

BED BATH & BEYOND INC  
Form 10-Q  
January 07, 2016

**UNITED STATES**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 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 November 28, 2015**

**Commission File Number 0-20214**

**BED BATH & BEYOND INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**New York**                      **11-2250488**  
(State of incorporation)    (IRS Employer Identification No.)

**650 Liberty Avenue, Union, New Jersey 07083**  
(Address of principal executive offices)    (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **908/688-0888**

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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 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Yes      No

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes      No

**Number of shares outstanding of the issuer’s Common Stock:**

| <b>Class</b>                    | <b>Outstanding at November 28, 2015</b> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Common Stock - \$0.01 par value | 163,587,453                             |

**BED BATH & BEYOND INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

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## BED BATH &amp; BEYOND INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## Consolidated Balance Sheets

(in thousands, except per share data)

(unaudited)

|                                                                                                | November<br>28,<br>2015 | February 28,<br>2015 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Assets                                                                                         |                         |                      |
| Current assets:                                                                                |                         |                      |
| Cash and cash equivalents                                                                      | \$490,737               | \$875,574            |
| Short term investment securities                                                               | -                       | 109,992              |
| Merchandise inventories                                                                        | 3,219,667               | 2,731,881            |
| Other current assets                                                                           | 480,132                 | 366,156              |
| Total current assets                                                                           | 4,190,536               | 4,083,603            |
| Long term investment securities                                                                | 74,666                  | 97,160               |
| Property and equipment, net                                                                    | 1,686,632               | 1,676,700            |
| Goodwill                                                                                       | 487,166                 | 486,279              |
| Other assets                                                                                   | 404,992                 | 415,251              |
| Total assets                                                                                   | \$6,843,992             | \$6,758,993          |
| Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity                                                           |                         |                      |
| Current liabilities:                                                                           |                         |                      |
| Accounts payable                                                                               | \$1,402,968             | \$1,156,368          |
| Accrued expenses and other current liabilities                                                 | 467,654                 | 403,547              |
| Merchandise credit and gift card liabilities                                                   | 317,430                 | 306,160              |
| Current income taxes payable                                                                   | 4,327                   | 76,606               |
| Total current liabilities                                                                      | 2,192,379               | 1,942,681            |
| Deferred rent and other liabilities                                                            | 504,469                 | 493,137              |
| Income taxes payable                                                                           | 81,390                  | 79,985               |
| Long term debt                                                                                 | 1,500,000               | 1,500,000            |
| Total liabilities                                                                              | 4,278,238               | 4,015,803            |
| Shareholders' equity:                                                                          |                         |                      |
| Preferred stock - \$0.01 par value; authorized - 1,000 shares; no shares issued or outstanding | -                       | -                    |

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|                                                                                                                                                                     |              |              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Common stock - \$0.01 par value; authorized - 900,000 shares; issued 337,554 and 336,667 shares, respectively; outstanding 163,587 and 174,178 shares, respectively | 3,376        | 3,367        |
| Additional paid-in capital                                                                                                                                          | 1,866,071    | 1,796,692    |
| Retained earnings                                                                                                                                                   | 10,091,321   | 9,553,376    |
| Treasury stock, at cost; 173,967 and 162,489 shares, respectively                                                                                                   | (9,341,450 ) | (8,567,932 ) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss                                                                                                                                | (53,564 )    | (42,313 )    |
| Total shareholders' equity                                                                                                                                          | 2,565,754    | 2,743,190    |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity                                                                                                                          | \$6,843,992  | \$6,758,993  |

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

BED BATH & BEYOND INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Statements of Earnings

(in thousands, except per share data)

(unaudited)

|                                               | Three Months Ended      |                         | Nine Months Ended       |                         |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                               | November<br>28,<br>2015 | November<br>29,<br>2014 | November<br>28,<br>2015 | November<br>29,<br>2014 |
| Net sales                                     | \$2,952,031             | \$2,942,980             | \$8,685,995             | \$8,544,583             |
| Cost of sales                                 | 1,836,720               | 1,814,006               | 5,385,601               | 5,250,679               |
| Gross profit                                  | 1,115,311               | 1,128,974               | 3,300,394               | 3,293,904               |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses  | 822,453                 | 776,291                 | 2,384,073               | 2,271,779               |
| Operating profit                              | 292,858                 | 352,683                 | 916,321                 | 1,022,125               |
| Interest expense, net                         | 18,052                  | 19,569                  | 63,006                  | 31,191                  |
| Earnings before provision for income taxes    | 274,806                 | 333,114                 | 853,315                 | 990,934                 |
| Provision for income taxes                    | 96,990                  | 107,706                 | 315,370                 | 354,521                 |
| Net earnings                                  | \$177,816               | \$225,408               | \$537,945               | \$636,413               |
| Net earnings per share - Basic                | \$1.10                  | \$1.24                  | \$3.26                  | \$3.34                  |
| Net earnings per share - Diluted              | \$1.09                  | \$1.23                  | \$3.22                  | \$3.31                  |
| Weighted average shares outstanding - Basic   | 162,005                 | 181,629                 | 165,267                 | 190,292                 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding - Diluted | 163,582                 | 183,794                 | 167,116                 | 192,463                 |

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.



BED BATH & BEYOND INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income

(in thousands, unaudited)

|                                                                         | Three Months Ended |           | Nine Months Ended |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
|                                                                         | November           | November  | November          | November  |
|                                                                         | 28,                | 29,       | 28,               | 29,       |
|                                                                         | 2015               | 2014      | 2015              | 2014      |
| Net earnings                                                            | \$177,816          | \$225,408 | \$537,945         | \$636,413 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss):                                      |                    |           |                   |           |
| Change in temporary impairment of auction rate securities, net of taxes | -                  | 205       | 1,186             | 74        |
| Pension adjustment, net of taxes                                        | (38 )              | 252       | (479 )            | 700       |
| Currency translation adjustment                                         | (2,464 )           | (8,990 )  | (11,958 )         | (6,078 )  |
| Other comprehensive income (loss)                                       | (2,502 )           | (8,533 )  | (11,251 )         | (5,304 )  |
| Comprehensive income                                                    | \$175,314          | \$216,875 | \$526,694         | \$631,109 |

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

## BED BATH &amp; BEYOND INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(in thousands, unaudited)

|                                                                                     | Nine Months Ended       |                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                                                                     | November<br>28,<br>2015 | November<br>29,<br>2014 |
| Cash Flows from Operating Activities:                                               |                         |                         |
| Net earnings                                                                        | \$537,945               | \$636,413               |
| Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash provided by operating activities: |                         |                         |
| Depreciation and amortization                                                       | 193,633                 | 179,466                 |
| Stock-based compensation                                                            | 49,848                  | 49,284                  |
| Excess tax benefit from stock-based compensation                                    | (10,380 )               | (11,127 )               |
| Deferred income taxes                                                               | 22,848                  | (27,247 )               |
| Other                                                                               | 740                     | (1,399 )                |
| Increase in assets:                                                                 |                         |                         |
| Merchandise inventories                                                             | (493,054)               | (489,198 )              |
| Trading investment securities                                                       | (6,300 )                | (7,364 )                |
| Other current assets                                                                | (124,143)               | (105,683 )              |
| Other assets                                                                        | (6,611 )                | (1,064 )                |
| Increase (decrease) in liabilities:                                                 |                         |                         |
| Accounts payable                                                                    | 288,304                 | 236,450                 |
| Accrued expenses and other current liabilities                                      | 64,986                  | 72,479                  |
| Merchandise credit and gift card liabilities                                        | 11,584                  | 12,709                  |
| Income taxes payable                                                                | (60,933 )               | (48,017 )               |
| Deferred rent and other liabilities                                                 | 21,465                  | 6,475                   |
| Net cash provided by operating activities                                           | 489,932                 | 502,177                 |
| Cash Flows from Investing Activities:                                               |                         |                         |
| Purchase of held-to-maturity investment securities                                  | (16,873 )               | (219,353 )              |
| Redemption of held-to-maturity investment securities                                | 126,875                 | 573,750                 |
| Redemption of available-for-sale investment securities                              | 28,905                  | -                       |
| Capital expenditures                                                                | (244,255)               | (232,658 )              |
| Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities                                 | (105,348)               | 121,739                 |

