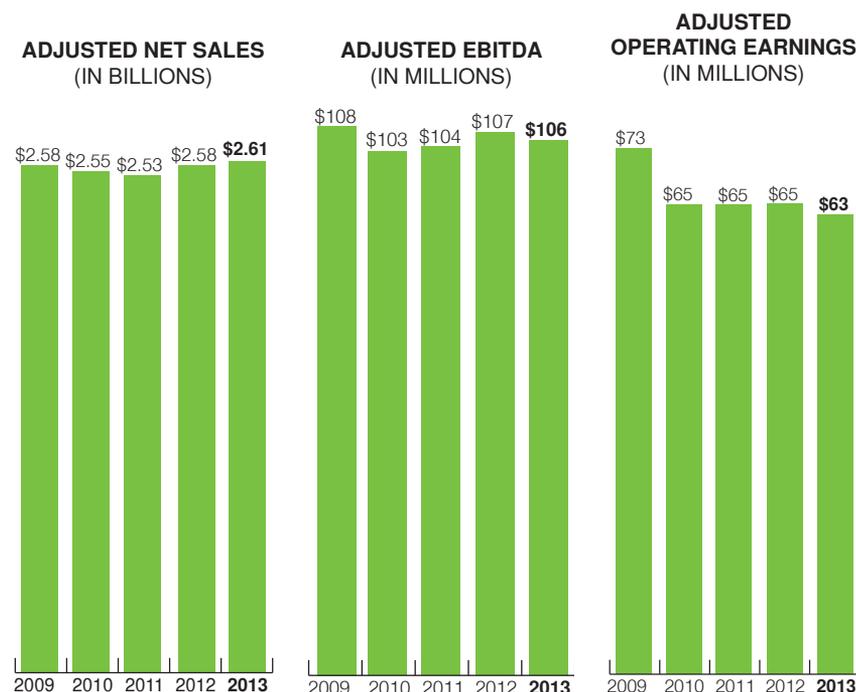




SPARTAN STORES, INC. ANNUAL REPORT 2013

By taking numerous actions to enhance the value of our offerings, we attracted new customers and deepened existing relationships in both our retail and distribution segments. As a result, our retail and distribution sales increased 0.9% to \$2.61 billion on a comparable 52-week basis and we achieved over \$105 million in adjusted EBITDA for the third time in the Company's history. As further evidence of our healthy cash flow, we increased our dividend for the third consecutive year, to \$0.36 per common share on an annual basis from \$0.32 per common share, representing a 12.5% increase.

## Financial Highlights



The adjusted financial information presented reflects non GAAP financial measures. Please see pages 23-25 and 34 of the enclosed Form 10-K for the respective reconciliations of these measures.

(Dollars in millions, except per share data and percentage data)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Adjusted net sales	\$ 2,577	\$ 2,552	\$ 2,533	\$ 2,584	\$ 2,608
Adjusted gross profit margin	20.8%	21.9%	21.8%	21.2%	20.9%
Adjusted operating earnings	73	65	65	65	63
Adjusted earnings from continuing operations	37	30	31	32	31
Adjusted diluted earnings per share from continuing operations	1.57	1.32	1.36	1.39	1.43
Adjusted EBITDA	108	103	104	107	106
Cash from operating activities	81	92	90	94	59
Total net long term debt	192	176	131	112	144

## Corporate Statistics

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Stores	100	96	97	96	101
Fuel centers	19	24	25	27	30
Pharmacies	63	66	67	66	67
Distribution customer locations	372	358	375	376	390
Private brand items	2,888	3,246	3,479	3,895	4,152

## Our Corporate Banners



## Our Private Brands





Craig C. Sturken  
Chairman



Dennis Eidson  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer

## LETTER TO OUR SHAREHOLDERS

Fiscal 2013 was a year of excellent execution for Spartan Stores as we continued to make investments in our brands, products and services.

While the year was not without its challenges from an economic and market perspective, we successfully navigated the difficult consumer environment, made steady and meaningful progress on our strategic initiatives and delivered another consistently solid financial performance.

By taking numerous actions to enhance the value of our offerings, we attracted new customers and deepened existing relationships in both our retail and distribution segments. As a result, our retail and distribution sales increased 0.9% to \$2.61 billion on a comparable 52-week basis and we achieved over \$105 million in adjusted EBITDA for the third time in the Company's history.

In addition, we continued to strengthen our balance sheet by refinancing our credit facility, lengthening the maturity of our debt obligations and reducing our forecasted interest expense by approximately 25% on an annual basis. We also increased our return of capital to shareholders through a combined \$18 million in share repurchases and quarterly dividend payments.

As further evidence of our confidence in our business strategies and anticipated healthy cash flow, we recently increased our dividend for the third consecutive year, to \$0.36 per common share on an annual basis from \$0.32 per common share, representing a 12.5% increase.

Additionally, we recently received some unexpected recognition in April, when we were recognized by Forbes Magazine as one of the "100 Most Trustworthy Companies in America." The credit for this and for all of our fiscal 2013 accomplishments goes to all of our employees and the leadership of our Board of Directors, whose integrity and commitment to excellence have become Spartan Stores' trademarks.

We thank each and every member of our team for their valuable contributions to our Company's success.

## BUSINESS SEGMENTS

As we reflect on the past year, one of our biggest accomplishments was our ability to improve the value proposition that we offer our consumers and independent retailers. We continue to refine our unique combination of price, promotion, selection and convenience and our actions are resonating as we continue to see improved customer satisfaction scores.

In our retail business segment, we continued to make strategic investments in our store base, pricing and promotion and private brand product offering and each initiative helped to fuel our financial performance and allowed us to increase our market share in our key West Michigan trade area.

During fiscal 2013, we relocated one store, completed five major remodels and opened two new fuel centers. We also continued to refine our value-based store format Valu Land and opened four new locations, bringing the total number of Valu Land locations to seven.

Making acquisitions is a core part of our growth strategy, and we are pleased to report that we welcomed the highest volume upscale grocery store and adjacent fuel center in West Michigan to the Spartan family, further solidifying our leading conventional supermarket share in this market.

Our yes Rewards program continues to be an important strategic tool that helps us to better connect with our consumers regarding their shopping preferences. In fiscal 2013, approximately 90% of our annual supermarket sales were generated through the program. We first introduced this innovative points-based program in fiscal 2010 and completed the rollout to all of our supermarket banners in fiscal 2012. In this time, we have learned a lot about our consumers and how to engage and reward them, providing relevant offerings and more reasons to shop our stores with greater frequency.

As part of our emphasis on value, during the year, we launched our “Yes Is More” promotional program, which included a price freeze on over 300 items that consumers buy frequently, including bread, chicken and eggs, and we have been encouraged by the positive consumer response. In addition, our consumers continue to be rewarded through our pharmacy and fuel programs.

On the product side, we continue to drive both retail and distribution sales through the development and expansion of our private brand program. This program provides value offerings for our distribution customers and more choices for our end consumer, both critical components of our strategy to enhance our product offerings and gain increased loyalty. We introduced 437 new products in fiscal 2013, including 48 under the Spartan Fresh Selection brand, representing a 6% increase from fiscal 2012.

In our distribution business, one of our key growth initiatives has been to add new customers in adjacent markets, so we are pleased to report that we secured a significant new customer with 11 stores in Ohio. This new customer will be among our five largest independent distribution customers. As a result of this and other new accounts obtained over the year, we ended fiscal 2013 providing service to 390 independent distribution customer stores, up from 375 at the end of fiscal 2012.

Our value-added services, as well as our broad selection of private brand and national brand products, remain our point of differentiation from other wholesalers and we are committed to continuing to share retail programs and operational initiatives that will help our distribution customers grow and optimize their businesses.

In addition, we are pleased to report that Spartan Stores and the union representing our warehouse, transportation and maintenance associates ratified a three-year labor agreement in October, providing our associates with a competitive wage and benefits package and the Company with increased operational efficiencies and a more competitive cost structure.

#### OUTLOOK

As we look to fiscal 2014, we expect to face many of the same challenges that we have experienced over the past several years, with continued constraints in consumer spending and a gradual economic recovery. We believe that Spartan Stores is well positioned to benefit from these modest economic improvements and plan to continue to maintain our focus on the customer, investing in our value proposition and leveraging our strengths in ways that further deepen our retail and distribution customer relationships and improve our long-term performance.

Our capital plan calls for continuing to grow and improve our store base, by re-bannering up to 13 Glen’s Market locations to the Family Fare brand and completing up to 12 minor remodels and three major remodels. We also plan to open one to three new Valu Land locations in 2014.

We will continue to focus on increasing sales penetration with our existing distribution customer base, securing new independent customers, and further enhancing our value added service offering in order to drive our distribution sales and profitability.

In addition, our strong balance sheet provides us with the financial strength to pursue strategic growth opportunities and prudent acquisitions in both the distribution and retail business segments as we demonstrated this year and as opportunities arise.

We would like to close by thanking not only our dedicated associates, but also the numerous other partners in our business success: our consumers, independent retailers, suppliers and our shareholders who, by your investment, demonstrate your support and confidence in Spartan Stores. We look forward to another rewarding and successful year in fiscal 2014.



Craig C. Sturken  
Chairman



Dennis Eidson  
President and Chief Executive Officer

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

**FORM 10-K**

**Annual report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
For the fiscal year ended March 30, 2013.**

**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: 000-31127**

**SPARTAN STORES, INC.**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

**Michigan**  
(State or Other Jurisdiction)  
of Incorporation or Organization)

**38-0593940**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**850 76th Street, S.W.  
P.O. Box 8700**

**Grand Rapids, Michigan**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

**49518-8700**  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (616) 878-2000

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

<u>Title of Class</u>	<u>Name of Exchange on which Registered</u>
Common Stock, no par value	NASDAQ Global Select Market

**Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Securities Exchange Act:**

**None**

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes  No

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

Indicate by a check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File requirement to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 229.405 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 if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act).

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer  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

The aggregate market value of the registrant's voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates based on the last sales price of such stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on September 14, 2012 (which was the last trading day of the registrant's second quarter in the fiscal year ended March 30, 2013) was \$332,124,318.

The number of shares outstanding of the registrant's Common Stock, no par value, as of May 20, 2013 was 21,894,825 all of one class.

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Part III, Items 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14

Proxy Statement for Annual Meeting to be held July 30, 2013

## Forward-Looking Statements

The matters discussed in this Annual Report on Form 10-K include “forward-looking statements” about the plans, strategies, objectives, goals or expectations of Spartan Stores, Inc. (together with its subsidiaries, “Spartan Stores”). These forward-looking statements are identifiable by words or phrases indicating that Spartan Stores or management “expects,” “anticipates,” “plans,” “believes,” “estimates,” “intends,” or is “optimistic” or “confident” that a particular occurrence or event “will,” “may,” “could,” “should” or “will likely” result, occur or be pursued or “continue” in the future, that the “outlook” or “trend” is toward a particular result or occurrence, that a development is an “opportunity,” “priority,” “strategy,” “focus,” that the Company is “positioned” for a particular result, or similarly stated expectations. Accounting estimates, such as those described under the heading “Critical Accounting Policies” in Item 7 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K, are inherently forward-looking. Our asset impairment and exit cost provisions are estimates and actual costs may be more or less than these estimates and differences may be material. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this Annual Report.

In addition to other risks and uncertainties described in connection with the forward-looking statements contained in this Annual Report on Form 10-K and other periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, there are many important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially. Our ability to achieve sales and earnings expectations; improve operating results; maintain and strengthen our retail-store performance; assimilate acquired stores; maintain or grow sales; respond successfully to competitors including new openings; maintain gross margin; effectively address food cost or price inflation or deflation; maintain and improve customer and supplier relationships; realize expected benefits of restructuring; realize growth opportunities; maintain or expand our customer base; reduce operating costs; sell on favorable terms assets held for sale; generate cash; continue to meet the terms of our debt covenants; continue to pay dividends, and successfully implement and realize the expected benefits of the other programs, initiatives, systems, plans, priorities, strategies, objectives, goals or expectations described in this Annual Report, our other reports, our press releases and our public comments will be affected by changes in economic conditions generally or in the markets and geographic areas that we serve, adverse effects of the changing food and distribution industries and other factors including, but not limited to, those discussed in the “Risk Factors” discussion in Item 1A of this Annual Report.

