

CRACKER BARREL OLD COUNTRY STORE, INC  
Form 10-Q  
November 25, 2014

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

FORM 10 Q

(Mark One)

Quarterly Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
For the Quarterly Period Ended October 31, 2014

OR

Transition report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
For the transition period \_\_\_\_\_ from to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number: 001 25225

Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Tennessee 62 0812904  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) (I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

305 Hartmann Drive  
Lebanon, Tennessee 37087-4779  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (615) 444-5533

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports) and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes No

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

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

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

Yes    No

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the registrant's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

23,913,881 Shares of Common Stock

Outstanding as of November 18, 2014

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CRACKER BARREL OLD COUNTRY STORE, INC.

FORM 10-Q

For the Quarter Ended October 31, 2014

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## PART I – FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## ITEM 1. Financial Statements

CRACKER BARREL OLD COUNTRY STORE, INC.  
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(In thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)

ASSETS	October 31, 2014	August 1, 2014*
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$105,851	\$119,361
Accounts receivable	15,672	22,704
Income taxes receivable	--	2,973
Inventories	177,741	165,426
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	16,603	11,997
Deferred income taxes	6,613	7,188
Total current assets	322,480	329,649
Property and equipment	1,878,980	1,867,121
Less: Accumulated depreciation and amortization of capital leases	837,774	823,837
Property and equipment – net	1,041,206	1,043,284
Other assets	60,341	59,315
Total assets	\$1,424,027	\$1,432,248
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$92,401	\$98,477
Current maturities of long-term debt	25,000	25,000
Income taxes payable	10,258	--
Current interest rate swap liability	3,212	4,704
Other current liabilities	199,461	216,257
Total current liabilities	330,332	344,438
Long-term debt	368,750	375,000
Long-term interest rate swap liability	5,388	3,239
Other long-term obligations	124,365	123,221
Deferred income taxes	57,031	57,709
Commitments and Contingencies (Note 11)		
Shareholders' Equity:		
Preferred stock – 100,000,000 shares of \$.01 par value authorized; 300,000 shares designated as Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock; no shares issued	--	--
Common stock – 400,000,000 shares of \$.01 par value authorized; 23,905,172 shares issued and outstanding at October 31, 2014, and 23,821,227 shares issued and outstanding at August 1, 2014	239	238
Additional paid-in capital	39,947	39,969
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(5,209 )	(4,733 )
Retained earnings	503,184	493,167
Total shareholders' equity	538,161	528,641

Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$1,424,027	\$1,432,248
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See Notes to unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

\* This Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet has been derived from the audited Consolidated Balance Sheet as of August 1, 2014, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended August 1, 2014.

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CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME(In thousands, except share data)  
(Unaudited)

	Quarter Ended	
	October 31, 2014	November 1, 2013
Total revenue	\$683,428	\$649,141
Cost of goods sold	222,295	205,929
Gross profit	461,133	443,212
Labor and other related expenses	242,327	236,747
Other store operating expenses	130,172	125,341
Store operating income	88,634	81,124
General and administrative expenses	33,192	36,887
Operating income	55,442	44,237
Interest expense	4,424	4,407
Income before income taxes	51,018	39,830
Provision for income taxes	16,994	12,670
Net income	\$34,024	\$27,160
Net income per share:		
Basic	\$1.43	\$1.14
Diluted	\$1.42	\$1.14
Weighted average shares:		
Basic	23,862,195	23,817,436
Diluted	24,001,438	23,925,088
Dividends declared per share	\$1.00	\$0.75

See Notes to unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

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CRACKER BARREL OLD COUNTRY STORE, INC.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(Unaudited and in thousands)

	Quarter Ended	
	October	November
	31,	1,
	2014	2013
Net income	\$34,024	\$ 27,160
Other comprehensive loss before income tax benefit:		
Change in fair value of interest rate swaps	(775 )	(128 )
Income tax benefit	299	50
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax	(476 )	(78 )
Comprehensive income	\$33,548	\$ 27,082

See Notes to unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

IndexCRACKER BARREL OLD COUNTRY STORE, INC.  
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
(Unaudited and in thousands)

	Three Months Ended	
	October 31, 2014	November 1, 2013
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$34,024	\$27,160
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	17,511	16,477
Loss on disposition of property and equipment	2,170	877
Share-based compensation	2,735	2,820
Excess tax benefit from share-based compensation	(1,963 )	(568 )
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Inventories	(12,315 )	(26,609 )
Other current assets	7,362	(4,053 )
Accounts payable	(6,076 )	(16,943 )
Other current liabilities	(6,724 )	(5,735 )
Other long-term assets and liabilities	5	(2,657 )
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	36,729	(9,231 )
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchase of property and equipment	(18,437 )	(17,686 )
Proceeds from insurance recoveries of property and equipment	18	564
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment	1,007	144
Net cash used in investing activities	(17,412 )	(16,978 )
Cash flows from financing activities:		
(Taxes withheld) and proceeds from issuance of share-based compensation awards, net	(4,719 )	(8,214 )
Principal payments under long-term debt and other long-term obligations	(6,250 )	(1 )
Purchases and retirement of common stock	--	(12,473 )
Dividends on common stock	(23,821 )	(17,847 )
Excess tax benefit from share-based compensation	1,963	568
Net cash used in financing activities	(32,827 )	(37,967 )
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(13,510 )	(64,176 )
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	119,361	121,718
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$105,851	\$57,542
Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information:		
Cash paid during the period for:		
Interest, net of amounts capitalized	\$3,914	\$4,135
Income taxes	\$304	\$7,091
Supplemental schedule of non-cash investing and financing activities:		
Capital expenditures accrued in accounts payable	\$2,769	\$2,577
Change in fair value of interest rate swaps	\$(775 )	\$(128 )



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Change in deferred tax asset for interest rate swaps	\$299	\$50
Dividends declared but not yet paid	\$24,183	\$17,958

See Notes to unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

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CRACKER BARREL OLD COUNTRY STORE, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands, except percentages, share and per share data)

(Unaudited)

1. Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc. and its affiliates (collectively, in these Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements, the “Company”) are principally engaged in the operation and development in the United States of the Cracker Barrel Old Country Store® (“Cracker Barrel”) concept.

The condensed consolidated balance sheets at October 31, 2014 and August 1, 2014 and the related condensed consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income and cash flows for the quarters ended October 31, 2014 and November 1, 2013, respectively, have been prepared by the Company in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAP”) and pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) without audit. In the opinion of management, all adjustments (consisting of normal and recurring items) necessary for a fair presentation of such condensed consolidated financial statements have been made. The results of operations for any interim period are not necessarily indicative of results for a full year.

These condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and notes thereto contained in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 1, 2014 (the “2014 Form 10-K”). The accounting policies used in preparing these condensed consolidated financial statements are the same as described in the 2014 Form 10-K. References to a year in these Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements are to the Company's fiscal year unless otherwise noted.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements Not Adopted

Reporting Discontinued Operations and Disclosures of Disposals of Components of an Entity

In April 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued accounting guidance which changes the criteria for disposals to qualify as discontinued operations and requires new disclosures about disposals of both discontinued operations and certain other disposals that do not meet the new definition. This accounting guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning on or after December 15, 2014 and interim periods within those years on a prospective basis. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of adopting this accounting guidance, but it is not expected to have a significant impact on the Company's consolidated financial position or results of operations upon adoption in the first quarter of 2016.