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Cash Flows from Financing Activities:

|                                                              |           |             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Proceeds from exercise of stock options                      | 7,879     | 24,790      |
| Proceeds from issuance of senior unsecured notes             | -         | 1,500,000   |
| Payment of deferred financing costs                          | -         | (10,092 )   |
| Prepayment under share repurchase agreement                  | -         | (165,000 )  |
| Payment of other liabilities                                 | (7,646 )  | -           |
| Excess tax benefit from stock-based compensation             | 10,380    | 11,127      |
| Repurchase of common stock, including fees                   | (773,518) | (1,303,951) |
| Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities          | (762,905) | 56,874      |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents | (6,516 )  | (3,468 )    |
| Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents         | (384,837) | 677,322     |

Cash and cash equivalents:

|                     |           |             |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Beginning of period | 875,574   | 366,516     |
| End of period       | \$490,737 | \$1,043,838 |

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

## **BED BATH & BEYOND INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

### Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(unaudited)

#### ***1) Basis of Presentation***

The accompanying consolidated financial statements have been prepared without audit. In the opinion of management, the accompanying consolidated financial statements contain all adjustments (consisting of only normal recurring accruals and elimination of intercompany balances and transactions) necessary to present fairly the financial position of Bed Bath & Beyond Inc. and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of November 28, 2015 and February 28, 2015 and the results of its operations and comprehensive income for the three and nine months ended November 28, 2015 and November 29, 2014, respectively, and its cash flows for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 and November 29, 2014, respectively.

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements are presented in accordance with the requirements for Form 10-Q and consequently do not include all the disclosures normally required by U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"). Reference should be made to Bed Bath & Beyond Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 28, 2015 for additional disclosures, including a summary of the Company's significant accounting policies, and to subsequently filed Forms 8-K.

Certain reclassifications have been made to the fiscal 2014 consolidated statement of cash flows to conform to the fiscal 2015 consolidated statement of cash flows presentation.

The Company accounts for its operations as two operating segments: North American Retail and Institutional Sales. The Institutional Sales operating segment, which is comprised of Linen Holdings, does not meet the quantitative thresholds under GAAP and therefore is not a reportable segment.

The Company sells a wide assortment of domestics merchandise and home furnishings. Domestics merchandise includes categories such as bed linens and related items, bath items and kitchen textiles. Home furnishings include categories such as kitchen and tabletop items, fine tabletop, basic housewares, general home furnishings, consumables and certain juvenile products. Sales of domestics merchandise and home furnishings for the Company accounted for approximately 36.5% and 63.5% of net sales, respectively, for the three months ended November 28, 2015 and November 29, 2014. Sales of domestics merchandise and home furnishings for the Company accounted for approximately 37.5% and 62.5% of net sales, respectively, for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 and

approximately 37.4% and 62.6% of net sales, respectively, for the nine months ended November 29, 2014.

Net sales outside of the U.S. were not material for the three and nine months ended November 28, 2015 and November 29, 2014.

## ***2) Fair Value Measurements***

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability (i.e., “the exit price”) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. In determining fair value, the Company uses various valuation approaches, including quoted market prices and discounted cash flows. The hierarchy for inputs used in measuring fair value maximizes the use of observable inputs and minimizes the use of unobservable inputs by requiring that the most observable inputs be used when available. Observable inputs are inputs that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on market data obtained from independent sources. Unobservable inputs are inputs that reflect a company’s judgment concerning the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on the best information available under the circumstances. In certain cases, the inputs used to measure fair value may fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy. In such cases, an asset or liability must be classified in its entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the measurement of fair value. The fair value hierarchy is broken down into three levels based on the reliability of inputs as follows:

- Level 1 – Valuations based on quoted prices in active markets for identical instruments that the Company is able to access. Since valuations are based on quoted prices that are readily and regularly available in an active market, valuation of these products does not entail a significant degree of judgment.

- Level 2 – Valuations based on quoted prices in active markets for instruments that are similar, or quoted prices in markets that are not active for identical or similar instruments, and model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets.
- Level 3 – Valuations based on inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement.

As of November 28, 2015, the Company's financial assets utilizing Level 1 inputs included long term trading investment securities traded on active securities exchanges. The Company did not have any financial assets utilizing Level 2 inputs. Financial assets utilizing Level 3 inputs included long term investments in auction rate securities consisting of preferred shares of closed end municipal bond funds (See "Investment Securities," Note 4).

#### *Fair Value of Financial Instruments*

The Company's financial instruments include cash and cash equivalents, investment securities, accounts payable, long term debt and certain other liabilities. The Company's investment securities consist primarily of U.S. Treasury securities, which are stated at amortized cost, and auction rate securities, which are stated at their approximate fair value. The book value of the financial instruments, excluding the Company's long term debt, is representative of their fair values. The fair value of the Company's long term debt is approximately \$1.379 billion, which is based on quoted prices in active markets for identical instruments (i.e., Level 1 valuation), compared to the carrying value of approximately \$1.500 billion.

#### **3) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Included in cash and cash equivalents are credit and debit card receivables from banks, which typically settle within five business days, of \$198.5 million and \$90.3 million as of November 28, 2015 and February 28, 2015, respectively.

#### **4) Investment Securities**

The Company's investment securities as of November 28, 2015 and February 28, 2015 are as follows:

(in millions)

|                                | November<br>28,<br>2015 | February<br>28,<br>2015 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Available-for-sale securities: |                         |                         |
| Long term                      | \$ 19.2                 | \$ 47.9                 |
| Trading securities:            |                         |                         |
| Long term                      | 55.5                    | 49.2                    |
| Held-to-maturity securities:   |                         |                         |
| Short term                     | -                       | 110.0                   |
| Total investment securities    | \$ 74.7                 | \$ 207.1                |

### *Auction Rate Securities*

As of November 28, 2015 and February 28, 2015, the Company's long term available-for-sale investment securities represented approximately \$20.3 million and \$51.0 million par value of auction rate securities, respectively, consisting of preferred shares of closed end municipal bond funds, less temporary valuation adjustments of approximately \$1.1 million and \$3.1 million, respectively. Since these valuation adjustments are deemed to be temporary, they are recorded in accumulated other comprehensive loss, net of a related tax benefit, and did not affect the Company's net earnings.

During the nine months ended November 28, 2015, approximately \$30.7 million of these securities were tendered at a price of approximately 94% of par value for which the Company incurred a realized loss of approximately \$1.8 million which is included within interest expense, net in the consolidated statement of earnings for the nine months ended November 28, 2015. The Company recorded this realized loss in the fiscal second quarter of 2015.

*U.S. Treasury Securities*

As of November 28, 2015, the Company had no short term held-to-maturity securities. As of February 28, 2015, the Company's short term held-to-maturity securities included approximately \$110.0 million of U.S. Treasury Bills with remaining maturities of less than one year. These securities are stated at their amortized cost which approximates fair value, which is based on quoted prices in active markets for identical instruments (i.e., Level 1 valuation).