This section and the discussions contained in Item 1A, “Risk Factors,” and in Item 7, subheading “Critical Accounting Policies” in this report, both of which are incorporated here by reference, are intended to provide meaningful cautionary statements for purposes of the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. This should not be construed as a complete list of all of the economic, competitive, governmental, technological and other factors that could adversely affect our expected consolidated financial position, results of operations or liquidity. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to Spartan Stores or that Spartan Stores currently believes are immaterial also may impair our business, operations, liquidity, financial condition and prospects. We undertake no obligation to update or revise our forward-looking statements to reflect developments that occur or information obtained after the date of this Annual Report.

## PART I

### Item 1. Business

#### *Overview*

Spartan Stores is a leading regional grocery distributor and grocery retailer, operating principally in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. We operate two reportable business segments: Distribution and Retail. We believe that we are the ninth largest wholesale distributor to supermarkets in the United States and the largest wholesale distributor to supermarkets in Michigan. According to reports provided by Metro Market Studies, our distribution and retail operations hold a combined #1 or #2 market share in the Northern Michigan and Western Michigan markets we serve and a #3 market share in our other Michigan markets. For the fiscal year ended March 30, 2013 (“fiscal 2013”), we generated net sales of approximately \$2.6 billion.

Established in 1917 as a cooperative grocery distributor, Spartan Stores converted to a for-profit business corporation in 1973. In January 1999, we began to acquire retail supermarkets in our focused geographic regions. In August 2000, our common stock became listed on the NASDAQ Stock Market under the symbol “SPTN.” With approximately 8,650 associates, Spartan Stores distributes a wide variety of products to approximately 390 independent grocery stores and operates 101 conventional supermarkets.

Spartan Stores’ hybrid business model supports the close functioning of its Distribution and Retail operations, optimizing the natural complements of each business segment. The model produces operational efficiencies, helps stimulate distribution product demand, and provides sharper market visibility and broader business growth options. In addition, the Distribution and Retail diversification provides added flexibility to pursue the best long-term growth opportunities in each segment.

Spartan Stores has established key management priorities that focus on the longer-term strategy of the Company, including establishing a well-differentiated market offering for our Distribution and Retail segments, and additional strategies designed to create value for our shareholders, retailers and customers. These priorities are:

- Retail sales growth: Continue refining our capital plan focusing on remodels, replacement stores, banner consolidation, adjacent acquisitions, expansions and new stores to fill in existing markets, leverage investments in fuel centers and pharmacy operations to drive related supermarket customer traffic and continue to focus on category management initiatives including leveraging our customer loyalty card data, specifically focusing on fresh and value oriented offerings. We also pursue prudent acquisitions to grow this segment.
- Distribution sales growth: Focus on increasing penetration of existing customers, attracting new in-market customers and adjacent-state customers, continue to share “best retail practices” with customers, provide a superior value-added relationship and pursue appropriate acquisitions.
- Margin optimization: Continued focus on leveraging our customer loyalty card data, increasing penetration of private brand programs, focus on value offerings, enhancing offerings in our fresh department, lowering the cost of merchandise through vendor partnerships, E-sourcing, and improving retail shrink.
- Selling, general and administrative (“SG&A”) expense cost containment: Continue to focus on improving efficiency and general cost containment in all areas to allow us to remain cost competitive in the long-term.

We believe significant progress has been made towards achieving these long-term priorities in recent years and we will continue to focus on these priorities.

### ***Distribution Segment***

Our Distribution segment provides a selection of approximately 46,000 stock-keeping units (SKU's), including dry groceries, produce, dairy products, meat, deli, bakery, frozen food, seafood, floral products, general merchandise, pharmacy and health and beauty care items to approximately 390 independent grocery stores and our 101 corporate-owned stores. Also included are over 4,100 private brand grocery and general merchandise items. Total net sales from our Distribution segment, including shipments to our corporate-owned stores, which are eliminated in the consolidated financial statements, were approximately \$1.8 billion for fiscal 2013.

***Customers.*** Our Distribution segment supplies a diverse group of independent grocery store operators that range from a single store to supermarket chains with as many as 21 stores, as well as our corporate-owned stores. Pricing to our customers is generally based upon a "cost plus" model for grocery, frozen, dairy, pharmacy and health and beauty care items and a "variable mark-up" model for meat, deli, bakery, produce, seafood, floral and general merchandise products.

Our Distribution customer base is very diverse, with no single customer, excluding corporate-owned stores, exceeding 5% of consolidated net sales. Our five largest Distribution customers (excluding corporate-owned stores) accounted for approximately 20% of our fiscal 2013 Distribution net sales. In addition, approximately 78% of Distribution net sales, including corporate-owned stores, are covered under supply agreements with our Distribution customers or are directly controlled by Spartan Stores.

***Distribution Functions.*** Our Distribution business utilized approximately 1.4 million square feet of warehouse, distribution and office space as of March 2013. We supply our independent Distribution customers and our corporate-owned stores from our distribution center located in Grand Rapids, Michigan. We believe that our distribution facility is strategically located to efficiently serve our customers. We are continually evaluating our inventory movement and assigning SKU's to appropriate areas within our distribution center facilities to reduce the time required to stock and pick products in order to achieve additional efficiencies.

We maintain a fleet of 101 over-the-road tractors, 216 dry vans, and 167 refrigerated trailers, substantially all of which are leased. To further support distribution operations, we operate six yard switchers and one on site fuel tanker. Through routing optimization, we were able to reduce our annual miles by 385,000 to approximately 12.1 million in fiscal 2013 allowing us to reduce our number of tractors from the previous fiscal year. We were also able to extend leases set to expire in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2013 on 32 of our 2009 tractors until the fourth quarter of fiscal 2014. This will allow us to take advantage of updates in technology as we review 2014 model year vehicles introduced by manufacturers. We plan to look at a similar strategy as additional equipment is subject to renewal while remaining committed to the ongoing investment required to maintain a best in class fleet while focusing on low cost, environmentally friendly solutions.

We plan to lease 26 new 53-foot refrigerated trailers in the first quarter of fiscal 2014. These trailers will be equipped with a Carrier Vector refrigeration unit. The new Vector units have the capability to run on electric standby, offering an economical and environmentally friendly alternative to diesel fuel. We have an additional 66 refrigerated trailers we plan to replace in the third quarter of fiscal 2014, which are planned to be equipped with standby technology as well.

In fiscal 2014, we will implement six Automated Guided Vehicles (AGVs) in our grocery warehouse. The AGV's will perform put-away, replenishment and full pallet selection in approximately 150,000 square feet of the warehouse. After installation in the second quarter of fiscal 2014, this new equipment and technology are expected to improve both the efficiency and capacity of the grocery warehouse.

**Additional Services.** We also offer and provide many of our independent Distribution customers with value-added services, including:

- Site identification and market analyses
- Store planning and development
- Marketing, promotion and advertising
- Technology and information services
- Accounting, payroll and tax preparation
- Human resource services
- Coupon redemption
- Product reclamation
- Printing
- Category management
- Real estate services
- Construction management services

**Retail Segment**

Our neighborhood market strategy distinguishes our stores from supercenters and limited assortment stores by emphasizing convenient locations, demographically targeted merchandise selections, high-quality fresh offerings, customer service, value pricing and community involvement.

Our Retail segment operates 101 retail supermarkets predominantly in midsize metropolitan, tourist and lake communities of Michigan. Our retail supermarkets are operated under banners including *Family Fare Supermarkets*, *D&W Fresh Markets*, *Glen’s Markets*, *VG’s Food and Pharmacy*, *Forest Hills Foods* and *Valu Land*.

Our 101 retail supermarkets typically offer dry groceries, produce, dairy products, meat, frozen food, seafood, floral products, general merchandise, beverages, tobacco products, health and beauty care products, delicatessen items and bakery goods. In 67 of our supermarkets, we also offer pharmacy services. In addition to nationally advertised products, the stores carry private brand items, including our flagship *Spartan* brand and *Fresh Selections*, *Top Care*, a health and beauty care brand, *Valu Time*, a value brand, *Full Circle*, a natural and organic brand, *World Classics* a premium, unique and worldly brand, *B-leve* a premium bath and beauty brand, and *Paws*, a pet supplies brand. These private brand items provide enhanced retail margins and we believe they help generate increased customer loyalty. See “Merchandising and Marketing—Corporate Brands.” Our retail supermarkets range in size from approximately 18,466 to 65,821 total square feet and average approximately 41,000 total square feet per store.

We operate 30 fuel centers at our supermarket locations operating under the banners *Family Fare Quick Stop*, *D&W Quick Stop*, *Glen’s Quick Stop*, *VG’s Quick Stop* and *Forest Hills Quick Stop*. These fuel centers offer refueling facilities and in the adjacent convenience store, a limited variety of popular consumable products. Our prototypical *Quick Stop* stores are approximately 1,100 square feet in size and are generally located adjacent to our supermarkets. We have experienced increases in supermarket sales upon opening fuel centers and initiating cross-merchandising activities. We are planning to continue to open additional fuel centers at certain of our supermarket locations over the next few years.

Our stores are primarily the result of acquisitions from January 1999 to December 2012. The following chart details the changes in the number of our stores over the last five fiscal years:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Number of Stores at Beginning of Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Stores Acquired or Added During Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Stores Closed or Sold During Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Number of Stores at End of Fiscal Year</u>
2009 .....	99	17	16	100
2010 .....	100	—	4	96
2011 .....	96	1	—	97
2012 .....	97	—	1	96
2013 .....	96	5	—	101

During fiscal 2013, we relocated one store, completed five major remodels of our stores as well as many other limited remodels and store resets. In addition, we acquired one supermarket and one fuel center. We also opened four new *Valu Land* stores and two new fuel centers.

We expect to continue making meaningful progress with our capital investment program during fiscal 2014 by opening one to three new *Valu Land* stores, completing up to 12 minor remodels and three major remodels of our stores and converting up to 13 *Glen's Markets* locations to the *Family Fare Supermarkets* brand. We evaluate proposed retail projects based on demographics and competition within each market, and prioritize projects based on their expected returns on investment. Approval of proposed capital projects requires a projected internal rate of return that meets or exceeds our policy; however, we may undertake projects that do not meet this standard to the extent they represent required maintenance or necessary infrastructure improvements. In addition, we perform a post completion review of financial results versus our expectation on all major projects. We believe that focusing on such measures provides us with an appropriate level of discipline in our capital expenditures process.

**Products**

We offer a wide variety of grocery products, general merchandise and health and beauty care, pharmacy, fuel and other items and services. Our consolidated net sales include the net sales of our corporate-owned stores and fuel centers and the net sales of our Distribution business, which excludes sales to affiliated stores.

The following table presents sales by type of similar product and services:

<u>(Dollars in thousands)</u>	<u>2013</u>		<u>2012</u>		<u>2011</u>	
Non-perishables (1) . . . . .	\$1,289,461	49.4%	\$1,293,147	49.1%	\$1,297,719	51.2%
Perishables (2) . . . . .	930,659	35.7	933,545	35.4	906,945	35.8
Fuel . . . . .	209,028	8.0	219,903	8.4	123,262	4.9
Pharmacy . . . . .	179,012	6.9	187,631	7.1	205,138	8.1
<b>Consolidated net sales</b> . . . . .	<u>\$2,608,160</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>\$2,634,226</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>\$2,533,064</u>	<u>100%</u>

(1) Consists primarily of general merchandise, grocery, beverages, snacks and frozen foods.

(2) Consists primarily of produce, dairy, meat, bakery, deli, floral and seafood.

Note: Fiscal 2012 had 53 weeks while both 2013 and 2011 had 52 weeks.

**Reporting Segment Financial Data**

More detailed information about our reporting segments may be found in Note 14 to the consolidated financial statements included in Item 8, which is herein incorporated by reference. All of our sales and all of our assets are in the United States of America.

**Discontinued Operations**

Certain of our retail and grocery distribution operations have been recorded as discontinued operations. Discontinued retail operations consist of certain stores that have been closed or sold. Discontinued Distribution operations consist of our Maumee, Ohio and Toledo, Ohio distribution centers that previously serviced retail stores which have been closed or sold.

**Marketing and Merchandising**

**General.** We continue to align our marketing and merchandising strategies with current consumer behaviors by providing initiatives centered on loyalty, value, and health and wellness. These strategies focus on consumer driven programs to effectively leverage the use of loyalty card program data and category management principles and satisfy the consumer's needs.

Our over-arching focus on the consumer gives us insight into purchasing and consumption behavior and the flexibility to adapt to rapidly changing market conditions by making tactical adjustments to our marketing and merchandising programs that deliver more tangible value to our customers. We will continue to expand these offerings and partner with our independent customers over time to realize incremental benefits.