Revenue Recognition

In May 2014, the FASB issued accounting guidance which clarifies the principles for recognizing revenue and provides a comprehensive model for revenue recognition. Revenue recognition should depict the transfer of goods or services to a customer at an amount that reflects the consideration it expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services. The guidance also requires additional disclosures about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from customer contracts. This accounting guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016 and interim periods within those years. Early application is not permitted. A company may apply this accounting guidance either retrospectively or using the cumulative effect transition method. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of adopting this accounting guidance in the first quarter of 2018.



Index2. Fair Value Measurements

The Company's assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis at October 31, 2014 were as follows:

	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Fair Value
Cash equivalents*	\$32,068	\$ --	\$ --	\$32,068
Interest rate swap asset (see Note 5)	--	122	--	122
Deferred compensation plan assets**	26,397	--	--	26,397
Total assets at fair value	\$58,465	\$ 122	\$ --	\$58,587
Interest rate swap liability (see Note 5)	\$--	\$ 8,600	\$ --	\$8,600
Total liabilities at fair value	\$--	\$ 8,600	\$ --	\$8,600

The Company's assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis at August 1, 2014 were as follows:

	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Fair Value
Cash equivalents*	\$63,068	\$ --	\$ --	\$63,068
Interest rate swap asset (see Note 5)	--	240	--	240
Deferred compensation plan assets**	25,322	--	--	25,322
Total assets at fair value	\$88,390	\$ 240	\$ --	\$88,630
Interest rate swap liability (see Note 5)	\$--	\$ 7,943	\$ --	\$7,943
Total liabilities at fair value	\$--	\$ 7,943	\$ --	\$7,943

\*Consists of money market fund investments.

\*\*Represents plan assets invested in mutual funds established under a rabbi trust for the Company's non-qualified savings plan and is included in the Consolidated Balance Sheets as other assets.

The Company's money market fund investments and deferred compensation plan assets are measured at fair value using quoted market prices. The fair values of the Company's interest rate swap assets and liabilities are determined based on the present value of expected future cash flows. Since the values of the Company's interest rate swaps are based on the LIBOR forward curve, which is observable at commonly quoted intervals for the full terms of the swaps,

it is considered a Level 2 input. Non-performance risk is reflected in determining the fair value of the interest rate swaps by using the Company's credit spread less the risk-free interest rate, both of which are observable at commonly quoted intervals for the terms of the swaps. Thus, the adjustment for non-performance risk is also considered a Level 2 input.

The fair values of the Company's accounts receivable and accounts payable approximate their carrying amounts because of their short duration. The fair value of the Company's variable rate debt, based on quoted market prices, which are considered Level 1 inputs, approximates its carrying amount at October 31, 2014 and August 1, 2014.

### 3. Inventories

Inventories were comprised of the following at:

	October 31, 2014	August 1, 2014
Retail	\$136,739	\$128,386
Restaurant	24,617	22,371
Supplies	16,385	14,669
Total	\$177,741	\$165,426

Index4. Debt

Long term debt consisted of the following at:

	October 31, 2014	August 1, 2014
Revolving credit facility expiring on July 8, 2016	\$212,500	\$212,500
Term loan payable on or before July 8, 2016	181,250	187,500
	393,750	400,000
Current maturities	25,000	25,000
Long-term debt	\$368,750	\$375,000

The Company's \$750,000 credit facility (the "Credit Facility") consists of a \$250,000 term loan and a \$500,000 revolving credit facility (the "Revolving Credit Facility"). At October 31, 2014, the Company had \$212,500 of outstanding borrowings under the Revolving Credit Facility and \$20,152 of standby letters of credit, which reduce the Company's borrowing availability under the Revolving Credit Facility (see Note 11 for more information on the Company's standby letters of credit). At October 31, 2014, the Company had \$267,348 in borrowing availability under the Revolving Credit Facility.

In accordance with the Credit Facility, outstanding borrowings bear interest, at the Company's election, either at LIBOR or prime plus a percentage point spread based on certain specified financial ratios under the Credit Facility. As of October 31, 2014, the Company's outstanding borrowings were swapped at a weighted average interest rate of 3.73% (see Note 5 for information on the Company's interest rate swaps).

The Credit Facility contains customary financial covenants, which include maintenance of a maximum consolidated total leverage ratio and a minimum consolidated interest coverage ratio. At October 31, 2014, the Company was in compliance with all debt covenants.

The Credit Facility also imposes restrictions on the amount of dividends the Company is permitted to pay and the amount of shares the Company is permitted to repurchase. Provided there is no default existing and the total of the Company's availability under the Revolving Credit Facility plus the Company's cash and cash equivalents on hand is at least \$100,000 (the "liquidity requirements"), the Company may declare and pay cash dividends on shares of its common stock and repurchase shares of its common stock if the aggregate amount of dividends paid and shares repurchased in any fiscal year is less than the sum of (1) 20% of Consolidated EBITDA from continuing operations (as defined in the Credit Facility) (the "20% limitation") during the immediately preceding fiscal year and (2) provided the Company's consolidated total leverage ratio is 3.25 to 1.00 or less, \$100,000 (less the amount of any share repurchases during the current fiscal year). In any event, as long as the liquidity requirements are met, dividends may be declared and paid in any fiscal year up to the amount of dividends permitted and paid in the preceding fiscal year without regard to the 20% limitation.

5. Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities

The Company has interest rate risk relative to its outstanding borrowings (see Note 4). The Company's policy has been to manage interest cost using a mix of fixed and variable rate debt. To manage this risk in a cost efficient manner, the Company uses derivative instruments, specifically interest rate swaps.

For each of the Company's interest rate swaps, the Company has agreed to exchange with a counterparty the difference between fixed and variable interest amounts calculated by reference to an agreed-upon notional principal amount. The interest rates on the portion of the Company's outstanding debt covered by its interest rate swaps are fixed at the rates in the table below plus the Company's credit spread. The Company's weighted average credit spread at October 31,

2014 was 1.50%. All of the Company's interest rate swaps are accounted for as cash flow hedges.

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A summary of the Company's interest rate swaps at October 31, 2014 is as follows:

Trade Date	Effective Date	Term (in Years)	Notional Amount	Fixed Rate
August 10, 2010	May 3, 2013	2	\$200,000	2.73 %
July 25, 2011	May 3, 2013	2	50,000	2.00 %
July 25, 2011	May 3, 2013	3	50,000	2.45 %
September 19, 2011	May 3, 2013	2	25,000	1.05 %
September 19, 2011	May 3, 2013	2	25,000	1.05 %
December 7, 2011	May 3, 2013	3	50,000	1.40 %
March 18, 2013	May 3, 2015	3	50,000	1.51 %
April 8, 2013	May 3, 2015	2	50,000	1.05 %
April 15, 2013	May 3, 2015	2	50,000	1.03 %
April 22, 2013	May 3, 2015	3	25,000	1.30 %
April 25, 2013	May 3, 2015	3	25,000	1.29 %
June 18, 2014	May 3, 2015	4	40,000	2.51 %
June 24, 2014	May 3, 2015	4	30,000	2.51 %
July 1, 2014	May 5, 2015	4	30,000	2.43 %

The notional amount for the interest rate swap entered into on June 18, 2014 increases by \$40,000 each May over the four-year term of the interest rate swap beginning in May 2016 until the notional amount reaches \$160,000 in May 2018. The notional amounts for the interest rate swaps entered into on June 24, 2014 and July 1, 2014 increase by \$30,000 each May over the four-year terms of the interest rate swaps beginning in May 2016 until the notional amounts each reach \$120,000 in May 2018.

