

EZCORP INC  
Form 10-Q  
February 05, 2010

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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20549  
FORM 10-Q**

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

**For the quarterly period ended December 31, 2009**

**or**

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

**For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_**

**Commission File No. 0-19424  
EZCORP, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or  
organization)

**74-2540145**

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

**1901 Capital Parkway  
Austin, Texas**

(Address of principal executive offices)

**78746**

(Zip Code)

**(512) 314-3400**

Registrant's telephone number, including area 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 definition 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  Smaller reporting company   
(Do not check if a 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

**APPLICABLE ONLY TO CORPORATE ISSUERS:**

The only class of voting securities of the registrant issued and outstanding is the Class B Voting Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share, all of which is owned by an affiliate of the registrant. There is no trading market for the Class B Voting Common Stock.

As of December 31, 2009, 45,761,998 shares of the registrant's Class A Non-voting Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share, and 2,970,171 shares of the registrant's Class B Voting Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share, were

outstanding.

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## Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets

|  | December<br>31,<br>2009<br><i>(Unaudited)</i> | December<br>31,<br>2008<br><i>(Unaudited)</i><br><i>(In<br/>thousands)</i> | September<br>30,<br>2009 |
|--|---|--|--------------------------|
| Assets:  |   |  |                          |
| Current assets:                                |   |  |                          |
| Cash and cash equivalents                      | \$ 17,032                                     | \$ 41,595  | \$ 44,764                |
| Pawn loans                                     | 103,446                                       | 93,789   | 101,684                  |
| Signature loans, net                           | 8,934   | 8,246  | 8,357                    |
| Auto title loans, net                          | 2,110   | 1,174  | 1,663                    |
| Pawn service charges receivable, net           | 19,662  | 16,888   | 18,187                   |
| Signature loan fees receivable, net            | 6,044   | 5,968  | 5,599                    |
| Auto title loan fees receivable, net           | 827   | 92   | 529                      |
| Inventory, net                                 | 63,515  | 64,563   | 64,001                   |
| Deferred tax asset                             | 15,671  | 15,773   | 15,670                   |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets              | 20,654  | 12,284   | 16,927                   |
| <b>Total current assets</b>                    | <b>257,895</b>                                | <b>260,372</b>   | <b>277,381</b>           |
| Investments in unconsolidated affiliates       | 90,455  | 37,873   | 38,851                   |
| Property and equipment, net                    | 52,378  | 46,674   | 51,154                   |
| Deferred tax asset, non-current                | 5,011   | 7,754  | 6,311                    |
| Goodwill                                       | 101,134                                       | 98,300   | 100,719                  |
| Other assets, net                              | 19,931  | 18,693   | 18,101                   |
| <b>Total assets</b>                            | <b>\$ 526,804</b>                             | <b>\$ 469,666</b>  | <b>\$ 492,517</b>        |
| Liabilities and stockholders' equity:          |   |  |                          |
| Current liabilities:                           |   |  |                          |
| Current maturities of long-term debt           | \$ 10,000                                     | \$ 10,000  | \$ 10,000                |
| Accounts payable and other accrued expenses    | 39,692  | 48,534   | 33,838                   |
| Customer layaway deposits                      | 2,697   | 2,879  | 4,175                    |
| Federal income taxes payable                   | 6,480   | 3,186  | 572                      |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>               | <b>58,869</b>                                 | <b>64,599</b>  | <b>48,585</b>            |
| Long-term debt, less current maturities        | 22,500  | 30,337   | 25,000                   |
| Deferred gains and other long-term liabilities | 2,840   | 3,566  | 3,247                    |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>                       | <b>84,209</b>                                 | <b>98,502</b>  | <b>76,832</b>            |
| Commitments and contingencies                  |   |  |                          |

## Stockholders' equity:

|  |            |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|------------|
| Class A Non-voting Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share; Authorized 54 million shares; 45,761,998 issued and outstanding at December 31, 2009; 45,457,188 issued and 45,447,188 outstanding at December 31, 2008; 45,732,998 issued and outstanding at September 30, 2009 | 458        | 451        | 457        |
| Class B Voting Common Stock, convertible, par value \$.01 per share; 3 million shares authorized; 2,970,171 issued and outstanding   | 30         | 30         | 30         |
| Additional paid-in capital   | 218,284    | 224,914    | 217,176    |
| Retained earnings  | 228,349    | 148,998    | 202,642    |
| Treasury stock, at cost; 10,000 shares at December 31, 2008  |            | (12)       |            |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss   | (4,526)    | (3,217)    | (4,620)    |
| Total stockholders' equity   | 442,595    | 371,164    | 415,685    |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity   | \$ 526,804 | \$ 469,666 | \$ 492,517 |

See accompanying notes to interim condensed consolidated financial statements (unaudited).

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## Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations (Unaudited)

|   | Three Months Ended<br>December 31,              |           |
|---|---|-----------|
|   | 2009  | 2008      |
|   | <i>(In thousands, except per share amounts)</i> |           |
| Revenues:   |   |           |
| Sales   | \$ 99,918                                       | \$ 64,580 |
| Pawn service charges                              | 40,797  | 26,381    |
| Signature loan fees                               | 38,678  | 36,000    |
| Auto title loan fees                              | 3,102   | 221       |
| Other   | 2,256   | 1,433     |
| Total revenues                                    | 184,751   | 128,615   |
| Cost of goods sold                                | 62,570  | 40,425    |
| Signature loan bad debt                           | 8,790   | 9,484     |
| Auto title loan bad debt                          | 460   | 7         |
| Net revenues                                      | 112,931   | 78,699    |
| Operating expenses:                               |   |           |
| Operations  | 58,181  | 43,494    |
| Administrative                                    | 12,297  | 10,411    |
| Depreciation and amortization                     | 3,356   | 3,066     |
| (Gain) loss on sale / disposal of assets          | 211   | (284)     |
| Total operating expenses                          | 74,045  | 56,687    |
| Operating income                                  | 38,886  | 22,012    |
| Interest income                                   | (8)   | (126)     |
| Interest expense                                  | 365   | 165       |
| Equity in net income of unconsolidated affiliates | (1,283)   | (941)     |
| Other   | (15)  | 25        |
| Income before income taxes                        | 39,827  | 22,889    |
| Income tax expense                                | 14,120  | 8,061     |
| Net income  | \$ 25,707                                       | \$ 14,828 |
| Net income per common share:                      |   |           |
| Basic   | \$ 0.53   | \$ 0.34   |
| Diluted   | \$ 0.52   | \$ 0.33   |

Weighted average shares outstanding:

|         |        |        |
|---------|--------|--------|
| Basic   | 48,722 | 43,661 |
| Diluted | 49,400 | 44,692 |

See accompanying notes to interim condensed consolidated financial statements (unaudited).



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## Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited)

|   | Three Months Ended<br>December 31, |           |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------|
|   | 2009                               | 2008      |
|   | <i>(In thousands)</i>              |           |
| Operating Activities:   |                                    |           |
| Net income  | \$ 25,707                          | \$ 14,828 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: |                                    |           |
| Depreciation and amortization   | 3,356                              | 3,066     |
| Signature loan and auto title loan loss provisions                                | 2,938                              | 2,691     |
| Deferred taxes  | 1,300                              | 1,239     |
| Net (gain) loss on sale or disposal of assets                                     | 211                                | (284)     |
| Share-based compensation  | 1,056                              | 1,059     |
| Income from investments in unconsolidated affiliates                              | (1,283)                            | (941)     |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities, net of business acquisitions:        |                                    |           |
| Service charges and fees receivable, net  | (2,198)                            | (84)      |
| Inventory, net  | 197                                | (819)     |
| Prepaid expenses, other current assets, and other assets, net                     | (5,659)                            | (995)     |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses   | 5,654                              | (389)     |
| Customer layaway deposits   | (1,482)                            | (435)     |
| Deferred gains and other long-term liabilities                                    | (414)                              | (43)      |
| Excess tax benefit from share-based compensation                                  | (23)                               | (1,639)   |
| Federal income taxes  | 5,967                              | 4,606     |
| Net cash provided by operating activities   | 35,327                             | 21,860    |
| Investing Activities:   |                                    |           |
| Loans made  | (128,315)                          | (92,792)  |
| Loans repaid  | 77,849                             | 58,772    |
| Recovery of pawn loan principal through sale of forfeited collateral              | 45,256                             | 32,732    |
| Additions to property and equipment   | (4,470)                            | (4,197)   |
| Acquisitions, net of cash acquired  | (31)                               | (17,064)  |
| Investments in unconsolidated affiliates  | (50,932)                           |           |
| Net cash used in investing activities   | (60,643)                           | (22,549)  |
| Financing Activities:   |                                    |           |
| Proceeds from exercise of stock options and warrants                              | 61                                 | 4,580     |
| Stock issuance costs related to acquisitions                                      |                                    | (273)     |
| Excess tax benefit from share-based compensation                                  | 23                                 | 1,639     |
| Debt issuance costs   |                                    | (1,058)   |
| Proceeds from bank borrowings   |                                    | 40,000    |
| Payments on bank borrowings   | (2,500)                            | (30,048)  |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities                               | (2,416)                            | 14,840    |
| Change in cash and equivalents  | (27,732)                           | 14,151    |
| Cash and equivalents at beginning of period                                       | 44,764                             | 27,444    |

|   |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Cash and equivalents at end of period             | \$ 17,032 | \$ 41,595 |
| Non-cash Investing and Financing Activities:      |           |           |
| Pawn loans forfeited and transferred to inventory | \$ 44,872 | \$ 35,278 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustment           | \$ (94)   | \$ 5,798  |
| Acquisition-related stock issuance                | \$ (31)   | \$ 82,080 |

See accompanying notes to interim condensed consolidated financial statements (unaudited).

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**EZCORP, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Interim Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)**  
**December 31, 2009**

**Note A: Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying unaudited interim condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. Our management has included all adjustments it considers necessary for a fair presentation. These adjustments are of a normal, recurring nature except for those related to acquired businesses (described in Note C). The accompanying financial statements should be read with the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2009. The balance sheet at September 30, 2009 has been derived from the audited financial statements at that date but does not include all of the information and footnotes required by generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. Certain prior period balances have been reclassified to conform to the current presentation.

Our business is subject to seasonal variations, and operating results for the three-month period ended December 31, 2009 (the current quarter ) are not necessarily indicative of the results of operations for the full fiscal year.

**Note B: Significant Accounting Policies**

**CONSOLIDATION:** The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of EZCORP, Inc. and its wholly owned subsidiaries. All significant inter-company accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation. We account for our interests in Albemarle & Bond Holdings, PLC and Cash Converters International Limited using the equity method.

**PAWN LOAN AND SALES REVENUE RECOGNITION:** We record pawn service charges using the interest method for all pawn loans we believe to be collectible. We base our estimate of collectible loans on several factors, including recent redemption rates, historical trends in redemption rates and the amount of loans due in the following two to three months. Unexpected variations in any of these factors could change our estimate of collectible loans, affecting our earnings and financial condition. If a pawn loan is not repaid, we value the forfeited collateral (inventory) at the lower of cost (pawn loan principal) or market (net realizable value) of the property. We record sales revenue and the related cost when this inventory is sold. Sales tax collected upon the sale of inventory is excluded from the amount recognized as sales and instead is recorded as a liability in Accounts payable and other accrued liabilities on our balance sheets until remitted to the appropriate governmental authorities.

**SIGNATURE LOAN CREDIT SERVICE FEE REVENUE RECOGNITION:** We earn credit service fees when we assist customers in obtaining signature loans from unaffiliated lenders. We initially defer recognition of the fees we expect to collect, net of direct expenses, and recognize that deferred net amount over the life of the related loans. We reserve the percentage of credit service fees we expect not to collect. Accrued fees related to defaulted loans reduce credit service fee revenue upon loan default, and increase credit service fee revenue upon collection. Signature loan credit service fee revenue is included in Signature loan fees on our statements of operations.

**SIGNATURE LOAN CREDIT SERVICE BAD DEBT:** We issue letters of credit to enhance the creditworthiness of our credit service customers seeking signature loans from unaffiliated lenders. The letters of credit assure the lenders that if borrowers default on the loans, we will pay the lenders, upon demand, the principal and accrued interest owed the lenders by the borrowers plus any insufficient funds fee. Although amounts paid under letters of credit may be collected later, we charge those amounts to signature loan bad debt upon default. We record recoveries under the letters of credit as a reduction of bad debt at the time of collection. After attempting collection of bad debts internally, we occasionally sell them to an unaffiliated company as another method of recovery. We account for the sale of defaulted accounts in the same manner as internal collections of defaulted accounts.