As we expand our service offerings, we believe that we differentiate ourselves from our competitors by offering a full set of services, from value added services in our distribution segment to the addition of fuel centers and *Starbucks Coffee* shops in some of our retail stores. To engender loyalty with our customers, we provide them with discounts on fuel purchases at our fuel centers. Fuel centers have proven to be effective traffic-builders for fuel-purchasing customers who wish to take advantage of cross-promotions between the stores and the *Quick Stop* fuel centers. Consumers are focusing on value in today's economy, and offerings such as the fuel rewards program are helping us to meet that need.

We continue to evolve our Pharmacy Plus program by connecting with the consumer and focusing on health and wellness. We offer pharmacy services in 67 of our supermarkets and believe the pharmacy service offering is an important part of the consumer experience. As a result, to provide excellent value on medications, we offer free medications (antibiotics, diabetic medications and pre-natal vitamins) along with generic drugs for \$4 and \$10 as well as food solutions for preventative health and education for our customers.

In fiscal 2012, we expanded our "Yes Rewards" customer loyalty program to include *Family Fare* and *D&W Fresh Market* locations, effectively linking all of our conventional grocery stores to the same loyalty platform. This program, which was first introduced in the *Glen's Markets* banner in the first quarter of fiscal 2010 and expanded to *VG's Food and Pharmacy* in fiscal 2011, is providing us with more sophisticated data to better understand our customers' purchasing behavior. This information is integral to improving the effectiveness of our promotions, marketing and merchandising programs. We also expect the program to help build longer-term customer loyalty, improve our sales growth opportunities and further strengthen our market position. We expect to achieve these goals by understanding what is important to our customers and being able to offer relevant communication, products and promotional offers.

We strive to be a health and wellness solution for our customers as well. One way that we do this is with our Nutrition Guide tags which provide nutrition information on shelf tags for thousands of items throughout the store, making it easy for our customers to purchase items that meet their health needs. We were also one of the first retailers in the country to begin to incorporate the Food Marketing Institute's "Facts Up Front" nutrition labeling on our *Spartan* and *Spartan Fresh Selections* private brand packages. We expect to be the first retailer in the country to have substantially all of our private brand packaging to incorporate Facts Up Front on the label by the end of calendar 2013. In addition, based on the success of our corporate-owned retail stores, we have rolled out our Nutrition Guide program to our independent distribution customers as well. This value-add service enables our independent customers to communicate important product nutrition information to their customers in a consumer-friendly manner.

At Spartan Stores, we are committed to being a consumer driven retailer. In fiscal 2009, we implemented a customer satisfaction program that gives consumers a channel for communicating their store experiences. Retail customers are randomly selected via point-of-sale receipts and invited to give us feedback by taking an online survey. Results of these surveys help us assess overall customer satisfaction and identify several opportunities to focus on to drive consumer satisfaction and loyalty. From this program we have developed a fresh selection initiative to drive our competitive advantage. We value the opinions of our consumers and believe the best way to deliver a high quality shopping experience is to let customers tell us what they want and need. We believe this survey dialogue will better enable us to identify opportunities for continuous improvements for consistency and excellence in the overall consumer experience.

Over the past two years we have been experimenting with a value store format, under the banner *Valu Land*. We converted three small store locations to this format in fiscal 2012 and during fiscal 2013 we opened four new

*Valu Land* locations and we plan to open one to three additional new *Valu Land* locations in fiscal 2014. We are still very early in the development and testing of this store format and will continue to fine tune the offering as our learnings progress.

**Private Brands.** We currently market and distribute over 4,100 private brand items including our flagship *Spartan* brand, *Spartan Fresh Selections*, *Top Care*, a health and beauty care brand, *Full Circle*, a natural and organic brand, *World Classics* a premium, unique and worldly brand, *Paws*, a pet supplies brand, *B-leve* a premium bath and beauty brand, and *Valu Time*, a value brand. We believe that our private brand offerings are part of our most valuable strategic assets, demonstrated through customer loyalty and profitability. These product offerings are serving us particularly well as the consumer becomes more value orientated.

We have worked diligently to develop a premier private brand program. We have added more than 400 corporate brand products to our consumer offer in the past year and plan to introduce approximately 300 new items in fiscal 2014. Our products are continually recognized for excellence in packaging design and product development. These awards underscore our continued commitment to providing the consumer with quality products at exceptional value.

We continually focus on pursuing new opportunities and expanding our offerings to consumers. In fiscal 2014, we plan to launch a new baby brand, *Tippy Toes by TopCare*, which we expect to drive awareness about baby products and offerings available at Spartan Stores.

### **Competition**

Our Distribution and Retail segments operate in highly competitive markets, which typically result in low profit margins for the industry as a whole. We compete with, among others, regional and national grocery distributors, independently owned retail grocery stores, large chain stores that have integrated wholesale and retail operations, mass merchandisers, limited assortment stores and wholesale membership clubs, many of whom have greater resources than we do. The principal competitive factors in the retail grocery business include the location and image of the store; the price, quality and variety of the perishable products; and the quality and consistency of service.

We believe we have developed and implemented strategies and processes that allow us to remain competitive in our Retail segment. We monitor planned store openings by our competitors and have established proactive strategies to respond to new competition both before and after the competitive store opening. Strategies to combat competition vary based on many factors, such as the competitor's format, strengths, weaknesses, pricing and sales focus. During the past three fiscal years, four competitor supercenters opened in markets in which we operate corporate-owned stores. One additional opening is expected to occur during fiscal 2014 against our corporate-owned stores. As a result of these openings we believe the majority of our supermarkets compete with one, if not multiple, supercenters.

The primary competitive factors in the distribution business include price, product quality, variety and service. We believe our overall service level, defined as actual units shipped divided by actual units ordered is among industry leading performance in our Distribution segment.

### **Seasonality**

Our sales and operating performance vary with seasonality. Our first and fourth quarters are typically our lowest sales quarters. Therefore, operating results are generally lower during these two quarters. Additionally, these two quarters can be affected by the timing of the Easter holiday, which results in a strong sales week. Many northern Michigan stores are dependent on tourism and therefore, are most affected by seasons and weather patterns, including, but not limited to, the amount and timing of snowfall during the winter months and the range

of temperature during the summer months. All quarters are 12 weeks, except for our third quarter, which is 16 weeks and includes the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Fiscal 2012 contained 53 weeks; therefore, the fourth quarter of fiscal 2012 consisted of 13 weeks rather than 12 weeks.

### ***Suppliers***

We purchase products from a large number of national, regional and local suppliers of name brand and private brand merchandise. We have not encountered any material difficulty in procuring or maintaining an adequate level of products to serve our customers. No single supplier accounts for more than 11% of our purchases. We continue to develop strategic relationships with key suppliers and we believe this will prove valuable in the development of enhanced promotional programs and consumer value perceptions.

### ***Intellectual Property***

We own valuable intellectual property, including trademarks and other proprietary information, some of which are of material importance to our business.

### ***Technology***

Spartan continues to invest in technology as a means of maximizing the efficiency of our operations, improving service to our customers, and where possible deploying technology to provide a competitive advantage in the marketplace.

***Supply Chain.*** During fiscal 2013, we continued to make major enhancements to our web based product information system for use by our distribution customers. We added the first phase of our new retail price management system which allows our independent customers to better manage and control the retail prices of the products we supply. We also improved the features in the system to manage production of shelf labels. We installed a major upgrade to our wholesale order processing system. In the distribution area, we upgraded the voice technology hardware and software in our warehouses to provide added capabilities to the system. We installed a new fuel management system and a new facilities maintenance management system. These projects are all designed to provide expanded and more timely information so our distribution customers can make better decisions and more effectively compete in the marketplace.

***Retail Systems.*** During fiscal 2013, we completed a major hardware and software upgrade to our Point-of-Sale system which provided the technology to move to a touch screen based system. We implemented the first Pharmacy Central Fill site to provide improved efficiencies to our pharmacy operation. We enhanced the loyalty marketing system to provide e-mail click-to-card capability and we developed and deployed mobile smartphone applications. We enhanced functionality for our consumer web sites and completely revamped our corporate web site.

***Administrative Systems.*** During fiscal 2013, we completed a major upgrade to our financial system to add new functionality and features. We implemented numerous enhancements to our Human Resource system in the areas of management self service functions, applicant management system and our learning management system.

***Information Technology Infrastructure.*** We completed a storage system upgrade to our backup storage system. We added additional processing capacity and increased our network bandwidth at our primary and backup data centers. We continued to enhance our security systems at our retail locations and our central processing sites.

### ***Subsidiaries***

Our Distribution segment consists primarily of our wholly owned subsidiary, Spartan Stores Distribution, LLC. We operate our Retail segment through our wholly owned subsidiary, Seaway Food Town, Inc. and its respective subsidiaries.

### *Associates*

We currently employ approximately 8,650 associates, 4,225 of which are full-time and 4,425 of which are part-time. Unions represent approximately 8% of our associates.

We consider our relations with our union and non-union associates to be good and have not had any material work stoppages in over twenty years. On October 6, 2012 General Teamsters Union Local 406 ratified a three-year labor agreement with Spartan Stores which expires on October 10, 2015.

### *Regulation*

We are subject to federal, state and local laws and regulations covering the purchase, handling, sale and transportation of our products. Several of our products are subject to federal Food and Drug Administration regulation. We believe that we are in substantial compliance in all material respects with the Food and Drug Administration and other federal, state and local laws and regulations governing our businesses.

### *Forward-Looking Statements*

The matters discussed in this Item 1 include forward-looking statements. See “Forward-Looking Statements” at the beginning of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

### *Available Information*

The address of our web site is [www.spartanstores.com](http://www.spartanstores.com). The inclusion of our website address in this Form 10-K does not include or incorporate by reference the information on or accessible through our website, and you should not consider information contained on or accessible through those websites as part of this Form 10-K. We make our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and other reports (and amendments to those reports) filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Securities Exchange Act available on our web site as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file or furnish such materials with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Interested persons can view such materials without charge by clicking on “For Investors” and then “SEC Filings” on our web site. Spartan Stores is an “accelerated filer” within the meaning of Rule 12b-2 under the Securities Exchange Act.

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

Our business faces many risks. If any of the events or circumstances described in the following risk factors occurs, our financial condition or results of operations may suffer, and the trading price of our common stock could decline. This discussion of risk factors should be read in conjunction with the other information in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. All of our forward-looking statements are affected by the risk factors discussed in this item and this discussion of risk factors should be read in conjunction with the discussion of forward-looking statements which appears at the beginning of this report.

***We operate in an extremely competitive industry. Many of our competitors are much larger than we are and may be able to compete more effectively.***

Our Distribution and Retail segments compete with, among others, regional and national grocery distributors, independently owned retail grocery stores, large chain stores that have integrated wholesale and retail operations, mass merchandisers, limited assortment stores and wholesale membership clubs, many of whom have greater resources than we do. Some of our distribution and retail competitors are substantially larger and have greater financial resources and geographic scope, lower merchandise acquisition costs and lower operating expenses than we do, intensifying competition at the wholesale and retail levels.

The effects of industry consolidation and the expansion of alternative store formats have resulted in, and continue to result in, market share losses for traditional grocery stores. These trends have produced even stronger competition for our retail business and for the independent customers of our distribution business. To the extent our independent customers are acquired by our competitors or are not successful in competing with other retail chains and non-traditional competitors, sales by our distribution business will be affected. If we fail to implement strategies to respond effectively to these competitive pressures, our operating results could be adversely affected by price reductions, decreased sales or margins, or loss of market share.

This competition may result in reduced profit margins and other harmful effects on us and the Distribution customers that we supply. Ongoing industry consolidation could result in our loss of customers that we currently supply and could confront our retail operations with competition from larger and better-capitalized chains in existing or new markets. We may not be able to compete successfully in this environment.

***Government regulation could harm our business.***

Our business is subject to extensive governmental laws and regulations including, but not limited to, employment and wage laws and regulations, regulations governing the sale of pharmaceuticals, alcohol and tobacco, minimum wage requirements, working condition requirements, public accessibility requirements, citizenship requirements, environmental regulation, and other laws and regulations. A violation or change of these laws could have a material effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Like other companies that sell food and drugs, our stores are subject to various federal, state, local, and foreign laws, regulations, and administrative practices affecting our business. We must comply with numerous provisions regulating health and sanitation standards, facilities inspection, food labeling, and licensing for the sale of food, drugs, tobacco and alcoholic beverages.