The Company does not hold or use derivative instruments for trading purposes. The Company also does not have any derivatives not designated as hedging instruments and has not designated any non-derivatives as hedging instruments.

Companies may elect to offset related assets and liabilities and report the net amount on their financial statements if the right of setoff exists. Under a master netting agreement, the Company has the legal right to offset the amounts owed to the Company against amounts owed by the Company under a derivative instrument that exists between the Company and a counterparty. When the Company is engaged in more than one outstanding derivative transaction with the same counterparty and also has a legally enforceable master netting agreement with that counterparty, its credit risk exposure is based on the net exposure under the master netting agreement. If, on a net basis, the Company owes the counterparty, the Company regards its credit exposure to the counterparty as being zero.

The estimated fair values of the Company's derivative instruments as of October 31, 2014 and August 1, 2014 were as follows:

	October 31, 2014	August 1, 2014
(See Note 2) Balance Sheet Location		
Interest rate swaps	\$ 122	\$ 240
Interest rate swaps Current interest rate swap liability	\$ 3,212	\$ 4,704
Interest rate swaps Long-term interest rate swap liability	\$ 5,388	\$ 3,239
Total	\$ 8,600	\$ 7,943



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The following table summarizes the offsetting of the Company's derivative assets in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets at October 31, 2014 and August 1, 2014:

	Gross Asset Amounts		Liability Amount Offset		Net Asset Amount Presented in the Balance Sheets	
	October 31, 2014	August 1, 2014	October 31, 2014	August 1, 2014	October 31, 2014	August 1, 2014
(See Note 2)						
Interest rate swaps	\$ 122	\$ 240	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 122	\$ 240

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The following table summarizes the offsetting of the Company's derivative liabilities in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets at October 31, 2014 and August 1, 2014:

	Gross Liability		Asset Amount		Net Liability	
	Amounts		Offset		Amount	
	October	August	October	August	October	August
(See Note 2)	31,	1,	31,	1,	31,	1,
	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014
Interest rate swaps	\$8,747	\$8,441	\$(147)	\$(498)	\$8,600	\$7,943

The estimated fair value of the Company's interest rate swap assets and liabilities incorporates the Company's non-performance risk (see Note 2). The adjustment related to the Company's non-performance risk at October 31, 2014 and August 1, 2014 resulted in reductions of \$47 and \$62, respectively, in the fair value of the interest rate swap assets and liabilities. The offset to the interest rate swap assets and liabilities is recorded in accumulated other comprehensive loss ("AOCL"), net of the deferred tax asset, and will be reclassified into earnings over the term of the underlying debt. As of October 31, 2014, the estimated pre-tax portion of AOCL that is expected to be reclassified into earnings over the next twelve months is \$5,501. Cash flows related to the interest rate swap are included in interest expense and in operating activities.

The following table summarizes the pre-tax effects of the Company's derivative instruments on AOCL for the quarter ended October 31, 2014 and the year ended August 1, 2014:

	Amount of (Loss) Income Recognized in AOCL on Derivatives (Effective Portion) Quarter Year Ended	
	Ended	Ended
Cash flow hedges:		
Interest rate swaps	\$(775)	\$3,058

The following table summarizes the pre-tax effects of the Company's derivative instruments on income for the quarters ended October 31, 2014 and November 1, 2013:

Location of Loss Reclassified from AOCL into Income (Effective Portion)	Amount of Loss Reclassified from AOCL into Income (Effective Portion) Quarter Ended	
	October 31, 2014	November 1, 2013

Cash flow hedges:

Interest rate swaps Interest expense	\$2,005	\$ 2,041
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Any portion of the fair value of the swaps determined to be ineffective will be recognized currently in earnings. No ineffectiveness has been recorded in the quarters ended October 31, 2014 and November 1, 2013.

6. Shareholders' Equity

During the quarter ended October 31, 2014, the Company issued 83,945 shares of its common stock resulting from the vesting of share-based compensation awards and stock option exercises. Related tax withholding payments on certain share-based compensation awards exceeded proceeds received from the exercise of stock options, which resulted in a net reduction to shareholders' equity of \$4,719.

During the quarter ended October 31, 2014, total share-based compensation expense was \$2,735. The excess tax benefit realized upon exercise of share-based compensation awards was \$1,963.

During the quarter ended October 31, 2014, the Company paid dividends of \$1.00 per share of its common stock. During the first quarter of 2015, the Company declared a regular dividend of \$1.00 per share of its common stock that was paid on November 5, 2014 to shareholders of record on October 17, 2014.

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The following table summarizes the changes in AOCL, net of tax, related to the Company's interest rate swaps for the quarter ended October 31, 2014 (see Notes 2 and 5):

	Changes in AOCL
AOCL balance at August 1, 2014	\$(4,733 )
Other comprehensive income before reclassifications	756
Amounts reclassified from AOCL	(1,232 )
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax	(476 )
AOCL balance at October 31, 2014	\$(5,209 )

The following table summarizes the amounts reclassified out of AOCL related to the Company's interest rate swaps for the quarter ended October 31, 2014:

Details about AOCL	Amount Reclassified from AOCL	Affected Line Item in the Condensed Consolidated Statement of Income
Loss on cash flow hedges:		
Interest rate swaps	\$ (2,005 )	Interest expense
Tax benefit	773	Provision for income taxes
	\$ (1,232 )	Net of tax

7. Seasonality

Historically, the net income of the Company has been lower in the first and third quarters and higher in the second and fourth quarters. Management attributes these variations to the Christmas holiday shopping season and the summer vacation and travel season. The Company's retail sales, which are made substantially to the Company's restaurant customers, historically have been highest in the Company's second quarter, which includes the Christmas holiday shopping season. Historically, interstate tourist traffic and the propensity to dine out have been higher during the summer months, thereby contributing to higher profits in the Company's fourth quarter. The Company generally opens additional new locations throughout the year. Therefore, the results of operations for any interim period cannot be considered indicative of the operating results for an entire year.

8. Segment Information

Cracker Barrel stores represent a single, integrated operation with two related and substantially integrated product lines. The operating expenses of the restaurant and retail product lines of a Cracker Barrel store are shared and are indistinguishable in many respects. Accordingly, the Company currently manages its business on the basis of one reportable operating segment. All of the Company's operations are located within the United States. Total revenue was comprised of the following for the specified periods:

	Quarter Ended	
	October 31, 2014	November 1, 2013
Revenue:		
Restaurant	\$546,707	\$521,947
Retail	136,721	127,194

Total revenue \$683,428 \$649,141

9. Share-Based Compensation

Share-based compensation is recorded in general and administrative expenses in the accompanying Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income. Total share-based compensation was comprised of the following for the specified periods:

	Quarter Ended	
	October	November
	31,	1,
	2014	2013
Nonvested stock awards	\$2,156	\$ 2,510
Performance-based market stock units ("MSU Grants")	579	310
	\$2,735	\$ 2,820

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Index10. Net Income Per Share and Weighted Average Shares

Basic consolidated net income per share is computed by dividing consolidated net income available to common shareholders by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding for the reporting period. Diluted consolidated net income per share reflects the potential dilution that could occur if securities, options or other contracts to issue shares of common stock were exercised or converted into shares of common stock and is based upon the weighted average number of shares of common stock and common equivalent shares outstanding during the reporting period. Common equivalent shares related to stock options, nonvested stock awards and MSU Grants issued by the Company are calculated using the treasury stock method. The outstanding stock options, nonvested stock awards and MSU Grants issued by the Company represent the only dilutive effects on diluted consolidated net income per share.