The majority of our credit service customers obtain short-term signature loans with a single maturity date. These short-term loans, with maturity dates averaging about 18 days, are considered defaulted if they have not been repaid or renewed by the maturity date. Other credit service customers obtain installment loans with a series of payments due over as much as a five-month period. If one payment of an installment loan is delinquent, that one payment is

considered defaulted. If more than one installment payment is delinquent at any time, the entire loan is considered defaulted.

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**ALLOWANCE FOR LOSSES ON SIGNATURE LOAN CREDIT SERVICES:** We provide an allowance for losses we expect to incur under letters of credit for brokered signature loans that have not yet matured. The allowance is based on recent loan default experience adjusted for seasonal variations. It includes all amounts we expect to pay to the unaffiliated lenders upon loan default, including principal, accrued interest, and insufficient funds fees, net of the amounts we expect to collect from borrowers ( Expected LOC Losses ). Changes in the allowance are charged to signature loan bad debt. We include the balance of Expected LOC Losses in Accounts payable and other accrued expenses on our balance sheets. At December 31, 2009, the allowance for Expected LOC Losses on signature loans was \$1.6 million and our maximum exposure for losses on letters of credit, if all brokered signature loans defaulted and none was collected, was \$27.0 million. This amount includes principal, interest, and insufficient funds fees. Based on the expected loss and collection percentages, we also provide an allowance for the signature loan credit service fees we expect not to collect, and charge changes in this allowance to signature loan fee revenue.

**SIGNATURE LOAN REVENUE RECOGNITION:** We accrue fees in accordance with state and provincial laws on the percentage of signature loans (payday loans and installment loans) we have made that we believe to be collectible. Accrued fees related to defaulted loans reduce fee revenue upon loan default, and increase fee revenue upon collection.

**SIGNATURE LOAN BAD DEBT:** We consider a payday loan defaulted if it has not been repaid or renewed by the maturity date. If one payment of an installment loan is delinquent, that one payment is considered defaulted. If more than one installment payment is delinquent at any time, the entire installment loan is considered defaulted. Although defaulted loans may be collected later, we charge the loan principal to signature loan bad debt upon default, leaving only active loans in the reported balance. We record collections of principal as a reduction of signature loan bad debt when collected. After attempting collection of bad debts internally, we occasionally sell them to an unaffiliated company as another method of recovery. We account for the sale of defaulted accounts in the same manner as internal collections of defaulted accounts.

**SIGNATURE LOAN ALLOWANCE FOR LOSSES:** We provide an allowance for losses on signature loans that have not yet matured and related fees receivable, based on recent loan default experience adjusted for seasonal variations. We charge any changes in the principal valuation allowance to signature loan bad debt. We record changes in the fee receivable valuation allowance to signature loan fee revenue.

**INVENTORY:** If a pawn loan is not redeemed, we record the forfeited collateral at cost (the principal amount of the pawn loan). We do not record loan loss allowances or charge-offs on the principal portion of pawn loans, as they are fully collateralized. In order to state inventory at the lower of cost (specific identification) or market (net realizable value), we record an allowance for shrinkage and excess, obsolete, or slow-moving inventory. The allowance is based on the type and age of merchandise and recent sales trends and margins. At December 31, 2009, the inventory valuation allowance was \$5.8 million, or 8.4% of gross inventory. We record changes in the inventory valuation allowance as cost of goods sold.

**INTANGIBLE ASSETS:** Goodwill and other intangible assets having indefinite lives are not subject to amortization. They are tested for impairment each July 1<sup>st</sup>, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that they might be impaired, based on cash flows and other market valuation methods. We recognized no impairment of our intangible assets in the current or prior year periods. We amortize intangible assets with definite lives over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

**PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT:** We record property and equipment at cost. We depreciate these assets on a straight-line basis using estimated useful lives of 2 to 8 years for furniture, equipment, and software development costs. We depreciate leasehold improvements over the shorter of their estimated useful life (typically 10 years) or the reasonably assured lease term at the inception of the lease. Property and equipment is shown net of accumulated depreciation of \$104.6 million at December 31, 2009.

**VALUATION OF TANGIBLE LONG-LIVED ASSETS:** We assess the impairment of tangible long-lived assets whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the net recorded amount may not be recoverable. The following factors could trigger an impairment review: significant underperformance relative to historical or

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projected future cash flows, significant changes in the manner of use of the assets or the strategy for the overall business, or significant negative industry trends. When we determine that the net recorded amount of tangible long-lived assets may not be recoverable, we measure impairment based on the excess of the assets' net recorded amount over the estimated fair value. No impairment of tangible long-lived assets was recognized in the current or prior year periods.

**FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION:** Our equity investment in Albemarle & Bond is translated from the British pound into U.S. dollars at the exchange rate as of Albemarle & Bond's balance sheet date. The related interest in Albemarle & Bond's net income is translated at the average exchange rate for each six-month period reported by Albemarle & Bond. The functional currency of our wholly-owned Empeño Fácil pawn segment is the Mexican peso. Empeño Fácil's balance sheet accounts are translated into U.S. dollars at the exchange rate at the end of each quarter, and its earnings are translated into U.S. dollars at the average exchange rate each quarter. We present resulting translation adjustments from our foreign operations and foreign equity investments as a separate component of stockholders' equity. Foreign currency transaction gains and losses have not been significant, and are reported as Other expense in our statements of operations. Due to the investment in Cash Converters occurring in the current quarter and our intention to account for those results on a three-month lag, the effect of exchange rate fluctuations on Cash Converters will first appear in our quarter ending March 31, 2010 and will be calculated in a manner consistent with the method described above for Albemarle & Bond.

**INCOME TAXES:** We account for income taxes using the asset and liability method. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying value of assets and liabilities and their tax bases and for operating loss and tax credit carryforwards. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which the related temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized when the rate change is enacted.

**SHARE-BASED COMPENSATION:** We account for share-based compensation in accordance with the fair value recognition provisions of FASB ASC 718-10-25 (formerly SFAS No. 123(R), Share-based Payment). We estimate the grant-date fair value of options using the Black-Scholes-Merton option-pricing model and amortize that fair value to compensation expense on a straight-line basis over the options' vesting periods. The fair value of restricted shares is measured as the closing market price of our stock on the date of grant, which is amortized over the vesting period for each grant.

**FAIR VALUE:** We adopted FASB ASC 820-10 (formerly SFAS No. 157, Fair Value Measurements) and ASC 825-10 (formerly SFAS No. 159, The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities) on October 1, 2008, resulting in no impact on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows. Among other requirements, FASB ASC 820-10 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands disclosure about the use of fair value to measure assets and liabilities. FASB ASC 825-10 permits entities to choose, at specified election dates, to measure eligible items at fair value (the fair value option) and requires an entity to report in earnings at each subsequent reporting date those unrealized gains and losses on items for which the fair value option has been elected. Upfront costs and fees related to items for which the fair value option is elected shall be recognized in earnings as incurred and not deferred. Upon adoption of FASB ASC 825-10, we elected not to measure any eligible items at fair value.

We determine the fair value of financial instruments by reference to various market data and other valuation techniques, as appropriate. Unless otherwise disclosed, the fair values of financial instruments approximate their recorded values, due primarily to their short-term nature. We consider investments with maturities of 90 days or less when purchased to be cash equivalents. The recorded value of our outstanding debt is assumed to estimate its fair value, as it has no prepayment penalty and a floating interest rate based on market rates.

**RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS:** In December 2007, FASB issued ASC 805-10-65 (formerly SFAS No. 141(R), Business Combinations - Revised). FASB ASC 805-10-65 establishes principles and requirements for how an acquirer in a business combination: (1) recognizes and measures in its financial statements

the identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed, and any non-controlling interest in an acquiree, (2) recognizes and measures the goodwill acquired in the business combination or a gain from a bargain purchase price, and (3) determines what information to disclose to enable users of the consolidated financial statements to evaluate the nature and financial effects of the business combination. Among other changes, FASB ASC 805-10-65 will require us to immediately expense transaction costs that have historically been included in the purchase price allocation under existing guidance. FASB ASC 805-10-65 will apply prospectively to any acquisitions we complete on or after October 1, 2009.

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In April 2008, FASB issued ASC 350-30-65 (formerly FSP No. FAS 142-3, *Determination of the Useful Life of Intangible Assets* ), which amends the list of factors an entity should consider in developing renewal or extension assumptions used in determining the useful life of recognized intangible assets under FASB ASC 350-10-05 (formerly SFAS No. 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets* ). The new guidance applies to (1) intangible assets that are acquired individually or with a group of other assets and (2) intangible assets acquired in both business combinations and asset acquisitions. Under FASB ASC 350-30-65, entities estimating the useful life of a recognized intangible asset must consider their historical experience in renewing or extending similar arrangements or, in the absence of historical experience, must consider assumptions that market participants would use about renewal or extension. We adopted this standard on October 1, 2009, resulting in no effect on our financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.

In June 2009, FASB amended ASC 810-10-65 (formerly SFAS No. 167, *Amendments to FASB Interpretation No. 46(R)* ). Amended ASC 810-10-65 relates to the consolidation of variable interest entities. It eliminates the quantitative approach previously required for determining the primary beneficiary of a variable interest entity and requires ongoing qualitative reassessments of whether an enterprise is the primary beneficiary of a variable interest entity. This guidance also requires additional disclosures about an enterprise's involvement in variable interest entities. We must adopt this amended standard in our fiscal year beginning October 1, 2010. We expect adoption of amended ASC 810-10 will have no effect on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

In August 2009, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update ( ASU ) 2009-05, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures, Measuring Liabilities at Fair Value*, which amends FASB ASC 820-10, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures* Overall, for the fair value measurement of liabilities. This update provides clarification that in circumstances in which a quoted price in an active market for the identical liability is not available, an entity is required to measure fair value using a valuation technique that uses a quoted price of the identical liability when traded as an asset, a quoted price for similar liabilities or similar liabilities when traded as an asset, or another valuation technique that is consistent with the principles of FASB ASC 820. We adopted this ASU on October 1, 2009, resulting in no effect on our financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.

**Note C: Acquisitions**

On November 13, 2008, we acquired the operating assets of 11 pawnshops in the Las Vegas, Nevada area that operated under the Pawn Plus, Pawn Place and ASAP Pawn brands for approximately \$34.4 million. The purchase price was paid by issuing approximately 1.1 million shares of our Class A Non-voting Common Stock valued at \$17.3 million, paying \$17.0 million to the seller and incurring \$0.1 million in transaction costs. We estimated the fair value of the stock issued in the asset purchase at \$15.45 per share, based on the market price of our stock surrounding the closing date of the acquisition.



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We allocated the purchase price as follows (in thousands):

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Current assets:                             |               |
| Pawn loans                                  | \$ 5,442      |
| Payday loans, net                           | 55            |
| Auto title loans, net                       | 1,105         |
| Pawn service charges receivable, net        | 1,231         |
| Signature loan fees receivable, net         | 7             |
| Auto title loan fees receivable, net        | 84            |
| Inventory, net                              | 2,860         |
| Deferred tax asset, net                     | 334           |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets           | 79            |
| <br>Total current assets                    | <br>11,197    |
| <br>Property and equipment, net             | <br>392       |
| Goodwill                                    | 16,297        |
| Other assets, net                           | 6,711         |
| <br>Total assets                            | <br>\$ 34,597 |
| <br>Liabilities:                            |               |
| Accounts payable and other accrued expenses | \$ (27)       |
| Customer layaway deposits                   | (135)         |
| <br>Total liabilities                       | <br>(162)     |
| <br>Net assets acquired                     | <br>\$ 34,435 |

Included in the amount allocated above to Other assets is the estimated \$6.7 million value of pawn licenses acquired. As these are considered indefinite lived intangible assets, they are not amortized but are tested at least annually for potential impairment.

The factors contributing to the recognition of goodwill were based on several strategic and synergistic benefits we expect to realize from the acquisition. These benefits include a greater presence in a prime pawn market, a meaningful entry into the auto title loan business, increased scale and the ability to implement certain processes and practices at the acquired stores in our existing and planned other operations. The goodwill arising from this acquisition was recorded in the U.S. Pawn segment and is expected to be fully deductible for tax purposes over the fifteen years following the acquisition.

The results of the acquired stores have been consolidated with our results since their acquisition. Pro forma results of operations have not been presented because the acquisition was not material to our consolidated financial position or results of operations.

On December 31, 2008, we acquired through a merger all of the capital stock of Value Financial Services, Inc. ( VFS ) for a total estimated acquisition price of \$77.7 million plus the assumption of VFS 's debt of \$30.4 million, aggregating to approximately \$108.1 million. VFS operated 67 pawn stores, located mostly in Florida.