We cannot predict the nature of future laws, regulations, interpretations, or applications, or determine what effect either additional government regulations or administrative orders, when and if promulgated, or disparate federal, state, local, and foreign regulatory requirements will have on our future business. They could, however, require that we recall or discontinue sale of certain products, make substantial changes to our facilities or operations, or otherwise result in substantial increases in operating expense. Any or all of such requirements could have an adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

***We are subject to state and federal environmental regulations.***

Under various federal, state and local laws, ordinances and regulations, we may, as the owner or operator of our locations, be liable for the costs of removal or remediation of contamination at these current or our former locations, whether or not we knew of, or were responsible for, the presences of such contamination. The failure to properly remediate such contamination may subject us to liability to third parties and may adversely affect our ability to sell or lease such property or to borrow money using such property as collateral.

Compliance with existing and future environmental laws regulating underground storage tanks may require significant capital expenditures and increased operating and maintenance costs.

The remediation costs and other costs required to clean up or treat contaminated sites could be substantial. In the future, we may incur substantial expenditures for remediation of contamination that has not been discovered at existing or acquired locations. We cannot assure you that we have identified all environmental liabilities at all of our current and former locations; that material environmental conditions not known to us do not exist; that future laws, ordinances or regulations will not impose material environmental liability on us; or that a material environmental condition does not otherwise exist as to any one or more of our locations. In addition, failure to comply with any environmental laws, ordinances or regulations or an increase in regulations could adversely affect our operating results and financial condition.

***Safety concerns regarding our products could harm our business.***

It is sometimes necessary for us to recall unsafe, contaminated or defective products. Recall costs can be material and we might not be able to recover costs from our suppliers. Concerns regarding the safety of food products sold by us could cause shoppers to avoid purchasing certain products from us, or to seek alternative sources of supply for some or all of their food needs, even if the basis for concern is outside of our control. Any loss of confidence on the part of our customers would be difficult and costly to overcome. Any real or perceived issue regarding the safety of any food or drug items sold by us, regardless of the cause, could have a substantial and adverse effect on our business.

***We may not be able to implement our strategy of growth through acquisitions.***

Part of our growth strategy involves selected acquisitions of additional retail grocery stores, grocery store chains or distribution facilities. We may not be able to implement this part of our growth strategy or ultimately be successful. We may not be able to identify suitable acquisition candidates in the future, complete acquisitions or obtain the necessary financing.

Because we operate in the Distribution business, future acquisitions of retail grocery stores could result in us competing with our independent grocery store customers and could have adverse effects on existing business relationships with our Distribution customers.

The success of our store acquisitions will depend, in part, on whether we achieve the business synergies and related cost savings that we anticipated in connection with these transactions and any future acquisitions. Accordingly, we may not achieve expected results and long-term business goals.

***Our business is subject to risks from regional economic conditions, fuel prices, and other factors in our markets.***

Our business is sensitive to changes in general economic conditions. In recent years, the United States has experienced volatility in the economy and financial markets due to uncertainties related to energy prices, availability of credit, difficulties in the banking and financial services sector, the decline in the housing market, diminished market liquidity, falling consumer confidence and rising unemployment rates. Furthermore, most of our sales are to customers located in Michigan and Indiana and the Michigan economy in particular is dependent upon the automotive industry, which is still challenged. Michigan continues to have one of the highest unemployment rates in the country. These adverse economic conditions in our markets, potential reduction in the populations in our markets and the loss of purchasing power by residents in our markets could reduce the amount and mix of groceries purchased, adversely affecting our revenues and profitability. Further adverse developments in the automotive and auto supply industries in Michigan and Indiana could have an additional adverse affect on purchasing power of our customers and prospective customers in some markets served by our retail stores and those of our Distribution customers. This could lead to additional reductions in consumer spending, to consumers trading down to less expensive mix of products or to consumers trading down to discounters, all of which may affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Rising gasoline prices may affect consumer behavior and retail grocery prices. The impact of rising petroleum prices may prompt consumers to make different choices in how and where they shop due to the high price of gasoline. Additionally, the impact of higher fuel costs is passed through by manufacturers and distributors in the prices of goods and services provided, again potentially affecting consumer buying decisions. This could have adverse impacts on retail store traffic, basket size and overall spending at both our corporate and independent retail stores.

In addition, many of our retail grocery stores, as well as stores operated by our Distribution customers are located in areas of northern Michigan that are heavily dependent upon tourism. Unseasonable weather conditions

and the economic conditions discussed above may decrease tourism activity and could result in decreased sales by our retail grocery stores and decreased sales to our Distribution customers, adversely affecting our business.

Economic downturns and uncertainty have adversely affected overall demand and intensified price competition, and have caused consumers to “trade down” by purchasing lower margin items and to make fewer purchases in traditional supermarket channels. Continued negative economic conditions affecting disposable consumer income such as employment levels, business conditions, changes in housing market conditions, the availability of credit, interest rates, volatility in fuel and energy costs, food price inflation or deflation, employment trends in our markets and labor costs, the impact of natural disasters or acts of terrorism, and other matters affecting consumer spending could cause consumers to continue shifting even more of their spending to lower-priced products and competitors. The continued general reductions in the level of discretionary spending or shifts in consumer discretionary spending to our competitors could adversely affect our growth and profitability.

***Inflation and deflation may adversely affect our operating results.***

In this uncertain economy, it is difficult to forecast whether fiscal 2014 will be a period of inflation or deflation. Food deflation could reduce sales growth and earnings, while food inflation, combined with reduced consumer spending, could reduce gross profit margins. If we experience significant inflation or deflation, especially in the context of continued lower consumer spending, then our financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected.

***We may be unable to retain our key management personnel.***

Our success depends to a significant degree upon the continued contributions of senior management. The loss of any key member of our management team may prevent us from implementing our business plans in a timely manner. We cannot assure you that successors of comparable ability will be identified and appointed and that our business will not be adversely affected.

***A number of our Distribution segment associates are covered by collective bargaining agreements.***

Most of our warehouse associates in our Distribution business segment are covered by a collective bargaining agreement which expires in October 2015. We expect that rising health care, pension and other employee benefit costs, among other issues, will continue to be important topics of negotiation with the labor union. Upon the expiration of our collective bargaining agreement, work stoppages by the affected workers could occur if we are unable to negotiate an acceptable contract with the labor union. This could significantly disrupt our operations. Further, if we are unable to control health care and pension costs provided for in the collective bargaining agreement, we may experience increased operating costs and an adverse impact on future results of operations.

***Unions may attempt to organize additional employees.***

While we believe that relations with our employees are good, we may become the target of union organizing campaigns similar to those faced by our competitors. The potential for unionization could increase as any new related legislation is passed. We respect our employees’ right to unionize or not to unionize. However, the unionization of a significant portion of our workforce could increase our overall costs at the affected locations and adversely affect our flexibility to run our business in the most efficient manner to remain competitive or acquire new business and could adversely affect our results of operations by increasing our labor costs or otherwise restricting our ability to maximize the efficiency of our operations.

***Costs related to multi-employer pension plans and other postretirement plans could increase.***

We contribute to the Central States Southeast and Southwest Pension Fund, a multi-employer pension plan, based on obligations arising under a collective bargaining agreement with Teamster local 406. The plan is not

administered by or in any way controlled by us. We have relatively little control over the level of contributions we are required to make to the plan and it is currently underfunded. As a result, contributions are scheduled to increase and we expect that contributions to the plans will be subject to further increases. Benefit levels and related issues will continue to create collective bargaining challenges. The amount of any increase or decrease in our required contributions to the multi-employer pension plan will depend upon the outcome of collective bargaining, actions taken by trustees who manage the plan, governmental regulations, the actual return on assets held in the plan, the continued viability and contributions of other employers which contribute to the plan, and the potential payment of a withdrawal liability if we choose to exit a market, among other factors.

Under current law, an employer that withdraws or partially withdraws from a multi-employer pension plan may incur a withdrawal liability to the plan, which represents the portion of the plan's underfunding that is allocable to the withdrawing employer under very complex actuarial and allocation rules. Withdrawal liabilities may be incurred under a variety of circumstances, including selling, closing or substantially reducing employment at a facility. Withdrawal liabilities could be material, and potential exposure to withdrawal liabilities may influence business decisions and could cause the company to forgo business opportunities.

We maintain a defined benefit retirement plan for substantially all of our employees that do not participate in multi-employer pension plans. This plan is a cash balance pension plan and was frozen as of January 1, 2011. Expenses associated with the defined benefit plans may significantly increase due to changes to actuarial assumptions or investment returns on plan assets that are less favorable than projected. In addition, changes in our funding status could adversely affect our financial position.

***Risks associated with insurance plan claims could increase future expenses.***

We use a combination of insurance and self-insurance to provide for potential liabilities for workers' compensation, automobile and general liability, property insurance, director and officers' liability insurance, and employee health care benefits. The liabilities that have been recorded for these claims represent our best estimate, using generally accepted actuarial reserving methods, of the ultimate obligations for reported claims plus those incurred but not reported for all claims incurred through March 30, 2013. Any actuarial projection of losses is subject to a high degree of variability. Changes in legal trends and interpretations, variability in inflation rates, changes in the nature and method of claims settlement, benefit level changes due to changes in applicable laws, and changes in discount rates could all affect the level of reserves required and could cause future expense to maintain reserves at appropriate levels.

***Costs related to associate healthcare benefits are expected to continue to increase.***

We provide health benefits for a large number of associates. Our costs to provide such benefits continue to increase annually and recent legislative and private sector initiatives regarding healthcare reform are likely to result in significant changes to the U.S. healthcare system. At this time we are not able to determine the impact that healthcare reform will have on the Company-sponsored healthcare plans. In addition, we participate in various multi-employer health plans for our union associates, and we are required to make contributions to these plans in amounts established under collective bargaining agreements. The cost of providing benefits through such plans has escalated rapidly in recent years. The amount of any increase or decrease in our required contributions to these multi-employer plans will depend upon many factors, many of which are beyond our control. If we are unable to control the costs of providing healthcare to associates, we may experience increased operating costs, which may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

***Changes in vendor promotions or allowances, including the way vendors target their promotional spending, and our ability to effectively manage these programs could significantly impact our margins and profitability.***

We cooperatively engage in a variety of promotional programs with our vendors. As the parties assess the results of specific promotions and plan for future promotions, the nature of these programs and the allocation of

dollars among them changes over time. We manage these programs to maintain or improve margins while at the same time increasing sales for us and for the vendors. A reduction in overall promotional spending or a shift in promotional spending away from certain types of promotions that we and our distribution customers have historically utilized could have a significant impact on profitability.

***Threats to security or the occurrence of a health pandemic could harm our business.***

Our business could be severely impacted by wartime activities, threats or acts of terrorism or a widespread health pandemic. Any of these events could adversely impact our business by disrupting delivery of products to our corporate stores or our independent retail customers, by affecting our ability to appropriately staff our stores and by causing customers to avoid public places.

We have large, complex information technology systems that are important to our business operations. Although we have implemented security programs and disaster recovery facilities and procedures, security could be compromised and systems disruptions, data theft or other criminal activity could occur. This could result in a loss of sales or profits or cause us to incur significant costs to restore our systems or to reimburse third parties for damages.

***Severe weather and natural disasters could harm our business.***

Severe weather conditions and natural disasters, whether a result of climate change or otherwise, could affect the suppliers from whom we purchase products and could cause disruptions in our operations. Unseasonably adverse climatic conditions that impact growing conditions and the crops of food producers may adversely affect the availability or cost of certain products.

***Damage to our facilities could harm our business.***

A majority of the product we supply to our retail stores and Distribution customers flows through our distribution center. While we believe we have adopted commercially reasonable precautions, insurance programs, and contingency plans, the destruction of, or substantial damage to, our distribution center due to natural disaster, severe weather conditions, accident, terrorism, or other causes could substantially compromise our ability to distribute products to our retail stores and Distribution customers. This could result in a loss of sales, profits and asset value.