*Long Term Trading Investment Securities*

The Company's long term trading investment securities, which are provided as investment options to the participants of the nonqualified deferred compensation plan, are stated at fair market value. The values of these trading investment securities included in the table above are approximately \$55.5 million and \$49.2 million as of November 28, 2015 and February 28, 2015, respectively.

**5) Property and Equipment**

As of November 28, 2015 and February 28, 2015, included in property and equipment, net is accumulated depreciation of approximately \$2.5 billion and \$2.3 billion, respectively.

**6) Long Term Debt**

*Senior Unsecured Notes*

On July 17, 2014, the Company issued \$300 million aggregate principal amount of 3.749% senior unsecured notes due August 1, 2024, \$300 million aggregate principal amount of 4.915% senior unsecured notes due August 1, 2034 and \$900 million aggregate principal amount of 5.165% senior unsecured notes due August 1, 2044 (collectively, the "Notes"). Interest on the Notes is payable semi-annually on February 1 and August 1 of each year.

The Notes were issued under an indenture (the "Base Indenture"), as supplemented by a first supplemental indenture (together, with the Base Indenture, the "Indenture"), which contains various restrictive covenants, which are subject to important limitations and exceptions that are described in the Indenture. The Company was in compliance with all

covenants related to the Notes as of November 28, 2015.

#### *Revolving Credit Agreement*

On August 6, 2014, the Company entered into a \$250 million five year senior unsecured revolving credit facility agreement (“Revolver”) with various lenders. During the nine months ended November 28, 2015, the Company did not have any borrowings under the Revolver.

The Revolver contains customary affirmative and negative covenants and also requires the Company to maintain a minimum leverage ratio. The Company was in compliance with all covenants related to the Revolver as of November 28, 2015.

Deferred financing costs associated with the Notes and the Revolver of approximately \$10.1 million were capitalized and are included in other assets, net of amortization, in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets. These deferred financing costs are being amortized over the term of each of the Notes and the term of the Revolver and such amortization is included in interest expense, net in the Consolidated Statement of Earnings. Interest expense related to the Notes and the Revolver, including the commitment fee and the amortization of the deferred financing costs, was approximately \$18.1 million for the three months ended November 28, 2015 and November 29, 2014. Interest expense related to the Notes and the Revolver, including the commitment fee and the amortization of the deferred financing costs, was approximately \$54.9 million for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 and \$26.8 million for the period from July 17, 2014 through November 29, 2014.

#### *Lines of Credit*

At November 28, 2015, the Company maintained two uncommitted lines of credit of \$100 million each, with expiration dates of February 28, 2016 and August 31, 2016, respectively. These uncommitted lines of credit are currently and are expected to be used for letters of credit in the ordinary course of business. During the first nine months of fiscal 2015, the Company did not have any direct borrowings under the uncommitted lines of credit. Although no assurances can be provided, the Company intends to renew both uncommitted lines of credit before the respective expiration dates.

### ***7) Shareholders' Equity***

Between December 2004 and September 2015, the Company's Board of Directors authorized, through several share repurchase programs, the repurchase of \$11.950 billion of its shares of common stock. The Company has authorization to make repurchases from time to time in the open market or through other parameters approved by the Board of Directors pursuant to existing rules and regulations. The Company also acquires shares of its common stock to cover employee related taxes withheld on vested restricted stock and performance stock unit awards. In the first nine months of fiscal 2015, the Company repurchased approximately 11.5 million shares of its common stock for a total cost of approximately \$773.5 million, bringing the aggregate total of common stock repurchased to approximately 174.0 million shares for a total cost of approximately \$9.3 billion since the initial authorization in December 2004. The Company has approximately \$2.610 billion remaining of authorized share repurchases as of November 28, 2015.

### ***8) Stock-Based Compensation***

The Company measures all employee stock-based compensation awards using a fair value method and records such expense, net of estimated forfeitures, in its consolidated financial statements. Currently, the Company's stock-based compensation relates to restricted stock awards, stock options and performance stock units. The Company's restricted stock awards are considered nonvested share awards.

Stock-based compensation expense for the three and nine months ended November 28, 2015 was approximately \$16.0 million (\$10.3 million after tax or \$0.06 per diluted share) and approximately \$49.8 million (\$31.4 million after tax or \$0.19 per diluted share), respectively. Stock-based compensation expense for the three and nine months ended November 29, 2014 was approximately \$15.5 million (\$10.5 million after tax or \$0.06 per diluted share) and approximately \$49.3 million (\$31.7 million after tax or \$0.16 per diluted share), respectively. In addition, the amount of stock-based compensation cost capitalized for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 and November 29, 2014 was approximately \$1.5 million and \$1.3 million, respectively.

### ***Incentive Compensation Plans***

The Company currently grants awards under the Bed Bath & Beyond 2012 Incentive Compensation Plan (the "2012 Plan"), which amended and restated the Bed Bath & Beyond 2004 Incentive Compensation Plan (the "2004 Plan"). The 2012 Plan includes an aggregate of 43.2 million common shares authorized for issuance and the ability to grant incentive stock options. Outstanding awards that were covered by the 2004 Plan continue to be in effect under the 2012 Plan.

The 2012 Plan is a flexible compensation plan that enables the Company to offer incentive compensation through stock options (whether nonqualified stock options or incentive stock options), restricted stock awards, stock appreciation rights, performance awards and other stock based awards, including cash awards. Under the 2012 Plan, grants are determined by the Compensation Committee for those awards granted to executive officers and by an appropriate committee for all other awards granted. Awards of stock options and restricted stock generally vest in five equal annual installments beginning one to three years from the date of grant. Awards of performance stock units generally vest over a period of four years from the date of grant dependent on the Company's achievement of performance-based tests and subject, in general, to the executive remaining in the Company's service on specified vesting dates.

The Company generally issues new shares for stock option exercises, restricted stock awards and vesting of performance stock units.

## Stock Options

Stock option grants are issued at fair market value on the date of grant and generally become exercisable in either three or five equal annual installments beginning one year from the date of grant for options issued since May 10, 2010, and beginning one to three years from the date of grant for options issued prior to May 10, 2010, in each case, subject, in general to the recipient remaining in the Company's service on specified vesting dates. Option grants expire eight years after the date of grant. All option grants are nonqualified. As of November 28, 2015, unrecognized compensation expense related to the unvested portion of the Company's stock options was \$26.0 million, which is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 2.9 years.

The fair value of the stock options granted was estimated on the date of the grant using a Black-Scholes option-pricing model that uses the assumptions noted in the following table.

| Black-Scholes Valuation Assumptions (1)       | Nine Months Ended |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                               | November 28, 2015 | November 29, 2014 |
| Weighted Average Expected Life (in years) (2) | 6.7               | 6.6               |
| Weighted Average Expected Volatility (3)      | 27.59%            | 28.31 %           |
| Weighted Average Risk Free Interest Rates (4) | 1.93 %            | 2.11 %            |
| Expected Dividend Yield                       | -                 | -                 |

(1) Forfeitures are estimated based on historical experience.

(2) The expected life of stock options is estimated based on historical experience.

(3) Expected volatility is based on the average of historical and implied volatility. The historical volatility is determined by observing actual prices of the Company's stock over a period commensurate with the expected life of the awards. The implied volatility represents the implied volatility of the Company's call options, which are actively traded on multiple exchanges, had remaining maturities in excess of twelve months, had market prices close to the exercise prices of the employee stock options and were measured on the stock option grant date.

(4) Based on the U.S. Treasury constant maturity interest rate whose term is consistent with the expected life of the stock options.