The total purchase price was comprised of the issuance of approximately 4.1 million shares of EZCORP 's Class A Non-voting Common Stock originally valued at \$64.6 million, \$13.6 million of cash paid to VFS shareholders, and transaction costs of \$0.9 million, less \$1.4 million of cash acquired. We estimated the fair value of the stock issued in the acquisition at \$15.92 per share, based on the average daily closing market price of our stock from two days before to two days after the announcement of the merger agreement.

Since the date of acquisition, the total purchase price increased approximately \$0.3 million due to additional transaction related costs identified after the point of acquisition. We engaged an external valuation specialist as part of our process in determining the fair values. Taking into consideration their updated analysis and facts learned after the acquisition, the preliminary purchase price allocation was adjusted.

Other assets recorded include the estimated \$4.9 million fair value of the acquired trademark and trade names and \$0.6 million of favorable lease assets. As we expect to use the trademark and trade names indefinitely, they are not

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amortized but are tested at least annually for potential impairment. We are amortizing the favorable lease assets over the related lease terms used for straight-line rent purposes.

The factors contributing to the recognition of goodwill were based on several strategic and synergistic benefits we expect to realize from the acquisition. These benefits include a greater presence in prime pawn markets including making us the largest pawnshop operator in Florida, expected administrative savings, increased scale and the ability to implement certain processes and practices at the acquired company in our existing and future operations. The goodwill arising from this acquisition was recorded in the U.S. Pawn segment and is not expected to be deductible for tax purposes due to the acquisition being a stock acquisition rather than an asset acquisition.

We allocated the purchase price as follows (in thousands):

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Current assets:                             |                |
| Pawn loans                                  | \$ 17,886      |
| Pawn service charges receivable, net        | 3,491          |
| Inventory, net                              | 16,265         |
| Deferred tax asset, net                     | 4,394          |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets           | 1,438          |
| <br>Total current assets                    | <br>43,474     |
| <br>Property and equipment, net             | <br>5,584      |
| Deferred tax asset, non-current             | 690            |
| Goodwill                                    | 61,877         |
| Other assets, net                           | 5,719          |
| <br>Total assets                            | <br>\$ 117,344 |
| <br>Current Liabilities:                    |                |
| Current maturities of long-term debt        | \$ (4,000)     |
| Accounts payable and other accrued expenses | (8,404)        |
| Customer layaway deposits                   | (872)          |
| <br>Total Current liabilities               | <br>(13,276)   |
| <br>Long-term debt                          | <br>(26,385)   |
| <br>Total Liabilities                       | <br>(39,661)   |
| <br>Net assets acquired                     | <br>\$ 77,683  |

The total purchase price presented above excludes contingent consideration paid under the terms of the acquisition, which depended on the price at which VFS shareholders sold their EZCORP shares. After the closing of the acquisition, we paid \$10.7 million of contingent consideration to VFS shareholders related to the sale of approximately 3.9 million EZCORP shares. In accordance with accounting rules for contingent payments based on the acquirer's stock price, all contingent consideration paid was recorded as a reduction of the additional paid-in capital recorded with the stock issuance and did not change the total recorded purchase price.

The results of the acquired stores have been consolidated with our results since their acquisition. The following table summarizes unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of operations assuming the acquisition had occurred on the first day of fiscal 2009. Although VFS's historical fiscal year ends on a different date than that of EZCORP, all VFS data included in the pro forma information are actual amounts for the periods indicated.

We expect and have realized operating synergies and administrative savings. These come primarily from using the best practices from EZCORP and VFS in each business, economies of scale, reduced administrative support staff and the closure of VFS's corporate offices. The pro forma information does not include any potential operating efficiencies or cost savings from expected synergies. The pro forma information is not necessarily an indication of the results that would have been achieved had the acquisition been completed as of the date indicated or that may be achieved in the future.

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|  | Three Months Ended<br>December 31,              |           |
|--|---|-----------|
|  | 2009  | 2008      |
|  | <i>(Unaudited and Pro Forma)</i>                |           |
|  | <i>(In thousands, except per share amounts)</i> |           |
| Revenues:  |   |           |
| Sales  | \$ 99,918                                       | \$ 92,495 |
| Pawn service charges                             | 40,797  | 35,231    |
| Signature loan fees                              | 38,678  | 36,000    |
| Auto title loan fees                             | 3,102   | 221       |
| Other  | 2,256   | 1,905     |
| Total revenues                                   | 184,751   | 165,852   |
| Cost of goods sold                               | 62,570  | 57,576    |
| Signature loan bad debt                          | 8,790   | 9,484     |
| Auto title loan bad debt                         | 460   | 7         |
| Net revenues                                     | 112,931   | 98,785    |
| Operating expenses:                              |   |           |
| Operations                                       | 58,181  | 54,363    |
| Administrative                                   | 12,297  | 15,768    |
| Depreciation and amortization                    | 3,356   | 3,339     |
| (Gain) loss on sale/disposal of assets           | 211   | (255)     |
| Total operating expenses                         | 74,045  | 73,215    |
| Operating income                                 | 38,886  | 25,570    |
| Interest expense, net                            | 357   | 528       |
| Equity in net income of unconsolidated affiliate | (1,283)   | (941)     |
| Other  | (15)  | 25        |
| Income before income taxes                       | 39,827  | 25,958    |
| Income tax expense                               | 14,120  | 9,244     |
| Net income                                       | \$ 25,707                                       | \$ 16,714 |
| Net income per common share:                     |   |           |
| Basic  | \$ 0.53   | \$ 0.35   |
| Diluted  | \$ 0.52   | \$ 0.34   |

Weighted average shares outstanding:

|         |        |        |
|---------|--------|--------|
| Basic   | 48,722 | 47,675 |
| Diluted | 49,400 | 48,706 |

Included in the pro forma administrative expense in the quarter ended December 31, 2008 is a non-recurring charge of \$0.8 million for the write-off of VFS's in-process development of a point of sale system that was abandoned and replaced by EZCORP's point of sale system.

**Note D: Earnings per Share**

We compute basic earnings per share on the basis of the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the period. We compute diluted earnings per share on the basis of the weighted average number of shares of common stock plus the effect of dilutive potential common shares outstanding during the period using the treasury stock method. Dilutive potential common shares include outstanding stock options, warrants and restricted stock awards.

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Components of basic and diluted earnings per share are as follows (in thousands, except per share amounts):

|  | Three Months Ended<br>December 31, |           |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------|
|  | 2009                               | 2008      |
| Net income (A)   | \$ 25,707                          | \$ 14,828 |
| Weighted average outstanding shares of common stock (B)          | 48,722                             | 43,661    |
| Dilutive effect of stock options, warrants, and restricted stock | 678                                | 1,031     |
| Weighted average common stock and common stock equivalents (C)   | 49,400                             | 44,692    |
| Basic earnings per share (A/B)                                   | \$ 0.53                            | \$ 0.34   |
| Diluted earnings per share (A/C)                                 | \$ 0.52                            | \$ 0.33   |

There were no anti-dilutive potential common shares at December 31, 2009. In the quarter ended December 31, 2008, we excluded 143,500 anti-dilutive options from the computation of diluted earnings per share because the assumed proceeds upon exercise, as defined by FASB ASC 718-10-25 (formerly SFAS No. 123(R)), were greater than the cost to re-acquire the same number of shares at the average market price, and therefore the effect would be anti-dilutive. All outstanding warrants expired July 25, 2009 and are no longer dilutive.

**Note E: Strategic Investments**

At December 31, 2009, we owned 16,619,640 common shares of Albemarle & Bond Holdings, PLC, representing 29.99% of its total outstanding shares. We acquired 16,298,875 of the shares in 1998 and 2007 at a cost of \$26.2 million. To maintain our intended 29.99% ownership level, we acquired 320,765 additional shares in the quarter ended December 31, 2009 at a cost of approximately \$1.3 million. Albemarle & Bond is primarily engaged in pawnbroking, retail jewelry sales, check cashing and lending in the United Kingdom. We account for the investment using the equity method. Since Albemarle & Bond's fiscal year ends three months prior to ours, we report the income from this investment on a three-month lag. Albemarle & Bond files interim and annual financial reports for its fiscal periods ending December 31 and June 30. The income reported for our quarter ended December 31, 2009 represents our percentage interest in the estimated results of Albemarle & Bond's operations from July 1, 2009 to September 30, 2009.

In its functional currency of British pounds, Albemarle & Bond's total assets increased 2% from June 30, 2008 to June 30, 2009 and its net income improved 47% for the year ended June 30, 2009. Below is summarized financial information for Albemarle & Bond's most recently reported results after translation to a stronger U.S. dollar in 2009 in comparison to the British pound (using the exchange rate as of June 30 of each year for balance sheet items and average exchange rates for the income statement items for the periods indicated):

|                    | As of June 30,        |            |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------|
|                    | 2009                  | 2008       |
|                    | <i>(In thousands)</i> |            |
| Current assets     | \$ 102,034            | \$ 120,295 |
| Non-current assets | 51,980                | 61,388     |
| Total assets       | \$ 154,014            | \$ 181,683 |

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|   |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|
| Current liabilities                             | \$ 13,247  | \$ 13,710  |
| Non-current liabilities                         | 55,729     | 79,555     |
| Equity shareholders funds                       | 85,038     | 88,418     |
| Total liabilities and equity shareholders funds | \$ 154,014 | \$ 181,683 |

|                               | Years ended June 30,  |          |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
|                               | 2009                  | 2008     |
|                               | <i>(in thousands)</i> |          |
| Turnover (gross revenues)     | \$89,712              | \$93,914 |
| Gross profit                  | 68,572                | 72,996   |
| Profit after tax (net income) | 17,239                | 14,503   |



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On November 5, 2009, we acquired 108,218,000 newly issued shares, or approximately 30% of the capital stock of Cash Converters International Limited, a publicly traded company headquartered in Perth, Australia. We paid AUS \$0.50 per share, for a total cash investment of AUS \$54.1 million (approximately \$49.6 million U.S.). Cash Converters franchises and operates a worldwide network of over 500 financial services and retail stores, which provide pawn loans, short-term unsecured loans, and other consumer finance products, and buy and sell used merchandise. Cash Converters' most recent public reports indicate it owns and operates 18 locations in Australia and 26 locations in the United Kingdom, and has more than 450 franchised stores in 21 countries, including 119 in Australia, 118 in the United Kingdom and significant presences in Spain, South Africa and France.

We account for our investment in Cash Converters using the equity method. Since Cash Converters' fiscal year ends three months prior to ours, we will report the income from this investment on a three-month lag. Cash Converters files interim and annual financial reports for its fiscal periods ending December 31 and June 30. Because we will include Cash Converters' earnings in our financial statements on a three-month lag, our share of Cash Converters' results of operations will first be reflected in our results in the quarter ending March 31, 2010.

In its functional currency of Australian dollars, Cash Converters' total assets increased 16% from June 30, 2008 to June 30, 2009 and its net income improved 6% for the year ended June 30, 2009. Below is summarized financial information for Cash Converters' most recently reported results after translation to a stronger U.S. dollar in 2009 in comparison to the Australian dollar (using the exchange rate as of June 30 of each year for balance sheet items and average exchange rates for the income statement items for the periods indicated):

|   | As of June 30,        |                  |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|
|   | 2009                  | 2008             |
|   | <i>(In thousands)</i> |                  |
| Current assets  | \$ 37,477             | \$ 37,838        |
| Non-current assets                                      | 54,900                | 57,602           |
| <b>Total assets</b>                                     | <b>\$ 92,377</b>      | <b>\$ 95,440</b> |
| Current liabilities                                     | \$ 14,523             | \$ 15,627        |
| Non-current liabilities                                 | 11,467                | 8,618            |
| Equity shareholders' funds                              | 66,387                | 71,195           |
| <b>Total liabilities and equity shareholders' funds</b> | <b>\$ 92,377</b>      | <b>\$ 95,440</b> |

|                                  | Years ended June 30,  |          |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
|                                  | 2009                  | 2008     |
|                                  | <i>(in thousands)</i> |          |
| Gross revenues                   | \$70,612              | \$66,702 |
| Gross profit                     | 52,680                | 51,691   |
| Profit for the year (net income) | 12,084                | 13,603   |

The table below summarizes the recorded value and fair value of each of these strategic investments at the dates indicated. Fair values were calculated as a) the quoted stock price on each company's principal market multiplied by b) the number of shares we owned multiplied by c) the applicable foreign currency exchange rate at the dates indicated. We included no control premium for owning a large percentage of outstanding shares.