***Restrictive covenants imposed by our credit facility and other factors could adversely affect our ability to borrow.***

Our ability to borrow additional funds is governed by the terms of our credit facilities. The credit facilities contain financial and other covenants that, among other things, limit the Company's ability to draw down the full amount of the facility, incur additional debt outside of the credit facility, create new liens on property, make acquisitions, or pay dividends. These covenants may affect our operating flexibility and may require us to seek the consent of the lenders to certain transactions that we may wish to effect. We are not currently restricted by these covenants. Disruptions in the financial markets have in the past resulted in bank failures. One or more of the participants in our credit facility could become unable to fund our future borrowings when needed. We believe that cash generated from operating activities and available borrowings under our credit facility will be sufficient to meet anticipated requirements for working capital, capital expenditures, and debt service obligations for the foreseeable future. However, there can be no assurance that our business will continue to generate cash flow at or above current levels or that we will maintain our ability to borrow under our credit facility. The Company may not be able to refinance its existing debt at similar terms.

***Impairment charges for goodwill or other intangible assets would adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.***

We are required to test annually goodwill and intangible assets with indefinite useful lives, including the goodwill associated with past acquisitions and any future acquisitions, to determine if impairment has occurred. Additionally, interim reviews must be performed whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that impairment may have occurred. If the testing performed indicates that impairment has occurred, we are required to record a non-cash impairment charge for the difference between the carrying value of the goodwill or other intangible assets and the implied fair value of the goodwill or other intangible assets in the period the determination is made.

The testing of goodwill and other intangible assets for impairment requires management to make significant estimates about our future performance and cash flows, as well as other assumptions. These estimates can be affected by numerous factors, including potential changes in economic, industry or market conditions, changes in business operations, changes in competition or changes in our stock price and market capitalization. Changes in these factors, or changes in actual performance compared with estimates of our future performance, may affect the fair value of goodwill or other intangible assets, which may result in an impairment charge. We cannot accurately predict the amount and timing of any impairment of assets. Should the value of goodwill or other intangible assets become impaired, our financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected.

**Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments**

None.

**Item 2. Properties**

***Distribution Segment Real Estate***

The following table lists the current location, approximate size and ownership of the facilities used in our Distribution segment:

<u>Facilities</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Total Square Feet</u>	<u>Ownership</u>
Dry grocery . . . . .	Grand Rapids, MI	585,492	Owned
Fresh (refrigerated) . . . . .	Grand Rapids, MI	306,522	Owned
General merchandise . . . . .	Grand Rapids, MI	232,700	Owned
General office (including print shop) . . . . .	Grand Rapids, MI	127,323	Owned
Transportation and salvage . . . . .	Grand Rapids, MI	78,760	Owned
Warehouse and office . . . . .	Grand Rapids, MI	47,500	Leased
<b>Total</b> . . . . .		<u>1,378,297</u>	

We believe that our distribution facilities are generally well maintained, are generally in good operating condition, have sufficient capacity and are suitable and adequate to carry on our distribution business.

### ***Retail Segment Real Estate***

The following table lists the retail banner, number of stores, geographic region, approximate total square footage under the banner, average store size (in square feet) and ownership of our retail supermarkets:

<b>Retail Banner</b>	<b>Number of Stores</b>	<b>Geographic Region</b>	<b>Total Square Feet</b>	<b>Average Store Size</b>	<b>Ownership</b>
Family Fare Supermarkets . . .	43	Western, Northern and Central Michigan	1,887,934	43,905	Leased
Glen's Markets . . . . .	24	Northern and Central Michigan	867,070	36,128	Leased
VG's Food and Pharmacy . . .	16	Eastern Michigan	760,018	47,501	Leased
D&W Fresh Markets . . . . .	8	Western Michigan	372,101	46,513	Leased
D&W Fresh Markets . . . . .	2	Western and Central Michigan	84,458	42,229	Owned
Valu Land . . . . .	7	Northern, Central and Eastern Michigan	156,579	22,368	Leased
Forest Hills Foods . . . . .	1	Western Michigan	50,250	50,250	Leased
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<u>101</u>		<u>4,178,410</u>	<u>41,370</u>	

We also own one fuel center in Western Michigan that is not included at a supermarket location but is adjacent to our corporate headquarters.

### **Item 3. Legal Proceedings**

Various lawsuits and claims, arising in the ordinary course of business, are pending or have been asserted against Spartan Stores. While the ultimate effect of such lawsuits and claims cannot be predicted with certainty, management believes that their outcome will not result in an adverse effect on the consolidated financial position, operating results or liquidity of Spartan Stores.

### **Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosure**

Not Applicable

## PART II

### Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity and Related Stockholder Matters

Spartan Stores common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the trading symbol "SPTN."

Stock sale prices are based on transactions reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. Information on quarterly high and low sales prices for Spartan Stores' common stock appears in Note 15 to the consolidated financial statements and is incorporated here by reference. At May 20, 2013, there were approximately 435 shareholders of record of Spartan Stores common stock.

Spartan Stores paid a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.05 per common share from the fiscal 2006 fourth quarter through the fourth quarter of fiscal 2011. In May 2011, the Board of Directors approved an increase in the quarterly dividend rate to \$0.065 per common share beginning with the first quarter of fiscal 2012; and in May 2012 approved an increase to \$0.08 per common share beginning with the first quarter of fiscal 2013. Under its senior revolving credit facility, Spartan Stores is generally permitted to pay dividends in any fiscal year up to an amount such that all cash dividends, together with any cash distributions or share repurchases, do not exceed \$30.0 million. Although we expect to continue to pay a quarterly cash dividend, adoption of a dividend policy does not commit the board of directors to declare future dividends. Each future dividend will be considered and declared by the Board of Directors at its discretion. The ability of the Board of Directors to continue to declare dividends will depend on a number of factors, including our future financial condition and profitability and compliance with the terms of our credit facilities. In May 2011, the Board approved a five-year share repurchase program for up to \$50 million of Spartan Stores' stock. During fiscal 2013 and 2012, the Company purchased 634,408 and 687,200 shares of its common stock for approximately \$11.4 million and \$12.4 million respectively.

The equity compensation plans table in Item 12 is here incorporated by reference.

The following table provides information regarding Spartan Stores' purchases of its own common stock during the fourth quarter. Spartan Stores did not repurchase shares of common stock under the share repurchase program during the quarter ended March 30, 2013. All employee transactions are under associate stock compensation plans. These may include: (1) shares of Spartan Stores, Inc. common stock delivered in satisfaction of the exercise price and/or tax withholding obligations by holders of employee stock options who exercised options, and (2) shares submitted for cancellation to satisfy tax withholding obligations that occur upon the vesting of the restricted shares. The value of the shares delivered or withheld is determined by the applicable stock compensation plan.

### Spartan Stores, Inc. Purchases of Equity Securities

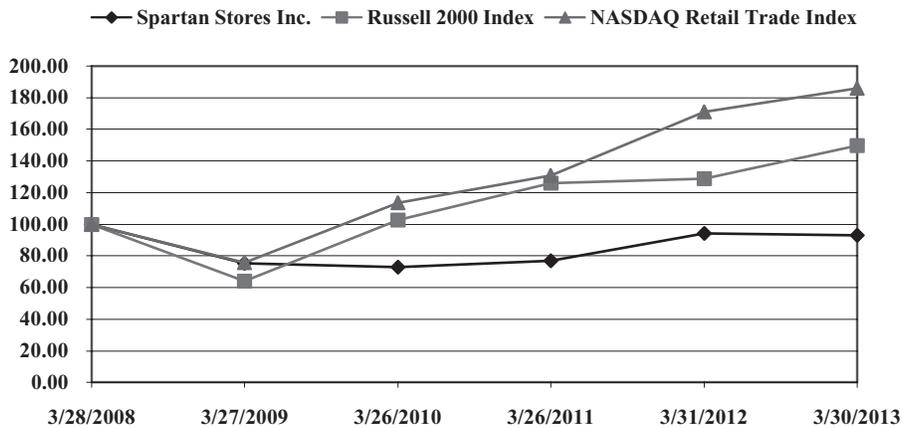
<u>Period</u>	<u>Total Number of Shares Purchased</u>	<u>Average Price Paid per Share</u>	<u>Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Programs or Plans</u>	<u>Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet be Purchased Under Plans or Programs</u> (In thousands)
January 6 – February 2, 2013				
Employee Transactions . . . . .	—	\$ —		
Repurchase Program . . . . .	—	\$ —	—	\$26,238
February 3 – March 2, 2013				
Employee Transactions . . . . .	283	\$15.90		
Repurchase Program . . . . .	—	\$ —	—	\$26,238
March 2 – March 30, 2013				
Employee Transactions . . . . .	—	\$ —		
Repurchase Program . . . . .	—	\$ —	—	\$26,238
Total for Fourth Quarter ended March 30, 2013				
Employee Transactions . . . . .	<u>283</u>	<u>\$15.90</u>		
Repurchase Program . . . . .	<u>—</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>\$26,238</u>

**Performance Graph**

Set forth below is a graph comparing the cumulative total shareholder return on Spartan Stores’ common stock to that of the Russell 2000 Total Return Index and the NASDAQ Retail Trade Index, over a period beginning March 28, 2008 and ending on March 30, 2013.

Cumulative total return is measured by the sum of (1) the cumulative amount of dividends for the measurement period, assuming dividend reinvestment and (2) the difference between the share price at the end and the beginning of the measurement period, divided by the share price at the beginning of the measurement period.

**Comparison of 5 Year Cumulative Total Return  
Assumes Initial Investment of \$100  
March 2008**



The dollar values for total shareholder return plotted above are shown in the table below:

	March 28, 2008	March 27, 2009	March 26, 2010	March 26, 2011	March 31, 2012	March 30, 2013
Spartan Stores . . . . .	\$100.00	\$75.37	\$ 73.03	\$ 76.98	\$ 94.04	\$ 92.92
Russell 2000 Total Return Index . . . . .	100.00	64.17	102.71	125.92	128.75	149.74
NASDAQ Retail Trade . . . . .	100.00	75.88	113.48	130.96	170.89	185.69

The information set forth under the Heading “Performance Graph” shall not be deemed to be “soliciting material” or to be “filed” with the Commission or subject to Regulation 14A or 14C, or to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Exchange Act, except to the extent that the registrant specifically requests that such information be treated as soliciting material or specifically incorporates it by reference into a filing under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act.

## Item 6. Selected Financial Data

The following table provides selected historical consolidated financial information of Spartan Stores. The historical information was derived from our audited consolidated financial statements as of and for each of the five fiscal years ended March 28, 2009 through March 30, 2013. For all years presented, Consolidated Balance Sheets and Consolidated Statements of Earnings information in this Form 10-K has been adjusted for the adoption of the provisions of Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Subtopic 470-20 and for the adoption of updated provisions of ASC Topic 260. Fiscal 2012 consisted of 53 weeks. All other years presented consisted of 52 weeks.

(In thousands, except per share data)	Year Ended				
	March 30, 2013	March 31, 2012	March 26, 2011	March 27, 2010	March 28, 2009 (C)
<b>Statements of Operations Data:</b>					
Net sales	\$2,608,160	\$2,634,226	\$2,533,064	\$2,551,956	\$2,576,738
Cost of sales	2,062,616	2,078,116	1,976,549	1,993,306	2,040,625
Gross profit	545,544	556,110	556,515	558,650	536,113
Selling, general and administrative expenses	482,987	489,650	488,017	493,832	463,369
Restructuring, asset impairment and other (A)	1,589	(23)	532	6,154	—
Operating earnings	60,968	66,483	67,966	58,664	72,744
Interest expense	13,410	15,037	15,104	16,394	14,138
Debt extinguishment	5,047	—	—	—	—
Other, net	(756)	(110)	(97)	(138)	(341)
Earnings before income taxes and discontinued operations	43,267	51,556	52,959	42,408	58,947
Income taxes	15,425	19,686	20,420	16,475	23,914
Earnings from continuing operations	27,842	31,870	32,539	25,933	35,033
(Loss) earnings from discontinued operations, net of taxes (B)	(432)	(112)	(232)	(375)	1,838
Net earnings	\$ 27,410	\$ 31,758	\$ 32,307	\$ 25,558	\$ 36,871
Basic weighted average shares outstanding	21,773	22,791	22,606	22,406	22,102
Diluted weighted average shares outstanding	21,848	22,887	22,688	22,480	22,262
Basic earnings from continuing operations per share	\$ 1.28	\$ 1.40	\$ 1.44	\$ 1.16	\$ 1.59
Diluted earnings from continuing operations per share	1.27	1.39	1.43	1.15	1.57
Basic earnings per share	1.26	1.39	1.43	1.14	1.67
Diluted earnings per share	1.25	1.39	1.42	1.14	1.66
Cash dividends declared per share	0.32	0.26	0.20	0.20	0.20
<b>Balance Sheet Data:</b>					
Total assets	\$ 789,667	\$ 763,473	\$ 751,396	\$ 753,481	\$ 723,311
Property and equipment, net	272,126	256,776	241,448	247,961	234,806
Working capital	13,179	24,684	47,300	15,739	20,969
Long-term debt and capital lease obligations	145,876	133,565	170,711	181,066	194,115
Shareholders' equity	335,655	323,608	305,505	273,905	247,205

(A) See Note 3 to Consolidated Financial Statements.

