net	1.3	—	
Deferred income taxes	(0.3	) 1.5	
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
Accounts receivable, net	(33.3	) (32.5	)
Other receivables, net	(3.3	) (2.5	)
Inventories, net	53.9	34.6	
Deposits, prepayments and other non-current assets	(18.0	) (10.4	)
Excess tax deductions associated with stock-based compensation	(2.0	) (2.4	)
Accounts payable	22.3	23.6	
Cigarette and tobacco taxes payable	(10.2	) (18.0	)
Pension, claims, accrued and other long-term liabilities	16.2	4.9	
Net cash provided by operating activities	105.9	69.5	
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Acquisition of business, net of cash acquired	(8.0	) —	
Change in restricted cash	3.3	0.4	
Additions to property and equipment, net	(24.7	) (24.1	)
Capitalization of software and related development costs	(7.5	) (3.2	)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	0.3	—	
Net cash used in investing activities	(36.6	) (26.9	)
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Repayments under revolving credit facility, net	(50.6	) (17.7	)
Dividends paid	(9.1	) (7.7	)
Payments on capital leases	(1.6	) (1.3	)
Repurchases of common stock	(9.0	) (5.3	)
Proceeds from exercise of common stock options	0.3	1.9	
Tax withholdings related to net share settlements of restricted stock units	(3.2	) (1.4	)
Excess tax deductions associated with stock-based compensation	2.0	2.4	
Increase (decrease) in book overdrafts	(1.1	) 0.5	
Net cash used in financing activities	(72.3	) (28.6	)
Effects of changes in foreign exchange rates	(2.0	) (0.8	)
Change in cash and cash equivalents	(5.0	) 13.2	
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	14.4	11.0	
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$9.4	\$24.2	
Supplemental disclosures:			



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Cash paid during the period for:		
Income taxes, net	\$21.1	\$15.4
Interest	\$1.0	\$0.7
Non-cash capital lease obligations incurred	\$5.2	\$4.7
Unpaid property and equipment purchases included in accrued liabilities	\$1.5	\$7.8

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See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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CORE-MARK HOLDING COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Unaudited)

1. Summary of Company Information

Business

Core-Mark Holding Company, Inc., together with its subsidiaries (referred to herein as “the Company” or “Core-Mark”), is one of the largest marketers of fresh and broad-line supply solutions to the convenience retail industry in North America. The Company offers a full range of products, marketing programs and technology solutions to approximately 37,500 customer locations in the United States (“U.S.”) and Canada. The Company’s customers include traditional convenience stores, drug stores, grocery stores, liquor stores and other specialty and small format stores that carry convenience products. The Company’s product offering includes cigarettes, other tobacco products, candy, snacks, fast food, groceries, fresh products, dairy, bread, beverages, general merchandise and health and beauty care products. The Company operates a network of 29 distribution centers in the U.S. and Canada (excluding two distribution facilities it operates as a third party logistics provider). Twenty-five of the Company’s distribution centers are located in the U.S. and four are located in Canada.

2. Basis of Presentation and Principles of Consolidation

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated balance sheet as of September 30, 2015, the unaudited condensed consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, and the unaudited condensed consolidated statements of cash flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, have been prepared on the same basis as the Company’s audited consolidated financial statements and include all adjustments necessary for the fair presentation of its consolidated results of operations, financial position, comprehensive income and cash flows. Results for the interim periods are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected for the full year or any other future periods. The condensed consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2014 has been derived from the Company’s audited financial statements, which are included in its 2014 Annual Report on Form 10-K, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) on March 2, 2015.

The significant accounting policies and certain financial information that are normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S. (“GAAP”), but which are not required for interim reporting purposes, have been omitted. The unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Company’s audited consolidated financial statements in its Annual Report on Form 10-K, for the year ended December 31, 2014.

The unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements include Core-Mark and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. All intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

Concentration of Credit Risks

Financial instruments, which potentially subject the Company to concentrations of credit risk, consist principally of cash investments, accounts receivable and other receivables. The Company places its cash and cash equivalents in short-term instruments with high quality financial institutions and limits the amount of credit exposure in any one financial instrument. The Company pursues amounts and incentives due from vendors in the normal course of business and is often allowed to deduct these amounts and incentives from payments made to vendors.

A credit review is completed for new customers and ongoing credit evaluations of each customer’s financial condition are performed periodically, with reserves maintained for potential credit losses. Credit limits given to customers are based on a risk assessment of their ability to pay and other factors. Accounts receivable are typically not collateralized, but the Company may require prepayments or other guarantees whenever deemed necessary.

Alimentation Couche-Tard, Inc. (“Couche-Tard”), the Company’s largest customer, accounted for approximately 13.8% and 14.3% of the Company’s total net sales in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, respectively, and accounted for approximately 14.6% of the Company’s net sales for both the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014. No single customer accounted for 10% or more of the Company’s accounts receivables as of September 30, 2015 or December 31, 2014.

Recent Accounting Standards or Updates Not Yet Effective

On May 28, 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers: Topic 606 (“ASU 2014-09”), to supersede nearly all existing revenue recognition guidance under U.S. GAAP. The core principle of ASU 2014-09 is to recognize revenues when promised goods or services are

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transferred to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration that is expected to be received for those goods or services. On August 12, 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-14 to defer the effective date of the new revenue recognition standard for annual reports on fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of the adoption of ASU 2014-09 on its financial statements.

On May 7, 2015, the FASB issued ASU No. 2015-07, Disclosures for Investments in Certain Entities That Calculate Net Asset Value per Share (or Its Equivalent): Topic 820 (“ASU 2015-07”). The standard removes the requirement to categorize within the fair value hierarchy all investments for which fair value is measured using the net asset value per share practical expedient. The Company does not hold any such investments on its condensed consolidated balance sheet, however, the assets held in a group trust for the Company’s defined benefit pension plan include such investments. ASU 2015-07 requires retrospective adoption and is effective for the Company beginning in 2016, although early adoption is permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the impact ASU 2015-07 will have on its financial statements.

On August 18, 2015, the FASB issued ASU No. 2015-15, Imputation of Interest: Presentation and Subsequent Measurement of Debt Issuance Costs Associated with Line-of -Credit Arrangements: Subtopic 835-30 (“ASU 2015-15”). The guidance states that the SEC staff would not object to an entity deferring and presenting debt issuance costs as an asset and subsequently amortizing the deferred debt issuance costs ratably over the term of the line-of-credit arrangement, regardless of whether there are any outstanding borrowings on the line-of-credit arrangement. ASU 2015-15 requires retrospective application and is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2015. The Company has determined the adoption of ASU 2015-15 will not have a material impact on its financial statements.

On September 25, 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-16, Business Combinations (Topic 805): Simplifying the Accounting for Measurement-Period Adjustments (“ASU 2015-16”). The new guidance eliminates the requirement that an acquiring entity in a business combination account for measurement-period adjustments retrospectively. Under ASU 2015-16, acquirers must recognize measurement-period adjustments in the period in which they determine the amounts, including the effect on earnings of any amounts they would have recorded in previous periods, if the accounting had been completed at the acquisition date. The amendments in this update are to be applied prospectively, for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2015. The Company has determined the adoption of ASU 2015-16 will not have a material impact on its financial statements.

### 3. Acquisition

#### Asset Acquisition of Karrys Bros., Limited

On February 23, 2015, the Company acquired substantially all of the assets of Karrys Bros., Limited (“Karrys Bros.”), a regional convenience wholesaler servicing customers in Ontario, Canada, and the surrounding provinces, for cash consideration of approximately \$8.0 million, or \$10.0 million Canadian. The Karrys Bros. operations have been integrated into the Company’s existing distribution center in Toronto and have provided the Company with the opportunity to increase its market share in eastern Canada. The purchase price allocation of the acquired assets and liabilities assumed was as follows (in millions):

	February 23, 2015
Accounts receivable	\$3.9
Inventory	3.9
Property and equipment	2.3
Liabilities	(2.1 )
Total consideration	\$8.0

Transaction and integration costs in connection with the acquisition of Karrys Bros. were approximately \$0.4 million and \$1.5 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, respectively. The results of operations of Karrys Bros. have been included in the Company’s consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income since the acquisition date. The Company does not consider the Karrys Bros. acquisition to be a material business combination and therefore has not disclosed pro-forma results of operations for the acquired business.



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## 4. Inventories

Inventories consist of the following (in millions):

	September 30, 2015	December 31, 2014
Inventories at FIFO, net of reserves	\$474.6	\$533.1
Less: LIFO reserve	(124.5 )	(115.3 )
Total inventories at LIFO, net of reserves	\$350.1	\$417.8

Cost of goods sold reflects the application of the last-in, first-out (“LIFO”) method of valuing inventories in the U.S. based upon estimated annual producer price indices. Inventories in Canada are valued on a first-in, first-out (“FIFO”) basis, as LIFO is not a permitted inventory valuation method in Canada. During periods of rising prices, the LIFO method of costing inventories generally results in higher current costs being charged against income while lower costs are retained in inventories. Conversely, during periods of decreasing prices, the LIFO method of costing inventories generally results in lower current costs being charged against income and higher stated inventories. The Company recorded LIFO expense of \$3.3 million and \$6.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, and \$9.2 million and \$13.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

## 5. Long-term Debt

Long-term debt consists of the following (in millions):

	September 30, 2015	December 31, 2014
Amounts borrowed (Credit Facility)	\$5.7	\$55.9
Obligations under capital leases	13.7	12.3
Total long-term debt	\$19.4	\$68.2

The Company has a revolving credit facility (“Credit Facility”) with a capacity of \$200 million, which can be increased up to an additional \$100 million, limited by a borrowing base primarily consisting of eligible accounts receivable and inventories. All obligations under the Credit Facility are secured by first priority liens on substantially all of the Company’s present and future assets. The terms of the Credit Facility permit prepayment without penalty at any time (subject to customary breakage costs with respect to LIBOR or CDOR based loans prepaid prior to the end of an interest period).

On May 21, 2015, the Company entered into a sixth amendment to the Credit Facility (the "Sixth Amendment"), which extended the term of the Credit Facility from May 2018 to May 2020. The Sixth Amendment fixed the unused facility fee at 25 basis points and provided for quarterly borrowing base reporting. The margin added to the LIBOR or CDOR rate remains at a range of 125 to 175 basis points. In addition, the Sixth Amendment raised and reset the baskets for stock repurchases in aggregate of \$75.0 million, not to exceed \$20.0 million in any year, an aggregate of \$100.0 million for dividends and up to \$150.0 million for permitted acquisitions. As of September 30, 2015, the remaining balances under the Credit Facility for stock repurchases, dividends, and permitted acquisitions were \$72.0 million, \$94.0 million, and \$150.0 million, respectively. The Company incurred fees of approximately \$0.4 million in connection with the Sixth Amendment, which are being amortized over the remaining term of the amendment.