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|                   | December<br>31, 2009                  | December 31,<br>2008 | September 30,<br>2009 |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
|                   | <i>(In thousands of U.S. dollars)</i> |                      |                       |
| Albemarle & Bond: |                                       |                      |                       |
| Recorded value    | \$40,832                              | \$ 37,873            | \$ 38,851             |
| Fair value        | 69,091                                | 47,788               | 61,504                |
| Cash Converters:  |                                       |                      |                       |
| Recorded value    | 49,623                                |                      |                       |
| Fair value        | 63,789                                |                      |                       |

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**Table of Contents****Note F: Contingencies**

Currently and from time to time, we are defendants in various legal and regulatory actions. While we cannot determine the ultimate outcome of these actions, we believe their resolution will not have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations or liquidity. However, we cannot give any assurance as to their ultimate outcome.

**Note G: Comprehensive Income (Loss)**

Comprehensive income includes net income and other revenues, expenses, gains and losses that are excluded from net income but are included as a component of total stockholders' equity. Comprehensive income for the fiscal quarters ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 was \$25.8 million and \$9.0 million. The difference between comprehensive income and net income results primarily from the effect of foreign currency translation adjustments determined in accordance with FASB ASC 830-30-45 (formerly SFAS No. 52, Foreign Currency Translation). At December 31, 2009, the accumulated balance of foreign currency activity excluded from net income was \$(5.0) million, net of applicable tax of \$0.5 million. The net \$(4.5) million is presented as Accumulated other comprehensive loss in the balance sheet at December 31, 2009.

**Note H: Long-term Debt**

Our syndicated credit agreement provides for, among other things, (i) an \$80 million revolving credit facility, expiring December 31, 2011, that we may, under the terms of the agreement, request to be increased to a total of \$110 million and (ii) a \$40 million term loan, maturing December 31, 2012. Our term loan requires \$2.5 million quarterly principal payments. At December 31, 2009, \$32.5 million was outstanding under the term loan and a \$3.0 million bank letter of credit was outstanding, leaving \$77 million available on our revolving credit facility. The outstanding bank letter of credit secures our obligations under letters of credit we issue to unaffiliated lenders as part of our credit service operations.

Pursuant to the credit agreement, we may choose either a Eurodollar rate or the base rate. We may choose to pay interest to the lenders for outstanding borrowings at the Eurodollar rate plus 175 to 250 basis points or the bank's base rate plus 0 to 50 basis points, depending on our leverage ratio computed at the end of each calendar quarter. Our rates are currently at the minimum of the range. On the unused amount of the revolving credit facility, we pay a commitment fee of 25 to 30 basis points depending on our leverage ratio calculated at the end of each quarter. Terms of the credit agreement require, among other things, that we meet certain financial covenants. We were in compliance with all covenants at December 31, 2009 and expect to remain in compliance based on our current and anticipated performance. The payment of dividends and additional debt are restricted. The recorded value of our debt approximates its fair value as it is all variable rate debt and carries no pre-payment penalty.

**Note I: Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets**

The following table presents the balance of each major class of indefinite-lived intangible asset at the specified dates:

|               | December<br>31, 2009 | December 31,<br>2008  | September 30,<br>2009 |
|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|               |                      | <i>(In thousands)</i> |                       |
| Pawn licenses | \$ 8,229             | \$ 8,289              | \$ 8,229              |
| Trade Name    | 4,870                | 4,060                 | 4,870                 |
| Goodwill      | 101,134              | 98,300                | 100,719               |
| Total         | \$ 114,233           | \$ 110,649            | \$ 113,818            |

Of the total amount of goodwill recorded at December 31, 2009, \$94.4 million relates to our U.S. Pawn Operations segment and \$6.7 million relates to our Empeño Fácil Mexico pawn segment.

|                            |                       |              |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| U.S.<br>Pawn<br>Operations | EZMONEY<br>Operations | Consolidated |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|

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|  |           | Empeño<br>Fácil       |    |            |
|--|-----------|-----------------------|----|------------|
|  |           | <i>(in thousands)</i> |    |            |
| Balance at September 30, 2009                  | \$ 94,192 | \$ 6,527              | \$ | 100,719    |
| Acquisitions adjustments to initial estimate   | 193       |                       |    | 193        |
| Effect of foreign currency translation changes |           | 222                   |    | 222        |
| Balance at December 31, 2009                   | \$ 94,385 | \$ 6,749              | \$ | \$ 101,134 |

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|  | U.S.<br>Pawn<br>Operations | Empeño<br>Fácil<br>(in thousands) | EZMONEY<br>Operations | Consolidated |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Balance at September 30, 2008                  | \$ 16,211                  | \$ 8,165                          | \$                    | \$ 24,376    |
| Acquisitions                                   | 75,580                     |                                   |                       | 75,580       |
| Effect of foreign currency translation changes |                            | (1,656)                           |                       | (1,656)      |
| Balance at December 31, 2008                   | \$ 91,791                  | \$ 6,509                          | \$                    | \$ 98,300    |

The following table presents the gross carrying amount and accumulated amortization for each major class of definite-lived intangible asset at the specified dates:

|                          | December 31, 2009     |                             | December 31, 2008  |                             | September 30, 2009 |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
|                          | Carrying<br>Amount    | Accumulated<br>Amortization | Carrying<br>Amount | Accumulated<br>Amortization | Carrying<br>Amount | Accumulated<br>Amortization |
|                          | <i>(In thousands)</i> |                             |                    |                             |                    |                             |
| License application fees | \$ 345                | \$ (342)                    | \$ 345             | \$ (324)                    | \$ 345             | \$ (339)                    |
| Real estate finders fees | 665                   | (377)                       | 556                | (349)                       | 609                | (367)                       |
| Non-compete agreements   | 2,587                 | (1,354)                     | 2,493              | (861)                       | 2,497              | (1,192)                     |
| Favorable lease          | 644                   | (126)                       | 1,800              |                             | 644                | (95)                        |
| Other                    | 11                    | (1)                         |                    |                             | 11                 |                             |
| Total                    | \$ 4,252              | \$ (2,200)                  | \$ 5,194           | \$ (1,534)                  | \$ 4,106           | \$ (1,993)                  |

Total amortization expense from definite-lived intangible assets for the quarters ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 was \$126,000 and \$124,000. The favorable lease asset and other intangibles are amortized to rent expense and are included in Operations expense on our statements of operations. The following table presents our estimate of amortization expense for definite-lived intangible assets for each of the five succeeding fiscal years as of October 1, 2009 (in thousands):

| Fiscal Year | Amortization<br>Expense |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| 2010        | \$ 529                  |
| 2011        | \$ 492                  |
| 2012        | \$ 457                  |
| 2013        | \$ 50                   |
| 2014        | \$ 33                   |

These amounts exclude amortization of other intangible assets and the favorable lease asset, which are amortized to rent expense over the related lease terms. As acquisitions and dispositions occur in the future, amortization expense may vary from these estimates.

**Note J: Share-based Compensation**

Our income includes the following compensation costs related to our share-based compensation arrangements:

| Three Months Ended December<br>31, |      |
|------------------------------------|------|
| 2009                               | 2008 |

|   |                       |          |
|---|-----------------------|----------|
|   | <i>(in thousands)</i> |          |
| Gross compensation cost                           | \$ 1,056              | \$ 1,059 |
| Income tax benefits                               | (358)                 | (319)    |
| Share-based compensation cost, net of tax benefit | \$ 698                | \$ 740   |

Stock option exercises resulted in the issuance of 21,500 shares of our Class A Non-voting Common Stock in the current quarter for total proceeds of \$0.1 million. On October 1, 2009, the Compensation Committee approved restricted stock grants to 59 key employees totaling 178,500 shares. All options and restricted stock relate to our Class A Non-voting Common Stock.

**Table of Contents****Note K: Income Taxes**

The current quarter's effective tax rate is 35.5% of pretax income compared to 35.2% for the prior year quarter. The increase in effective tax rates is primarily due to a valuation allowance established for the expected operating losses in our Canada operations during their start-up period in the current year.

**Note L: Operating Segment Information**

We manage our business and internal reporting as three reportable segments with operating results reported separately for each segment.

The U.S. Pawn Operations segment offers pawn related activities in our 370 U.S. pawn stores, offers signature loans in 76 pawn stores and six EZMONEY stores and offers auto title loans in 68 pawn stores.

The Empeño Fácil segment offers pawn related activities in 70 Mexico pawn stores.

The EZMONEY Operations segment offers signature loans in 466 U.S. EZMONEY stores and eight Canadian CASHMAX stores. The segment offers auto title loans in 393 of its U.S. EZMONEY stores.

There are no inter-segment revenues, and the amounts below were determined in accordance with the same accounting principles used in our consolidated financial statements. The following tables present operating segment information:

|  | U.S.<br>Pawn<br>Operations | Empeño<br>Fácil | EZMONEY<br>Operations | Consolidated |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|
|  | <i>(in thousands)</i>      |                 |                       |              |
| <b>Three Months Ended December 31, 2009:</b> |                            |                 |                       |              |
| Revenues:                                    |                            |                 |                       |              |
| Sales  | \$ 96,034                  | \$ 3,872        | \$ 12                 | \$ 99,918    |
| Pawn service charges                         | 38,941                     | 1,856           |                       | 40,797       |
| Signature loan fees                          | 553                        |                 | 38,125                | 38,678       |
| Auto title loan fees                         | 475                        |                 | 2,627                 | 3,102        |
| Other  | 2,167                      | 89              |                       | 2,256        |
| Total revenues                               | 138,170                    | 5,817           | 40,764                | 184,751      |
| Cost of goods sold                           | 59,730                     | 2,833           | 7                     | 62,570       |
| Signature loan bad debt                      | 186                        |                 | 8,604                 | 8,790        |
| Auto title loan bad debt                     | 70                         |                 | 390                   | 460          |
| Net revenues                                 | 78,184                     | 2,984           | 31,763                | 112,931      |
| Operations expense                           | 40,199                     | 2,164           | 15,818                | 58,181       |
| Store operating income                       | \$ 37,985                  | \$ 820          | \$ 15,945             | \$ 54,750    |

**Three Months Ended December 31, 2008:**

|                      |           |          |        |           |
|----------------------|-----------|----------|--------|-----------|
| Revenues:            |           |          |        |           |
| Sales                | \$ 62,167 | \$ 2,413 | \$     | \$ 64,580 |
| Pawn service charges | 24,884    | 1,497    |        | 26,381    |
| Signature loan fees  | 686       |          | 35,314 | 36,000    |
| Auto title loan fees | 210       |          | 11     | 221       |
| Other                | 1,433     |          |        | 1,433     |

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|                          |           |          |           |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total revenues           | 89,380    | 3,910    | 35,325    | 128,615   |
| Cost of goods sold       | 38,938    | 1,487    |           | 40,425    |
| Signature loan bad debt  | 236       |          | 9,248     | 9,484     |
| Auto title loan bad debt | 6         |          | 1         | 7         |
| Net revenues             | 50,200    | 2,423    | 26,076    | 78,699    |
| Operations expense       | 26,678    | 1,284    | 15,532    | 43,494    |
| Store operating income   | \$ 23,522 | \$ 1,139 | \$ 10,544 | \$ 35,205 |

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The following table reconciles store operating income, as shown above, to our consolidated income before income taxes:

|  | Three Months Ended<br>December 31, |           |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------|
|  | 2009                               | 2008      |
|  | <i>(in thousands)</i>              |           |
| Consolidated store operating income              | \$ 54,750                          | \$ 35,205 |
| Administrative expenses                          | 12,297                             | 10,411    |
| Depreciation and amortization                    | 3,356                              | 3,066     |
| (Gain) loss on sale / disposal of assets         | 211                                | (284)     |
| Interest income                                  | (8)                                | (126)     |
| Interest expense                                 | 365                                | 165       |
| Equity in net income of unconsolidated affiliate | (1,283)                            | (941)     |
| Other  | (15)                               | 25        |
| Consolidated income before income taxes          | \$ 39,827                          | \$ 22,889 |