(B) See Note 13 to Consolidated Financial Statements.

(C) Spartan Stores acquired certain assets and assumed certain liabilities of *VG's Food Centers* in fiscal 2009.

Historical data is not necessarily indicative of Spartan Stores' future results of operations or financial condition. See discussion of "Risk Factors" in Part I, Item 1A of this report, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in Part II, Item 7 of this report, and the Consolidated Financial Statements and notes thereto in Part II, Item 8 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

## Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

### *Executive Overview*

Spartan Stores is a leading regional grocery distributor and grocery retailer, operating principally in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio.

We currently operate two reportable business segments: Distribution and Retail. Our Distribution segment provides a full line of grocery, general merchandise, health and beauty care, frozen and perishable items to approximately 390 independently owned grocery stores, having recently added a new 12-store customer in Ohio, and our 101 corporate owned stores. Our Retail segment operates supermarkets in Michigan under the banners *Family Fare Supermarkets*, *D&W Fresh Markets*, *Glen's Markets*, *VG's Food and Pharmacy*, *Forest Hills Foods* and *Valu Land*, and 30 fuel centers/convenience stores, included at our supermarket locations, under the banners *Family Fare Quick Stop*, *D&W Quick Stop*, *Glen's Quick Stop*, *VG's Quick Stop* and *Forest Hills Quick Stop*. Our retail supermarkets have a "neighborhood market" focus to distinguish them from supercenters and limited assortment stores.

Our sales and operating performance vary with seasonality. Our first and fourth quarters are typically our lowest sales quarters and therefore operating results are generally lower during these two quarters. Additionally, these two quarters can be affected by the timing of the Easter holiday, which results in a strong sales period. Many northern Michigan stores are dependent on tourism, which is affected by the economic environment and seasonal weather patterns, including, but not limited to, the amount and timing of snowfall during the winter months and the range of temperature during the summer months. Typically all quarters are 12 weeks, except for our third quarter, which is 16 weeks and includes the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. However, fiscal year 2012 included 53 weeks; therefore, the fourth quarter included 13 weeks.

We have established key management priorities that focus on the longer-term strategy of Spartan Stores, including establishing a well-differentiated market offering for our Distribution and Retail segments, and additional strategies designed to create value for our shareholders, retailers and customers. These priorities are:

- Retail sales growth: Continue refining our capital plan focusing on remodels, replacement stores, adjacent acquisitions, expansions and new stores to fill in existing markets, leverage investments in fuel centers and pharmacy operations to drive related supermarket customer traffic and continue to focus on category management initiatives, specifically focusing on fresh and value oriented offerings. We also pursue prudent acquisitions to grow this segment.
- Distribution sales growth: Focus on increasing penetration of existing customers, attracting new in-market customers and adjacent-state customers, continue to share "best retail practices" with customers, provide a superior value-added relationship and pursue appropriate acquisitions.
- Margin optimization: Continued focus on leveraging our customer loyalty card data, increasing penetration of private brand programs, enhancing offerings in our fresh department, lowering the cost of merchandise through vendor partnerships, E-sourcing, and improving retail shrink.
- Selling, general and administrative expense cost containment: Continue to focus on improving efficiency and general cost containment in all areas to allow us to remain cost competitive in the long-term.

We continued the execution of our capital investment program in fiscal 2013 by completing one store relocation, five major remodels of our stores as well as many other limited remodels and store resets. In addition, we acquired one supermarket and one fuel center. We also opened four new *Valu Land* stores and two new fuel centers.

The Michigan economy is gradually recovering. We believe that we are well-positioned to benefit from future improvements in the economy due to our capital investments in the retail and distribution segments and our continued effort to increase the value provided to our customers through leveraging loyalty card data and vendor partner expertise.

For the first quarter of fiscal 2014, management anticipates that consolidated net sales will slightly exceed last year as it continues to benefit from the acquisition of a retail store, maturation of the customer loyalty program and new customer gains. These positive sales drivers will be partially offset by an estimated 70 basis point impact due to the shift of the Easter holiday selling week out of the first quarter of fiscal 2014 and into the fourth quarter of fiscal 2013, the continued 70 to 100 basis point negative mix impact related to pharmacy prescription conversions from branded to generic drugs and a 40 basis point reduction in rate resulting from the cycling of the grand opening of a new relocated store. As a result, management expects comparable store sales in the retail segment to be down 2.0% or more for the first quarter of fiscal 2014. Management believes earnings per diluted share from continuing operations will slightly exceed the prior year first quarter when excluding the fiscal 2013 after-tax benefit of \$0.6 million, or \$0.03 per diluted share, due to changes in Michigan's state tax laws. We anticipate that fiscal 2014 financial performance for the full year will exceed fiscal 2013's net sales and earnings from continuing operations.

The matters discussed in this Item 7 include forward-looking statements. See "Forward-Looking Statements" at the beginning and "Risk Factors" in Item 1A of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

### ***Results of Operations***

The following table sets forth items from our Consolidated Statements of Earnings as a percentage of net sales and the year-to-year percentage change in dollar amounts:

	Percentage of Net Sales			Percentage Change	
	March 30, 2013	March 31, 2012	March 26, 2011	2013/2012	2012/2011
Net sales . . . . .	100.0	100.0	100.0	(1.0)	4.0
Gross margin . . . . .	20.9	21.1	22.0	(1.9)	(0.1)
Selling, general and administrative expenses . . . . .	18.5	18.6	19.3	(1.4)	0.2
Restructuring, asset impairment and other . . . . .	0.1	0.0	0.0	**	**
Operating earnings . . . . .	2.3	2.5	2.7	(8.3)	(2.2)
Other income and expenses . . . . .	0.6*	0.5*	0.6	18.6	(0.5)
Earnings before income taxes and discontinued operations . . . . .	1.7	2.0	2.1	(16.1)	(2.6)
Income taxes . . . . .	0.6	0.8*	0.8	(21.6)	(3.6)
Earnings from continuing operations . . . . .	1.1	1.2	1.3	(12.6)	(2.1)
Loss from discontinued operations, net of taxes . . . . .	0.0	0.0	0.0	**	**
Net earnings . . . . .	1.1	1.2	1.3	(13.7)	(1.7)

\* Difference due to rounding

\*\* Percentage change is not meaningful

### ***Adjusted earnings from Continuing Operations***

Adjusted earnings from continuing operations is a non-GAAP operating financial measure that we define as earnings from continuing operations plus or minus adjustments for items that do not reflect the ongoing operating activities of the Company and costs associated with the closing of operational locations.

We believe that adjusted earnings from continuing operations provide a meaningful representation of our operating performance for the Company. We consider adjusted earnings from continuing operations as an additional way to measure operating performance on an ongoing basis. Adjusted earnings from continuing operations is meant to reflect the ongoing operating performance of all of our retail stores and wholesale operations; consequently, it excludes the impact of items that could be considered "non-operating" or "non-core"

in nature, and also excludes the contributions of activities classified as discontinued operations. We believe that adjusted earnings from continuing operations provides useful information for our investors because it is a performance measure that management uses to allocate resources, assess performance against its peers and evaluate overall performance. In addition, securities analysts, fund managers and other shareholders and stakeholders that communicate with us request our operating financial results in adjusted earnings from continuing operations format.

Adjusted earnings from continuing operations is not a measure of performance under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and should not be considered as a substitute for net earnings, cash flows from operating activities and other income or cash flow statement data. Our definition of adjusted earnings from continuing operations may not be identical to similarly titled measures reported by other companies.

Following is a reconciliation of Earnings from continuing operations to adjusted earnings from continuing operations for fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011.

	2013		2012		2011	
	Earnings from continuing operations	Earnings from continuing operations per diluted share	Earnings from continuing operations	Earnings from continuing operations per diluted share	Earnings from continuing operations	Earnings from continuing operations per diluted share
<b>(In thousands, except per share data)</b>						
Earnings from continuing operations . . . . .	\$27,842	\$ 1.27	\$31,870	\$ 1.39	\$32,539	\$ 1.43
Adjustments, net of taxes:						
LIFO income related to warehouse consolidation . . . . .	—	—	—	—	(2,120)	(0.09)
Restructuring charges . . . . .	(58)	—	—	—	1,564	0.07
Asset impairment charges . . . . .	1,050	0.05	—	—	4,829	0.21
Acquisition related professional fees . . . . .	247	0.01	—	—	—	—
Non-recurring professional fees . . . . .	—	—	750	0.03	—	—
Net benefit related to favorable lease terminations . . . . .	—	—	—	—	(3,618)	(0.16)
Pension curtailment income . . . . .	—	—	—	—	(2,448)	(0.10)*
Gain on sale of assets . . . . .	(417)	(0.02)	(342)	(0.01)	—	—
Interest rate swap termination . . . . .	—	—	487	0.02	—	—
Debt extinguishment . . . . .	3,152	0.15*	—	—	—	—
Impact of 53 <sup>rd</sup> week . . . . .	—	—	(1,380)	(0.06)	—	—
Impact of state tax law changes . . . . .	(642)	(0.03)	518	0.02	—	—
Adjusted earnings from continuing operations . . . . .	<u>\$31,174</u>	<u>\$ 1.43</u>	<u>\$31,903</u>	<u>\$ 1.39</u>	<u>\$30,746</u>	<u>\$ 1.36</u>

\* Difference due to rounding

#### *Adjusted EBITDA*

Consolidated Adjusted EBITDA is a non-GAAP operating financial measure that we define as net earnings from continuing operations plus depreciation and amortization, and other non-cash items including imputed interest, deferred (stock) compensation, the LIFO provision, as well as adjustments for unusual items that do not reflect the ongoing operating activities of Spartan Stores and costs associated with the closing of operational locations, interest expense and the provision for income taxes to the extent deducted in the computation of Net Earnings.

We believe that Adjusted EBITDA provides a meaningful representation of our operating performance for the Spartan Stores as a whole and for our operating segments. We consider Adjusted EBITDA as an additional way to measure operating performance on an ongoing basis. Adjusted EBITDA is meant to reflect the ongoing operating performance of all of our retail stores and wholesale operations; consequently, it excludes the impact of items that could be considered “non-operating” or “non-core” in nature, and also excludes the contributions of activities classified as discontinued operations. Because Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA by segment are performance measures that management uses to allocate resources, assess performance against its peers, and evaluate overall performance, we believe it provides useful information for our investors. In addition, securities analysts, fund managers and other shareholders and stakeholders that communicate with us request our operating financial results in Adjusted EBITDA format.

Adjusted EBITDA is not a measure of performance under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and should not be considered as a substitute for net earnings, cash flows from operating activities and other income or cash flow statement data. Our definition of Adjusted EBITDA may not be identical to similarly titled measures reported by other companies.

Following is a reconciliation of net earnings to Adjusted EBITDA for fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011.