The following table reconciles the components of diluted earnings per share computations:

	Quarter Ended	
	October 31, 2014	November 1, 2013
Net income per share numerator	\$34,024	\$27,160
Net income per share denominator:		
Weighted average shares	23,862,195	23,817,436
Add potential dilution:		
Stock options, nonvested stock awards and MSU Grants	139,243	107,652
Diluted weighted average shares	24,001,438	23,925,088

11. Commitments and Contingencies

During 2014 and through September 25, 2014, the Company was served with several claims filed as a putative collective action alleging violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"). The Company believes it has meritorious defenses to these claims and intends to vigorously defend these lawsuits. These proceedings remain in the early stages and include attempts to resolve through mediation. In November 2014, the Company extended a confidential settlement offer during mediation and recorded a provision at October 31, 2014 related to certain claims in one of the lawsuits. The Company believes the confidential settlement offer is immaterial to the Company's consolidated results of operations and financial position. With the exception of the provision recorded at October 31, 2014, no other provision for any potential liability has been made in the condensed consolidated financial statements of the Company related to these proceedings though an adverse outcome could be material to the Company's results of operations or financial position. See "Item 1. Legal Proceedings" of Part II of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for further information related to these claims.

In addition to the matters described above, the Company and its subsidiaries are party to various legal and regulatory proceedings and claims incidental to their business in the ordinary course. In the opinion of management, based upon information currently available, the ultimate liability with respect to these proceedings and claims will not materially affect the Company's consolidated results of operations or financial position.

Related to its workers' compensation insurance coverage, the Company is contingently liable pursuant to standby letters of credit as credit guarantees to certain insurers. As of October 31, 2014, the Company had \$20,152 of standby letters of credit related to securing reserved claims under workers' compensation insurance. All standby letters of credit are renewable annually and reduce the Company's borrowing availability under its Revolving Credit Facility (see Note 4).

At October 31, 2014, the Company is secondarily liable for lease payments associated with one property. The Company is not aware of any non-performance under this lease arrangement that would result in the Company having to perform in accordance with the terms of this guarantee; and therefore, no provision has been recorded in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets for amounts to be paid in case of non-performance by the primary obligor under such lease arrangement.

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The Company enters into certain indemnification agreements in favor of third parties in the ordinary course of business. At October 31, 2014 and November 1, 2013, the Company recorded a liability in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets related to legal costs. The Company believes that the amount recorded is immaterial to the Company's consolidated results of operations and financial position and that the probability of incurring an actual liability under other indemnification agreements is sufficiently remote so that no additional liability has been recorded in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets.



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

Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc. and its subsidiaries (collectively, the “Company,” “our” or “we”) are principally engaged in the operation and development in the United States of the Cracker Barrel Old Country Store (“Cracker Barrel”) concept. At October 31, 2014, we operated 633 Cracker Barrel stores in 42 states. All dollar amounts reported or discussed in this Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations (“MD&A”) are shown in thousands, except per share amounts and certain statistical information (e.g., number of stores). References to years in MD&A are to our fiscal year unless otherwise noted.

MD&A provides information which management believes is relevant to an assessment and understanding of our consolidated results of operations and financial condition. MD&A should be read in conjunction with the (i) condensed consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and (ii) financial statements and the notes thereto included in the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended August 1, 2014 (the “2014 Form 10-K”). Except for specific historical information, many of the matters discussed in this report may express or imply projections of items such as revenues or expenditures, estimated capital expenditures, compliance with debt covenants, plans and objectives for future operations, inventory shrinkage, growth or initiatives, expected future economic performance or the expected outcome or impact of pending or threatened litigation. These and similar statements regarding events or results which we expect will or may occur in the future are forward-looking statements that, by their nature, involve risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause our actual results and performance to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such statements. All forward-looking information is provided pursuant to the safe harbor established under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and should be evaluated in the context of these risks, uncertainties and other factors.

Forward-looking statements generally can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as “trends,” “assumptions,” “target,” “guidance,” “outlook,” “opportunity,” “future,” “plans,” “goals,” “objectives,” “expectations,” “near-term,” “long-term,” “projection,” “may,” “will,” “would,” “could,” “expect,” “intend,” “estimate,” “anticipate,” “believe,” “potential,” “forecasts” or “continue” (or the negative or other derivatives of each of these terms) or similar terminology. We believe the assumptions underlying any forward-looking statements are reasonable; however, any of the assumptions could be inaccurate, and therefore, actual results may differ materially from those projected in or implied by the forward-looking statements. In addition to the risks of ordinary business operations, and those discussed or described in this report or in information incorporated by reference into this report, factors and risks that may result in actual results differing from this forward-looking information include, but are not limited to, those contained in Part I, Item 1A of the 2014 Form 10-K, which is incorporated herein by this reference, as well as the factors described under “Critical Accounting Estimates” on pages 21-25 of this report or, from time to time, in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”), press releases and other communications.

Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements made in this report because the statements speak only as of the report’s date. Except as may be required by law, we have no obligation or intention to update or revise any of these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances occurring after the date of this report or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. Readers are advised, however, to consult any future public disclosures that we may make on related subjects in reports that we file with or furnish to the SEC or in our other public disclosures.

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## Overview

Management believes that the Cracker Barrel brand remains one of the strongest and most differentiated brands in the restaurant industry, and we plan to continue to leverage that strength in 2015 to grow guest sales and profits. Our long-term strategy includes the following:

Enhancing the core business by increasing our brand's relevance to customers in order to drive guest traffic and sales in both restaurant and retail, implementing geographic pricing tiers to optimize average check and re-engineering store processes to increase operating margin;

Expanding the footprint through continued use of our proven site selection tools, introducing a new and more efficient building and equipment prototype and the selective entry into new markets; and

Extending the brand by building on the initial success of our licensing business, leveraging our brand strengths into a new fast casual concept and growing our retail business into an omni-channel business.

Our four priorities for 2015 are to:

- Extend the reach of the brand to drive traffic and sales in both our restaurant and retail businesses;
- Optimize average guest check through the implementation of geographic pricing tiers;
- Apply technology and process enhancements to drive store operating margins; and
- Further grow our store base with the opening of six to seven new stores.

We believe that our results for the first quarter of 2015 reflect our initial success in implementing these priorities. In the first quarter of 2015, we outperformed traffic and sales of our peers in the Knapp-Track™ Casual Dining Index for the twelfth consecutive quarter. We also implemented our new plate presentation initiative which is expected to reduce the number of dishes used in our operations and reduce our labor costs, improved operating margins and opened two new stores.