The following table presents separately identified segment assets:

|   | U.S.<br>Pawn<br>Operations | Empeño<br>Fácil | EZMONEY<br>Operations | Consolidated |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|
|   | <i>(in thousands)</i>      |                 |                       |              |
| <b>Assets at December 31, 2009:</b>                             |                            |                 |                       |              |
| Pawn loans  | \$ 99,326                  | \$ 4,120        | \$                    | \$ 103,446   |
| Signature loans, net  | 426                        |                 | 8,508                 | 8,934        |
| Auto title loans, net   | 756                        |                 | 1,354                 | 2,110        |
| Inventory, net  | 60,899                     | 2,614           | 2                     | 63,515       |
| Total separately identified recorded segment assets             | \$ 161,407                 | \$ 6,734        | \$ 9,864              | \$ 178,005   |
| Brokered signature loans outstanding from unaffiliated lenders  | \$ 299                     | \$              | \$ 25,200             | \$ 25,499    |
| Brokered auto title loans outstanding from unaffiliated lenders | \$ 367                     | \$              | \$ 3,921              | \$ 4,288     |
| <b>Assets at December 31, 2008:</b>                             |                            |                 |                       |              |
| Pawn loans  | \$ 90,682                  | \$ 3,107        | \$                    | \$ 93,789    |
| Signature loans, net  | 514                        |                 | 7,732                 | 8,246        |
| Auto title loans, net   | 1,123                      |                 | 51                    | 1,174        |
| Inventory, net  | 61,801                     | 2,762           |                       | 64,563       |
| Total separately identified recorded segment assets             | \$ 154,120                 | \$ 5,869        | \$ 7,783              | \$ 167,772   |
| Brokered signature loans outstanding from unaffiliated lenders  | \$ 370                     | \$              | \$ 24,968             | \$ 25,338    |

|   |            |          |          |            |
|---|------------|----------|----------|------------|
| Brokered auto title loans outstanding from unaffiliated lenders | \$         | \$       | \$       | \$         |
| <b>Assets at September 30, 2009:</b>                            |            |          |          |            |
| Pawn loans  | \$ 98,099  | \$ 3,585 | \$       | \$ 101,684 |
| Signature loans, net  | 453        |          | 7,904    | 8,357      |
| Auto title loans, net   | 685        |          | 978      | 1,663      |
| Inventory, net  | 61,196     | 2,804    | 1        | 64,001     |
| Total separately identified recorded segment assets             | \$ 160,433 | \$ 6,389 | \$ 8,883 | \$ 175,705 |

|   |        |    |           |           |
|---|--------|----|-----------|-----------|
| Brokered signature loans outstanding from unaffiliated lenders  | \$ 278 | \$ | \$ 22,706 | \$ 22,984 |
| Brokered auto title loans outstanding from unaffiliated lenders | \$ 276 | \$ | \$ 1,910  | \$ 2,186  |

Brokered loans are not recorded as an asset on our balance sheets, as we do not own a participation in the loans made by independent lenders. We monitor the principal balance of these loans, as our credit service fees and bad debt are directly related to their volume due to the letters of credit we issue on these loans. The balances shown above are the gross principal balances of the loans outstanding at the specified dates.

**Note M: Subsequent Events**

We noted no events occurring subsequent to the end of the current quarter that should be disclosed in order to prevent these financial statements and related notes from being misleading. Our review considered all events that have occurred through February 5, 2010, which is the date we issued the financial statements included in this filing.

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

The discussion in this section contains forward-looking statements that are based on our current expectations. Actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements due to a number of risks, uncertainties and other factors, including those identified in Part II, Item 1A Risk Factors of this report.

**Three Months Ended December 31, 2009 vs. Three Months Ended December 31, 2008**

The following table presents selected, unaudited, consolidated financial data for our three-month periods ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 (the current and prior year quarters):

|                          | Three Months Ended December<br>31, |               | Percentage<br>Change |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
|                          | 2009                               | 2008          |                      |
|                          | <i>(in thousands)</i>              |               |                      |
| Net revenues:            |                                    |               |                      |
| Sales                    | \$ 99,918                          | \$ 64,580     | 54.7%                |
| Pawn service charges     | 40,797                             | 26,381        | 54.6%                |
| Signature loan fees      | 38,678                             | 36,000        | 7.4%                 |
| Auto title loan fees     | 3,102                              | 221           | 1303.6%              |
| Other                    | 2,256                              | 1,433         | 57.4%                |
| <br>Total revenues       | <br>184,751                        | <br>128,615   | <br>43.6%            |
| <br>Cost of goods sold   | <br>62,570                         | <br>40,425    | <br>54.8%            |
| Signature loan bad debt  | 8,790                              | 9,484         | (7.3)%               |
| Auto title loan bad debt | 460                                | 7             | 6471.4%              |
| <br>Net revenues         | <br>\$ 112,931                     | <br>\$ 78,699 | <br>43.5%            |
| <br>Net income           | <br>\$ 25,707                      | <br>\$ 14,828 | <br>73.4%            |

Consolidated signature loan data (combined payday loan, installment loan and related credit service activities) are as follows:

|  | Three Months Ended December<br>31, |               |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------|
|  | 2009                               | 2008          |
|  | <i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>      |               |
| Fee revenue  | \$ 38,678                          | \$ 36,000     |
| Bad debt:  |                                    |               |
| Net defaults, including interest on brokered loans | 8,379                              | 9,385         |
| Insufficient funds fees, net of collections        | 219                                | 293           |
| Change in valuation allowance                      | 120                                | (254)         |
| Other related costs                                | 72                                 | 60            |
| <br>Net bad debt                                   | <br>8,790                          | <br>9,484     |
| <br>Fee revenue less bad debt                      | <br>\$ 29,888                      | <br>\$ 26,516 |

|  |           |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Average signature loan balance outstanding during period (a) | \$ 31,988 | \$ 30,785 |
| Signature loan balance at end of period (a)                  | \$ 34,433 | \$ 33,584 |
| Participating stores at end of period                        | 556       | 554       |
| Signature loan bad debt, as a percent of fee revenue         | 22.7%     | 26.3%     |
| Net default rate (a) (b)                                     | 4.5%      | 5.2%      |

(a) Signature loan balances include payday loans and installment loans (net of valuation allowance) recorded on our balance sheets and the principal portion of similar active brokered loans outstanding from unaffiliated lenders, the balance of which is not included on our balance sheets.

(b) Principal defaults net of collections, as a percentage of signature loans made and renewed.

**Table of Contents****Overview**

We provide loans or credit services to customers who do not have cash resources or access to credit to meet their short-term cash needs. In our pawnshops, we offer non-recourse loans collateralized by tangible personal property, commonly known as pawn loans. At these locations, we also sell merchandise, primarily collateral forfeited from our pawn lending operations, to consumers looking for good value. We also offer a variety of short-term consumer loans, including payday loans, installment loans and auto title loans, or fee-based credit services to customers seeking loans from unaffiliated lenders.

At December 31, 2009, we operated a total of 920 locations, consisting of 370 U.S. pawnshops (operating as EZPAWN or Value Pawn), 70 pawnshops in Mexico (operating as Empeño Fácil or Empeñe su Oro), 472 U.S. short-term consumer loan stores (operating as EZMONEY) and eight short-term consumer loan stores in Canada (operating as CASHMAX). We also own almost 30% of Albemarle & Bond Holdings PLC, one of the U.K.'s largest pawnbroking businesses with 115 stores, and 30% of Cash Converters Limited, a publicly traded Australian company that franchises and operates a worldwide network of over 500 stores that provide pawn loans, short-term unsecured loans and other consumer finance products and buys and sells used merchandise.

We manage our business as three segments. The U.S. Pawn Operations segment operates only in the United States. The Empeño Fácil segment operates only in Mexico. The EZMONEY Operations segment operates 466 stores in the United States and eight stores in Canada. The following tables present store data and products offered in each segment:

|  | Three Months Ended December 31, 2009 |                 |                       |              |
|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|
|  | U.S.<br>Pawn<br>Operations           | Empeño<br>Fácil | EZMONEY<br>Operations | Consolidated |
| Stores in operation:                       |                                      |                 |                       |              |
| Beginning of period                        | 375                                  | 62              | 473                   | 910          |
| New openings                               | 1                                    | 8               | 6                     | 15           |
| Acquired                                   |                                      |                 |                       |              |
| Sold, combined, or closed                  |                                      |                 | (5)                   | (5)          |
| End of period                              | 376                                  | 70              | 474                   | 920          |
| Average number of stores during the period | 375                                  | 66              | 472                   | 914          |
| Composition of ending stores:              |                                      |                 |                       |              |
| Pawn                                       | 370                                  | 70              |                       | 440          |
| Short-term consumer loan stores            | 6                                    |                 | 474                   | 480          |
| Total stores in operation                  | 376                                  | 70              | 474                   | 920          |
| Stores offering payday loans (a)           | 82                                   |                 | 474                   | 556          |
| Stores offering installment loans (a)      |                                      |                 | 193                   | 193          |
| Stores offering auto title loans (a)       | 68                                   |                 | 393                   | 461          |

|  | Three Months Ended December 31, 2008 |                 |                       |              |
|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|
|  | U.S.<br>Pawn<br>Operations           | Empeño<br>Fácil | EZMONEY<br>Operations | Consolidated |

|  |     |    |     |     |
|--|-----|----|-----|-----|
| Stores in operation:                       |     |    |     |     |
| Beginning of period                        | 300 | 38 | 471 | 809 |
| New openings                               |     | 2  | 6   | 8   |
| Acquired                                   | 77  | 1  |     | 78  |
| Sold, combined, or closed                  |     |    | (6) | (6) |
| End of period                              | 377 | 41 | 471 | 889 |
|  |     |    |     |     |
| Average number of stores during the period | 322 | 39 | 471 | 832 |
| Composition of ending stores:              |     |    |     |     |
| Pawn                                       | 371 | 41 |     | 412 |
| Short-term consumer loan stores            | 6   |    | 471 | 477 |
| Total stores in operation                  | 377 | 41 | 471 | 889 |
|  |     |    |     |     |
| Stores offering payday loans (a)           | 83  |    | 471 | 554 |
| Stores offering installment loans (a)      |     |    | 91  | 91  |
| Stores offering auto title loans (a)       | 11  |    | 30  | 41  |

(a) Including credit services

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We earn pawn service charge revenues on our pawn lending. While allowable service charges vary by state and loan size, a majority of our U.S. pawn loans earn 20% per month. Our average U.S. pawn loan amount typically ranges between \$80 and \$120 but varies depending on the valuation of each item pawned. The total U.S. loan term ranges between 60 and 120 days, consisting of the primary term and grace period. In Mexico, current quarter pawn service charges range from 13% to 20% per month, but a majority of our pawn loans earn 18% net of applicable taxes. The total Mexico pawn loan term is 40 days, consisting of the primary term and grace period.

In our pawnshops, we acquire inventory for retail sales through pawn loan forfeitures and, to a lesser extent, through purchases of customers' merchandise. The gross profit on sales of inventory depends primarily on our assessment of the loan or purchase value at the time the property is either accepted as loan collateral or purchased. Improper value assessment in the lending or purchasing process can result in lower margins or reduced marketability of the merchandise.

One indicator of lower marketability is how long we have held the inventory. The table below summarizes the age of our inventory and the related valuation allowance on a consolidated basis:

|   | December 31,<br>2009          |         | December 31,<br>2008 |         | September 30,<br>2009 |         |
|---|-------------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|
|   | Amount                        | Percent | Amount               | Percent | Amount                | Percent |
|   | <i>(Dollars in thousands)</i> |         |                      |         |                       |         |
| <b>Jewelry:</b>                         |                               |         |                      |         |                       |         |
| Gross inventory held one year or less   | \$ 30,462                     | 78.4%   | \$ 33,980            | 84.4%   | \$ 28,338             | 78.1%   |
| Gross inventory held more than one year | 8,369                         | 21.6%   | 6,263                | 15.6%   | 7,953                 | 21.9%   |
| Total jewelry inventory, gross          | 38,831                        | 100.0%  | 40,243               | 100.0%  | 36,291                | 100.0%  |
| <b>General merchandise:</b>             |                               |         |                      |         |                       |         |
| Gross inventory held one year or less   | 28,578                        | 93.6%   | 27,813               | 94.1%   | 31,246                | 93.5%   |
| Gross inventory held more than one year | 1,939                         | 6.4%    | 1,747                | 5.9%    | 2,183                 | 6.5%    |
| Total general merchandise, gross        | 30,517                        | 100.0%  | 29,560               | 100.0%  | 33,429                | 100.0%  |
| <b>Total inventory:</b>                 |                               |         |                      |         |                       |         |
| Gross inventory held one year or less   | 59,040                        | 85.1%   | 61,793               | 88.5%   | 59,584                | 85.5%   |
| Gross inventory held more than one year | 10,308                        | 14.9%   | 8,010                | 11.5%   | 10,136                | 14.5%   |
| Total inventory, gross                  | 69,348                        | 100.0%  | 69,803               | 100.0%  | 69,720                | 100.0%  |
| Valuation allowance                     | (5,833)                       | (8.4%)  | (5,240)              | (7.5%)  | (5,719)               | (8.2%)  |
| Total inventory, net                    | \$ 63,515                     |         | \$ 64,563            |         | \$ 64,001             |         |

We record a valuation allowance for shrinkage and obsolete or slow-moving inventory based on the type and age of merchandise and recent sales trends and margins. We generally establish a higher allowance percentage on general merchandise, as it is more susceptible to obsolescence, and establish a lower allowance percentage on jewelry, as it retains much greater commodity value. The total allowance was 8.4% of gross inventory at December 31, 2009 compared to 7.5% at December 31, 2008 and 8.2% at September 30, 2009. Changes in the valuation allowance are charged to merchandise cost of goods sold.