Amounts borrowed, outstanding letters of credit and amounts available to borrow, net of certain reserves required under the Credit Facility, were as follows (in millions):

	September 30, 2015	December 31, 2014
Amounts borrowed	\$5.7	\$55.9
Outstanding letters of credit	\$18.5	\$17.4
Amounts available to borrow <sup>(1)</sup>	\$166.3	\$114.8

(1) Excluding \$100 million expansion feature.

Average borrowings during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 were \$48.1 million and \$38.6 million, respectively, with amounts borrowed, at any one time outstanding, ranging from zero to \$120.9 million. For

the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, average borrowings were \$1.9 million and \$7.4 million, respectively, with amounts borrowed, at any one time outstanding, ranging from zero to \$46.3 million.

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The weighted-average interest rate on the revolving credit facility for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 was 1.5% and 1.6%, respectively, compared to 1.8% and 1.6% for the same periods in 2014. The weighted-average interest rate is calculated based on the daily cost of borrowing, reflecting a blend of prime and LIBOR rates. The Company paid fees for unused facility and letter of credit participation, which are included in interest expense, of \$0.2 million and \$0.5 million during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, respectively, and \$0.2 million and \$0.6 million during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, respectively. The Company recorded charges related to amortization of debt issuance costs, which are included in interest expense, of less than \$0.1 million for each of the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014. For each of the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, the Company recorded charges related to amortization of debt issuance costs of \$0.2 million. Unamortized debt issuance costs were \$1.3 million and \$1.1 million as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively.

### 6. Contingencies

#### Litigation

The Company and its insurers are plaintiffs in a lawsuit against Sonitrol Corporation. The case arose from the December 21, 2002 arson fire at the Denver warehouse, in which Sonitrol failed to detect and respond to a four-hour burglary and subsequent arson. In 2010, a jury found in favor of the Company and its insurers. Sonitrol appealed the judgment to the Colorado Appellate Court and on July 19, 2012, the Appellate Court upheld the trial court's ruling on two of the three issues being appealed but set aside the judgment and remanded the case back to the District Court for trial on the sole issue of damages. On April 29, 2013, the Colorado Supreme Court denied Sonitrol's appeal and the case was returned to the District Court to resolve the sole issue of damages. On April 11, 2014, the damages trial concluded with a jury award of \$2.75 million in favor of the Company and its insurers, finding that Sonitrol was liable for damages related only to the burglary and not the subsequent arson. The District Court denied the Company's motion for post-judgment relief on June 26, 2014. The Company and its insurers have appealed the District Court's decision. The Company and Sonitrol have filed their briefs and replies in the appeal and await the next step in the process, which is oral argument. The Company is unable to predict when this litigation will be resolved and its ultimate outcome. Any monetary recovery from this lawsuit will be recognized only if and when it is finally paid to the Company.

The Company is subject to certain legal proceedings, claims, investigations and administrative proceedings in the ordinary course of its business. The Company records a provision for a liability when it is both probable that the liability has been incurred and the amount of the liability can be reasonably estimated. These provisions, if any, are reviewed at least quarterly and adjusted to reflect the impacts of negotiations, settlements, rulings, advice of legal counsel and other information and events pertaining to a particular case. In the opinion of management, the outcome of pending litigation is not expected to have a material effect on the Company's results of operations or financial condition.

### 7. Income Taxes

The Company's effective tax rates were 37.6% and 38.2% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, respectively, compared to 31.5% and 36.0% for the same periods in 2014. The provision for income taxes for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 included a net benefit of \$0.4 million, compared to a net benefit of \$1.6 million for the same periods in 2014, related primarily to adjustments of prior year's estimates and the expiration of statute of limitations for uncertain tax positions, which reduced the Company's effective tax rates.

The total gross amount of unrecognized tax benefits related to federal, state and foreign taxes was approximately \$0.4 million at both September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, all of which would impact the Company's effective tax rate, if recognized. The expiration of the statute of limitations for certain tax positions in future years could impact the total gross amount of unrecognized tax benefits by \$0.2 million through September 30, 2016.

The Company files U.S. federal, state and foreign income tax returns in jurisdictions with varying statutes of limitations. The 2012 to 2014 tax years remain subject to examination by federal authorities. The 2012 to 2014 tax years remain subject to examination by state authorities with the 2010 and 2011 tax years still open for certain state tax authorities. The 2008 to 2014 tax years remain subject to examination by the tax authorities in Canada.





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## 8. Employee Benefit Plans

The Company sponsored a qualified defined-benefit pension plan and a post-retirement benefit plan (collectively, “the Pension Plans”). The plans were frozen as of September 30, 1986, and since then there have been no new entrants to the Pension Plans.

The following table provides the components of the net periodic benefit cost (income) of the qualified defined-benefit pension plan (in millions):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
<b>PENSION BENEFITS</b>				
Interest cost	\$0.5	\$0.5	\$1.3	\$1.3
Expected return on plan assets	(0.5	) (0.7	) (1.5	) (1.9
Amortization of net actuarial loss	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.3
Settlement charge	0.9	—	0.9	—
Net periodic benefit cost (income)	\$1.1	\$(0.1	) \$1.2	\$(0.3

The net periodic benefit costs incurred related to the post-retirement benefit plan were zero and \$0.1 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014.

The Company made no contributions to the Pension Plans during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, compared to contributions of \$1.9 million and \$3.5 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, respectively. No minimum contribution to the defined-benefit pension plan is required in 2015. During the remainder of 2015, the Company expects to contribute a total of \$0.2 million to the post-retirement benefit plan.

The Company offers certain plan participants the option to receive a lump sum payment in lieu of future annuity pension benefits. For the nine months ended September 30, 2015 the Company had settled accumulated benefits of \$1.9 million (pre-tax) for participants who accepted lump sum payments. The Company re-measured its plan obligation as of September 30, 2015 and recorded a settlement charge of \$0.9 million, as the lump sum payments exceeded thresholds calculated under GAAP. In addition, the Company recognized a \$2.5 million deferred actuarial loss in accumulated other comprehensive loss, increasing the pension liability by the same amount. The Company expects to recognize additional settlement charges between \$0.7 million and \$1.0 million in the fourth quarter of 2015 related to lump sum payments and other pension settlement activities.

## 9. Earnings Per Share

The following tables set forth the computation of basic and diluted net income per common share (dollars and shares in millions, except per share amounts):

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2015			2014		
	Net Income	Weighted-Average Shares Outstanding	Net Income Per Common Share	Net Income	Weighted-Average Shares Outstanding	Net Income Per Common Share
Basic EPS	\$15.1	23.1	\$0.65	\$13.7	23.1	\$0.59
Effect of dilutive common share equivalents:						
Restricted stock units		0.1	—		0.1	—
Stock options		—	—		0.1	—
Performance shares		0.1	—		—	—
Diluted EPS	\$15.1	23.3	\$0.65	\$13.7	23.3	\$0.59

Note: Basic and diluted earnings per share are calculated based on unrounded actual amounts.



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	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015			2014		
	Net Income	Weighted-Average Shares Outstanding	Net Income Per Common Share	Net Income	Weighted-Average Shares Outstanding	Net Income Per Common Share
Basic EPS	\$33.8	23.1	\$1.46	\$28.1	23.1	\$1.22
Effect of dilutive common share equivalents:						
Restricted stock units		0.1	(0.01 )		0.1	(0.01 )
Performance shares		0.1	—		—	—
Diluted EPS	\$33.8	23.3	\$1.45	\$28.1	23.2	\$1.21

Note: Basic and diluted earnings per share are calculated based on unrounded actual amounts.

The number of unvested common shares that were not included in the computation of diluted earnings per share because the effect would have been anti-dilutive were zero and 74,674 for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, respectively. For the same periods in 2014, there were no anti-dilutive unvested common shares outstanding.

#### 10. Stock-based Compensation Plans

##### Grant Activities

During the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, the Company granted 62,085 and 96,572 restricted stock units to employees and non-employee directors from the 2010 Long-Term Incentive Plan at a weighted-average grant date fair value of \$64.94 and \$37.16, respectively.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2015, the Company granted 91,010 performance-based shares to certain of its employees at a weighted-average grant date fair value of \$65.12. The 91,010 performance shares represent the maximum that can be earned. The number of performance shares that employees ultimately earn will be based on the Company's achievement of certain specified performance targets in 2015. In 2014, the Company granted 138,800 performance-based shares to employees at a weighted-average grant date fair value of \$36.79, of which 116,800 shares were ultimately earned.

##### Stock-based Compensation Cost

Total stock-based compensation cost recognized in the condensed consolidated statements of operations as a component of selling, general and administrative expenses was \$2.7 million and \$1.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. During the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, the Company recognized stock-based compensation costs of \$6.7 million and \$4.3 million, respectively. Total unrecognized compensation cost related to unvested share-based compensation arrangements was \$6.7 million at September 30, 2015, which is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.5 years. Total unrecognized compensation cost may be adjusted for any unearned performance shares or forfeited shares.

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## 11. Stockholders' Equity

## Amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation

On May 19, 2015, the Company's stockholders approved an amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation increasing the total number of authorized shares of common stock from 50,000,000 to 100,000,000.

## Dividends

The Board of Directors approved the following cash dividends in 2015 (in millions, except per share data):

Declaration Date	Dividends Per Share	Record Date	Cash Payment Amount	Payment Date
February 27, 2015	\$0.13	March 12, 2015	\$3.0	March 26, 2015
May 7, 2015	\$0.13	May 22, 2015	\$3.0	June 15, 2015
August 6, 2015	\$0.13	August 21, 2015	\$3.0	September 14, 2015
November 5, 2015	\$0.16	November 20, 2015	N/A <sup>(1)</sup>	December 15, 2015

(1) Amount will be determined based on common stock outstanding as of the record date.

## Repurchase of Common Stock

The Company's Board of Directors authorized a share repurchase program that may be discontinued or amended at any time. The program will expire when the amount authorized has been expended or the Board of Directors withdraws its authorization. As of September 30, 2015, the Company had \$11.7 million available for future share repurchases under the program.