Changes in the Company's stock options for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 were as follows:

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| (Shares in thousands)                    | Number<br>of Stock<br>Options | Weighted<br>Average<br>Exercise<br>Price |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Options outstanding, beginning of period | 3,682                         | \$ 51.05                                 |
| Granted                                  | 501                           | 70.96                                    |
| Exercised                                | (221 )                        | 35.62                                    |
| Forfeited or expired                     | (91 )                         | 63.12                                    |
| Options outstanding, end of period       | 3,871                         | \$ 54.22                                 |
| Options exercisable, end of period       | 2,392                         | \$ 46.85                                 |

The weighted average fair value for the stock options granted during the first nine months of fiscal 2015 and 2014 was \$23.12 and \$20.96, respectively. The weighted average remaining contractual term and the aggregate intrinsic value for options outstanding as of November 28, 2015 was 3.9 years and \$29.8 million, respectively. The weighted average remaining contractual term and the aggregate intrinsic value for options exercisable as of November 28, 2015 was 2.7 years and \$28.6 million, respectively. The total intrinsic value for stock options exercised during the first nine months of fiscal 2015 and 2014 was \$8.2 million and \$19.4 million, respectively.

Net cash proceeds from the exercise of stock options for the first nine months of fiscal 2015 were \$7.9 million and the net associated income tax benefit was \$10.2 million.

*Restricted Stock*

Restricted stock awards are issued and measured at fair market value on the date of grant and generally become vested in five equal annual installments beginning one to three years from the date of grant, subject, in general, to the recipient remaining in the Company's service on specified vesting dates. Vesting of restricted stock awarded to certain of the Company's executives is dependent on the Company's achievement of a performance-based test for the fiscal year of grant and, assuming achievement of the performance-based test, time vesting, subject, in general, to the executive remaining in the Company's service on specified vesting dates. The Company recognizes compensation expense related to these awards based on the assumption that the performance-based test will be achieved. Vesting of restricted stock awarded to the Company's other employees is based solely on time vesting. As of November 28, 2015, unrecognized compensation expense related to the unvested portion of the Company's restricted stock awards was \$137.8 million, which is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 3.9 years.

Changes in the Company's restricted stock for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 were as follows:

| (Shares in thousands)                          | Number of<br>Restricted<br>Shares | Weighted<br>Average<br>Grant-Date<br>Fair Value |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Unvested restricted stock, beginning of period | 3,592                             | \$ 57.90                                        |
| Granted                                        | 747                               | 69.84                                           |
| Vested                                         | (932 )                            | 49.18                                           |
| Forfeited                                      | (178 )                            | 62.44                                           |
| Unvested restricted stock, end of period       | 3,229                             | \$ 62.93                                        |

*Performance Stock Units*

Performance stock units ("PSUs") are issued and measured at fair market value on the date of grant. Vesting of PSUs awarded to certain of the Company's executives is dependent on the Company's achievement of a performance-based test during a one-year period from the date of grant and during a three-year period from the date of grant and, assuming achievement of the performance-based test, time vesting, subject, in general, to the executive remaining in the Company's service on specified vesting dates. Performance during the one-year period will be based on Earnings Before Interest and Taxes ("EBIT") margin relative to a peer group of the Company. Upon achievement of the one-year performance-based test, the corresponding PSUs will vest annually in substantially equal installments over a three year period starting one year from the date of grant. Performance during the three-year period will be based on Return on Invested Capital ("ROIC") relative to such peer group. Upon achievement of the three-year performance-based test, the corresponding PSUs will vest on the fourth anniversary date of grant. The awards based on EBIT margin and ROIC range from a floor of zero to a cap of 150% of target achievement. PSUs are converted into shares of common stock upon payment following vesting. Upon grant of the PSUs, the Company recognizes compensation expense related to these awards based on the assumption that 100% of the target award will be achieved. The Company

evaluates the target assumption on a quarterly basis and adjusts compensation expense related to these awards, as appropriate. As of November 28, 2015, unrecognized compensation expense related to the unvested portion of the Company's performance stock units was \$25.3 million, which is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 2.3 years.

Changes in the Company's PSUs for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 were as follows:

| (Shares in thousands)                                 | Number of<br>Performance<br>Stock Units | Weighted<br>Average<br>Grant-Date<br>Fair Value |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Unvested performance stock units, beginning of period | 391                                     | \$ 62.34                                        |
| Granted                                               | 370                                     | 70.96                                           |
| Vested                                                | (98 )                                   | 62.34                                           |
| Forfeited                                             | (36 )                                   | 67.15                                           |
| Unvested performance stock units, end of period       | 627                                     | \$ 67.15                                        |

### ***9) Earnings Per Share***

The Company presents earnings per share on a basic and diluted basis. Basic earnings per share is computed by dividing net earnings by the weighted average number of shares outstanding. Diluted earnings per share is computed by dividing net earnings by the weighted average number of shares outstanding, including the dilutive effect of stock-based awards as calculated under the treasury stock method.

Stock-based awards for the three and nine months ended November 28, 2015 of approximately 2.7 million and 2.3 million, respectively, and November 29, 2014 of approximately 1.6 million and 1.9 million, respectively, were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share as the effect would be anti-dilutive.

### ***10) Supplemental Cash Flow Information***

The Company paid income taxes of \$351.2 million and \$432.2 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2015 and 2014, respectively. In addition, the Company had interest payments of approximately \$43.0 million and \$6.8 million in the first nine months of fiscal 2015 and 2014, respectively.

The Company recorded an accrual for capital expenditures of \$17.5 million and \$18.5 million as of November 28, 2015 and November 29, 2014, respectively.

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

### ***Overview***

Bed Bath & Beyond Inc. and subsidiaries (the “Company”) is a retailer which operates under the names Bed Bath & Beyond (“BBB”), Christmas Tree Shops, Christmas Tree Shops andThat! or andThat! (collectively, “CTS”), Harmon or Harmon Face Values (collectively, “Harmon”), buybuy BABY (“Baby”) and World Market, Cost Plus World Market or Cost Plus (collectively, “Cost Plus World Market”). Customers can purchase products from the Company either in-store, online or through a mobile device. The Company has the developing ability to have customer purchases picked up in-store or shipped direct to the customer from the Company’s distribution facilities, stores or vendors. In addition, the Company operates Of a Kind, an e-commerce website that features specially commissioned, limited edition items from emerging fashion and home designers, which was acquired in the second quarter of fiscal 2015. The Company also operates Linen Holdings, a provider of a variety of textile products, amenities and other goods to institutional customers in the hospitality, cruise line, healthcare and other industries. Additionally, the Company is a partner in a joint venture which operates seven retail stores in Mexico under the name Bed Bath & Beyond, which includes one store opened since the beginning of the fiscal fourth quarter.

The Company accounts for its operations as two operating segments: North American Retail and Institutional Sales. The Institutional Sales operating segment, which is comprised of Linen Holdings, does not meet the quantitative thresholds under U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and therefore is not a reportable segment.

The Company sells a wide assortment of domestics merchandise and home furnishings. Domestics merchandise includes categories such as bed linens and related items, bath items and kitchen textiles. Home furnishings include categories such as kitchen and tabletop items, fine tabletop, basic housewares, general home furnishings, consumables and certain juvenile products.

The Company’s strategy begins and ends with an intense focus on its customers:

- To do more for and with its customers;
- To continue to broaden and differentiate its selection and assortment of merchandise; and
- To engage with its customers wherever, whenever and however they prefer whether it be in-store, online, through a mobile device, or in any combination of these methods.