At December 31, 2009, 292 of our U.S. short-term consumer loan stores and 43 of our U.S. pawn stores offered credit services to customers seeking short-term consumer loans from unaffiliated lenders. We do not participate in any of the loans made by the lenders, but earn a fee for helping customers obtain credit and for enhancing customers' creditworthiness by providing letters of credit.

In connection with our credit services, the unaffiliated lenders offer customers two types of signature loans. In all stores offering signature loan credit services, customers can obtain payday loans, with principal amounts up to \$1,500 but averaging about \$555. Terms of these loans are generally less than 30 days, averaging about 18 days, with due dates corresponding with the customers' next payday. We typically earn a fee of 20% of the loan amount for our credit services offered in connection with payday loans. In 92 of the U.S. short-term consumer loan stores offering credit services, customers can obtain longer-term unsecured installment loans from the unaffiliated lenders. The installment loans typically carry terms of about five months with ten equal installment payments due on customers' paydays. Installment loan principal amounts range from \$1,525 to \$3,000, but average about \$2,070. With each semi-monthly or bi-weekly installment payment, we earn a fee of 10% of the initial loan amount. At



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December 31, 2009, payday loans comprised 97% of the balance of signature loans brokered through our credit services, and installment loans comprised the remaining 3%.

We earn signature loan fee revenue on our payday loans. In 33 U.S. pawn stores, 180 U.S. short-term consumer loan stores and eight Canadian short-term consumer loan stores, we make payday loans subject to state or provincial law. The average payday loan amount is approximately \$430 and the term is generally less than 30 days, averaging about 17 days. We typically charge a fee of 15% to 22% of the loan amount for a 7 to 23-day period.

In 101 of our U.S. short-term consumer loan stores, we make installment loans subject to state law. Terms of these loans are similar to those offered by unaffiliated lenders through our credit services, but loan amounts average approximately \$1,280. With each semi-monthly or bi-weekly installment payment, we typically earn a fee of 10% of the initial loan amount.

At December 31, 2009, 393 of our U.S. short-term consumer loan stores and 68 of our U.S. pawn stores offered auto title loans or credit services to assist customers in obtaining auto title loans from unaffiliated lenders. Auto title loans are 30-day loans secured by the titles to customers' automobiles. Loan principal amounts range from \$100 to \$9,000, but average about \$700. We earn a fee of 12.5% to 25% of auto title loan amounts.

On November 13, 2008, we acquired 11 pawnshops located in the Las Vegas, Nevada area for total consideration of approximately \$34.4 million plus direct transaction costs. Approximately half the purchase consideration was funded with the issuance of EZCORP Class A Non-voting Common Stock and the remaining half was funded in cash. Results of the acquired stores are included in our results from the date of acquisition.

On December 31, 2008, we acquired Value Financial Services, Inc. (VFS). We acquired VFS's 67 pawn stores, mostly in Florida, for a total acquisition price of \$77.7 million, plus the assumption of VFS's debt of \$30.4 million, for an aggregate cost of approximately \$108.1 million. This excludes \$10.7 million of contingent payments made since the acquisition. The contingent payments were recorded as a reduction of Additional paid-in capital in accordance with accounting rules for contingencies based on our stock price. Results of the acquired stores are included in our results of operations beginning January 1, 2009.

In the current quarter, consolidated total revenues increased 44%, or \$56.1 million to \$184.8 million, compared to the prior year quarter. Same store total revenues increased 12%, with the remainder of the increase coming from new and acquired stores. The overall increase in total consolidated revenues was comprised of a \$35.3 million increase in merchandise and jewelry scrapping sales, a \$14.4 million increase in pawn service charges, a \$2.7 million increase in signature loan fees, a \$2.9 million increase in auto title loan fees and a \$0.8 million increase in other revenues.

The 78 pawn stores acquired in the December 2008 quarter contributed total revenues of \$43.0 million, store operating income of \$10.3 million and net income of \$6.2 million, or approximately \$0.07 diluted earnings per share after the effect of shares issued in the acquisitions. In the prior year quarter, the 11 stores acquired prior to the end of the quarter contributed total revenues of \$2.7 million, store operating income of \$0.6 million and net income of \$0.4 million, with no earnings per share contribution after the effect of shares issued in the acquisition.

In the current quarter, the U.S. Pawn Operations segment, including the contribution from acquisitions, contributed \$14.5 million greater store operating income compared to the prior year quarter, primarily from a \$13.1 million increase in gross profit on sales and a \$14.1 million increase in pawn service charges, partially offset by higher operating costs. The Empeño Fácil segment contributed \$0.3 million less store operating income compared to the prior year quarter, as operating expenses at new stores were greater than the growth in net revenues. Our EZMONEY Operations segment contributed \$5.4 million greater store operating income, primarily from new products and a decrease in bad debt. After a \$1.9 million increase in administrative expenses, a \$0.5 million increase in loss on disposal of assets and a \$0.3 million increase in depreciation and amortization, operating income increased \$16.9 million to \$38.9 million. After a \$6.1 million increase in income taxes and other smaller items, our consolidated net income improved 73% to \$25.7 million from \$14.8 million in the prior year quarter.

**Table of Contents****Results of Operations****Three Months Ended December 31, 2009 vs. Three Months Ended December 31, 2008**

The following discussion compares our results of operations for the quarter ended December 31, 2009 to the quarter ended December 31, 2008. It should be read with the accompanying financial statements and related notes.

**U.S. Pawn Operations Segment**

The following table presents selected financial data for the U.S. Pawn Operations segment:

|   | Three Months Ended December<br>31, |               |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------|
|   | 2009                               | 2008          |
|   | <i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>      |               |
| Sales   | \$ 96,034                          | \$ 62,167     |
| Pawn service charges  | 38,941                             | 24,884        |
| Signature loan fees   | 553                                | 686           |
| Auto title loan fees  | 475                                | 210           |
| Other   | 2,167                              | 1,433         |
| <br>Total revenues  | <br>138,170                        | <br>89,380    |
| <br>Cost of goods sold  | <br>59,730                         | <br>38,938    |
| Signature loan bad debt   | 186                                | 236           |
| Auto title loan bad debt  | 70                                 | 6             |
| <br>Net revenues  | <br>78,184                         | <br>50,200    |
| <br>Operations expense  | <br>40,199                         | <br>26,678    |
| <br>Store operating income  | <br>\$ 37,985                      | <br>\$ 23,522 |
| <br>Other data:   |                                    |               |
| Gross margin on sales   | 38%                                | 37%           |
| Annualized inventory turnover   | 3.7x                               | 3.4x          |
| Average pawn loan balance per pawn store at quarter end   | \$ 268                             | \$ 244        |
| Average inventory per pawn store at quarter end   | \$ 165                             | \$ 167        |
| Average yield on pawn loan portfolio (a)  | 159%                               | 138%          |
| Pawn loan redemption rate   | 79%                                | 78%           |
| Average signature loan balance per store offering signature loans at quarter end (b)                  | \$ 9                               | \$ 11         |
| Average auto title loan balance per store offering auto title loans at quarter end (c)                | \$ 17                              | \$ 102        |
| <br>(a) Average yield on pawn loan portfolio is calculated as annualized pawn service charge revenues |                                    |               |

for the period  
divided by the  
average pawn  
loan balance  
during the  
period.

(b) Signature loan  
balances include  
payday loans  
(net of valuation  
allowance)  
recorded on our  
balance sheets  
and the  
principal portion  
of similar active  
brokered loans  
outstanding  
from  
unaffiliated  
lenders, the  
balance of  
which is not  
included on our  
balance sheets.

(c) Auto title loan  
balances include  
title loans (net  
of valuation  
allowance)  
recorded on our  
balance sheets  
and the  
principal portion  
of active  
brokered loans  
outstanding  
from  
unaffiliated  
lenders, the  
balance of  
which is not  
included on our  
balance sheets.

The U.S. Pawn segment total revenues increased \$48.8 million, or 55% from the prior year quarter to \$138.2 million. Same store total revenues increased \$10.0 million, or 11% , and new and acquired stores contributed \$38.8 million of the increase. The overall increase in total revenues was comprised of a \$33.9 million increase in merchandise and jewelry scrapping sales, a \$14.1 million increase in pawn service charges, a \$0.6 million increase in other revenues and a \$0.3 million increase in auto title loan revenues, offset by a \$0.1 million decrease in signature loan revenues.

Our current quarter U.S. pawn service charge revenues increased \$14.1 million, or 56% from the prior year quarter to \$38.9 million. Same store pawn service charges increased \$4.7 million, or 19%, and new and acquired stores contributed \$9.4 million. The same store improvement was due to an 8% higher average same store pawn loan balance coupled with a higher yield.

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The table below summarizes our sales volume, gross profit and gross margins in the U.S. Pawn segment:

|   | Three Months Ended December<br>31, |                |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------|
|   | 2009                               | 2008           |
|   | <i>(Dollars in millions)</i>       |                |
| Merchandise sales                       | \$ 59.2                            | \$ 42.8        |
| Jewelry scrapping sales                 | 36.8                               | 19.4           |
| <b>Total sales</b>                      | <b>\$ 96.0</b>                     | <b>\$ 62.2</b> |
| Gross profit on merchandise sales       | \$ 22.3                            | \$ 16.9        |
| Gross profit on jewelry scrapping sales | \$ 14.0                            | \$ 6.3         |
| Gross margin on merchandise sales       | 37.7%                              | 39.4%          |
| Gross margin on jewelry scrapping sales | 38.0%                              | 32.9%          |
| Overall gross margin                    | 37.8%                              | 37.4%          |

The current quarter's merchandise sales gross profit increased \$5.4 million, or 32% from the prior year quarter to \$22.3 million. This was due to a \$16.0 million increase in sales from the pawn stores acquired in November and December 2008 and a \$0.4 million or 1% increase in same store sales, partially offset by a 1.7 percentage point decrease in gross margins to 37.7%. Same store sales of general merchandise increased 5%, while same store jewelry sales declined 1% as gold jewelry has become more expensive and as customer purchases of luxury items slowed in the current economic environment. The current quarter sales volume benefited from an increased payout of layaway sales initiated during the Christmas in July pre-season layaway program introduced in 2009. The decrease in gross margins was due primarily to more aggressive discounting of jewelry in a more challenging retail environment in the current quarter.

The current quarter's gross profit on jewelry scrapping sales increased \$7.7 million, or 120% from the prior year quarter to \$14.0 million on greater volume and a 5.1 percentage point improvement in gross margins to 38.0%. Same store gross profit increased \$2.0 million and acquired stores contributed \$5.7 million of the \$7.7 million increase in scrap gross profit. Including a \$14.1 million increase from acquired stores, scrapping revenues increased \$17.5 million, or 90%, on 55% more volume, while proceeds realized per gram of jewelry scrapped increased 23%. Jewelry scrapping sales include the sale of approximately \$0.3 million in the current quarter and \$0.1 million in the prior year quarter of loose diamonds removed from scrapped jewelry. As a result of the greater volume and a higher average cost per gram of jewelry scrapped, scrap cost of goods increased \$9.8 million.

The U.S. pawn segment began offering auto title loans with its acquisition of 11 pawnshops in the Las Vegas, Nevada area in mid-November 2008 and expanded to a total of 68 stores by December 31, 2009. The segment's auto title loan contribution, or fees less bad debt, increased \$0.2 million compared to the prior year quarter to \$0.4 million, with bad debt at 14.7% of fees compared to 2.9% in the prior year quarter.

Operations expense increased to \$40.2 million (51% of net revenues) in the current quarter from \$26.7 million (53% of net revenues) in the prior year quarter. The dollar increase in expense was primarily due to higher operating costs at acquired stores.

In the current quarter, the \$27.9 million greater net revenues from U.S. pawn activities and the \$0.2 million increase in auto title loan contribution, partially offset by a \$0.1 million decrease in signature loan contribution and the \$13.5 million higher operations expense resulted in a \$14.5 million overall increase in store operating income from the U.S. Pawn Operations segment. Acquired stores comprised \$9.6 million of the \$14.5 million increase in store operating income. For the current quarter, the U.S. Pawn Operations segment made up 69% of consolidated store operating income compared to 67% in the prior year quarter.