The following table summarizes the Company's stock repurchase activities (in millions, except share and per share data):

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Number of shares repurchased	49,511	47,717	148,419	130,917
Average price per share	\$60.59	\$48.89	\$60.63	\$40.82
Total repurchase costs	\$3.0	\$2.4	\$9.0	\$5.3

## 12. Segment and Geographic Information

The Company is engaged primarily in the business of distributing packaged consumer products to convenience retail stores in the U.S. and Canada (collectively "North America"), which consists of customers that have similar characteristics. Therefore, the Company has determined that it has two operating segments - the U.S. and Canada - that aggregate to one reportable segment. The Company presents its segment reporting information based on business operations for each of the two geographic areas in which it operates and also by major product category.

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Information about the Company's business operations based on the two geographic areas is as follows (in millions):

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Net sales:				
United States	\$2,657.4	\$2,382.3	\$7,312.7	\$6,715.7
Canada	323.0	355.6	914.9	931.5
Corporate <sup>(1)</sup>	11.2	9.5	26.7	24.3
Total	\$2,991.6	\$2,747.4	\$8,254.3	\$7,671.5
Income (loss) before income taxes:				
United States	\$25.5	\$22.7	\$54.2	\$45.7
Canada	1.1	1.6	0.5	2.0
Corporate <sup>(2)</sup>	(2.4	) (4.3	) —	(3.8
Total	\$24.2	\$20.0	\$54.7	\$43.9
Interest expense:				
United States	\$9.0	\$7.8	\$25.8	\$23.1
Canada	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.6
Corporate <sup>(3)</sup>	(8.6	) (7.5	) (24.5	) (21.9
Total	\$0.6	\$0.5	\$1.9	\$1.8
Depreciation and amortization:				
United States	\$7.5	\$6.4	\$21.7	\$18.1
Canada	0.6	0.7	1.9	2.1
Corporate <sup>(4)</sup>	1.8	1.2	4.7	3.2
Total	\$9.9	\$8.3	\$28.3	\$23.4
Capital expenditures:				
United States	\$10.0	\$9.2	\$23.9	\$23.6
Canada	0.3	0.1	0.8	0.5
Total	\$10.3	\$9.3	\$24.7	\$24.1

(1) Consists primarily of external sales made by the Company's consolidating warehouses, management service fee revenue, allowance for sales returns and certain other sales adjustments.

(2) Consists primarily of expenses and other income, such as corporate incentives and salaries, LIFO expense, health care costs, insurance and workers' compensation adjustments, elimination of overhead allocations and foreign exchange gains or losses.

(3) Consists primarily of intercompany eliminations for interest.

(4) Consists primarily of depreciation for the consolidation centers and amortization of intangible assets.

Identifiable assets by geographic area are as follows (in millions):

	September 30, 2015	December 31, 2014
Identifiable assets:		
United States	\$922.4	\$913.8
Canada	94.4	115.8
Total	\$1,016.8	\$1,029.6



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The net sales mix for the Company's primary product categories is as follows (in millions):

Product Category	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	Net Sales	Net Sales	Net Sales	Net Sales
Cigarettes	\$2,049.6	\$1,858.3	\$5,594.0	\$5,177.4
Food	428.1	394.1	1,190.7	1,090.4
Candy	145.1	140.2	422.5	405.5
Other tobacco products	229.9	217.0	651.0	615.9
Health, beauty & general	91.7	91.2	271.8	262.4
Beverages	46.6	45.9	122.9	118.8
Equipment/other	0.6	0.7	1.4	1.1
Total food/non-food products	942.0	889.1	2,660.3	2,494.1
Total net sales	\$2,991.6	\$2,747.4	\$8,254.3	\$7,671.5



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ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following discussion and analysis should be read together with the condensed consolidated financial statements, including the related notes, and the other financial information appearing elsewhere in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. See "Forward-Looking Statements" at the end of Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

Our Business

Core-Mark is one of the largest marketers of fresh and broad-line supply solutions to the convenience retail industry in North America. We offer a full range of products, marketing programs and technology solutions to approximately 37,500 customer locations in the U.S. and Canada. Our customers include traditional convenience stores, drug stores, grocery stores, liquor stores and other specialty and small format stores that carry convenience products. Our product offering includes cigarettes, other tobacco products (OTP), candy, snacks, fast food, groceries, fresh products, dairy, bread, beverages, general merchandise and health and beauty care products. We operate a network of 29 distribution centers in the U.S. and Canada (excluding two distribution facilities we operate as a third party logistics provider). Our core business objective is to help our customers increase their sales and profitability.

Third Quarter Overview

In the third quarter of 2015, we continued to grow market share and increase our food/non-food sales and gross profit by leveraging our "Fresh" product solutions, driving our Vendor Consolidation Initiative (VCI) and providing category management expertise in order to make our customers more relevant and profitable.

Our net sales in the third quarter of 2015 increased 8.9%, or \$244.2 million, to \$2,991.6 million compared to \$2,747.4 million for the same period in 2014. Excluding the effects of foreign currency fluctuations, net sales increased by approximately 11.3% driven primarily by market share gains and sales growth from existing customers. We believe lower fuel prices contributed to higher sales in the convenience industry during the third quarter of 2015 and year to date.

In addition to lower fuel prices, cigarette sales, which increased 10.3%, also benefitted from market share gains and comparable levels of cigarette price inflation. The success of our core strategies continued to drive the increase in our food/non-food sales, which increased 5.9% in the third quarter of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014. We believe that the growth in our food/non-food sales continues to be depressed due to weakness in some of the more traditional product categories and the effects of foreign currency changes.

Gross profit in the third quarter of 2015 increased 13.3%, or \$20.2 million, to \$171.6 million from \$151.4 million for the same period in 2014, driven primarily by an increase in food/non-food sales and gross margins. This increase also includes cigarette tax stamp inventory holding gains of approximately \$8.3 million, and a \$3.2 million decrease in LIFO expense, driven primarily by inflation being lower than previously estimated for the food/non-food categories. These increases in gross profit were offset by \$5.2 million of candy inventory holding gains and \$2.3 million in refunds related to the overpayment of excise taxes on OTP from prior years, both of which were recognized during the third quarter of 2014.

Operating expenses in the third quarter of 2015 increased by \$15.0 million or 11.4% to \$146.2 million from \$131.2 million for the same period in 2014. Operating expenses in the third quarter of 2015 include approximately \$4.5 million in incremental expenses for our Ohio division and the addition of the Karrys Bros. operations. In addition, increases in the amount of cubic feet of product handled, incremental customer deliveries and investment spending to support future growth contributed to higher operating costs in the third quarter of 2015.

Net income in the third quarter of 2015 increased 10.2%, or \$1.4 million, to \$15.1 million from \$13.7 million for the same period in 2014. The increase in net income for the third quarter of 2015 was driven primarily by an increase in food/non-food gross profit. Adjusted EBITDA<sup>(1)</sup> increased \$4.8 million, or 13.2%, to \$41.3 million for the third quarter of 2015 from \$36.5 million for the same period in 2014.

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(1) Adjusted EBITDA is a non-GAAP measure and should be considered as a supplement to, and not as a substitute for, or superior to, financial measures calculated in accordance with GAAP. Adjusted EBITDA is equal to net income adding back net interest expense, provision for income taxes, depreciation and amortization, LIFO expense,

stock-based compensation expense and net foreign currency transaction gains or losses. See the calculation of Adjusted EBITDA in “Liquidity and Capital Resources” below.

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Business and Supply Expansion

We continue to benefit from the expansion of our business and the execution of our core strategies, focused primarily on enhancing our fresh product offering, leveraging VCI and providing category management expertise to our customers. Our strategies take costs and inefficiencies out of the supply chain, bringing our customers an avenue to offer high quality fresh foods and optimize their consumer product offering. We believe each of these strategies, when adopted, will increase the retailers' profits.

Some of our more recent expansion activities include:

In October 2015, we signed a five year supply agreement with 7-Eleven, Inc. to service approximately 900 stores in three western regions. Core-Mark will be the primary wholesale distributor delivering a wide range of products to these stores out of three of our divisions - Las Vegas, NV, Salt Lake City, UT and Sacramento, CA. The anticipated start date for service under this agreement is October 2016.

In October 2015, we signed a five year agreement with Murphy USA to be the primary wholesale distributor to over 1,200 stores located in 23 states across the Southwest, Southeast and Midwest United States. Services under this contract are expected to begin in the first quarter of 2016 and are estimated to generate approximately \$1.7 billion in annualized revenue for Core-Mark while creating efficiencies and a strategic supply chain relationship for Murphy USA.

In July 2015, we amended our contract with Rite Aid to expand our service to include other product categories in addition to the frozen, refrigerated, bakery and fresh food categories, which we began delivering in June 2014. We are committed to our long-term partnership with Rite Aid to help them maximize supply chain efficiencies and optimize product sales to meet the needs of their customers.

In February 2015, we acquired substantially all the assets of Karrys Bros., Limited (Karrys Bros.), a regional distributor servicing customers in Ontario, Canada, and the surrounding provinces. Annual sales for the acquired business are expected to be approximately \$100 million Canadian. The acquisition of Karrys Bros. has provided the opportunity to expand our market share in eastern Canada and is expected to contribute to the leverage of fixed costs and improved profitability in our Toronto division over time.

In September 2014, we opened a new distribution facility in Glenwillow, Ohio to support customer growth in this region. This facility currently services approximately 800 Rite Aid stores, 600 stores transferred from other Core-Mark distribution centers to gain transportation efficiencies and approximately 100 new customer locations. During the third quarter of 2015, we continued to grow sales and margins in our "Fresh" categories resulting from improving our customers' product assortment and in-store marketing efforts. Sales of our fresh categories grew approximately 19.4% in the third quarter of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014. We continue to focus on fresh and healthy offerings because we believe that over the long-term, the trend is for the convenience consumer to shift buying preferences to these types of items. We benefit from this shift due to the higher margins of these products compared to the other merchandise we distribute. Industry experts have indicated that consumers are making more shopping trips related to fresh food and that perishable foods will serve a more important role in the convenience retail channel in the future. We believe our strategies have helped position us and our customers to benefit from these trends.