## Results of Operations

The following table highlights our operating results by percentage relationships to total revenue for the quarter ended October 31, 2014 as compared to the same period in the prior year:

	Quarter Ended		%
	October 31, 2014	November 1, 2013	
Total revenue	100.0%	100.0	%
Cost of goods sold	32.5	31.7	
Gross profit	67.5	68.3	
Labor and other related expenses	35.5	36.5	
Other store operating expenses	19.0	19.3	
Store operating income	13.0	12.5	
General and administrative expenses	4.9	5.7	
Operating income	8.1	6.8	
Interest expense	0.6	0.7	

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Income before income taxes	7.5		6.1	
Provision for income taxes	2.5		1.9	
Net income	5.0	%	4.2	%

The following table sets forth the number of stores in operation at the beginning and end of the quarters ended October 31, 2014 and November 1, 2013, respectively:

	Quarter Ended	
	October 31, 2014	November 1, 2013
Open at beginning of period	631	624
Opened during period	2	1
Open at end of period	633	625

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## Total Revenue

Total revenue for the first quarter of 2015 increased 5.3% compared to the first quarter of 2014.

The following table highlights the key components of revenue for the quarter ended October 31, 2014 as compared to the quarter ended November 1, 2013:

	Quarter Ended			
	October 31, 2014	November 1, 2013		
Revenue in dollars:				
Restaurant	\$546,707	\$521,947		
Retail	136,721	127,194		
Total revenue	\$683,428	\$649,141		
Total revenue by percentage relationships:				
Restaurant	80.0	%	80.4	%
Retail	20.0	%	19.6	%
Average unit volumes <sup>(1)</sup> :				
Restaurant	\$864.3	\$836.1		
Retail	216.2	203.7		
Total revenue	\$1,080.5	\$1,039.8		
Comparable store sales increase:				
Restaurant	3.3	%	2.8	%
Retail	6.1	%	2.5	%
Restaurant and retail	3.8	%	2.7	%

<sup>(1)</sup>Average unit volumes include sales of all stores.

For the first quarter of 2015, our comparable store restaurant sales increase consisted of a 2.5% average check increase for the quarter (including a 2.1% average menu price increase) and a 0.8% guest traffic increase. For the first quarter of 2015, our comparable store retail sales increase resulted primarily from strong performance in bed and bath, décor and apparel merchandise categories and the increase in guest traffic. Restaurant and retail sales from newly opened stores accounted for the balance of the total revenue increase in the first quarter of 2015 as compared to the same period in the prior year.

## Cost of Goods Sold

The following table highlights the components of cost of goods sold in dollar amounts and as percentages of revenues for the first quarter of 2015 as compared to the same period in the prior year:

	Quarter Ended			
	October 31, 2014	November 1, 2013		
Cost of Goods Sold in dollars:				
Restaurant	\$153,418	\$142,596		
Retail	68,877	63,333		
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$222,295	\$205,929		
Cost of Goods Sold by percentage of revenue:				

Restaurant	28.1	%	27.3	%
Retail	50.4	%	49.8	%

The increase in restaurant cost of goods sold as a percentage of restaurant revenue in the first quarter of 2015 as compared to the first quarter of 2014 was primarily due to a shift to higher cost menu items, commodity food inflation and higher food waste partially offset by our menu price increase referenced above. Higher cost menu items and higher food waste accounted for increases of 0.5% and 0.2%, respectively, in restaurant cost of goods sold as a percentage of restaurant revenue. Commodity inflation was 3.7% in the first quarter of 2015.

We presently expect the rate of commodity inflation to be approximately 4% to 4.5% for 2015.

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The increase in retail cost of goods sold as a percentage of retail revenue in the first quarter of 2015 as compared to the prior year quarter resulted from higher markdowns partially offset by lower freight, higher initial markup on merchandise and a reduction in the provision for obsolete inventory.

	First Quarter Increase (Decrease) as a Percentage of Retail Revenue	
Markdowns	1.4	%
Freight	(0.3)	%
Higher initial markup on merchandise	(0.3)	%
Provision for obsolete inventory	(0.2)	%

## Labor and Related Expenses

Labor and related expenses include all direct and indirect labor and related costs incurred in store operations. Labor and related expenses as a percentage of total revenue decreased to 35.5% in the first quarter of 2015 as compared to 36.5% in the first quarter of 2014. This percentage change resulted from the following:

	First Quarter (Decrease) Increase as a Percentage of Total Revenue	
Store hourly labor	(0.6)	%
Store management compensation	(0.3)	%
Employee health care expenses	(0.2)	%
Store incentive compensation expense	0.1	%

The decrease in store hourly labor costs as a percentage of total revenue for the first quarter of 2015 as compared to the same period in the prior year resulted from menu price increases being higher than wage inflation and improved productivity.

The decrease in store management compensation expense as a percentage of total revenue for the first quarter of 2015 as compared to the same period in the prior year resulted primarily from the sales increase in the first quarter of 2015 as compared to the prior year period.

The decrease in our employee health care expenses in the first quarter of 2015 as compared to the same period in the prior year is primarily the result of lower employee enrollment, the recognition of a premium credit related to claims for the plan year ending December 31, 2014 which were incurred during fiscal 2014 partially offset by higher net costs per enrolled employee. During the remainder of 2015, we currently expect to recognize additional premium credits of approximately \$2,000 to \$3,000 related to the plan year ending December 31, 2014.

The increase in store incentive compensation expense as a percentage of total revenue for the first quarter of 2015 as compared to the same period in the prior year reflected better performance against financial objectives in 2015 as compared to the prior year.

#### Other Store Operating Expenses

Other store operating expenses include all store-level operating costs, the major components of which are utilities, operating supplies, repairs and maintenance, depreciation and amortization, advertising, rent, credit card fees, real and personal property taxes, general insurance and costs associated with our store manager conference.

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Other store operating expenses as a percentage of total revenue decreased to 19.0% in the first quarter of 2015 as compared to 19.3% in the first quarter of 2014. This percentage change resulted primarily from the following:

	First Quarter (Decrease) Increase as a Percentage of Total Revenue	
Store manager conference expense	(0.4	%)
Advertising	(0.2	%)
General insurance	0.2	%

In the first quarter of 2014, we held a manager conference which was attended by our store operations management team. We did not hold a manager's conference in the first quarter of 2015 and we expect to hold our next conference in the first quarter of 2016.

The decrease in advertising expense as a percentage of total revenue for the first quarter of 2015 as compared to the same period in the prior year resulted from lower media spending partially offset by higher billboard production costs. In the first quarter of 2014, we increased our media spend in support of our Wholesome Fixins' program launch. In 2015, we refreshed our billboards with new messaging. We plan to spend approximately 2.5% of our total revenue on advertising in 2015 as compared to 2.4% of total revenue in 2014.

The increase in general insurance expense for the first quarter of 2015 as compared to the same period in the prior year resulted primarily from the non-recurrence of a favorable actuarial update recorded in the prior year quarter.