**Table of Contents****Empeño Fácil Segment**

The following table presents selected financial data for the Empeño Fácil segment after translation to U.S. dollars and in its functional currency of the Mexican peso:

|   | Three months ended December 31,           |          |                                     |           |
|---|---|----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
|   | 2009<br><i>(Dollars in<br/>thousands)</i> | 2008     | 2009<br><i>(Pesos in thousands)</i> | 2008      |
| Sales   | \$ 3,872                                  | \$ 2,413 | \$ 50,442                           | \$ 31,462 |
| Pawn service charges                                    | 1,856                                     | 1,497    | 24,279                              | 19,489    |
| Other   | 89  |          | 1,159                               | 2         |
| Total revenues  | 5,817                                     | 3,910    | 75,880                              | 50,953    |
| Cost of goods sold                                      | 2,833                                     | 1,487    | 36,866                              | 19,338    |
| Net revenues  | 2,984                                     | 2,423    | 39,014                              | 31,615    |
| Operations expense                                      | 2,164                                     | 1,284    | 28,283                              | 16,687    |
| Store operating income                                  | \$ 820                                    | \$ 1,139 | \$ 10,731                           | \$ 14,928 |
| Other data:   |   |          |                                     |           |
| Gross margin on sales                                   | 27%                                       | 38%      | 27%                                 | 38%       |
| Annualized inventory turnover                           | 3.9x                                      | 2.2x     | 3.9x                                | 2.2x      |
| Average pawn loan balance per pawn store at quarter end | \$ 59                                     | \$ 76    | \$ 769                              | \$ 1,026  |
| Average inventory per pawn store at quarter end         | \$ 37                                     | \$ 67    | \$ 488                              | \$ 912    |
| Average yield on pawn loan portfolio (a)                | 184%                                      | 158%     | 184%                                | 158%      |
| Pawn loan redemption rate                               | 81%                                       | 82%      | 81%                                 | 82%       |

(a) Average yield on pawn loan portfolio is calculated as annualized pawn service charge revenue for the period divided by the average pawn loan balance during the period.

The average exchange rate used to translate Empeño Fácil's current quarter results from Mexican pesos to U.S. dollars was only 0.7% lower than in the prior year quarter. Store operating income was 28% lower in the current quarter in both dollar and peso terms due to the drag from new stores that we expect will become profitable in their second year of operation. Approximately one third of the stores open at December 31, 2009 were opened in the six months ended December 31, 2009.

Empeño Fácil's total revenues increased \$1.9 million, or 49% in the current quarter to \$5.8 million. Same store total revenues increased \$0.6 million or 16%, and new stores contributed \$1.3 million. The overall increase in total revenues was comprised of a \$1.4 million increase in merchandise and jewelry scrapping sales, a \$0.4 million increase in pawn service charges and a \$0.1 million increase in other revenues.

Empeño Fácil's pawn service charge revenues increased \$0.4 million, or 24% in the current quarter to \$1.9 million. Same store pawn service charges increased approximately \$0.1 million, or 4% and new stores contributed \$0.3 million. The same store increase was due to an improvement in the average pawn loan yield, partially offset by a 15% decrease in average loan balance during the quarter. The yield increased primarily due to an increase in pawn service charge rates in certain geographic areas compared to the prior year. The total average loan balance per store at quarter end decreased due to new stores, with a 6% increase in the same store ending loan balance.



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The table below presents our sales volume, gross profit and gross margins in the Empeño Fácil segment:

|   | Fiscal Year Ended September 30,      |        |                                    |         |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------|---------|
|   | 2009<br><i>(Dollars in millions)</i> | 2008   | 2009<br><i>(Pesos in millions)</i> | 2008    |
| Merchandise sales                       | \$ 3.3                               | \$ 2.0 | \$ 42.5                            | \$ 25.6 |
| Jewelry scrapping sales                 | 0.6                                  | 0.4    | 7.9                                | 5.9     |
| Total sales                             | 3.9                                  | 2.4    | 50.4                               | 31.5    |
| Gross profit on merchandise sales       | \$ 0.9                               | \$ 0.8 | \$ 11.8                            | \$ 9.9  |
| Gross profit on jewelry scrapping sales | 0.1                                  | 0.2    | 1.7                                | 2.2     |
| Gross margin on merchandise sales       | 27.8%                                | 38.7%  | 27.8%                              | 38.7%   |
| Gross margin on jewelry scrapping sales | 21.7%                                | 36.9%  | 21.7%                              | 36.9%   |
| Overall gross margin                    | 26.8%                                | 38.4%  | 26.8%                              | 38.4%   |

The current quarter's merchandise gross profit increased \$0.1 million from the prior year quarter to \$0.9 million. This was due to a \$0.7 million, or 34% same store sales increase and \$0.6 million in sales from new stores, partially offset by a 10.9 percentage point decrease in gross margins to 27.8%. The margin decrease was a result of promotions to liquidate aged and damaged inventory during the quarter and an increase in the reserve for aged merchandise. We expect improved margins in future quarters. The gross profit on jewelry scrapping sales decreased \$0.1 million from the prior year quarter to \$0.1 million, as higher proceeds were offset by a lower gross margin.

Operations expense increased to \$2.2 million (73% of net revenues) in the current quarter from \$1.3 million (53% of net revenues) in the prior year quarter. The increase was due primarily to new stores which typically produce a loss in their first six to nine months of operation.

In the current quarter, the \$0.6 million greater net revenues were more than offset by the \$0.9 million higher operations expense, resulting in a \$0.3 million decrease in store operating income from the Empeño Fácil segment. Empeño Fácil made up 2% and 3% of consolidated store operating income in the current and prior year quarters.

**Table of Contents****EZMONEY Operations Segment**

The following table presents selected financial data for the EZMONEY Operations segment:

|   | Three Months Ended December<br>31, |                  |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------|
|   | 2009                               | 2008             |
|   | <i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>      |                  |
| Signature loan fees   | \$ 38,125                          | \$ 35,314        |
| Auto title loan fees  | 2,627                              | 11               |
| Jewelry scrapping sales   | 12                                 |                  |
| <b>Total revenues</b>   | <b>40,764</b>                      | <b>35,325</b>    |
| Signature loan bad debt   | 8,604                              | 9,248            |
| Auto title loan bad debt  | 390                                | 1                |
| Jewelry scrapping cost of goods sold  | 7                                  |                  |
| <b>Net revenues</b>   | <b>31,763</b>                      | <b>26,076</b>    |
| <br>  |                                    |                  |
| Operations expense  | 15,818                             | 15,532           |
| <b>Store operating income</b>   | <b>\$ 15,945</b>                   | <b>\$ 10,544</b> |
| <br>  |                                    |                  |
| Other data:   |                                    |                  |
| Signature loan bad debt as a percent of signature loan fees   | 22.6%                              | 26.2%            |
| Auto title loan bad debt as a percent of auto title loan fees   | 14.8%                              | 9.1%             |
| Average signature loan balance per store offering signature loans at quarter end (a)  | \$ 71                              | \$ 69            |
| Average auto title loan balance per store offering title loans at quarter end (b)   | \$ 13                              | \$ 2             |
| <br>  |                                    |                  |
| (a) Signature loan balances include payday and installment loans (net of valuation allowance) recorded on our balance sheets and the principal portion of active signature loans outstanding from |                                    |                  |

unaffiliated  
lenders, the  
balance of  
which is not  
included on our  
balance sheets.

- (b) Auto title loan  
balances include  
title loans (net  
of valuation  
allowance)  
recorded on our  
balance sheets  
and the  
principal portion  
of active  
brokered loans  
outstanding  
from  
unaffiliated  
lenders, the  
balance of  
which is not  
included on our  
balance sheets.

The EZMONEY Operations segment total revenues increased \$5.4 million, or 15% to \$40.8 million, compared to the prior year quarter. This was due to a \$4.8 million, or 14% increase in same store total revenues and \$0.6 million of total revenues at new stores net of closed stores. Auto title loans and installment loans, each recently introduced, represented 76% of the growth in the segment's total revenues.

The segment's signature loan net revenues increased \$3.5 million, or 13% to \$29.5 million, compared to the prior year quarter. The increase resulted from the rapid growth in recently introduced installment loans, new stores' contribution net of closed stores, and a 3.6 percentage point improvement in bad debt to 22.6% of fees. The improvement in bad debt was due to continuing improvements in the store level execution of servicing the customer and the loan, as well as enhanced productivity measurement tools and enhanced use of technology in our collections department.

The segment's net revenues from auto title loans increased to \$2.2 million in the current quarter, with bad debt at 14.8% of related fees. These loans were first introduced and had very little volume in the prior year quarter. We expect continued growth in the contribution from auto title loans as the product matures in the 393 EZMONEY stores now offering the product.

Operations expense increased to \$15.8 million (50% of net revenues) from \$15.5 million (60% of net revenues) in the prior year quarter. The improvement as a percent of net revenues was due to the growth in contribution from new and existing products and bad debt improvements, with minimal increases in semi-fixed costs at existing stores.

In the current quarter, the \$3.5 million increase in net revenues from signature loans and the \$2.2 million net revenues from auto title loans were partially offset by \$0.3 million greater operations expense, resulting in a \$5.4 million, or 51% net increase in store operating income from the EZMONEY Operations segment. In the current quarter, EZMONEY Operations made up 29% of consolidated store operating income compared to 30% in the prior year quarter.

**Table of Contents****Other Items**

The items discussed below affect our consolidated financial results but are not allocated among segments.

Administrative expenses in the current quarter were \$12.3 million (11% of net revenues) compared to \$10.4 million (13% of net revenues) in the prior year quarter. This increase was primarily due to a \$1.3 million increase in administrative labor and benefits as we continued to build the management infrastructure to support our growth and a \$0.5 million increase in professional fees. Included in the increased labor and benefits is an additional accrual for incentive compensation reflective of the quarter's strong earnings performance. The prior year administrative expense includes a \$1.1 million bonus to two executives upon their exercise of employee stock options granted in 1998. Terms of the grants required us to pay a cash bonus to the two executives equal to the related tax savings realized by the company. We do not expect this to recur, as no other outstanding options contain similar terms.

Depreciation and amortization expense was \$3.4 million in the current quarter, compared to \$3.1 million in the prior year quarter. Depreciation on assets placed in service, primarily related to acquired pawn stores and new stores, was largely offset by assets that were retired or became fully depreciated in the period.

In the current quarter, we recognized a \$0.2 million net loss on the closure of five EZMONEY stores, compared to a \$0.3 million net gain on disposal of assets in the prior year quarter as insurance proceeds received for assets destroyed by Hurricane Ike exceeded the net book value of those assets, most of which were replaced.

We borrowed \$40 million on December 31, 2008 to complete the VFS acquisition, and repaid \$7.5 million by December 31, 2009. Our \$0.3 million higher net interest expense in the current quarter represents the interest on the borrowed funds, the amortization of deferred financing costs and the commitment fee on our unused available credit, along with the reduction of earnings from funds invested in the prior year quarter. With only short-term borrowings until the last day of the prior year quarter, interest expense of \$0.2 million represented primarily the amortization of deferred financing costs and the commitment fee on our line of credit.

Our equity in the net income of Albemarle & Bond increased \$0.3 million, or 36% in the current quarter to \$1.3 million primarily as a result of Albemarle & Bond's higher earnings from same stores, partially offset by a 5.8% weaker British pound in relation to the U.S. dollar.

The current quarter income tax expense was \$14.1 million (35.5% of pretax income) compared to \$8.1 million (35.2% of pretax income) for the prior year quarter. The increase in the effective tax rate is primarily due to a valuation allowance established for the forecasted operating losses in our Canadian operations in the current year.

Consolidated operating income for the current quarter improved \$16.9 million over the prior year quarter to \$38.9 million. Contributing to this were the \$14.5 million and \$5.4 million increases in store operating income in our U.S. Pawn and EZMONEY segments, partially offset by the \$0.3 million lower store operating income in the Empeño Fácil segment, the \$1.9 million increase in administrative expenses, the \$0.5 million higher loss on disposal of assets and the \$0.3 million increase in depreciation and amortization. After a \$6.1 million increase in income taxes and other smaller items, net income improved to \$25.7 million from \$14.8 million in the prior year quarter. Stores acquired in November and December 2008 contributed \$5.8 million of the net income growth.

**Table of Contents*****Liquidity and Capital Resources***

In the current quarter, our \$35.3 million cash flow from operations consisted of (a) net income plus several non-cash items, aggregating to \$33.3 million, net of (b) \$2.0 million of normal, recurring changes in operating assets and liabilities. In the prior year quarter, our \$21.9 million cash flow from operations consisted of (a) net income plus several non-cash items, aggregating to \$21.7 million, and (b) \$0.2 million of normal, recurring changes in operating assets and liabilities. The primary differences in cash flow from operations between the two periods were the contribution from acquisitions completed in November and December 2008 and organic growth throughout our other operations and revenue streams, net of higher taxes paid.