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## Results of Operations

Comparison of the Three Months Ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 (in millions) <sup>(1)</sup>:

	Increase (Decrease)	Three Months Ended September 30, 2015			Three Months Ended September 30, 2014		
		Amounts	% of Net sales	% of Net sales, less excise taxes	Amounts	% of Net sales	% of Net sales, less excise taxes
Net sales	\$244.2	\$2,991.6	100.0	% —	% \$2,747.4	100.0	% —
Net sales — Cigarettes	191.3	2,049.6	68.5	63.1	1,858.3	67.6	62.0
Net sales — Food/non-food	52.9	942.0	31.5	36.9	889.1	32.4	38.0
Net sales, less excise taxes <sup>(2)</sup>	204.7	2,384.5	79.7	100.0	2,179.8	79.3	100.0
Gross profit <sup>(3)</sup>	20.2	171.6	5.7	7.2	151.4	5.5	6.9
Warehousing and distribution expenses	9.3	92.8	3.1	3.9	83.5	3.0	3.8
Selling, general and administrative expenses	5.8	52.8	1.8	2.2	47.0	1.7	2.2
Amortization of intangible assets	(0.1	) 0.6	—	—	0.7	—	—
Income from operations	5.2	25.4	0.8	1.1	20.2	0.7	0.9
Interest expense	0.1	(0.6	) —	—	(0.5	) —	—
Interest income	—	0.1	—	—	0.1	—	—
Foreign currency transaction gains (losses), net	(0.9	) (0.7	) —	—	0.2	—	—
Income before taxes	4.2	24.2	0.8	1.0	20.0	0.7	0.9
Net income	1.4	15.1	0.5	0.6	13.7	0.5	0.6
Adjusted EBITDA <sup>(4)</sup>	4.8	41.3	1.4	1.7	36.5	1.3	1.7

(1) Amounts and percentages have been rounded for presentation purposes and might differ from unrounded results.

Net sales, less excise taxes is a non-GAAP financial measure, which we provide to separate the increase in sales due to product sales growth and increases in state, local and provincial excise taxes, which we are responsible for collecting and remitting. Federal excise taxes are levied on the manufacturers who pass the taxes on to us as part of

(2) the product cost and thus are not a component of our excise taxes. Although increases in cigarette excise taxes result in higher net sales, our overall gross profit percentage may be reduced; however, we do not expect increases in excise taxes to negatively impact gross profit per carton (see the reconciliation of net sales to net sales less excise taxes in “Comparison of Sales and Gross Profit by Product Category”).

(3) Gross profit may not be comparable to those of other entities because warehousing and distribution expenses are not included as a component of our cost of goods sold.

Adjusted EBITDA is a non-GAAP financial measure and should be considered as a supplement to, and not as a

(4) substitute for, or superior to, financial measures calculated in accordance with GAAP (see calculation of Adjusted EBITDA in “Liquidity and Capital Resources”).

Net Sales. Net sales increased by \$244.2 million, or 8.9%, to \$2,991.6 million in the third quarter of 2015, from \$2,747.4 million for the same period in 2014. Excluding the effects of foreign currency fluctuations, net sales increased by approximately 11.3%. This increase was driven primarily by an 8.4% increase in cigarette carton sales including net market share gains and the addition of Karrys Bros., an increase in the average sales price per carton and incremental food/non-food sales. Similar to the first half of 2015, we believe lower fuel prices contributed to higher sales in the convenience industry during the third quarter of 2015.

Net Sales of Cigarettes. Net sales of cigarettes in the third quarter of 2015 increased by \$191.3 million, or 10.3%, to \$2,049.6 million from \$1,858.3 million for the same period in 2014. Excluding the effects of foreign currency fluctuations, cigarette sales increased by approximately 12.7% driven primarily by an 8.4% increase in carton sales and a 4.1% increase in the average sales price per carton. Cigarette carton sales increased by 8.4% in the U.S. and by 8.1% in Canada. The increase in cigarette carton sales was due primarily to market share gains, including the acquisition of Karrys Bros. in Canada and an increase in cartons sold to existing customers. The aforementioned increase in the average sales price per carton was related mainly to increases in manufacturers' prices and an increase in the excise tax rate levied by certain jurisdictions during the third quarter of 2015.

Total net cigarette sales as a percentage of total net sales were 68.5% in the third quarter of 2015 compared to 67.6% for the same period last year.

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Despite recent increases in our cigarette sales, we believe long-term cigarette consumption will continue to be impacted by rising prices, legislative actions, diminishing social acceptance and sales through illicit markets. We expect cigarette manufacturers will raise prices as carton sales decline in order to maintain or enhance their overall profitability, thus mitigating the effects of the decline to the distributor. In addition, industry data indicates that convenience retailers are more than offsetting cigarette volume profit declines through higher sales of food/non-food products. We expect this trend to continue as the convenience industry adjusts to consumer demands.

**Net Sales of Food/Non-food Products.** Net sales of food/non-food products in the third quarter of 2015 increased \$52.9 million, or 5.9%, to \$942.0 million from \$889.1 million for the same quarter in 2014. The following table provides net sales by product category for our food/non-food products (in millions)<sup>(1)</sup>:

Product Category	Three Months Ended		Increase (Decrease)		
	2015	2014	Amounts	Percentage	
	Net Sales	Net Sales			
Food	\$428.1	\$394.1	\$34.0	8.6	%
Candy	145.1	140.2	4.9	3.5	%
OTP	229.9	217.0	12.9	5.9	%
Health, beauty & general	91.7	91.2	0.5	0.5	%
Beverages	46.6	45.9	0.7	1.5	%
Equipment/other	0.6	0.7	(0.1)	(14.3)	)%
Total Food/Non-food Products	\$942.0	\$889.1	\$52.9	5.9	%

(1) Amounts and percentages have been rounded for presentation purposes and might differ from unrounded results. Excluding the effects of foreign currency fluctuations, food/non-food sales for the third quarter increased by approximately 8.3%, driven primarily by incremental sales to existing customers and market share gains including the acquisition of Karrys Bros. Sales generated from VCI, Fresh and our Focused Marketing Initiatives (FMI) were the primary drivers of this increase in net sales to existing customers. Net sales in our Food category, which increased 8.6% in the third quarter of 2015, contributed over 60% of the 5.9% increase in food/non-food sales. In addition, sales of smokeless tobacco products continue to be the primary driver of the increase in sales in our OTP category. We believe the overall trend toward the increased use of smokeless tobacco products will continue and will help offset the impact of the expected continued decline over the long-term in cigarette consumption. This shift could potentially result in improved profitability over time due to the profit margins associated with smokeless tobacco products, which are generally higher than those we earn on cigarette sales.

Total net sales of food/non-food products as a percentage of total net sales were 31.5% for the third quarter of 2015 compared to 32.4% for the same period in 2014.

**Gross Profit.** Gross profit represents the amount of profit after deducting cost of goods sold from net sales during the period. Inventory holding gains represent incremental revenues whereas vendor incentives, OTP tax refunds and changes in LIFO reserves are components of cost of goods sold and therefore part of our gross profit. Gross profit in the third quarter of 2015 increased \$20.2 million, or 13.3%, to \$171.6 million from \$151.4 million for the same period in 2014 due primarily to increases in sales and gross margins in our food/non-food categories. In addition, gross profit includes approximately \$8.3 million of cigarette tax stamp inventory holding gains resulting from an increase in excise taxes by certain jurisdictions in the third quarter this year, offset by \$5.2 million of candy inventory holding gains, and \$2.3 million in refunds related to the overpayment of excise taxes on OTP from prior years, both of which were recognized during the third quarter of 2014. LIFO expense was \$3.3 million for the third quarter of 2015 compared with \$6.5 million for the same period in 2014, driven primarily by inflation being lower than previously estimated for the food/non-food categories.

Gross profit margin was 5.74% of total net sales in the third quarter of 2015 compared to 5.51% for the same period in 2014.

Distributors such as Core-Mark may, from time to time, earn higher gross profits on inventory and excise tax stamp quantities on hand at the time manufacturers increase their prices or when states, localities or provinces increase their

excise taxes. Such increases are reflected in customer pricing for all subsequent sales, including sales of inventory on hand at the time of the increase. The higher gross profits are referred to as inventory holding gains. However, significant increases in cigarette product costs and cigarette excise taxes adversely impact our gross profit as a percentage of net sales, because we are paid on a cents per carton basis for cigarette sales. Conversely, we generally benefit from food/non-food price increases, because product costs for these categories are usually marked up using a percentage of cost of goods sold.

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Our cigarette and cigarette tax stamp inventory holding gains were \$8.9 million, or 5.2%, of our gross profit for the third quarter of 2015 compared to \$0.2 million, or 0.1%, of our gross profit for the same period in 2014. We expect cigarette manufacturers will continue to raise prices as carton sales decline in order to maintain or enhance their overall profitability and the various taxing jurisdictions will raise excise taxes to make up for lost tax dollars related to consumption declines.

In addition, since we value our inventory in the U.S. on a LIFO basis, our gross profit percentage can be positively or negatively impacted depending on the relative level of price inflation or deflation in manufacturer prices as reported in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Producer Price Index used to estimate and accrue for our book LIFO expense.

The following table provides the components of gross profit (in millions) <sup>(1)</sup>:

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2015				Three Months Ended September 30, 2014			
	Increase (Decrease)	Amounts	% of Net sales	% of Net sales, less excise taxes	Amounts	% of Net sales	% of Net sales, less excise taxes	
Net sales	\$ 244.2	\$ 2,991.6	100.0	% —	% \$ 2,747.4	100.0	% —	
Net sales, less excise taxes <sup>(2)</sup>	204.7	2,384.5	79.7	100.0	2,179.8	79.3	100.0	
Components of gross profit:								
Cigarette inventory holding gains <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 0.4	\$ 0.6	0.02	% 0.03	% \$ 0.2	0.01	% 0.01	
Candy inventory holding gains <sup>(4)</sup>	(5.2 )	—	—	—	5.2	0.19	0.24	
Cigarette tax stamp inventory holding gains <sup>(5)</sup>	8.3	8.3	0.28	0.35	—	—	—	
OTP tax refunds <sup>(6)</sup>	(2.3 )	—	—	—	2.3	0.08	0.11	
LIFO expense	(3.2 )	(3.3 )	(0.11 )	(0.14 )	(6.5 )	(0.24 )	(0.30 )	
Remaining gross profit <sup>(7)</sup>	15.8	166.0	5.55	% 6.96	% 150.2	5.47	% 6.89	
Gross profit	\$ 20.2	\$ 171.6	5.74	% 7.20	% \$ 151.4	5.51	% 6.95	

(1) Amounts and percentages have been rounded for presentation purposes and might differ from unrounded results.