The Company’s objective is to be its customers’ first choice for products and services in the categories offered, in the markets, channels and countries in which the Company operates, as those customers express their life interests and travel through their various life stages. The Company strives to accomplish this objective by offering an extensive

breadth, depth and differentiated assortment of merchandise at the right value; and by offering excellent customer service, including new service ideas and solutions. The Company is also enhancing its ability to achieve this objective through its ongoing commitment to world class information and interactive technology, comprehensive analytics and targeted marketing and communications.

Operating in the highly competitive retail industry, the Company, along with other retail companies, is influenced by a number of factors including, but not limited to, general economic conditions including the housing market, unemployment levels and commodity prices; the overall macroeconomic environment and related changes in the retailing environment; consumer preferences, spending habits and adoption of new technologies; unusual weather patterns and natural disasters; competition from existing and potential competitors; competition from other channels of distribution; and the ability to find suitable locations at acceptable occupancy costs and other terms to support the Company's plans for new stores. The Company cannot predict whether, when or the manner in which these factors could affect the Company's operating results.

The following represents an overview of the Company's financial performance for the periods indicated:

For the three and nine months ended November 28, 2015, the Company's net sales were \$2.952 billion and \$8.686 billion, respectively, an increase of approximately 0.3% and 1.7%, as compared with the three and nine months ended November 29, 2014. On a constant currency basis, which is a non-GAAP measure, net sales increased approximately 0.7% and 2.0%, as compared with the three and nine months ended November 29, 2014. Net sales and comparable sales of the Company's foreign operations are calculated on a constant currency basis by translating the current year's respective sales of its foreign operations at the same exchange rates used in the prior year. The non-GAAP measure of net sales on a constant currency basis is intended to provide visibility into the Company's operations by excluding the effects of foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations.

Comparable sales for the three months ended November 28, 2015 decreased by approximately 0.4%, as compared to an increase of approximately 1.7% for the three months ended November 29, 2014. On a constant currency basis, comparable sales were relatively flat, as compared with the three months ended November 29, 2014. For the three months ended November 28, 2015, comparable sales consummated through customer facing online websites and mobile applications increased in excess of 25% over the corresponding three month period in the prior year, while comparable sales consummated in-store declined in the low single-digit percentage range.

Comparable sales for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 increased by approximately 0.8%, as compared with an increase of approximately 1.9% for the nine months ended November 29, 2014. On a constant currency basis, comparable sales increased 1.2%, as compared with the nine months ended November 29, 2014. For the nine months ended November 28, 2015, comparable sales consummated through customer facing online websites and mobile applications increased approximately 30% over the corresponding nine month period in the prior year, while comparable sales consummated in-store declined in the low single-digit percentage range.

Comparable sales include sales consummated through all retail channels which have been operating for twelve full months following the opening period (typically four to six weeks). The Company is an omnichannel retailer with capabilities that allow a customer to use more than one channel when making a purchase, including in-store, online and mobile channels, and have it fulfilled, in most cases, either through in-store customer pickup or by direct shipment to the customer from one of the Company's distribution facilities, stores or vendors.

Sales consummated on a mobile device while physically in a store location are recorded as customer facing online websites and mobile applications sales. Customer orders reserved online and picked up in a store are recorded as in-store sales. In-store sales are reduced by sales originally consummated from customer facing online websites and mobile applications and subsequently returned in-store.

Stores relocated or expanded are excluded from comparable sales if the change in square footage would cause meaningful disparity in sales over the prior period. In the case of a store to be closed, such store's sales are not considered comparable once the store closing process has commenced. Of a Kind is excluded from the comparable sales calculation for the three and nine months ended November 28, 2015, and will continue to be excluded until after the anniversary of the acquisition. Linen Holdings is excluded from the comparable sales calculations and will continue to be excluded on an ongoing basis as it represents non-retail activity.

Gross profit for the three months ended November 28, 2015 was \$1.115 billion, or 37.8% of net sales, compared with \$1.129 billion, or 38.4% of net sales, for the three months ended November 29, 2014. Gross profit for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 was \$3.300 billion, or 38.0% of net sales, compared with \$3.294 billion, or 38.5% of net sales, for the nine months ended November 29, 2014.

Selling, general and administrative expenses ("SG&A") for the three months ended November 28, 2015 were \$822.5 million, or 27.9% of net sales, compared with \$776.3 million, or 26.4% of net sales, for the three months ended November 29, 2014. SG&A for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 were \$2.384 billion, or 27.4% of net sales, compared with \$2.272 billion, or 26.6% of net sales, for the nine months ended November 29, 2014.

Interest expense for the three months ended November 28, 2015 was \$18.1 million compared with \$19.6 million for the three months ended November 29, 2014. Interest expense for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 was \$63.0 million compared with \$31.2 million for the nine months ended November 29, 2014.

The effective tax rate for the three months ended November 28, 2015 was 35.3% compared with 32.3% for the three months ended November 29, 2014. The effective tax rate for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 was 37.0%

compared with 35.8% for the nine months ended November 29, 2014. The tax rates included discrete tax items resulting in net benefits of approximately \$6.9 million and \$16.7 million, respectively, for the three months ended November 28, 2015 and November 29, 2014, and net benefits of approximately \$7.6 million and \$19.3 million, respectively, for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 and November 29, 2014.

For the three months ended November 28, 2015, net earnings per diluted share were \$1.09 (\$177.8 million) as compared with net earnings per diluted share of \$1.23 (\$225.4 million) for the three months ended November 29, 2014. For the nine months ended November 28, 2015, net earnings per diluted share were \$3.22 (\$537.9 million) as compared with net earnings per diluted share of \$3.31 (\$636.4 million) for the nine months ended November 29, 2014. The increases in net earnings per diluted share for the three and nine months ended November 28, 2015 are the result of the impact of the Company's repurchases of its common stock, as well as the items described above. In addition, for the three and nine months ended November 28, 2015, the year-over-year comparison of net earnings per diluted share was unfavorably impacted by approximately \$0.13 and \$0.16, respectively, based on the fiscal 2015 diluted weighted average shares outstanding for the respective period, due to the following non-comparable items: a non-recurring credit card fee litigation settlement benefit that occurred in the third quarter of fiscal 2014; lower net after tax benefits in the third quarter of fiscal 2015 as compared to fiscal 2014 due to discrete tax events; and an unfavorable foreign currency rate impact in fiscal 2015.

Capital expenditures for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 and November 29, 2014 were \$244.3 million and \$232.7 million, respectively. Fiscal 2015 capital expenditures included expenditures for technology enhancements, new stores, existing store improvements, the new customer contact center, the new distribution facility in Las Vegas and other projects. The Company continues to review and prioritize its capital needs and remains committed to making the required investments in its infrastructure to help position the Company for continued growth and success.

Several additional key initiatives include: continuing to add new functionality and assortment to its selling websites, mobile sites and applications; improving customer data integration and customer relations management capabilities; continuing to enhance the service offerings to its customers; continuing to strengthen and deepen its information technology, analytics, marketing and e-commerce groups; and creating more flexible fulfillment options that will allow the Company to deliver orders more quickly and lower the Company's shipping costs. These and other investments are expected to, among other things, provide a seamless and compelling customer experience across the Company's in-store, online and mobile shopping environments.