The \$60.6 million of net cash used in investing activities during the current quarter was funded by cash flow from operations and cash on hand. In the current quarter, we invested \$49.6 million to acquire 30% of the capital stock of Cash Converters and invested an additional \$1.3 million in Albemarle & Bond to regain our 29.99% ownership stake. Our other most significant investments were the \$5.2 million of loans made in excess of loan repayments and the recovery of principal through the sale of forfeited pawn loan collateral, as well as \$4.5 million of additions to property and equipment. We repaid \$2.5 million of our term loan in the current quarter.

The net effect of these and other smaller cash flows was a \$27.7 million decrease in cash on hand, providing a \$17.0 million ending cash balance.

Below is a summary of our cash needs to meet future aggregate contractual obligations (in millions):

|  | Total    | Payments due by Period |              |              |                         |
|--|----------|------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|
|  |          | Less than<br>1<br>year | 1-3<br>years | 4-5<br>years | More<br>than<br>5 years |
| Contractual Obligations                |          |                        |              |              |                         |
| Long-term debt obligations             | \$ 32.5  | \$ 10.0                | \$ 20.0      | \$ 2.5       | \$                      |
| Interest on long-term debt obligations | 1.7      | 0.9                    | 0.8          | 0.0          |                         |
| Operating lease obligations            | 131.9    | 33.0                   | 52.6         | 26.5         | 19.8                    |
| Total                                  | \$ 166.1 | \$ 43.9                | \$ 73.4      | \$ 29.0      | \$ 19.8                 |

In addition to the contractual obligations in the table above, we are obligated under letters of credit issued to unaffiliated lenders as part of our credit service operations. At December 31, 2009, our maximum exposure for losses on letters of credit, if all brokered signature loans defaulted and none was collected, was \$27.0 million. At that date, our maximum exposure for losses on letters of credit, if all brokered auto title loans defaulted and none was collected, was \$4.6 million. Auto title loans are secured by customers' automobiles. These amounts include principal, interest, insufficient funds fees and late fees.

In addition to the operating lease obligations in the table above, we are responsible for the maintenance, property taxes and insurance at most of our locations. In the most recent fiscal year ended September 30, 2009, these collectively amounted to \$13.6 million.

The operating lease obligations in the table above include expected rent for all our store locations for the full expected lease terms. Of the 472 U.S. EZMONEY short-term consumer loan stores, 157 adjoin an EZPAWN store. The lease agreements at approximately 80% of the remaining 315 free-standing EZMONEY stores contain provisions that limit our exposure to additional rent to only a few months if laws were enacted that had a significant negative effect on our operations at these stores. If such laws were enacted, the space currently utilized by stores adjoining EZPAWN stores could be re-incorporated into the EZPAWN operations.

In the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, we plan to open 40 to 50 Empeño Fácil pawn stores in Mexico, 35 to 45 CASHMAX payday loan locations in Canada and six pawnshops in the United States. This includes the eight Empeño Fácil pawn stores, six CASHMAX payday loan stores and one U.S. pawn store opened in the current quarter. In the remaining nine months of fiscal 2010, we expect an additional \$6.9 million of capital expenditures plus the funding of

working capital and start-up losses related to these store openings. We believe new short-term consumer loan stores will create a drag on earnings and liquidity in their first six to nine months of operations before turning profitable and new pawn stores will create a drag on earnings until their second year of operations.

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Our syndicated credit agreement provides for, among other things, (i) an \$80 million revolving credit facility expiring December 31, 2011 that we may, under the terms of the agreement, request to be increased to a total of \$110 million and (ii) a \$40 million term loan maturing December 31, 2012. Our term loan requires \$2.5 million quarterly principal payments. At December 31, 2009, \$32.5 million was outstanding under the term loan and a \$3.0 million bank letter of credit was outstanding, leaving \$77.0 million available under the revolving credit facility. The outstanding bank letter of credit secures our obligations under letters of credit we issue to unaffiliated lenders as part of our credit service operations. Terms of the credit agreement require, among other things, that we meet certain financial covenants. We were in compliance with all covenants at December 31, 2009 and expect to remain in compliance based on our expected future performance. The payment of dividends and additional debt are restricted under our credit agreement. We anticipate that cash flow from operations, cash on hand and availability under our revolving credit facility will be adequate to fund our contractual obligations, planned store growth, capital expenditures and working capital requirements during the coming year.

***Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements***

We issue letters of credit ( LOCs ) to enhance the creditworthiness of our credit service customers seeking signature loans and auto title loans from unaffiliated lenders. The LOCs assure the lenders that if borrowers default on the loans, we will pay the lenders, upon demand, the principal and accrued interest owed them by the borrowers plus any insufficient funds fee or late fee. We do not record on our balance sheet the loans related to our credit services as the loans are made by unaffiliated lenders. We do not consolidate the unaffiliated lenders' results with our results as we do not have any ownership interest in the lenders, do not exercise control over them and do not otherwise meet the criteria for consolidation as prescribed by FASB ASC 810-10-25 (formerly Financial Interpretation No. 46) regarding variable interest entities.

We include an allowance for Expected LOC Losses in Accounts payable and other accrued expenses on our balance sheet. At December 31, 2009, the allowance for Expected LOC Losses was \$1.7 million. At that date, our maximum exposure for losses on letters of credit, if all brokered signature and auto title loans defaulted and none was collected, was \$31.6 million. This amount includes principal, interest, insufficient funds fees and late fees.

We have no other off-balance sheet arrangements.

**Table of Contents*****Seasonality***

Historically, pawn service charges are highest in our fourth fiscal quarter (July through September) due to a higher average loan balance during the summer lending season. Merchandise sales are highest in the first and second fiscal quarters (October through March) due to the holiday season, jewelry sales surrounding Valentine's Day and the impact of tax refunds in the United States. Jewelry scrapping sales are heavily influenced by the timing of decisions to scrap excess jewelry inventory. Jewelry scrapping sales generally are greatest during our fourth fiscal quarter (July through September). This results from relatively low jewelry merchandise sales in that quarter and the higher loan balance, leading to a higher dollar amount of loan forfeitures in the summer lending season providing more inventory available for sale.

Signature loan fees are generally highest in our third and fourth fiscal quarters (April through September) due to a higher average loan balance during the summer lending season. Signature loan bad debt, both in dollar terms and as a percentage of related fees, is highest in the third and fourth quarters and lowest in the second quarter due primarily to the impact of tax refunds.

The net effect of these factors is that net revenues and net income typically are strongest in the fourth fiscal quarter and weakest in the third fiscal quarter. Our cash flow typically is greatest in the second fiscal quarter due to a high level of loan redemptions and sales in the income tax refund season.

***Use of Estimates and Assumptions***

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations are based upon our condensed consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared according to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for interim financial information. The preparation of these financial statements require us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. On an on-going basis, we evaluate our estimates and judgments, including those related to revenue recognition, inventory, loan loss allowances, long-lived and intangible assets, income taxes, contingencies and litigation. We base our estimates on historical experience, observable trends and various other assumptions that we believe are reasonable under the circumstances. We use this information to make judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ materially from the estimates under different assumptions or conditions.

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

We are exposed to market risk related to interest rates, gold values and changes in foreign currency exchange rates. We also are exposed to regulatory risk in relation to our credit services, payday loans, auto title loans and pawn operations. We do not use derivative financial instruments.

Our earnings are affected by changes in interest rates as our debt has a variable rate. If interest rates average 50 basis points more than our current rate in the remaining nine months of the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, our interest expense during those nine months would increase by approximately \$104,000. This amount is determined by considering the impact of the hypothetical interest rate change on our variable-rate term debt at December 31, 2009, including mandatory quarterly principal repayments of \$2.5 million.

Our earnings and financial position are affected by changes in gold values and the resulting impact on pawn lending and jewelry sales and cost of goods sold. The proceeds of scrap sales and our ability to sell excess jewelry inventory at an acceptable margin depend on gold values. The impact on our financial position and results of operations of a hypothetical change in gold values cannot be reasonably estimated. For further discussion, you should read Part I, Item 1A Risk Factors of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2009.

Our earnings and financial position are affected by foreign exchange rate fluctuations related to our equity investments in Albemarle & Bond and Cash Converters, our Empeño Fácil pawn operations in Mexico, and our Canadian CASHMAX stores. Albemarle & Bond's functional currency is the British pound, Cash Converter's functional currency is the Australian dollar, Empeño Fácil's functional currency is the Mexican peso, and CASHMAX's functional currency is the Canadian dollar. The impact on our results of operations and financial position of hypothetical changes in the exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and the British pound, the Australian dollar, the Mexican peso and the Canadian dollar cannot be reasonably estimated due to the interrelationship of





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operating results and exchange rates. Separate discussion regarding the Canadian dollar is not presented as our Canadian operations are not yet material. Due to the investment in Cash Converters occurring in the current quarter and our intention to account for those results on a three-month lag, the effect of exchange rate fluctuations on Cash Converters will first appear in our quarter ending March 31, 2010.

The translation adjustment from Albemarle & Bond representing the weakening in the British pound during the quarter ended September 30, 2009 (included in our December 31, 2009 results on a three-month lag) was a \$0.6 million decrease to stockholders' equity. On December 31, 2009, the British pound strengthened slightly to £1.00 to \$1.5928 U.S. from \$1.5922 at September 30, 2009.

The translation adjustment from Empeño Fácil representing the strengthening of the Mexican peso during the quarter ended December 31, 2009 was a \$0.7 million increase to stockholders' equity. We have currently assumed permanent reinvestment of earnings and capital in Mexico. Accumulated translation gains or losses related to any future repatriation of earnings or capital would impact our earnings in the period of repatriation. On December 31, 2009, the peso strengthened to \$1.00 Mexican peso to \$0.0766 U.S. from \$0.0741 at September 30, 2009.

We cannot predict the future valuation of the British pound, Mexican peso, Canadian dollar or Australian dollar or how further movements in them could affect our future earnings or financial position.

***Forward-Looking Information***

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, including Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. We intend that all forward-looking statements be subject to the safe harbors created by these laws. All statements other than statements of historical information are forward-looking and may contain information about financial results, economic conditions, trends, planned store openings, the effect of acquisitions and known uncertainties. These statements are often, but not always, made with words or phrases like may, should, could, predict, potential, believe, expect, anticipate, seek, estimate, intend, plan, projection, outlook, expect, will, and similar expressions. All statements are based on current expectations regarding important risk factors. Actual results could differ materially from those expressed in the forward-looking statements due to a number of risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond our control. In addition, we cannot predict all of the risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results to differ from those expressed in the forward-looking statements. Accordingly, you should not regard any forward-looking statements as a representation that the expected results will be achieved. Important risk factors that could cause results or events to differ from current expectations are identified in Part II, Item 1A Risk Factors of this Quarterly Report and Part I, Item 1A Risk Factors of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2009.

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

This report includes the certifications of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer required by Rule 13a-14 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act). See Exhibits 31.1 and 31.2. This Item 4 includes information concerning the controls and control evaluations referred to in those certifications.

***Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures***

Disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in SEC rules and forms and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures. Under the supervision and with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, our management evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2009. Based on that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of December 31, 2009.

***Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting***

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended December 31, 2009 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

***Inherent Limitations on Internal Controls***

Notwithstanding the foregoing, management does not expect that our disclosure controls and procedures or our internal control over financial reporting will prevent or detect all errors and all fraud. A control system, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system will be met. Limitations inherent in any control system include the following:

Judgments in decision-making can be faulty, and control and process breakdowns can occur because of simple errors or mistakes.

Controls can be circumvented by individuals, acting alone or in collusion with others, or by management override. The design of any system of controls is based in part on certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions.

Over time, controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or deterioration in the degree of compliance with associated policies or procedures.

The design of a control system must reflect the fact that resources are constrained, and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs.

Because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, have been detected.

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**PART II**

***Item 1. Legal Proceedings***

See Note F, Contingencies, in the Notes to Interim Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements included in this filing and incorporated herein by reference.

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

Important risk factors that could affect our operations and financial performance, or that could cause results or events to differ from current expectations, are described in Part I, Item 1A, Risk Factors of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2009. These factors are supplemented by those discussed under Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk in Part I, Item 3 of this report and in Part II, Item 7A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2009.

***Item 6. Exhibits***

| Exhibit No. | Description of Exhibit  |
|-------------|---|
| 31.1        | Certification of Joseph L. Rotunda, President and Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002                                   |
| 31.2        | Certification of Brad Wolfe, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002                              |
| 32.1        | Certifications of Joseph L. Rotunda, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Brad Wolfe, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 |

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**SIGNATURE**

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.

EZCORP, INC.

Date: February 5, 2010

/s/ DANIEL M. CHISM  
Daniel M. Chism  
Vice President and  
Chief Accounting Officer  
(on behalf of the registrant and as principal  
accounting officer)

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EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit No. | Description of Exhibit  |
|-------------|---|
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