#### General and Administrative Expenses

General and administrative expenses as a percentage of total revenue decreased to 4.9% in the first quarter of 2015 as compared to 5.7% in the first quarter of 2014. This percentage change resulted primarily from the following:

	First Quarter (Decrease) as a Percentage of Total Revenue	
Proxy contest expenses in the prior year quarter	(0.4	%)
Payroll and related expenses	(0.2	%)

In the first quarter of 2014, we incurred proxy costs of \$2,824.

Lower payroll and related expenses resulted from lower severance expenses in the first quarter of 2015 as compared to the same period in the prior year.

#### Interest Expense



Interest expense for the first quarter of 2015 remained relatively flat at \$4,424 as compared to \$4,407 in the first quarter of 2014.

#### Provision for Income Taxes

Provision for income taxes as a percentage of income before income taxes (the “effective tax rate”) was 33.3% and 31.8% in the first quarters of 2015 and 2014, respectively. The increase in the effective tax rate from the first quarter of 2014 to the first quarter of 2015 resulted primarily from an increase in pre-tax income and the expiration of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (“WOTC”) on December 31, 2013. We presently expect our effective tax rate for 2015 to be between 32% and 33%. This estimate assumes that the WOTC is not renewed. We estimate that the renewal of the WOTC could reduce our provision for income taxes by \$5,000 to \$6,000 in 2015.

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Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our primary sources of liquidity are cash generated from our operations and our borrowing capacity under our \$500,000 revolving credit facility (the “Revolving Credit Facility”). Our internally generated cash, along with cash on hand at August 1, 2014, was sufficient to finance all of our growth, dividend payments, working capital needs and other cash payment obligations in the first quarter of 2015.

We believe that cash on hand at October 31, 2014, along with cash generated from our operating activities and the borrowing capacity under our Revolving Credit Facility will be sufficient to finance our continuing operations, our continuing expansion plans, our share repurchase plans and our expected dividend payments for at least the next twelve months.

Cash Generated From (Used in) Operations

Our operating activities provided net cash of \$36,729 for the first quarter of 2015, which represented an increase from the \$9,231 net cash used during the first quarter of 2014. This increase primarily reflected a lower usage of cash to build retail inventory, lower accounts payable disbursements, the timing of payments for estimated income taxes and higher net income.

Borrowing Capacity and Debt Covenants

Our \$750,000 credit facility (the “Credit Facility”) consists of a term loan (aggregate amount outstanding at October 31, 2014 was \$181,250) and our Revolving Credit Facility. The Credit Facility expires on July 8, 2016. We currently plan to renew or refinance the Credit Facility before the end of 2015.

At October 31, 2014, we had \$212,500 of outstanding borrowings under the Revolving Credit Facility and we had \$20,152 of standby letters of credit related to securing reserved claims under workers’ compensation insurance which reduce our borrowing availability under the Revolving Credit Facility. At October 31, 2014, we had \$267,348 in borrowing availability under our Revolving Credit Facility. See Note 4 to our Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further information on our long-term debt.

The Credit Facility contains customary financial covenants, which include maintenance of a maximum consolidated total leverage ratio and a minimum consolidated interest coverage ratio. We presently are in compliance with the Credit Facility’s financial covenants.

Capital Expenditures

Capital expenditures (purchase of property and equipment) net of proceeds from insurance recoveries were \$18,419 for the first quarter of 2015 as compared to \$17,122 for the same period in the prior year. Our capital expenditures consisted primarily of capital expenditures for maintenance programs and costs of new store locations. We estimate that our capital expenditures during 2015 will be between \$100,000 and \$110,000. This estimate includes the acquisition of sites and construction costs of approximately six or seven new stores that have opened or are expected to open during 2015, as well as for acquisition and construction costs for store locations to be opened in 2016. We also expect to increase capital expenditures for maintenance programs related to our aging store base and technology and operations improvements, which are intended to improve the guest experience and improve margins. We intend to fund our capital expenditures with cash flows from operations and borrowings under our Revolving Credit Facility, as necessary.

Dividends, Share Repurchases and Share-Based Compensation Awards

Our Credit Facility imposes restrictions on the amount of dividends we are permitted to pay and the amount of shares we are permitted to repurchase. Provided there is no default existing and the total of our availability under the Revolving Credit Facility plus our cash and cash equivalents on hand is at least \$100,000 (the “liquidity requirements”), we may declare and pay cash dividends on shares of our common stock and repurchase shares of our common stock if the aggregate amount of dividends paid and shares repurchased during any fiscal year is less than the sum of (1) 20% of Consolidated EBITDA from continuing operations (as defined in the Credit Facility) (the “20% limitation”) during the immediately preceding fiscal year and (2) provided our consolidated total leverage ratio is 3.25 to 1.00 or less, \$100,000 (less the amount of any share repurchases during the current fiscal year). In any event, as long as the liquidity requirements are met, dividends may be declared and paid in any fiscal year up to the amount of dividends permitted and paid in the preceding fiscal year without regard to the 20% limitation.

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During the first quarter of 2015, we paid dividends of \$1.00 per share, or an aggregate of \$23,821. During the first quarter of 2015, we declared a dividend of \$1.00 per share that was paid on November 5, 2014 to shareholders of record on October 17, 2014.

We have been authorized by our Board of Directors to repurchase shares at management's discretion up to \$25,000 during 2015. We did not repurchase any shares during the first quarter of 2015.

During the first quarter of 2015, we issued 83,945 shares of our common stock resulting from the vesting of share-based compensation awards and stock option exercises. Related tax withholding payments on certain share-based compensation awards exceeded proceeds received from the exercise of stock options, which resulted in a net use of cash of \$4,719.

### Working Capital

In the restaurant industry, virtually all sales are either for cash or first-party credit or debit card. Restaurant inventories purchased through our principal food distributor are on terms of net zero days, while restaurant inventories purchased locally are generally financed from normal trade credit. Because of our retail gift shops, which have a lower product turnover than the restaurant business, we carry larger inventories than many other companies in the restaurant industry. Retail inventories purchased domestically are generally financed from normal trade credit, while imported retail inventories are generally purchased through wire transfers. These various trade terms are aided by the rapid turnover of the restaurant inventory. Employees generally are paid on weekly or semi-monthly schedules in arrears for hours worked except for bonuses that are paid either quarterly or annually in arrears. Many other operating expenses have normal trade terms and certain expenses, such as certain taxes and some benefits, are deferred for longer periods of time.

We had negative working capital of \$7,852 at October 31, 2014 versus negative working capital of \$14,789 at August 1, 2014. The change in working capital from August 1, 2014 primarily reflects lower incentive compensation accruals resulting from the payment of annual bonuses and certain long-term incentive bonuses in the first quarter of 2015 and higher retail inventories which reflect our normal seasonal build of retail inventory to support our expected holiday sales partially offset by an increase in cash generated by operations and a decrease in receivables due to the reimbursement of certain health care premiums.

### Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

Other than various operating leases, we have no other material off-balance sheet arrangements. Refer to the sub-section entitled "Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements" under the section entitled "Liquidity and Capital Resources" presented in the MD&A of our 2014 Form 10-K for additional information regarding our operating leases.

### Material Commitments

There have been no material changes in our material commitments other than in the ordinary course of business since the end of 2014. Refer to the sub-section entitled "Material Commitments" under the section entitled "Liquidity and Capital Resources" presented in the MD&A of our 2014 Form 10-K for additional information regarding our material commitments.