During the nine months ended November 28, 2015, the Company opened a total of 20 new stores and closed seven stores as well as developed a new customer contact center, which officially opened in the fiscal third quarter, to support the anticipated growth across all channels, countries and concepts and provide a seamless customer service experience. The Company plans to continue to actively manage its real estate portfolio in order to permit store sizes, layouts, locations and offerings to evolve over time to optimize market profitability and will renovate or reposition stores within markets when appropriate. During fiscal 2015, including the stores opened through November 28, 2015, the Company expects company-wide to open approximately 29 new stores and close approximately 11 stores. Additionally, during fiscal 2015, the Company expects to continue to invest in technology related projects, including the deployment of new systems and equipment in its stores, enhancements to its omnichannel capabilities, ongoing investment in data analytics, the continued build out and utilization of a data center in North Carolina and the continued development of a new point of sale system.

During the three months ended November 28, 2015 and November 29, 2014, the Company repurchased approximately 3.3 million and 10,000 shares, respectively, of its common stock at a total cost of approximately \$194.2 million and \$0.7 million, respectively. During the nine months ended November 28, 2015, the Company repurchased approximately 11.5 million shares of its common stock at a total cost of approximately \$773.5 million. During the nine months ended November 29, 2014, including the initial delivery of approximately 15.4 million shares under an accelerated share repurchase agreement, the Company repurchased approximately 21.1 million shares of its common stock at a total cost of approximately \$1.3 billion. The Company's share repurchase program may be influenced by several factors, including business and market conditions. In addition, the Company reviews its alternatives with respect to its capital structure on an ongoing basis.

## ***Results of Operations***

### *Net Sales*

Net sales for the three months ended November 28, 2015 were \$2.952 billion, an increase of \$9.1 million or approximately 0.3% over net sales of \$2.943 billion for the corresponding quarter last year. On a constant currency basis, which is a non-GAAP measure, net sales for the three months ended November 28, 2015 increased approximately 0.7%. Net sales and comparable sales of the Company's foreign operations are calculated on a constant currency basis by translating the current year's respective sales of its foreign operations at the same exchange rates used in the prior year. The non-GAAP measure of net sales on a constant currency basis is intended to provide visibility into the Company's operations by excluding the effects of foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations. For the three months ended November 28, 2015, the 0.3% increase in net sales was primarily attributable to an increase in net sales from new stores and Linen Holdings of 0.7%, partially offset by the decline in comparable sales of approximately 0.4%.

For the nine months ended November 28, 2015, net sales were \$8.686 billion, an increase of \$141.4 million or approximately 1.7% over net sales of \$8.545 billion for the corresponding nine months last year. On a constant currency basis, which is a non-GAAP measure, net sales for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 increased approximately 2.0%. For the nine months ended November 28, 2015, approximately 46% of the increase was attributable to an increase in comparable sales and the remainder was primarily attributable to an increase in the Company's new store sales and Linen Holdings.

The decrease in comparable sales for the three months ended November 28, 2015 was approximately 0.4% as compared to an increase of approximately 1.7%, for the three months ended November 29, 2014. The increase in comparable sales for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 was approximately 0.8% as compared with an increase of approximately 1.9%, for the nine months ended November 29, 2014. The decrease in comparable sales for the three months ended November 28, 2015 was due to an increase in the average transaction amount, offset by a decrease in the number of transactions. The increase in comparable sales for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 was due to an increase in the average transaction amount, partially offset by a slight decrease in the number of transactions. On a constant currency basis, comparable sales were flat and increased approximately 1.2%, as compared with the three and nine months ended November 29, 2014.

The Company's comparable sales metric considers sales consummated through all retail channels – in-store, online and through a mobile device. Customers today may take advantage of the Company's omnichannel environment by using more than one channel when making a purchase. The Company believes an integrated experience must exist among these channels to provide a seamless customer experience. A few examples are: a customer may be assisted by an in-store associate to create a wedding or baby registry, while the guests may ultimately purchase a gift from the Company's websites; or, a customer may research a particular item, and read other customer reviews on the Company's websites before visiting a store to consummate the actual purchase; or a customer may reserve an item online for in-store pick up; or while in a store, a customer may make the purchase on a mobile device for in home delivery from either a distribution facility, a store or directly from a vendor. In addition, the Company accepts returns in-store without regard to the channel in which the purchase was consummated, therefore resulting in reducing store sales by sales originally consummated through customer facing online websites and mobile applications. As the Company's retail operations are integrated and it cannot reasonably track the channel in which the ultimate sale is initiated, the Company can however provide directional information on where the sale was consummated.

For the three months ended November 28, 2015, comparable sales consummated through customer facing online websites and mobile applications increased in excess of 25% over the corresponding three month period in the prior year, while comparable sales consummated in-store declined in the low single-digit percentage range. For the nine months ended November 28, 2015, comparable sales consummated through customer facing online websites and mobile applications increased approximately 30% over the corresponding nine month period in the prior year, while comparable sales consummated in-store declined in the low single-digit percentage range.

For the three and nine months ended November 28, 2015, comparable sales represented \$2.875 billion and \$8.422 billion of net sales, respectively. For the three and nine months ended November 29, 2014, comparable sales represented \$2.868 billion and \$8.290 billion of net sales, respectively.

Sales of domestics merchandise and home furnishings for the Company accounted for approximately 36.5% and 63.5% of net sales, respectively, for the three months ended November 28, 2015 and November 29, 2014. Sales of domestics merchandise and home furnishings for the Company accounted for approximately 37.5% and 62.5% of net sales, respectively, for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 and approximately 37.4% and 62.6% of net sales,

respectively, for the nine months ended November 29, 2014.

### *Gross Profit*

Gross profit for the three months ended November 28, 2015 was \$1.115 billion, or 37.8% of net sales, compared with \$1.129 billion, or 38.4% of net sales, for the three months ended November 29, 2014. The decrease in the gross profit margin as a percentage of net sales for the three months ended November 28, 2015 was primarily attributed to an increase in inventory acquisition costs. Also contributing to the decrease was an increase in coupon expense resulting from a slight increase in the number of redemptions and a slight increase in the average coupon amount.

Gross profit for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 was \$3.300 billion, or 38.0% of net sales, compared with \$3.294 billion, or 38.5% of net sales, for the nine months ended November 29, 2014. The decrease in the gross profit margin as a percentage of net sales for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 was primarily attributed to, in order of magnitude, an increase in inventory acquisition costs and an increase in coupon expense resulting from an increase in redemptions and a slight increase in the average coupon amount. Also contributing to the decrease in gross profit as a percentage of net sales was an increase in net direct to customer shipping expense.

### *Selling, General and Administrative Expenses*

SG&A for the three months ended November 28, 2015 was \$822.5 million, or 27.9% of net sales, compared with \$776.3 million, or 26.4% of net sales, for the three months ended November 29, 2014. Of the increase in SG&A as a percentage of net sales for the three months ended November 28, 2015, approximately 45 basis points was attributable to a non-recurring benefit relating to a credit card litigation settlement in the third quarter of fiscal 2014, which was not anniversaried in the third quarter of fiscal 2015. The majority of the remaining increase in SG&A, as a percentage of net sales, in order of magnitude, was attributable to an increase in payroll and payroll related items (including salaries) and an increase in advertising expense due in part to the growth in digital advertising.

SG&A for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 was \$2.384 billion, or 27.4% of net sales, compared with \$2.272 billion, or 26.6% of net sales, for the nine months ended November 29, 2014. Of the increase in SG&A as a percentage of net sales for the nine months ended November 28, 2015, approximately 15 basis points was attributable to a non-recurring benefit relating to a credit card litigation settlement in the third quarter of fiscal 2014, which was not anniversaried in the third quarter of fiscal 2015. Also contributing to the SG&A increase, as a percentage of net sales, in order of magnitude, was an increase in technology expenses and related depreciation, an increase in payroll and payroll related items (including salaries) and an increase in advertising expense due in part to the growth in digital advertising.