Net sales, less excise taxes is a non-GAAP financial measure, which we provide to separate the increase in sales due to product sales growth and increases in state, local and provincial excise taxes, which we are responsible for collecting and remitting. Federal excise taxes are levied on the manufacturers who pass the taxes on to us as part of

(2) the product cost and thus are not a component of our excise taxes. Although increases in cigarette excise taxes result in higher net sales, our overall gross profit percentage may be reduced; however, we do not expect increases in excise taxes to negatively impact gross profit per carton (see the reconciliation of net sales to net sales less excise taxes in “Comparison of Sales and Gross Profit by Product Category”).

(3) The cigarette inventory holding gains of \$0.6 million and \$0.2 million for the third quarter of 2015 and 2014, respectively, were attributable to Canada.

(4) During the third quarter of 2014, we recognized \$5.2 million of candy inventory holding gains resulting from manufacturer price increases. The amount of candy inventory holding gains attributable to the U.S. and Canada were \$4.8 million and \$0.4 million, respectively.

(5) During the third quarter of 2015, we recognized cigarette tax stamp inventory holding gains in the U.S. of \$8.3 million, resulting from the increase in the excise tax rates of certain jurisdictions.

(6) During the third quarter of 2014, we received OTP tax refunds in the U.S. totaling \$2.3 million related to prior years' taxes.

(7) Remaining gross profit is a non-GAAP financial measure, which we provide to segregate the effects of LIFO expense, cigarette and candy inventory holding gains and other items that significantly affect the comparability of gross profit.



Remaining gross profit increased \$15.8 million, or 10.5%, to \$166.0 million for the third quarter of 2015, from \$150.2 million for the same period in 2014. Remaining gross profit margin was 5.55% in the third quarter of 2015 compared to 5.47% for the same period in 2014. The increase in remaining gross profit margin was driven primarily by an increase in food/non-food margins, resulting largely from the continued success of our marketing strategies, which improved overall margins by 13 basis points, and an increase in cigarette margins, which contributed 4 basis points, offset by 9 basis points related to the increase in the volume of cigarette sales, which have lower margins, and increases in cigarette manufacturers' prices.

Cigarette remaining gross profit per carton increased by approximately 4.2% in the third quarter of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 due primarily to a shift in carton sales to more profitable jurisdictions, higher manufacturers' discounts earned as a result of price increases, offset partially by the unfavorable impact of foreign currency fluctuations.

Food/non-food remaining gross profit increased \$10.3 million, or 9.5%, for the third quarter of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014. Food/non-food remaining gross profit margin increased 41 basis points to 12.57% for the third quarter of 2015 compared with 12.16% for the same period in 2014 driven primarily by sales growth in our Food category and a sales shift towards higher margin items.

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For the third quarter of 2015, our remaining gross profit for food/non-food products was approximately 71.3% of our total remaining gross profit compared to 72.0% for the same period in 2014.

**Operating Expenses.** Our operating expenses include costs related to Warehousing and Distribution, Selling, General and Administrative and Amortization of Intangible Assets. In the third quarter of 2015, operating expenses increased by \$15.0 million, or 11.4%, to \$146.2 million from \$131.2 million for the same period in 2014. As a percentage of net sales, total operating expenses were 4.9% for the third quarter of 2015 compared to 4.8% for the third quarter of 2014. Operating expenses in the third quarter of 2015 include approximately \$4.5 million in incremental expenses for our Ohio division and the addition of the Karrys Bros. operations. In addition, increases in the amount of cubic feet of product handled, incremental customer deliveries and investment spending to support future growth contributed to higher operating costs in the third quarter of 2015.

**Warehousing and Distribution Expenses.** Warehousing and distribution expenses increased \$9.3 million, or 11.1%, to \$92.8 million in the third quarter of 2015 from \$83.5 million for the same period in 2014. As a percentage of total net sales, warehousing and distribution expenses were 3.1% for the third quarter of 2015 compared with 3.0% for the same period in 2014. The increase in warehouse and distribution expenses was driven primarily by a 6.8% increase in comparable cubic feet of product sold driven largely by our food/non-food category, a 14.0% increase in customer deliveries and approximately \$3.6 million of incremental expenses for our new Ohio division and the acquisition of Karrys Bros., offset partially by a \$1.8 million decrease in fuel costs. In addition, warehousing and distribution expenses as a percentage of total net sales for the third quarter of 2015 benefited from an increase in cigarette sales, which grew faster than food/non-food sales. The shift in sales to cigarettes, which have higher price points than our food/non-food products, decreased warehousing and distribution expenses as a percentage of total net sales by approximately five basis points in the third quarter of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014.

The decrease in our fuel costs was driven by lower diesel fuel prices and in part by our conversion to vehicles that use compressed natural gas (CNG), offset by an increase in miles driven. As of September 30, 2015, we had converted approximately 25% of our fleet to CNG tractors. Future increases or decreases in fuel costs and fuel surcharges we collect from our customers may materially impact our financial results depending on the extent and timing of these changes.

**Selling, General and Administrative (“SG&A”) Expenses.** SG&A expenses increased \$5.8 million, or 12.3%, in the third quarter of 2015, to \$52.8 million from \$47.0 million for the same period in 2014. SG&A expenses for 2015 include a \$1.7 million increase in employee bonus and stock compensation expense, incremental expenses of approximately \$0.9 million for our Ohio division and the acquisition of Karrys Bros., \$0.9 million related to the lump sum settlement of pension liabilities and incremental investment spending on information technology, infrastructure and people, to support future growth. As a percentage of net sales, SG&A expenses were 1.8% for the third quarter of 2015 compared to 1.7% for the same period in 2014.

**Interest Expense.** Interest expense includes both interest and loan amortization fees related to borrowings and facility fees and interest on capital lease obligations. Interest expense was \$0.6 million and \$0.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Average borrowings in the third quarter of 2015 were \$48.1 million, with a weighted average interest rate of 1.5%, compared to average borrowings of \$1.9 million and a weighted average interest rate of 1.8% for the same period in 2014.

**Foreign Currency Transaction Gains (Losses), Net.** We recognized foreign currency losses of \$0.7 million in the third quarter of 2015 compared to gains of \$0.2 million for the same period in 2014. The change was due to the fluctuation in the Canadian/U.S. exchange rate. During times of a strengthening U.S. dollar, we will record transaction losses from our Canadian operations. Conversely we will record transaction gains during times of a weakening U.S. dollar.

**Income Taxes.** Our effective tax rate was 37.6% for the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 31.5% for the same period in 2014. The provision for income taxes for the three months ended September 30, 2015 included a net benefit of \$0.4 million, compared to a net benefit of \$1.6 million for the same period in 2014, related primarily to adjustments of prior year’s estimates and the expiration of statute of limitations for uncertain tax positions which reduced the Company’s effective tax rates. We currently expect our effective tax rate to be approximately 38% for 2015.



Table of ContentsComparison of the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 (in millions) <sup>(1)</sup>:

	Increase (Decrease)	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015			Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014		
		Amounts	% of Net sales	% of Net sales, less excise taxes	Amounts	% of Net sales	% of Net sales, less excise taxes
Net sales	\$582.8	\$8,254.3	100.0	% —	% \$7,671.5	100.0	% —
Net sales — Cigarettes	416.6	5,594.0	67.8	62.4	5,177.4	67.5	61.9
Net sales — Food/Non-food	66.2	2,660.3	32.2	37.6	2,494.1	32.5	38.1
Net sales, less excise taxes <sup>(2)</sup>	517.7	6,609.2	80.1	100.0	6,091.5	79.4	100.0
Gross profit <sup>(3)</sup>	48.7	467.8	5.7	7.1	419.1	5.5	6.9
Warehousing and distribution expenses	24.0	260.9	3.2	3.9	236.9	3.1	3.9
Selling, general and administrative expenses	12.7	147.6	1.8	2.2	134.9	1.8	2.2
Amortization of intangible assets	(0.2	) 1.8	—	—	2.0	—	—
Income from operations	12.2	57.5	0.7	0.9	45.3	0.6	0.7
Interest expense	0.1	(1.9	) —	—	(1.8	) —	—
Interest income	—	0.4	—	—	0.4	—	—
Foreign currency transaction losses, net	1.3	(1.3	) —	—	—	—	—
Income before taxes	10.8	54.7	0.7	0.8	43.9	0.6	0.7
Net income	5.7	33.8	0.4	0.5	28.1	0.4	0.5
Adjusted EBITDA <sup>(4)</sup>	15.1	101.7	1.2	1.5	86.6	1.1	1.4

(1) Amounts and percentages have been rounded for presentation purposes and might differ from unrounded results.

Net sales, less excise taxes is a non-GAAP financial measure, which we provide to separate the increase in sales due to product sales growth and increases in state, local and provincial excise taxes, which we are responsible for collecting and remitting. Federal excise taxes are levied on the manufacturers who pass the taxes on to us as part of

(2) the product cost and thus are not a component of our excise taxes. Although increases in cigarette excise taxes result in higher net sales, our overall gross profit percentage may be reduced; however, we do not expect increases in excise taxes to negatively impact gross profit per carton (see “Comparison of Sales and Gross Profit by Product Category”).

(3) Gross profit may not be comparable to those of other entities because warehousing and distribution expenses are not included as a component of our cost of goods sold.

Adjusted EBITDA is a non-GAAP financial measure and should be considered as a supplement to, and not as a

(4) substitute for, or superior to, financial measures calculated in accordance with GAAP (see calculation of Adjusted EBITDA in “Liquidity and Capital Resources”).

Net Sales. Net sales increased by \$582.8 million, or 7.6%, to \$8,254.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015, from \$7,671.5 million for the same period in 2014. Excluding the effects of foreign currency fluctuations, net sales increased approximately 9.5%, due primarily to a 6.4% increase in cigarette carton sales including net market share gains and the addition of Karrys Bros., an increase in the average sales price per carton, and incremental food/non-food sales driven primarily by the continued success of our core strategies. In addition, net sales in 2015 benefited from lower fuel prices, which we believe contributed to higher sales in the convenience industry.

Net Sales of Cigarettes. Net sales of cigarettes for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 increased by \$416.6 million, or 8.0%, to \$5,594.0 million from \$5,177.4 million for the same period in 2014. Excluding the effects of foreign currency fluctuations, cigarette sales increased by approximately 9.9% driven primarily by a 6.4% increase in carton sales and a 3.4% increase in the average sales price per carton due to increases in manufacturers' prices. Cigarette carton sales increased by 5.9% in the U.S. and by 11.3% in Canada. The increase in cigarette carton sales was due primarily to market share gains, including the acquisition of Karrys Bros. in Canada and an increase in cartons sold to existing customers. The aforementioned increase in the average sales price per carton was related mainly to increases in manufacturers' prices.