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Net earnings .....	\$ 27,410	\$ 31,758	\$ 32,307
Add:			
Discontinued operations .....	432	112	232
Income taxes .....	15,425	19,686	20,420
Interest expense .....	13,410	15,037	15,104
Debt extinguishment .....	5,047	—	—
Non-operating expense .....	(756)	(110)	(97)
Operating earnings .....	60,968	66,483	67,966
Add:			
Depreciation and amortization .....	39,081	36,794	35,158
LIFO expense (income) .....	335	1,401	(4,185)
Restructuring and asset impairment costs .....	1,589	(23)	532
53 <sup>rd</sup> week .....	—	(2,429)	—
Other unusual items .....	396	1,194	—
Non-cash stock compensation and other .....	3,964	3,825	4,793
Adjusted EBITDA .....	<u>\$106,333</u>	<u>\$107,245</u>	<u>\$104,264</u>
<b>Reconciliation of operating earnings to adjusted EBITDA by segment:</b>			
Retail:			
Operating earnings .....	\$ 15,338	\$ 22,191	\$ 19,979
Add:			
Depreciation and amortization .....	30,369	28,350	26,693
LIFO expense (income) .....	936	1,864	954
Restructuring and asset impairment costs .....	1,589	14	267
53 <sup>rd</sup> week .....	—	(1,497)	—
Other unusual items .....	396	—	—
Non-cash stock compensation and other .....	2,534	1,541	(123)
Adjusted EBITDA .....	<u>\$ 51,162</u>	<u>\$ 52,463</u>	<u>\$ 47,770</u>
Distribution:			
Operating earnings .....	\$ 45,630	\$ 44,292	\$ 47,987
Add:			
Depreciation and amortization .....	8,712	8,444	8,465
LIFO (income) expense .....	(601)	(463)	(5,139)
Restructuring and asset impairment costs .....	—	(37)	265
53 <sup>rd</sup> week .....	—	(932)	—
Other unusual items .....	—	1,194	—
Non-cash stock compensation and other .....	1,430	2,284	4,916
Adjusted EBITDA .....	<u>\$ 55,171</u>	<u>\$ 54,782</u>	<u>\$ 56,494</u>

*Results of Continuing Operations for the Fiscal Year Ended March 30, 2013 Compared to the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2012*

**Net Sales.** Net sales for the 52 week fiscal 2013 decreased \$26.1 million, or 1.0%, from \$2,634.2 million in the 53 week fiscal 2012, to \$2,608.2 million. The sales decrease was primarily driven by the 53<sup>rd</sup> week in fiscal 2012 which accounted for \$49.8 million, partially offset by increases in both the Distribution and Retail segments.

Net sales on a 52 week basis in our Distribution segment, after intercompany eliminations, increased \$5.1 million, or 0.5%, from \$1,115.6 million to \$1,120.7 million primarily due to new business sales. Distribution segment net sales for fiscal 2012 as reported for 53 weeks were \$1,138.7 million.

Net sales on a 52 week basis in our Retail segment increased \$18.7 million, or 1.3%, from \$1,468.8 million to \$1,487.5 million. The sales increase was primarily due to the acquisition of one supermarket late in the third quarter of fiscal 2013, increased fuel center sales of \$11.3 million driven by higher retail fuel prices and an increase in volume and incremental sales from new fuel centers (including one acquired fuel center) of \$2.4 million, partially offset by a decrease in supermarket comparable store sales of \$6.6 million. Retail segment net sales for fiscal 2012 as reported for 53 weeks were \$1,495.5 million. Total retail comparable store sales, excluding fuel centers, on a 52 week basis decreased approximately 0.5 percent in fiscal 2013 principally due to lower levels of inflation and the significant impact of the conversion from branded to generic drugs in our pharmacy operations. We define a retail store as comparable when it is in operation for 14 accounting periods (a period equals four weeks), and we include remodeled, expanded and relocated stores in comparable stores.

**Gross Profit.** Gross profit represents net sales less cost of sales, which include purchase costs, freight, physical inventory adjustments, markdowns and promotional allowances. Vendor allowances that relate to our buying and merchandising activities consist primarily of promotional allowances, which are generally allowances on purchased quantities and, to a lesser extent, slotting allowances, which are billed to vendors for our merchandising costs, such as setting up warehouse infrastructure. Vendor allowances associated with product cost are recognized as a reduction in cost of sales when the product is sold. Lump sum payments received for multi-year contracts are amortized over the life of the contracts based on contractual terms.

Gross profit decreased by \$10.6 million, or 1.9%, from \$556.1 million to \$545.5 million. Excluding the 53rd week from fiscal 2012, gross profit decreased \$1.1 million, or 0.2%, as a percent of net sales, gross profit decreased from 21.1% to 20.9%. The gross margin rate decrease was principally due to reduced inflation-driven inventory gains at the Distribution segment, the prize-freeze campaign at the Retail segment, and a slightly higher mix of lower-margin fuel sales.

**Selling, General and Administrative Expenses.** Selling, general and administrative (“SG&A”) expenses consist primarily of salaries and wages, employee benefits, warehousing costs, store occupancy costs, shipping and handling, utilities, equipment rental, depreciation and other administrative costs.

SG&A expenses increased \$0.4 million, or 0.1%, from \$482.6 million to \$483.0 million, and were 18.5% of net sales compared to 18.3% last year, when excluding the 53rd week from fiscal 2012. The net increase in SG&A on a 52 week basis is due primarily to an increase in health care and occupancy costs, partially offset by a decrease in incentive compensation expense and unusual professional fees incurred in fiscal 2012.

**Restructuring, Asset Impairment and Other.** Fiscal 2013 asset impairment charges of \$1.6 million were a result of the economic and competitive impacts on the financial performance of certain retail stores.

**Interest Expense.** Interest expense decreased \$1.6 million, or 10.8%, from \$15.0 million to \$13.4 million. As a percent of net sales, interest expense decreased from 0.6% to 0.5%. The decrease in interest expense was due primarily to a \$0.8 million charge for terminating the interest rate swap agreement in fiscal 2012 and lower average outstanding borrowings.

**Debt Extinguishment**—Debt extinguishment charges of \$5.0 million were incurred in fiscal 2013 in connection with the private exchange of \$40.3 million and redemption of \$57.4 million of Convertible Senior Notes.

**Income Taxes.** The effective income tax rates were 35.7% and 38.2% for fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012, respectively. The difference from the statutory Federal rate is primarily the result of state taxes and changes to

the state of Michigan tax laws in fiscal 2012. The first quarter of fiscal 2013 includes a \$0.7 million net after-tax benefit and the first quarter of fiscal 2012 includes a net after-tax charge of \$0.5 million due to these changes. Excluding these items the effective income tax rates were 37.3% and 37.2% for fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012, respectively.

***Results of Continuing Operations for the Fiscal Year Ended March 30, 2012 Compared to the Fiscal Year Ended March 26, 2011***

***Net Sales.*** Net sales for the 53 week fiscal 2012 increased \$101.2 million, or 4.0%, from \$2,533.1 million in the 52 week fiscal 2011, to \$2,634.2. The sales increase was primarily driven by the 53<sup>rd</sup> week, which accounted for \$49.8 million as well as increases in both the Distribution and Retail segments.

Net sales on a 52 week basis in our Distribution segment, after intercompany eliminations, increased \$25.9 million, or 2.4%, from \$1,089.7 million to \$1,115.6 million primarily due to new business sales. Distribution segment net sales for fiscal 2012 as reported for 53 weeks were \$1,138.7 million.

Net sales on a 52 week basis in our Retail segment increased \$25.4 million, or 1.8%, from \$1,443.4 million to \$1,468.8 million. Retail segment net sales for fiscal 2012 as reported for 53 weeks were \$1,495.5 million. The sales increase was primarily due to an increase in fuel center sales of \$47.7 million and a decrease in supermarket comparable store sales of \$21.3 million. Retail segment net sales for fiscal 2012 as reported for 53 weeks were \$1,495.5 million. Total retail comparable store sales on a 52 week basis decreased approximately 1.6 percent in fiscal 2012 principally due to the weakened economic environment and competitive impacts. We define a retail store as comparable when it is in operation for 14 accounting periods (a period equals four weeks), and we include remodeled, expanded and relocated stores in comparable stores.

***Gross Profit.*** Gross profit represents net sales less cost of sales, which include purchase costs, freight, physical inventory adjustments, markdowns and promotional allowances. Vendor allowances that relate to our buying and merchandising activities consist primarily of promotional allowances, which are generally allowances on purchased quantities and, to a lesser extent, slotting allowances, which are billed to vendors for our merchandising costs, such as setting up warehouse infrastructure. Vendor allowances associated with product cost are recognized as a reduction in cost of sales when the product is sold. Lump sum payments received for multi-year contracts are amortized over the life of the contracts based on contractual terms.

Gross profit decreased by \$0.4 million, or 0.1%, from \$556.5 million to \$556.1 million. As a percent of net sales, gross margin decreased from 22.0% to 21.1%. The gross profit rate decrease was principally due to a higher mix of fuel and distribution sales (which have a lower gross profit rate), incremental LIFO expense resulting from cycling the prior year inventory reductions from the warehouse consolidation initiative as well as higher inflation this year, and lower margins in both segments.

***Selling, General and Administrative Expenses.*** Selling, general and administrative (“SG&A”) expenses consist primarily of salaries and wages, employee benefits, warehousing costs, store occupancy costs, shipping and handling, utilities, equipment rental, depreciation and other administrative costs.

SG&A expenses decreased \$5.4 million, or 1.1%, from \$488.0 million to \$482.6 million, and were 18.3% of net sales compared to 19.3% last year, when excluding \$7.1 million of expenses related to the 53<sup>rd</sup> week in fiscal 2012. The net decrease in SG&A was due primarily to reductions in store labor and occupancy costs, partially offset by increased fuel costs and unusual professional fees incurred in fiscal 2012.

***Restructuring, Asset Impairment and Other.*** Fiscal 2011 restructuring, asset impairment and other includes \$2.5 million for lease and related ancillary costs, severance and other costs directly related to warehouse consolidation and \$7.9 million in asset impairment charges related to assets at underperforming stores and abandoned development projects. The asset impairment charges at underperforming stores resulted from the

economic and competitive environment in which these stores operated. These charges were substantially offset by a \$5.9 million benefit related to favorable lease terminations as a result of three leases being terminated by a bankruptcy judge. One of the leases related to a closed store and the other two leases were capital leases. The net benefit consists of the reversal of the restructuring cost liability for the closed store and the net value of the two capital lease obligations and assets. Also offsetting the charges was curtailment income of \$4.0 million related to freezing the cash balance pension plan.

**Interest Expense.** Interest expense was \$15.0 million, or 0.6% of net sales, and \$15.1 million, or 0.6% of net sales, in fiscal 2012 and 2011, respectively. The slight decrease in interest expense was primarily due to lower net borrowings offset by increased non-cash interest related to our convertible debt facility.

**Income Taxes.** The effective income tax rate was 38.2% and 38.6% for fiscal 2012 and fiscal 2011, respectively. The difference from the statutory rate was primarily due to State of Michigan income taxes, partially offset by tax credits. The effective tax rate decreased in fiscal 2012 due to an increase in tax credits and charitable product contributions. In addition, fiscal 2012 included a \$0.5 million charge for the write-off of net deferred tax assets and liabilities related to the Michigan Business tax that were no longer realizable as a result of the elimination of this tax, partially offset with a lower tax rate in Michigan effective with the new Corporate Income Tax on January 1, 2012.

#### ***Discontinued Operations***

Certain of our retail and grocery distribution operations have been recorded as discontinued operations. Results of the discontinued operations are excluded from the accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements for all periods presented, unless otherwise noted.

#### ***Critical Accounting Policies***

This discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations is based upon our consolidated financial statements. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts. On an ongoing basis, we evaluate our estimates, including those related to bad debts, inventories, intangible assets, assets held for sale, long-lived assets, income taxes, self-insurance reserves, restructuring costs, retirement benefits, stock-based compensation and contingencies and litigation. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions and factors that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. Based on our ongoing review, we make adjustments we consider appropriate under the facts and circumstances. We have discussed the development, selection and disclosure of these policies with the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors.

We believe that the following represent the more critical estimates and assumptions used in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements.

**Inventories.** Inventories are valued at the lower of cost or market using the last-in, first-out (“LIFO”) method. If replacement cost had been used, inventories would have been \$44.1 million and \$43.8 million higher at March 30, 2013 and March 31, 2012, respectively. The replacement cost method utilizes the most current unit purchase cost to calculate the value of inventories. During fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011, certain inventory quantities were reduced. The reductions resulted in liquidation of LIFO inventory carried at lower costs prevailing in prior years, the effect of which decreased the LIFO provision in fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011 by \$1.0 million, \$3.0 million and \$7.7 million, respectively. Spartan Stores accounts for its Distribution inventory using a perpetual system and utilizes the retail inventory method (“RIM”) to value inventory for center store products in the Retail segment. Under the retail inventory method, inventory is stated at cost with cost of sales and gross margin calculated by applying a cost ratio to the retail value of inventories. Fresh, pharmacy and fuel products are accounted for at cost in the Retail segment. We evaluate inventory shortages throughout the year based on actual physical counts in our facilities. We record allowances for inventory shortages based on the

results of recent physical counts to provide for estimated shortages from the last physical count to the financial statement date.