### *Operating Profit*

Operating profit for the three months ended November 28, 2015 was \$292.9 million, or 9.9% of net sales, compared with \$352.7 million, or 12.0% of net sales, during the comparable period last year. For the nine months ended November 28, 2015, operating profit was \$916.3 million, or 10.5% of net sales, compared with \$1.022 billion, or 12.0% of net sales, during the comparable period last year. The changes in operating profit as a percentage of net sales were the result of the changes in gross profit margin and SG&A as a percentage of net sales as described above.

The Company believes operating margin compression is likely to continue through the remainder of fiscal 2015 as a result of several items, including increases in, as a percentage of net sales, investments in compensation and benefits, advertising and technology expenses and related depreciation related to the Company's ongoing investments.

### *Interest Expense, net*

Interest expense, net for the three months ended November 28, 2015 was \$18.1 million compared to \$19.6 million for the three months ended November 29, 2014. For the three months ended November 28, 2015, interest expense, net primarily related to interest on the senior unsecured notes issued in July 2014 and the sale/leaseback obligations related to certain distribution facilities.

Interest expense, net for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 was \$63.0 million compared to \$31.2 million for the nine months ended November 29, 2014. For the nine months ended November 28, 2015, interest expense, net primarily related to interest on the senior unsecured notes issued in July 2014 and the sale/leaseback obligations related to certain distribution facilities.

### *Income Taxes*

The effective tax rate for the three months ended November 28, 2015 was 35.3% compared with 32.3% for the three months ended November 29, 2014. The tax rate for the three months ended November 28, 2015 included net benefits of approximately \$6.9 million and for the three months ended November 29, 2014 included a net benefit of approximately \$16.7 million, due to discrete tax events occurring during these quarters.

The effective tax rate for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 was 37.0% compared with 35.8% for the nine months ended November 29, 2014. The tax rate for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 included a net benefit of approximately \$7.6 million, due to discrete tax events during the first nine months of fiscal 2015, and for the nine months ended November 29, 2014 included a net benefit of approximately \$19.3 million, due to the recognition of favorable discrete federal and state tax items.

Potential volatility in the effective tax rate from quarter to quarter may occur as the Company is required each quarter to determine whether new information changes the assessment of both the probability that a tax position will effectively be sustained and the appropriateness of the amount of recognized benefit.

### *Net Earnings*

As a result of the factors described above, net earnings for the three and nine months ended November 28, 2015 were \$177.8 million and \$537.9 million, respectively, compared with \$225.4 million and \$636.4 million, respectively, for the corresponding period in fiscal 2014.

### *Growth*

The Company strives to do more for and with its customers by: offering an extensive breadth, depth and differentiated assortment of merchandise at the right value; presenting merchandise in a distinctive manner designed to maximize customer convenience and reinforce customer perception of a wide selection; and providing excellent customer service, including new ideas and solutions. The Company is pursuing its growth objectives by investing in its omnichannel retail capabilities, optimizing its store operations and market coverage, including international expansion; leveraging its combined expertise and product knowledge to provide products and services to hospitality, travel and other institutional customers; and continuously reviewing opportunities for strategic acquisitions.

The Company continues to grow, differentiate and leverage its merchandise assortment and service offerings across all channels, concepts and countries in which it operates, to better engage with its customers wherever, whenever and however they express their life interests and travel through their life stages. Through its investments in analytics, marketing and technology, the Company is leveraging available information to be able to interact with and service its customers more personally and directly.

As of November 28, 2015, the Company operated 1,526 stores plus its various websites, other interactive platforms and distribution facilities. The Company's 1,526 stores operate in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Canada, including: 1,022 BBB stores, 276 Cost Plus World Market stores, 100 Baby stores, 78 CTS stores and 50 Harmon stores. During the nine months ended November 28, 2015, the Company opened a total of 20 new stores and closed seven stores as well as developed a new customer contact center, which officially opened in the fiscal third quarter, to support the anticipated growth across all channels, countries and concepts and provide a seamless customer service experience. At the end of the third quarter of 2015, Company-wide total store square footage, net of openings and closings, for all of its concepts, was approximately 43.2 million square feet. In addition, the Company has distribution facilities totaling 6.0 million square feet including a new distribution facility in Las Vegas opened during the nine months ended November 28, 2015. In the fall of fiscal 2016, the Company plans to open another distribution facility in Lewisville, Texas and will continue to assess sites throughout the country in order to gain greater distribution efficiencies. The Company also operates websites at [bedbathandbeyond.com](http://bedbathandbeyond.com), [bedbathandbeyond.ca](http://bedbathandbeyond.ca), [christmastreeshops.com](http://christmastreeshops.com), [harmondiscout.com](http://harmondiscout.com), [buybuybaby.com](http://buybuybaby.com), [worldmarket.com](http://worldmarket.com) and [ofakind.com](http://ofakind.com). Additionally, the Company is a partner in a joint venture which as of November 28, 2015, operated a total of six retail stores in Mexico under the name Bed Bath & Beyond and opened its seventh store subsequent to the end of the fiscal third quarter.

The Company plans to continue to expand its operations and invest in its infrastructure to reach its long-term objectives. During fiscal 2015, including the stores opened through November 28, 2015, the Company expects company-wide to open approximately 29 new stores and close approximately 11 stores. Additionally, in connection with leveraging its merchandise offerings and optimizing its operations, the Company continues to expand, across selected stores, the number of specialty departments such as health and beauty care, baby, specialty food, and beverage. Also, the Company is committed to the continued growth of its merchandise categories and channels and is growing the number of items it is able to have shipped directly to customers from a vendor. The continued growth of the Company is dependent, in part, upon the Company's ability to execute these and other key initiatives successfully.

### ***Liquidity and Capital Resources***

The Company has been able to finance its operations, including its growth, through internally generated funds. For fiscal 2015, the Company believes that it can continue to finance its operations, including its growth, share repurchases, planned capital expenditures and debt service obligations, through existing and internally generated funds. In addition, if necessary, the Company could borrow under the Revolver. Capital expenditures for fiscal 2015 are planned to be approximately \$350 million, with a significant portion for technology related projects, including the deployment of new systems and equipment in stores, enhancements to omnichannel capabilities, the ongoing investment in data analytics, the continued build out and utilization of a data center in North Carolina, the continued development of a new point-of-sale system; and enhancements to its distribution facilities to improve capacity and productivity; with the remainder for new stores, existing store improvements, and other projects. These planned capital expenditures are subject to the timing and composition of the projects. In addition, the Company reviews its alternatives with respect to its capital structure on an ongoing basis.

*Fiscal 2015 compared to Fiscal 2014*

Net cash provided by operating activities for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 was \$489.9 million, compared with \$502.2 million in the corresponding period in fiscal 2014. Year over year, the Company experienced a decrease in net earnings, as adjusted for non-cash expenses (primarily deferred income taxes) offset by a decrease in cash used in the net components of working capital (primarily accounts payable, partially offset by other current assets).

Retail inventory, which includes inventory in the Company's distribution facilities for direct to customer shipments, was approximately \$3.2 billion, an increase of approximately 4.6% compared to retail inventory as of November 29, 2014. The Company's distribution facilities include the Company's newest Las Vegas distribution facility which opened during the first nine months of fiscal 2015.

Net cash used in investing activities for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 was \$105.3 million, compared to net cash provided by investing activities of \$121.7 million in the corresponding period of fiscal 2014. For the nine months ended November 28, 2015, net cash used in investing activities was due to \$244.3 million of capital expenditures, partially offset by \$138.9 million of redemptions of investment securities, net of purchases. For the nine months ended November 29, 2014, net cash provided by investing activities was primarily due to \$354.4 million of redemptions of investment securities, net of purchases, partially offset by \$232.7 million of capital expenditures.