### Critical Accounting Estimates

We prepare our Consolidated Financial Statements in conformity with GAAP. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and assumptions about future events and apply judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue, expenses and related disclosures. We base our estimates and

judgments on historical experience, current trends, outside advice from parties believed to be experts in such matters and on various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. However, because future events and their effects cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could differ from those assumptions and estimates, and such differences could be material.

Our significant accounting policies are discussed in Note 2 to the Consolidated Financial Statements contained in the 2014 Form 10-K. Judgments and uncertainties affecting the application of those policies may result in materially different amounts being reported under different conditions or using different assumptions.

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Critical accounting estimates are those that:

management believes are most important to the accurate portrayal of both our financial condition and operating results, and require management's most difficult, subjective or complex judgments, often as a result of the need to make estimates about the effect of matters that are inherently uncertain.

We consider the following accounting estimates to be most critical in understanding the judgments that are involved in preparing our Consolidated Financial Statements:

- Impairment of Long-Lived Assets and Provision for Asset Dispositions
- Insurance Reserves
- Retail Inventory Valuation
- Tax Provision
- Share-Based Compensation

Management has reviewed these critical accounting estimates and related disclosures with the Audit Committee of our Board of Directors.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets and Provision for Asset Dispositions

We assess the impairment of long-lived assets whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of an asset may not be recoverable. Recoverability of assets is measured by comparing the carrying value of the asset to the undiscounted future cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. If the total expected future cash flows are less than the carrying amount of the asset, the carrying value is written down, for an asset to be held and used, to the estimated fair value or, for an asset to be disposed of, to the fair value, net of estimated costs of disposal. Any loss resulting from impairment is recognized by a charge to income. Judgments and estimates that we make related to the expected useful lives of long-lived assets and future cash flows are affected by factors such as changes in economic conditions and changes in operating performance. The accuracy of such provisions can vary materially from original estimates and management regularly monitors the adequacy of the provisions until final disposition occurs.

We have not made any material changes in our methodology for assessing impairments during the first quarter of 2015, and we do not believe that there is a reasonable likelihood that there will be a material change in the estimates or assumptions used by us in the future to assess impairment of long-lived assets. However, if actual results are not consistent with our estimates and assumptions used in estimating future cash flows and fair values of long-lived assets, we may be exposed to losses that could be material.

Insurance Reserves

We self-insure a significant portion of our expected workers' compensation and general liability insurance programs. We purchase insurance for individual workers' compensation claims that exceed \$250, \$500 or \$1,000 depending on the state in which the claim originates. We purchase insurance for individual general liability claims that exceed \$500. We record a reserve for workers' compensation and general liability for all unresolved claims and for an estimate of incurred but not reported ("IBNR") claims. These reserves and estimates of IBNR claims are based upon a full scope actuarial study which is performed annually at the end of our third quarter and is adjusted by the actuarially determined losses and actual claims payments for the fourth quarter. Additionally, we perform limited scope actuarial studies on a quarterly basis to verify and/or modify our reserves. The reserves and losses in the actuarial study represent a range of possible outcomes within which no given estimate is more likely than any other estimate. As such, we record the losses in the lower end of that range and discount them to present value using a risk-free interest

rate based on projected timing of payments. We also monitor actual claims development, including incidence or settlement of individual large claims during the interim periods between actuarial studies as another means of estimating the adequacy of our reserves.

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Our group health plans combine the use of self-insured and fully-insured programs. Benefits for any individual (employee or dependents) in the self-insured group health program are limited. We record a liability for the self-insured portion of our group health program for all unpaid claims based upon a loss development analysis derived from actual group health claims payment experience. Additionally, we record a liability for unpaid prescription drug claims based on historical experience. The fully-insured portion of our health insurance program contains a retrospective feature which could increase or decrease premiums based on actual claims experience.

Our accounting policies regarding workers' compensation, general insurance and health insurance reserves include certain actuarial assumptions and management judgments regarding economic conditions, the frequency and severity of claims and claim development history and settlement practices. We have not made any material changes in the accounting methodology used to establish our insurance reserves during the first quarter of 2015 and do not believe there is a reasonable likelihood that there will be a material change in the estimates or assumptions used to calculate the insurance reserves. However, changes in these actuarial assumptions, management judgments or claims experience in the future may produce materially different amounts of expense that would be reported under these insurance programs.

## Retail Inventory Valuation

Cost of goods sold includes the cost of retail merchandise sold at our stores utilizing the retail inventory method ("RIM"). Under RIM, the valuation of our retail inventories at cost and the resulting gross margins are calculated by applying a cost-to-retail ratio to the retail value of our inventories. Inherent in the RIM calculation are certain significant management judgments and estimates, including initial markons, markups, markdowns and shrinkage, which may significantly impact the gross margin calculation as well as the ending inventory valuation.

Inventory valuation provisions are included for retail inventory obsolescence and retail inventory shrinkage. Retail inventory is reviewed on a quarterly basis for obsolescence and adjusted as appropriate based on assumptions made by management and judgments regarding inventory aging and future promotional activities. Cost of goods sold includes an estimate of shrinkage that is adjusted upon physical inventory counts. Annual physical inventory counts are conducted throughout the third and fourth quarters based upon a cyclical inventory schedule. An estimate of shrinkage is recorded for the time period between physical inventory counts by using a three-year average of the physical inventories' results on a store-by-store basis.

We have not made any material changes in the methodologies, estimates or assumptions related to our merchandise inventories during the first quarter of 2015 and do not believe there is a reasonable likelihood that there will be a material change in the estimates or assumptions in the future. However, actual obsolescence or shrinkage recorded may produce materially different amounts than we have estimated.

## Tax Provision

We must make estimates of certain items that comprise our income tax provision. These estimates include effective state and local income tax rates, employer tax credits for items such as FICA taxes paid on employee tip income, Work Opportunity and Welfare to Work credits, as well as estimates related to certain depreciation and capitalization policies. Our estimates are made based on current tax laws, the best available information at the time of the provision and historical experience.

We recognize (or derecognize) a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return in the financial statements when it is more likely than not (i.e., a likelihood of more than fifty percent) that the position would be sustained (or not sustained) upon examination by tax authorities. A recognized tax position is then measured at the largest amount of benefit that is greater than fifty percent likely of being realized upon ultimate settlement.



We file our income tax returns many months after our year end. These returns are subject to audit by various federal and state governments years after the returns are filed and could be subject to differing interpretations of the tax laws. We then must assess the likelihood of successful legal proceedings or reach a settlement with the relevant taxing authority. Although we believe that the judgments and estimates used in establishing our tax provision are reasonable, an unsuccessful legal proceeding or a settlement could result in material adjustments to our Consolidated Financial Statements and our consolidated financial position (see Note 13 to our Consolidated Financial Statements contained in the 2014 Form 10-K for additional information).

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Share-Based Compensation

Our share-based compensation consists of nonvested stock awards and performance-based market stock units (“MSU Grants”). Share-based compensation expense is recognized based on the grant date fair value and the achievement of performance conditions for certain awards. We recognize share-based compensation expense on a straight-line basis over the requisite service period, which is generally the award’s vesting period, or the date on which retirement is achieved, if shorter.