Total net cigarette sales as a percentage of total net sales were 67.8% for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 67.5% for the same period last year.

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Despite recent increases in our cigarette sales, we believe long-term cigarette consumption will continue to be impacted by rising prices, legislative actions, diminishing social acceptance and sales through illicit markets. We expect cigarette manufacturers will raise prices as carton sales decline in order to maintain or enhance their overall profitability, thus mitigating the effects of the decline to the distributor. In addition, industry data indicates that convenience retailers are more than offsetting cigarette volume profit declines through higher sales of food/non-food products. We expect this trend to continue as the convenience industry adjusts to consumer demands.

**Net Sales of Food/Non-food Products.** Net sales of food/non-food products for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 increased \$166.2 million, or 6.7%, to \$2,660.3 million from \$2,494.1 million for the same period in 2014. The following table provides net sales by product category for our food/non-food products (in millions)<sup>(1)</sup>:

Product Category	Nine Months Ended				
	September 30,		Increase Amounts	Percentage	
	2015 Net Sales	2014 Net Sales			
Food	\$1,190.7	\$1,090.4	\$100.3	9.2	%
Candy	422.5	405.5	17.0	4.2	%
OTP	651.0	615.9	35.1	5.7	%
Health, beauty & general	271.8	262.4	9.4	3.6	%
Beverages	122.9	118.8	4.1	3.5	%
Equipment/other	1.4	1.1	0.3	27.3	%
<b>Total Food/Non-food Products</b>	<b>\$2,660.3</b>	<b>\$2,494.1</b>	<b>\$166.2</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>%</b>

(1) Amounts and percentages have been rounded for presentation purposes and might differ from unrounded results. Excluding the effects of foreign currency fluctuations, food/non-food sales for the first nine months of 2015 increased by approximately 8.5%, driven primarily by incremental sales to existing customers and market share gains including the acquisition of Karrys Bros. Sales generated from VCI, Fresh and FMI were the primary drivers of this increase in net sales to existing customers. Net sales in our Food category, which increased 9.2% for the nine months ended September 30, 2015, contributed over 60% of the 6.7% increase in food/non-food sales. In addition, sales of smokeless tobacco products continue to be the primary driver of the increase in sales in our OTP category. We believe the overall trend toward the increased use of smokeless tobacco products will continue and will help offset the impact of the expected continued decline over the long term in cigarette consumption. This shift could potentially result in improved profitability over time due to the profit margins associated with smokeless tobacco products, which are generally higher than those we earn on cigarette sales.

Total net sales of food/non-food products as a percentage of total net sales were 32.2% for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 32.5% for the same period in 2014.

**Gross Profit.** Gross profit represents the amount of profit after deducting cost of goods sold from net sales during the period. Inventory holding gains represent incremental revenues whereas vendor incentives, OTP tax refunds and changes in LIFO reserves are components of cost of goods sold and therefore part of our gross profit. Gross profit for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 increased by \$48.7 million, or 11.6%, to \$467.8 million from \$419.1 million for the same period in 2014 due primarily to increases in sales and gross margins in our food/non-food category. In addition, gross profit for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 includes approximately \$8.3 million of cigarette tax stamp inventory holding gains resulting from an increase in excise taxes by certain jurisdictions in the third quarter this year, offset by \$5.2 million of candy inventory holding gains, both of which were recognized during the third quarter of 2014. LIFO expense was \$9.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared with \$13.6 million for the same period in 2014, driven primarily by inflation being lower than previously estimated for the food/non-food categories.

Gross profit margin was 5.67% and 5.46% of total net sales for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Distributors such as Core-Mark may, from time to time, earn higher gross profits on inventory and excise tax stamp quantities on hand at the time manufacturers increase their prices or when states, localities or provinces increase their

excise taxes. Such increases are reflected in customer pricing for all subsequent sales, including sales of inventory on hand at the time of the increase. The higher gross profits are referred to as inventory holding gains. However, significant increases in cigarette product costs and cigarette excise taxes adversely impact our gross profit as a percentage of net sales, because we are paid on a cents per carton basis for cigarette sales. Conversely, we generally benefit from food/non-food price increases, because product costs for these categories are usually marked up using a percentage of cost of goods sold.

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Our cigarette and cigarette tax stamp inventory holding gains were \$13.7 million, or 2.9%, of our gross profit for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to \$4.0 million, or 1.0% of our gross profit for the same period in 2014. We expect cigarette manufacturers will continue to raise prices as carton sales decline in order to maintain or enhance their overall profitability and the various taxing jurisdictions will raise excise taxes to make up for lost tax dollars related to consumption declines.

In addition, we recognized \$5.2 million, or 1.24%, of our gross profit for the nine months ended September 30, 2014, for candy inventory holding gains resulting from manufacturer price increases. These gains were recognized as the inventory was sold. Although we have realized significant candy inventory holding gains in two of the last five years, this income is not predictable and is dependent on inventory levels and the timing of manufacturer price increases.

In addition, since we value our inventory in the U.S. on a LIFO basis, our gross profit percentage can be positively or negatively impacted depending on the relative level of price inflation or deflation in manufacturer prices as reported in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Producer Price Index used to estimate and accrue for our book LIFO expense.

The following table provides the components comprising the change in gross profit as a percentage of net sales for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 (in millions) <sup>(1)</sup>:

	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015				Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014			
	Increase (Decrease)	Amounts	% of Net sales	% of Net sales, less excise taxes	Amounts	% of Net sales	% of Net sales, less excise taxes	
Net sales	\$ 582.8	\$8,254.3	100.0	% —	% \$7,671.5	100.0	% —	%
Net sales, less excise taxes <sup>(2)</sup>	517.7	6,609.2	80.1	100.0	6,091.5	79.4	100.0	
Components of gross profit:								
Cigarette inventory holding gains <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 1.4	\$5.4	0.07	% 0.08	% \$4.0	0.05	% 0.07	%
Candy inventory holding gains <sup>(4)</sup>	(5.2 )	—	—	—	5.2	0.07	0.09	
Cigarette tax stamp inventory holding gains <sup>(5)</sup>	8.3	8.3	0.10	0.13	—	—	—	
OTP tax refunds <sup>(6)</sup>	(0.5 )	1.8	0.02	0.03	2.3	0.03	0.04	
LIFO expense	(4.4 )	(9.2 )	(0.11 )	(0.14 )	(13.6 )	(0.18 )	(0.22 )	
Remaining gross profit <sup>(7)</sup>	40.3	461.5	5.59	6.98	421.2	5.49	6.91	
Gross profit	\$ 48.7	\$467.8	5.67	% 7.08	% \$419.1	5.46	% 6.88	%

(1) Amounts and percentages have been rounded for presentation purposes and might differ from unrounded results.

Net sales, less excise taxes is a non-GAAP financial measure, which we provide to separate the increase in sales due to product sales growth and increases in state, local and provincial excise taxes, which we are responsible for collecting and remitting. Federal excise taxes are levied on the manufacturers who pass the tax on to us as part of

(2) the product cost and thus are not a component of our excise taxes. Although increases in cigarette excise taxes result in higher net sales, our overall gross profit percentage may be reduced; however we do not expect increases in excise taxes to negatively impact gross profit per carton (see “Comparison of Sales and Gross Profit by Product Category”).

For the nine months ended September 30, 2015, the cigarette inventory holding gains were \$4.1 million and \$1.3 million for the U.S. and Canada, respectively, totaling \$5.4 million. For the same period in 2014, the cigarette <sup>(3)</sup> inventory holding gains were \$3.0 million and \$1.0 million for the U.S. and Canada, respectively, totaling \$4.0 million.

(4) During the third quarter of 2014, we recognized \$5.2 million of candy inventory holding gains resulting from manufacturer price increases. The amount of candy inventory holding gains attributable to the U.S. and Canada were \$4.8 million and \$0.4 million, respectively.



(5) For the nine months ended September 30, 2015, we recognized cigarette tax stamp inventory holding gains in the U.S. of \$8.3 million, resulting from the increase in the excise tax rates of certain jurisdictions.

(6) We received OTP tax refunds related to prior years' taxes in the U.S. totaling \$1.8 million and \$2.3 million, respectively, for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014.

Remaining gross profit is a non-GAAP financial measure, which we provide to segregate the effects of LIFO (7) expense, cigarette and candy inventory holding gains and other items that significantly affect the comparability of gross profit.

Remaining gross profit increased \$40.3 million, or 9.6%, to \$461.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015, from \$421.2 million for the same period in 2014. Remaining gross profit margin was 5.59% for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 5.49% for the same period in 2014. The increase in remaining gross profit margins were driven primarily by an increase in Food category sales and margins offset by 7 basis points related to increases in cigarette manufacturers' prices.

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Cigarette remaining gross profit per carton increased by approximately 1.7% for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 due primarily to higher manufacturers' discounts earned as a result of price increases and a shift in carton sales to more profitable jurisdictions, offset partially by the unfavorable impact of foreign currency fluctuations.

Food/non-food remaining gross profit increased \$30.5 million, or 10.0%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in 2014. Food/non-food remaining gross profit margin increased 39 basis points to 12.57% in 2015 compared with 12.18% for the same period in 2014 driven primarily by sales growth in our Food category and a sales shift towards higher margin items.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2015, our remaining gross profit for food/non-food products was approximately 72.4% of our total remaining gross profit compared to 72.1% for the same period in 2014.

Operating Expenses. Our operating expenses include costs related to Warehousing and Distribution, Selling, General and Administrative and Amortization of Intangible Assets. For the nine months ended September 30, 2015, operating expenses increased by \$36.5 million, or 9.8%, to \$410.3 million from \$373.8 million for the same period in 2014. As a percentage of net sales, total operating expenses were 5.0% for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 4.9% for the same period in 2014. Increases in the amount of cubic feet of product handled and incremental customer deliveries contributed to higher operating costs. In addition, operating expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 include incremental expenses of approximately \$13.6 million for our Ohio division and the addition of Karrys Bros.

Warehousing and Distribution Expenses. Warehousing and distribution expenses increased \$24.0 million, or 10.1%, to \$260.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 from \$236.9 million for the same period in 2014. As a percentage of total net sales, warehousing and distribution expenses were 3.2% for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared with 3.1% for the same period in 2014. The increase in warehouse and distribution expenses was driven primarily by a 6.0% increase in comparable cubic feet of product sold driven largely by our food/non-food category and an 11.3% increase in deliveries to customers. In addition, warehousing and distribution expenses for 2015 include incremental expenses of approximately \$9.4 million for our Ohio division and the acquisition of Karrys Bros., offset partially by a \$6.0 million decrease in fuel costs.