Net cash used in financing activities for the nine months ended November 28, 2015 was \$762.9 million, compared to net cash provided by financing activities of \$56.9 million in the corresponding period of fiscal 2014. For the nine months ended November 28, 2015, net cash used in financing activities was primarily due to \$773.5 million of common stock repurchases. For the nine months ended November 29, 2014, net cash provided by financing activities was primarily due to \$1.5 billion of proceeds from the issuance of senior unsecured notes, partially offset by \$1.3 billion of common stock repurchases which included the initial delivery of shares under an accelerated share repurchase agreement and a \$165.0 million prepayment under an accelerated share repurchase agreement.

***Seasonality***

The Company's sales exhibit seasonality with sales levels generally higher in the calendar months of August, November and December, and generally lower in February.

***Critical Accounting Policies***

See “Critical Accounting Policies” under Item 7 of the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 28, 2015 (“2014 Form 10-K”), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) and incorporated by reference herein. There were no changes to the Company’s critical accounting policies during the first nine months of fiscal 2015.

### ***Forward-Looking Statements***

This Form 10-Q may contain forward-looking statements. Many of these forward-looking statements can be identified by use of words such as may, will, expect, anticipate, approximate, estimate, assume, continue, model, project, plan, and similar words and phrases. The Company’s actual results and future financial condition may differ materially from those expressed in any such forward-looking statements as a result of many factors. Such factors include, without limitation: general economic conditions including the housing market, a challenging overall macroeconomic environment and related changes in the retailing environment; consumer preferences, spending habits and adoption of new technologies; demographics and other macroeconomic factors that may impact the level of spending for the types of merchandise sold by the Company; civil disturbances and terrorist acts; unusual weather patterns and natural disasters; competition from existing and potential competitors; competition from other channels of distribution; pricing pressures; liquidity; the ability to attract and retain qualified employees in all areas of the organization; the cost of labor, merchandise and other costs and expenses; potential supply chain disruption due to political instability, labor disturbances and other items; the ability to find suitable locations at acceptable occupancy costs and other terms to support the Company’s plans for new stores; the ability to assess and implement technologies in support of the Company’s development of its omnichannel capabilities; uncertainty in financial markets; disruptions to the Company’s information technology systems including but not limited to security breaches of systems protecting consumer and employee information; reputational risk arising from challenges to the Company’s or a third party supplier’s compliance with various laws, regulations or standards, including those related to labor, health, safety, privacy or the environment; reputational risk arising from third-party merchandise or service vendor performance in direct home delivery or assembly of product for customers; changes to statutory, regulatory and legal requirements; new, or developments in existing, litigation, claims or assessments; changes to, or new, tax laws or interpretation of existing tax laws; changes to, or new, accounting standards including, without limitation, changes to lease accounting standards; foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations; and the integration of acquired businesses. The Company does not undertake any obligation to update its forward-looking statements.

### ***Available Information***

The Company makes available as soon as reasonably practicable after filing with the SEC, free of charge, through its website, [www.bedbathandbeyond.com](http://www.bedbathandbeyond.com), the Company's annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those reports, electronically filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

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

The Company's exposure to market risk for changes in interest rates relates primarily to the Company's investment securities. The Company's market risks at November 28, 2015 are similar to those disclosed in Item 7A of the Company's 2014 Form 10-K.

As of November 28, 2015, the Company's investments include cash and cash equivalents of approximately \$490.7 million and long term investment securities of approximately \$74.7 million at weighted average interest rates of 0.01% and 0.15%, respectively. The book value of these investments is representative of their fair values.

The Company's senior unsecured notes have fixed interest rates and are not subject to interest rate risk. As of November 28, 2015, the fair value of the senior unsecured notes was \$1.379 billion, which is based on quoted prices in active markets for identical instruments compared to the carrying value of approximately \$1.500 billion.

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

#### ***(a) Disclosure Controls and Procedures***

The Company's management, with the participation of its Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer, have reviewed and evaluated the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 240.13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) as of November 28, 2015 (the end of the period covered by this quarterly report on Form 10-Q). Based on that evaluation, the Principal Executive Officer and the Principal Financial Officer have concluded that the Company's current disclosure controls and procedures are effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in the reports that it files or submits under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is (i) recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms and (ii) accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer, to allow timely decisions regarding

required disclosure.

*(b) Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting*

There were no changes in the Company's internal controls over financial reporting that occurred during the Company's most recent fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal controls over financial reporting.

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**PART II - OTHER INFORMATION*****Item 1. Legal Proceedings***

The Company is party to various legal proceedings arising in the ordinary course of business, which the Company does not believe to be material to the Company's business or financial condition.

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

In addition to the other information set forth in this Form 10-Q, carefully consider the factors discussed under "Risk Factors" in the Company's 2014 Form 10-K as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These risks could materially adversely affect the Company's business, financial condition and results of operations. These risks are not the only risks the Company faces. The Company's operations could also be affected by additional factors that are not presently known to the Company or by factors that the Company currently considers immaterial to its business.

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

The Company's purchases of its common stock during the third quarter of fiscal 2015 were as follows:

| Period                                | Total Number of<br>Shares Purchased<br>(1) | Average Price<br>Paid per Share (2) | Total Number of<br>Shares Purchased<br>as<br>Part of Publicly<br>Announced Plans<br>or Programs (1) | Approximate<br>Dollar<br>Value of Shares<br>that May Yet Be<br>Purchased Under<br>the Plans or<br>Programs (1) (2) |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 30, 2015 - September 26, 2015  | 956,600                                    | \$ 61.70                            | 956,600                                                                                             | \$245,642,300                                                                                                      |
| September 27, 2015 - October 24, 2015 | 1,042,600                                  | \$ 58.37                            | 1,042,600                                                                                           | \$2,684,782,146                                                                                                    |
| October 25, 2015 - November 28, 2015  | 1,299,500                                  | \$ 57.18                            | 1,299,500                                                                                           | \$2,610,471,636                                                                                                    |

|       |           |          |           |                 |
|-------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------------|
| Total | 3,298,700 | \$ 58.87 | 3,298,700 | \$2,610,471,636 |
|-------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------------|

(1) Between December 2004 and September 2015, the Company's Board of Directors authorized, through several share repurchase programs, the repurchase of \$11.950 billion of its shares of common stock. The Company has authorization to make repurchases from time to time in the open market or through other parameters approved by the Board of Directors pursuant to existing rules and regulations. Shares purchased indicated in this table also include shares withheld to cover employee related taxes on vested restricted shares and performance stock unit awards.

(2) Excludes brokerage commissions paid by the Company.

***Item 6. Exhibits***

The exhibits to this Report are listed in the Exhibit Index included elsewhere herein.

***SIGNATURES***

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

BED BATH & BEYOND INC.  
(Registrant)

Date: January 7, 2016 By: /s/ Susan E. Lattmann  
Susan E. Lattmann  
Chief Financial Officer and  
Treasurer  
(Principal Financial and  
Accounting Officer)

## EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit No. | Exhibit |
|-------------|---------|
|-------------|---------|

|         |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 31.1    | Certification of Principal Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.                                                                                |
| 31.2    | Certification of Principal Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.                                                                                |
| 32      | Certification of Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 101.INS | XBRL Instance Document                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 101.SCH | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document                                                                                                                                                |
| 101.CAL | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document                                                                                                                                  |
| 101.LAB | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document                                                                                                                                        |
| 101.PRE | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document                                                                                                                                 |
| 101.DEF | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document                                                                                                                                   |