Compensation expense is recognized for only the portion of our share-based compensation awards that are expected to vest. Therefore, an estimated forfeiture rate is derived from historical employee termination behavior and is updated annually. The forfeiture rate is applied on a straight-line basis over the service (vesting) period for each separately vesting portion of the award as if the award were, in substance, multiple awards.

Beginning in 2014, our share-based compensation awards accrue dividends. Dividends will be forfeited for any share-based compensation awards that do not vest.

Our nonvested stock awards are time vested except for awards under our long-term incentive plans, which also contain performance conditions. At each reporting period, we reassess the probability of achieving the performance conditions under our long-term incentive plans. Determining whether the performance conditions will be achieved involves judgment, and the estimate of expense for nonvested stock awards may be revised periodically based on changes in our determination of the probability of achieving the performance conditions. Revisions are reflected in the period in which the estimate is changed. If any performance conditions are not met, no shares will be granted, no compensation will ultimately be recognized and, to the extent previously recognized, compensation expense will be reversed.

Generally, the fair value of each nonvested stock award that does not accrue dividends is equal to the market price of our common stock at the date of grant reduced by the present value of expected dividends to be paid prior to the vesting period, discounted using an appropriate risk-free interest rate. Other nonvested stock awards accrue dividends and their fair value is equal to the market price of our stock at the date of grant.

In addition to providing the requisite service, MSU Grants contain both a market condition based on total shareholder return and a performance condition based on operating income. Total shareholder return is defined as increases in our stock price plus dividends paid during the performance period. The number of shares awarded at the end of the performance period for each MSU Grant may increase up to 150% of target in direct proportion to any percentage increase in shareholder value during the performance period. The probability of the actual shares expected to be awarded is considered in the grant date valuation; therefore, the expense will not be adjusted to reflect the actual units awarded. However, if the performance condition is not met, no shares will be granted, no compensation will ultimately be recognized and, to the extent previously recognized, compensation expense will be reversed.

The fair value of our MSU Grants was determined using the Monte-Carlo simulation model, which simulates a range of possible future stock prices and estimates the probabilities of the potential payouts. The Monte-Carlo simulation model uses the average prices for the 60-consecutive calendar days beginning 30 days prior to and ending 30 days after the first business day of the performance period. This model also incorporates the following ranges of assumptions:

The expected volatility is a blend of implied volatility based on market-traded options on our stock and historical volatility of our stock over the period commensurate with the three-year performance period.

The risk-free interest rate is based on the U.S. Treasury rate assumption commensurate with the three-year performance period.

The expected dividend yield is based on our current dividend yield as the best estimate of projected dividend yield for periods within the three-year performance period.

We update the historical and implied components of the expected volatility assumption when new grants are made.

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We have not made any material changes in our estimates or assumptions used to determine share-based compensation during the first quarter of 2015 and do not believe there is a reasonable likelihood that there will be a material change in the future estimates or assumptions used to determine share-based compensation expense. However, if actual results are not consistent with our estimates or assumptions, we may be exposed to changes in share-based compensation expense that could be material.

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ITEM 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Part II, Item 7A of the 2014 Form 10-K is incorporated in this item of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q by this reference. There have been no material changes in our quantitative and qualitative market risks since August 1, 2014.

ITEM 4. Controls and Procedures

Our management, including our principal executive and principal financial officers, evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) promulgated under the Exchange Act) as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based upon this evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer each concluded that as of October 31, 2014, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective for the purposes set forth in the definition thereof in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(e).

There have been no changes (including corrective actions with regard to significant deficiencies and material weaknesses) during the quarter ended October 31, 2014 in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f)) that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

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PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. Legal Proceedings

FLSA Litigation

On April 11, 2014, a putative collective action under the Fair Labor Standards Act (“FLSA”) was filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York, *Proper v. Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc.*, in which the named plaintiff is challenging the Company’s classification of associate managers as being exempt from the minimum wage and overtime requirements and is asserting various New York state law wage notice claims. Two other putative collective action suits alleging claims under the FLSA, *Hill and Hernandez v. Cracker Barrel* and *Perzan et al. v. Cracker Barrel*, were filed in the United States District Courts for the Middle District of Florida in August 2014 and for the District of Massachusetts in September 2014, respectively. These lawsuits assert essentially duplicative claims under select state laws challenging the same exempt classification of associate managers. The plaintiffs in these lawsuits seek an unspecified amount of alleged back wages, liquidated damages, statutory damages and attorneys’ fees. Unlike a class action, a collective action requires potential class members to “opt in” rather than “opt out”. If any of these putative collection actions is conditionally certified, the Company would have an opportunity to seek to have the class de-certified and/or seek to have the case dismissed on its merits. We believe that we have meritorious defenses to all of the claims raised in these three lawsuits, and accordingly, plan to defend them vigorously. All of these proceedings, including attempts to resolve through mediation, remain in the early stages with significant uncertainty as to factual issues, outcome of legal proceedings (including certification of the collective action), and likely number of opt-in plaintiffs and/or damages claimed. At this time the likelihood of an unfavorable outcome nor the amount of the ultimate liability, if any, with respect to these cases, taken as a whole, cannot be determined. However, the Company has recorded a provision at October 31, 2014 related to certain New York state law claims in the *Proper* lawsuit. In November 2014, the Company extended a confidential settlement offer in the *Proper* lawsuit during mediation that it believes to be reasonable in the circumstances in an attempt to resolve these claims and to avoid the ongoing expense of litigation with respect to them. The Company believes the settlement offer is immaterial to the Company’s consolidated results of operations and financial position. With the exception of this provision relating to New York state law claims recorded at October 31, 2014, no other provision for any potential liability has been made in the condensed consolidated financial statements of the Company related to these proceedings.

In addition to the matters described above, the Company and its subsidiaries are party to various other legal and regulatory proceedings and claims incidental to their business in the ordinary course. In the opinion of management, based upon information currently available, the ultimate liability with respect to these other proceedings and claims will not materially affect the Company's consolidated results of operations or financial position.

ITEM 1A. Risk Factors

There have been no material changes in the risk factors previously disclosed in “Item 1A. Risk Factors” of our 2014 Form 10-K.

ITEM 6. Exhibits

See Exhibit Index immediately following the signature page hereto.

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SIGNATURES

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

CRACKER BARREL OLD COUNTRY STORE, INC.

Date: November 25,  
2014

By: /s/Lawrence E. Hyatt

Lawrence E. Hyatt, Senior Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

Date: November 25,  
2014

By: /s/P. Douglas Couvillion

P. Douglas Couvillion, Vice President, Corporate Controller and Principal Accounting  
Officer

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INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit

- 10.1 Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc. and Subsidiaries FY 2015 Annual Bonus Plan<sup>†</sup>(incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 7, 2014)
- 10.2 Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc. and Subsidiaries FY 2015 Long-Term Incentive Program<sup>†</sup> (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 7, 2014)
- 31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (filed herewith)
- 31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (filed herewith)
- 32.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (filed herewith)
- 32.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (filed herewith)
- 101.INS XBRL Instance Document (filed herewith)
- 101.SCHXBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema (filed herewith)
- 101.CALXBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase (filed herewith)
- 101.LABXBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase (filed herewith)
- 101.PRE XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase (filed herewith)
- 101.DEF XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase (filed herewith)

<sup>†</sup>Denotes management contract or compensatory plan, contract or arrangement.