Selling, General and Administrative ("SG&A") Expenses. SG&A expenses increased \$12.7 million, or 9.4%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2015, to \$147.6 million from \$134.9 million for the same period in 2014. SG&A expenses for 2015 include approximately \$4.2 million of incremental expenses for our Ohio division and the addition of the Karrys Bros. operations, a \$3.2 million increase in employee bonus and stock compensation expense, \$0.9 million related to the lump sum settlement of pension liabilities and incremental investment spending on information technology, infrastructure and people, to support future growth. As a percentage of net sales, SG&A expenses were 1.8% for both the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014.

Interest Expense. Interest expense includes both interest and loan amortization fees related to borrowings and facility fees and interest on capital lease obligations. Interest expense was \$1.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to \$1.8 million for the same period in 2014. Average borrowings for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 were \$38.6 million, compared to average borrowings of \$7.4 million for the same period in 2014 with a weighted average interest rate of 1.6% for both 2015 and 2014.

Foreign Currency Transaction Losses, Net. We recognized foreign currency losses of \$1.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to losses of less than \$0.1 million for the same period in 2014. The change was due to the fluctuation in the Canadian/U.S. exchange rate. During times of a strengthening U.S. dollar, we will record transaction losses from our Canadian operations. Conversely we will record transaction gains during times of a weakening U.S. dollar.

Income Taxes. Our effective tax rate was 38.2% for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to 36.0% for the same period in 2014. The provision for income taxes for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 included a net benefit of \$0.4 million, compared to a net benefit of \$1.6 million for the same period in 2014, related primarily to adjustments of prior year's estimates and the expiration of statute of limitations for uncertain tax positions which reduced the Company's effective tax rates. We currently expect our effective tax rate to be approximately 38% for 2015.



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## Comparison of Sales and Gross Profit by Product Category

The following table summarizes our cigarette and food/non-food product sales, LIFO expense, gross profit and other relevant financial data (in millions) <sup>(1)</sup>:

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended		
	September 30, 2015	2014	September 30, 2015	2014	
<b>Cigarettes</b>					
Net sales	\$2,049.6	\$1,858.3	\$5,594.0	\$5,177.4	
Excise taxes in sales <sup>(2)</sup>	544.6	506.6	1,469.0	1,409.0	
Net sales, less excise taxes <sup>(3)</sup>	1,505.0	1,351.7	4,125.0	3,768.4	
LIFO expense	3.1	2.1	8.5	5.3	
Gross profit <sup>(4)</sup>	53.4	40.2	132.4	116.1	
Gross profit %	2.61	% 2.16	% 2.37	% 2.24	%
Gross profit % less excise taxes	3.55	% 2.97	% 3.21	% 3.08	%
Remaining gross profit <sup>(6)</sup>	\$47.6	\$42.1	\$127.2	\$117.4	
Remaining gross profit %	2.32	% 2.27	% 2.27	% 2.27	%
Remaining gross profit % less excise taxes	3.16	% 3.11	% 3.08	% 3.12	%
<b>Food/Non-food Products</b>					
Net sales	\$942.0	\$889.1	\$2,660.3	\$2,494.1	
Excise taxes in sales <sup>(2)</sup>	62.5	61.0	176.1	171.0	
Net sales, less excise taxes <sup>(3)</sup>	879.5	828.1	2,484.2	2,323.1	
LIFO expense	0.2	4.4	0.7	8.3	
Gross profit <sup>(5)</sup>	118.2	111.2	335.4	303.0	
Gross profit %	12.55	% 12.51	% 12.61	% 12.15	%
Gross profit % less excise taxes	13.44	% 13.43	% 13.50	% 13.04	%
Remaining gross profit <sup>(6)</sup>	\$118.4	\$108.1	\$334.3	\$303.8	
Remaining gross profit %	12.57	% 12.16	% 12.57	% 12.18	%
Remaining gross profit % less excise taxes	13.46	% 13.05	% 13.46	% 13.08	%
<b>Totals</b>					
Net sales	\$2,991.6	\$2,747.4	\$8,254.3	\$7,671.5	
Excise taxes in sales <sup>(2)</sup>	607.1	567.6	1,645.1	1,580.0	
Net sales, less excise taxes <sup>(3)</sup>	2,384.5	2,179.8	6,609.2	6,091.5	
LIFO expense	3.3	6.5	9.2	13.6	
Gross profit <sup>(4) (5)</sup>	171.6	151.4	467.8	419.1	
Gross profit %	5.74	% 5.51	% 5.67	% 5.46	%
Gross profit % less excise taxes	7.20	% 6.95	% 7.08	% 6.88	%
Remaining gross profit <sup>(6)</sup>	\$166.0	\$150.2	\$461.5	\$421.2	
Remaining gross profit %	5.55	% 5.47	% 5.59	% 5.49	%
Remaining gross profit % less excise taxes	6.96	% 6.89	% 6.98	% 6.91	%

(1) Amounts and percentages have been rounded for presentation purposes and might differ from unrounded results.

Excise taxes included in our net sales consist of state, local and provincial excise taxes, which we are responsible for collecting and remitting. Federal excise taxes are levied on the manufacturers who pass the tax on to us as part

(2) of the product cost and thus are not a component of our excise taxes. Although increases in cigarette excise taxes result in higher net sales, our overall gross profit percentage may be reduced since gross profit dollars generally remain the same.

(3)

Net sales, less excise taxes is a non-GAAP financial measure, which we provide to separate the increase in sales due to product sales growth and increases in excise taxes.

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Cigarette gross profit includes (i) cigarette inventory holding gains related to manufacturer price increases, (ii) increases in state, local and provincial excise taxes and (iii) LIFO effects. Cigarette inventory holding gains were (4) \$0.6 million and \$5.4 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, respectively, compared to \$0.2 million and \$4.0 million for the same period in 2014. Cigarette tax stamp inventory holding gains were \$8.3 million for both the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015.

Food/non-food gross profit includes (i) candy inventory holding gains related to manufacturer price increases, (ii) increases in state, local and provincial excise taxes, (iii) LIFO effects and (iv) OTP tax items. Candy inventory (5) holding gains were zero for both the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and \$5.2 million for the same periods in 2014. Included in the gross profit for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 were OTP tax refunds of zero and \$1.8 million, respectively, related to prior years' taxes.

Remaining gross profit is a non-GAAP financial measure, which we provide to segregate the effects of LIFO (6) expense, cigarette and candy inventory holding gains and other items that significantly affect the comparability of gross profit.

### Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our cash and cash equivalents as of September 30, 2015 were \$9.4 million compared to \$14.4 million as of December 31, 2014. Our restricted cash was \$9.7 million and \$13.0 million as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively. Restricted cash represents primarily funds that have been set aside in trust as required by one of the Canadian provincial taxing authorities to secure amounts payable for cigarette and tobacco excise taxes.

Our liquidity requirements arise primarily from the funding of our working capital, capital expenditures, debt service requirements of our Credit Facility, income taxes, repurchases of common stock and dividend payments. We have historically funded our liquidity requirements through our cash flows from operations and external borrowings. Our Credit Facility has a capacity of \$200 million, which can be increased up to an additional \$100 million, limited by a borrowing base primarily consisting of eligible accounts receivable and inventories. For the nine months ended September 30, 2015, our cash flows from operating activities generated \$105.9 million and at September 30, 2015, we had \$166.3 million of borrowing capacity available under our Credit Facility.

Based on our anticipated cash needs, availability under our Credit Facility, including the additional \$100 million expansion feature and the scheduled maturity of our debt, we expect that our current liquidity will be sufficient to meet all of our anticipated operating needs during the next twelve months.

### Cash Flows from Operating Activities

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$105.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to \$69.5 million for the same period in 2014. The \$36.4 million increase was due primarily to a \$28.3 million increase in cash provided by working capital, plus an \$8.1 million increase in earnings adjusted for non-cash items. The increase in cash provided by working capital was due primarily to a reduction in inventories. The level of year end inventories may vary depending on the amount of purchases and timing to preserve our LIFO layers and holiday related purchases at year end.

### Cash Flows from Investing Activities

Net cash used in investing activities increased by \$9.7 million to \$36.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to \$26.9 million for the same period in 2014. This increase was due primarily to \$8.0 million used for the acquisition of Karrys Bros. and a \$4.3 million increase for investments in information systems. The increase was offset by a \$2.9 million reduction in restricted cash due primarily to the timing of tobacco tax collections and payments. Total capital expenditures for 2015 are expected to be approximately \$35 million, which will be utilized for expansion projects and maintenance investments.

### Cash Flows from Financing Activities

Net cash used in financing activities was \$72.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to \$28.6 million for the same period in 2014. This change was due primarily to a \$32.9 million increase in net repayments made under our Credit Facility and an increase of \$5.1 million for stock repurchases and dividends.



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## Adjusted EBITDA

Adjusted EBITDA is a measure used by management to measure operating performance. We believe Adjusted EBITDA provides meaningful supplemental information for investors regarding the performance of our business and allows investors to view results in a manner similar to the method used by our management. Adjusted EBITDA is also among the primary measures used externally by our investors, analysts and peers in our industry for purposes of valuation and comparing our results to other companies in our industry. Adjusted EBITDA is not defined by GAAP and the discussion of Adjusted EBITDA should be considered as a supplement to, and not as a substitute for, or superior to, financial measures calculated in accordance with GAAP. We may define Adjusted EBITDA differently than other companies and therefore such measures may not be comparable to ours.

The following table provides the components of Adjusted EBITDA (in millions):

	Three Months Ended			Nine Months Ended		
	September 30, 2015	2014	% Change	September 30, 2015	2014	% Change
Net income	\$15.1	\$13.7		\$33.8	\$28.1	
Interest expense, net <sup>(1)</sup>	0.5	0.4		1.5	1.4	
Provision for income taxes	9.1	6.3		20.9	15.8	
Depreciation and amortization	9.9	8.3		28.3	23.4	
LIFO expense	3.3	6.5		9.2	13.6	
Stock-based compensation expense	2.7	1.5		6.7	4.3	
Foreign currency transaction losses/(gains), net	0.7	(0.2)	)	1.3	—	
Adjusted EBITDA	\$41.3	\$36.5	13.2 %	\$101.7	\$86.6	17.4 %

(1) Interest expense, net, is reported net of interest income.

Adjusted EBITDA increased \$4.8 million, or 13.2%, to \$41.3 million for the third quarter of 2015 from \$36.5 million for the same period last year. The increase in Adjusted EBITDA for the third quarter of 2015 was driven primarily by an increase in gross profit.

Adjusted EBITDA increased \$15.1 million, or 17.4%, to \$101.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 from \$86.6 million for the same period last year. The increase in Adjusted EBITDA for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 was driven primarily by an increase in gross profit.

## Our Credit Facility

We have a revolving credit facility ("Credit Facility") with a capacity of \$200 million, which can be increased up to an additional \$100 million, limited by a borrowing base primarily consisting of eligible accounts receivable and inventories. All obligations under the Credit Facility are secured by first priority liens on substantially all of the Company's present and future assets. The terms of the Credit Facility permit prepayment without penalty at any time (subject to customary breakage costs with respect to LIBOR or CDOR based loans prepaid prior to the end of an interest period).

On May 21, 2015, we entered into a sixth amendment to the Credit Facility (the "Sixth Amendment"), which extended the term of the Credit Facility from May 2018 to May 2020. The Sixth Amendment fixed the unused facility fee at 25 basis points and provided for quarterly borrowing base reporting. The margin added to the LIBOR or CDOR rate remains at a range of 125 to 175 basis points. In addition, the Sixth Amendment raised and reset the baskets for stock repurchases in aggregate of \$75.0 million, not to exceed \$20.0 million in any year, an aggregate of \$100.0 million for dividends and up to \$150.0 million for permitted acquisitions. As of September 30, 2015, the remaining balances under the Credit Facility for stock repurchases, dividends, and permitted acquisitions were \$72.0 million, \$94.0 million, and \$150.0 million, respectively. We incurred fees of approximately \$0.4 million in connection with the Sixth Amendment, which are being amortized over the remaining term of the amendment.

The Credit Facility contains restrictive covenants, including, among others: limitations on dividends and other restricted payments, other indebtedness, liens, investments and acquisitions and certain asset sales. As of September 30, 2015, we were in compliance with all of the covenants under the Credit Facility.





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Amounts borrowed, outstanding letters of credit and amounts available to borrow, net of certain reserves required under the Credit Facility, were as follows (in millions):

	September 30, 2015	December 31, 2014
Amounts borrowed	\$5.7	\$55.9
Outstanding letters of credit	18.5	17.4
Amounts available to borrow <sup>(1)</sup>	166.3	114.8

(1) Excluding \$100 million expansion feature.

Average borrowings during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 were \$48.1 million and \$38.6 million, respectively, with amounts borrowed, at any one time outstanding, ranging from zero to \$120.9 million. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, average borrowings were \$1.9 million and \$7.4 million, respectively, with amounts borrowed, at any one time outstanding, ranging from zero to \$46.3 million.

The weighted-average interest rate on the revolving credit facility for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 was 1.5% and 1.6%, respectively, compared to 1.8% and 1.6% for the same periods in 2014. The weighted-average interest rate is calculated based on the daily cost of borrowing, reflecting a blend of prime and LIBOR rates. We paid fees for unused facility and letter of credit participation, which are included in interest expense, of \$0.2 million and \$0.5 million during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, respectively, and \$0.2 million and \$0.6 million during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, respectively. We recorded charges related to amortization of debt issuance costs, which are included in interest expense, of less than \$0.1 million for each of the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014. For each of the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, we recorded charges related to amortization of debt issuance costs of \$0.2 million. Unamortized debt issuance costs were \$1.3 million and \$1.1 million as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively.

**Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

There have been no material changes to the information provided in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, as filed with the SEC on March 2, 2015, regarding off-balance sheet arrangements.

**Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

There have been no changes during this quarter to our critical accounting policies as discussed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, as filed with the SEC on March 2, 2015.

**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Except for historical information, the statements made in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q are forward-looking statements made pursuant to the safe-harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements are based on certain assumptions or estimates, discuss future expectations, describe future plans and strategies, contain projections of results of operations or of financial conditions or state other forward-looking information. Our ability to predict results or the actual effect of future plans or strategies is inherently uncertain.

Although we believe that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are based on reasonable assumptions, actual results and performance could differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements in some cases can be identified by the use of words such as “may,” “will,” “should,” “potential,” “intend,” “expect,” “seek,” “anticipate,” “estimate,” “believe,” “could,” “would,” “project,” “predict,” “continue,” other similar words or expressions. These forward-looking statements are made only as of the date of this Form 10-Q and are based on our current intent, beliefs, plans and expectations. They involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual future results, performance or developments to differ materially from those described in or implied by such forward-looking statements and historical results.

Factors that might cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, our dependence on the convenience retail industry for our revenues; competition in our distribution markets; the dependence of some of our distribution centers on a few relatively large customers; manufacturers or retail customers adopting direct distribution channels; fuel and other transportation costs; the low-margin nature of cigarette and consumable goods distribution;

our reliance on manufacturer discount and incentive programs and cigarette excise stamping allowances; our dependence on relatively few suppliers; risks and costs associated with efforts to grow our business through acquisitions; product liability and counterfeit product claims and manufacturer recalls of

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products; our ability to achieve the expected benefits of implementation of marketing initiatives; failing to maintain our brand and reputation; failure or disruptions of our information technology systems; unexpected outcomes in legal proceedings; our dependence on qualified labor, our senior management and other key personnel; attempts by unions to organize our employees; increasing expenses related to employee health benefits; failure to comply with governmental regulations or substantial changes to governmental regulations; earthquake and natural disaster damage; increases in the number or severity of insurance and claims expenses; declining cigarette sales volumes; legislation and other matters negatively affecting the cigarette and tobacco industry; increases in excise taxes or reduction in credit terms by taxing jurisdictions; potential liabilities associated with sales of cigarettes and other tobacco products; changes to federal, state or provincial income tax legislation; changes in the funding of our pension plans; reduction in the payment of dividends; currency exchange rate fluctuations; our ability to borrow additional capital; restrictive covenants in our Credit Facility; changes to accounting rules or regulations; and compliance with governmental regulations. For a more detailed discussion of such factors, please refer to Part II, Item 1A, "Risk Factors" of this Form 10-Q and to Part I, Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K, for the year ended December 31, 2014 filed with the SEC on March 2, 2015. We undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

SEC Regulation G - Non-GAAP Information

The financial statements in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q are prepared in accordance with GAAP. Core-Mark uses certain non-GAAP financial measures including remaining gross profit, remaining gross profit margin, Adjusted EBITDA and net sales, less excise taxes. We believe these non-GAAP financial measures provide meaningful supplemental information for investors regarding the performance of our business and facilitate a meaningful period to period evaluation. Management uses these non-GAAP financial measures in order to have comparable financial results to analyze changes in our underlying business. These non-GAAP measures should be considered as a supplement to, and not as a substitute for, or superior to, financial measures calculated in accordance with GAAP.

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**ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

Our market risk disclosures set forth in Item 7A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, as filed with SEC on March 2, 2015, did not change materially during the nine months ended September 30, 2015.

**ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

**Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

We conducted, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including the chief executive officer and chief financial officer, an evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended). Based on our evaluation, the chief executive officer and chief financial officer concluded that, as of September 30, 2015, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective.

**Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the quarter ended September 30, 2015 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the internal control over financial reporting.

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## PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

## ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The Company and its insurers are plaintiffs in a lawsuit against Sonitrol Corporation. The case arose from the December 21, 2002 arson fire at the Denver warehouse, in which Sonitrol failed to detect and respond to a four-hour burglary and subsequent arson. In 2010, a jury found in favor of the Company and its insurers. Sonitrol appealed the judgment to the Colorado Appellate Court and on July 19, 2012, the Appellate Court upheld the trial court's ruling on two of the three issues being appealed but set aside the judgment and remanded the case back to the District Court for trial on the sole issue of damages. On April 29, 2013, the Colorado Supreme Court denied Sonitrol's appeal and the case was returned to the District Court to resolve the sole issue of damages. On April 11, 2014, the damages trial concluded with a jury award of \$2.75 million in favor of the Company and its insurers, finding that Sonitrol was liable for damages related only to the burglary and not the subsequent arson. The District Court denied the Company's motion for post-judgment relief on June 26, 2014. The Company and its insurers have appealed the District Court's decision. The Company and Sonitrol have filed their briefs and replies in the appeal and await the next step in the process, which is oral argument. The Company is unable to predict when this litigation will be resolved and its ultimate outcome. Any monetary recovery from this lawsuit will be recognized only if and when it is finally paid to the Company.

## ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

There have been no material changes from the Risk Factors previously disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K, for the year ended December 31, 2014, as filed with the SEC on March 2, 2015.

## ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

The following table provides the repurchases of common stock by the Company during the three months ended September 30, 2015:

## Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

Calendar month in which purchases were made:	Total Number of Shares Repurchased <sup>(1)</sup>	Average Price Paid per Share <sup>(2)</sup>	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs (in millions) <sup>(3)</sup>
July 1, 2015 to July 31, 2015	49,511	\$60.59	49,511	\$11.7
August 1, 2015 to August 31, 2015	—	—	—	11.7
September 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015	—	—	—	11.7
Total repurchases for the three months ended September 30, 2015	49,511	\$60.59	49,511	\$11.7

(1) All purchases were made as part of the share repurchase program announced on May 25, 2011.

(2) Includes related transaction fees.

(3) Shares repurchased under the program were made in open market and the timing and amount of the purchases are based on market conditions, our cash and liquidity requirements, relevant securities laws and other factors. The share repurchase program may be discontinued or amended at any time. The program has no stated expiration date but expires when the amount authorized has been expended or the Board of Directors withdraws its authorization.

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ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

Exhibit No. Description

3.1	Certificate of Incorporation of Core-Mark Holding Company, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Company's Registration Statement on Form 10 filed on September 6, 2005).
3.2	Certificate of Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation of Core-Mark Holding Company, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 21, 2015).
3.3	Second Amended and Restated Bylaws of Core-Mark Holding Company, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on August 18, 2008).
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350*.
32.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350*.
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

\* This Exhibit is being furnished rather than filed and shall not be deemed incorporated by reference into any filing pursuant to Item 601 of Regulation S-K.

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SIGNATURES

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

Core-Mark Holding Company, Inc.

November 5, 2015

By: /S/ THOMAS B. PERKINS  
Name: Thomas B. Perkins  
Title: President and Chief Executive Officer

Core-Mark Holding Company, Inc.

November 5, 2015

By: /s/ STACY LORETZ-CONGDON  
Name: Stacy Loretz-Congdon  
Title: Chief Financial Officer