**Vendor Funds.** We receive funds from many of the vendors whose products we buy for resale in our corporate-owned stores and to our independent retail customers. Given the highly promotional nature of the retail supermarket industry, vendor allowances are generally intended to help defray the costs of promotion, advertising and selling the vendor's products. Vendor allowances that relate to our buying and merchandising activities consist primarily of promotional allowances, which are generally allowances on purchased quantities and, to a lesser extent, slotting allowances, which are billed to vendors for our merchandising costs such as setting up warehouse infrastructure. The proper recognition and timing of accounting for these items are significant to the reporting of the results of our operations. Vendor allowances are recognized as a reduction in cost of sales when the related product is sold. Lump sum payments received for multi-year contracts are amortized over the life of the contracts based on contractual terms.

**Goodwill.** Goodwill is reviewed for impairment on an annual basis (during the fourth quarter), or whenever events occur or circumstances change that would more likely than not reduce the fair value of a reporting unit below its carrying amount. Fair values are determined based on the discounted cash flows and comparable market values of each reporting segment. If the fair value of the reporting unit is less than its carrying value, the fair value of the implied goodwill is calculated as the difference between the fair value of the reporting unit and the fair value of the underlying assets and liabilities, excluding goodwill. An impairment charge is recorded for any excess of the carrying value over the implied fair value. Our goodwill impairment analysis also includes a comparison of the aggregate estimated fair value of each reporting unit to our total market capitalization. Therefore, a significant and sustained decline in our stock price could result in goodwill impairment charges. During times of financial market volatility, significant judgment is given to determine the underlying cause of the decline and whether stock price declines are short-term in nature or indicative of an event or change in circumstances. When testing goodwill for impairment, our retail stores represent components of our Retail operating segment. Stores have been aggregated and deemed a single reporting unit as they have similar economic characteristics.

Determining market values using a discounted cash flow method requires that we make significant estimates and assumptions, including long-term projections of cash flows, market conditions and appropriate discount rates. Our judgments are based on the perspective of a market participant, historical experience, current market trends and other information. In estimating future cash flows, we rely on internally generated three-year forecasts for sales and operating profits, including capital expenditures and a 3.0% long-term assumed growth rate of cash flows for periods after the three-year forecast for the Retail segment and 2.5% for the Distribution segment. The future estimated cash flows were discounted using a rate of 10.0% and 11.1% for the Retail and Distribution segments, respectively. We generally develop these forecasts based on recent sales data for existing operations and other factors. While we believe that the estimates and assumptions underlying the valuation methodology are reasonable, different assumptions could result in different outcomes. Based on our annual review during fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011, no goodwill impairment charge was required to be recorded. No goodwill impairment charge would be required even if the current estimate of future discounted cash flow was 5% lower. Furthermore, no goodwill impairment charge would be required if the discount rate was increased 0.25%. If our stock price experiences a significant and sustained decline, or other events or changes in circumstances occur, such as operating results not meeting our estimates, indicating that impairment may have occurred, we would re-evaluate our goodwill for impairment.

**Impairment of Long-Lived Assets Other Than Goodwill.** Long-lived assets to be held and used are evaluated for impairment when events or circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. When the undiscounted future cash flows are not sufficient to recover an asset's carrying amount, the fair value is compared to the carrying value to determine the impairment loss to be recorded. Long-lived assets are evaluated at the asset-group level, which is the lowest level for which identifiable cash flows are largely independent of the cash flows of other assets and liabilities. In fiscal 2013, fiscal 2012 and fiscal 2011 asset impairments for long-lived assets totaled \$1.7 million, \$0.2 million and \$7.9 million, respectively.

Long-lived assets to be disposed of are reported at the lower of carrying amount or fair value, less cost to sell. Management determines fair values using independent appraisals, quotes or expected sales prices developed by internal real estate professionals. Estimates of expected sales prices are judgments based upon our experience, knowledge of market conditions and current offers received. Changes in market conditions, the economic environment and other factors can significantly impact these estimates. While we believe that the estimates and assumptions underlying the valuation methodology are reasonable, different assumptions could result in a different outcome. If the current estimate of future discounted cash flows was 10% lower an additional impairment charge \$0.2 million would be required.

**Restructuring Costs.** We record restructuring costs for closed stores that are subject to long-term lease commitments based upon the future minimum lease payments and related ancillary costs from the date of closure to the end of the remaining lease term, net of estimated sublease rentals that could be reasonably expected to be obtained for the property. Future cash flows are based on contractual lease terms and knowledge of the market in which the closed store is located. These estimates are subject to multiple factors, including inflation, ability to sublease the property and other economic conditions. Internally developed estimates of sublease rentals are based upon the market in which the property is located, the results of previous efforts to sublease similar property and the current economic environment. Reserves may be adjusted in the future based upon the actual resolution of each of these factors. For any closed store reserves recorded as part of purchase accounting prior to the adoption of Accounting Standards Codification Topic 805, adjustments that decrease the liability are generally recorded as a reduction of goodwill. At March 30, 2013 restructuring costs for store lease and ancillary costs totaling \$8.0 million are recorded net of approximately \$0.1 million of existing sublease rentals. Based upon the current economic environment we do not believe that we will be able to obtain any additional sublease rentals. A 10% increase/decrease in future estimated ancillary costs would result in a \$0.2 million increase/decrease in the restructuring charge liability.

**Insurance Reserves.** We are primarily self-insured for costs related to workers' compensation, general liability and health insurance. We record our self-insurance liabilities based on reported claims experience and an estimate of claims incurred but not yet reported. Workers' compensation and general liability are actuarially determined on a discounted basis. We have purchased stop-loss coverage to limit our exposure to any significant exposure on a per claim basis. Our exposure for workers' compensation and general liability is \$0.5 million per claim and for health insurance our exposure is \$0.3 million per associate per year.

Any projection of losses concerning workers' compensation, general liability and health insurance is subject to a considerable degree of variability. Among the causes of variability are unpredictable external factors affecting future inflation rates, discount rates, litigation trends, changing regulations, legal interpretations, benefit level changes and claim settlement patterns. Although our estimates of liabilities incurred do not anticipate significant changes in historical trends for these variables, such changes could have a material impact on future claim costs and currently recorded liabilities. The impact of many of these variables is difficult to estimate. As of March 30, 2013, a one percentage point decrease in the discount rate, or 100 basis points, for workers' compensation and general liability would increase our liability less than \$0.1 million and a one percentage point increase in the discount rate would decrease our liability by less than \$0.1 million.

**Pension.** Accounting for defined benefit cash balance pension plans involves estimating the cost of benefits to be provided in the future, based on vested years of service, and attributing those costs over the time period each employee works. The significant factors affecting our pension costs are the fair values of plan assets and the selections of management's key assumptions, including the expected return on plan assets and the discount rate used by our actuary to calculate our liability. We consider current market conditions, including changes in interest rates and investment returns, in selecting these assumptions. Our discount rate is based on current investment yields on high quality fixed-income investments and projected cash flow obligations. The discount rate used to determine fiscal 2013 pension income was 4.5%. Expected return on plan assets is based on projected returns by asset class on broad, publicly traded equity and fixed-income indices, as well as target asset allocation. Our target allocation mix is designed to meet our long-term pension requirements. For fiscal 2013, our

assumed rate of return was 7.5%. Over the ten-year period ended March 30, 2013; the average actual return was approximately 9.6%. While we believe the assumptions selected are reasonable, significant differences in our actual experience, plan amendments or significant changes in the fair value of our plan assets may materially affect our pension obligations and our future expense. A 25 basis point increase or decrease in the discount rate would have increased/decreased fiscal 2013 pension income by less than \$0.1 million. A 50 basis point increase/decrease in the expected return on plan assets would have increased/decreased fiscal 2013 pension income by approximately \$0.3 million.

As of March 30, 2013 our defined benefit plans were in a funded status of \$3.5 million and as of March 31, 2012 they were in an unfunded status of \$1.9 million. The increase in the funded status during fiscal 2013 is a result of market appreciation of plan assets and company contributions to the plan. Plan assets increased by \$5.5 million due to a 9.1% return on plan assets and company contributions of \$4.2 million, offset by benefit payments of \$4.1 million. Pension income was \$0.5 million in fiscal 2013 and pension expense was \$0.6 million in fiscal 2012.

**Income Taxes.** Spartan Stores is subject to periodic audits by the Internal Revenue Service and other state and local taxing authorities. These audits may challenge certain of our tax positions such as the timing and amount of income credits and deductions and the allocation of taxable income to various tax jurisdictions. We evaluate our tax positions and establish liabilities in accordance with the applicable accounting guidance on uncertainty in income taxes. These tax uncertainties are reviewed as facts and circumstances change and are adjusted accordingly. This requires significant management judgment in estimating final outcomes. Actual results could materially differ from these estimates and could significantly affect our effective income tax rate and cash flows in future years. We recognize deferred tax assets and liabilities for the expected tax consequences of temporary differences between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their reported amounts using enacted tax rates in effect for the year in which it expects the differences to reverse. Note 10 to the consolidated financial statements set forth in Item 8 of this report provides additional information on income taxes.

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

The following table summarizes our consolidated statements of cash flows for fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011:

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>March 30, 2013</u>	<u>March 31, 2012</u>	<u>March 26, 2011</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities .....	\$ 59,341	\$ 93,734	\$ 89,756
Net cash used in investing activities .....	(53,056)	(43,800)	(33,123)
Net cash used in financing activities .....	(26,213)	(67,206)	(19,369)
Net cash used in discontinued operations .....	(451)	(76)	(2,610)
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents .....	(20,379)	(17,348)	34,654
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year .....	26,476	43,824	9,170
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year .....	<u>\$ 6,097</u>	<u>\$ 26,476</u>	<u>\$ 43,824</u>

Net cash provided by operating activities decreased during fiscal 2013 by approximately \$34.3 million. This decrease was due primarily to the timing of working capital requirements and timing of required tax payments associated with the change in state tax law.

During fiscal 2013, 2012 and fiscal 2011, we paid \$10.2 million, \$0.2 million and \$0.5 million in income tax payments.

Net cash used in investing activities increased in fiscal 2013 primarily due to cash paid for the acquisition of one supermarket and one fuel center of \$13.7 million, partially offset by increased proceeds from the sales of

assets of \$1.8 million. We also paid a total cash purchase price of \$0.5 million and \$1.3 million for acquisitions in fiscal years 2012 and 2011, respectively. Excluding the acquisitions, our Distribution and Retail segments utilized 20.9% and 79.1%, respectively, of our capital expenditure dollars for fiscal 2013. Expenditures in fiscal 2013 were primarily used for five new stores, store remodels and refurbishments, two fuel centers and new equipment and software. We expect capital expenditures to range from \$42.0 million to \$44.0 million in fiscal 2014, primarily for the construction of new stores, store remodels, fuel centers, new equipment and software.

Net cash used in financing activities includes cash paid and received related to our long-term borrowings, dividends paid, purchase of Spartan Stores' common stock, financing fees paid, tax benefits of stock compensation and proceeds from the issuance of common stock. The decrease in cash used in financing activities in fiscal 2013 was primarily due to the net \$45.0 million payment made on our revolving credit facility in fiscal 2012. Although we currently expect to continue to pay a quarterly cash dividend, adoption of a dividend policy does not commit the board of directors to declare future dividends. Each future dividend will be considered and declared by the board of directors in its discretion. Whether the board of directors continues to declare dividends depends on a number of factors, including our future financial condition and profitability and compliance with the terms of our credit facilities. Our current maturities of long-term debt and capital lease obligations at March 30, 2013 are \$4.1 million. Our ability to borrow additional funds is governed by the terms of our credit facilities.

Net cash used in discontinued operations contains the net cash flows of our discontinued operations and consists primarily of insurance run-off claims, facility maintenance and other liabilities.

On January 9, 2012, we terminated our interest rate swap agreement. A swap termination charge of \$0.8 million was recorded as interest expense and paid from available cash.

On December 6, 2012, we completed a private exchange and sale of \$50.0 million aggregate principal amount of newly issued four year unsecured 6.625% Senior Notes due 2016 ("New Notes") for \$40.3 million aggregate principal amount of our existing Convertible Senior Notes due 2027 and \$9.7 million in cash. The New Notes mature on December 15, 2016 and are senior unsecured debt and rank equally in right of payment with our other existing and future senior debt. The New Notes are effectively subordinated to our existing and future secured debt to the extent of the value of the assets securing such debt. Interest on the New Notes accrues at a rate of 6.625% per annum. Interest on the New Notes is payable semiannually on June 15 and December 15 of each year, commencing on June 15, 2013. On March 1, 2013, we redeemed all of the remaining \$57.4 million aggregate principal amount of the Convertible Senior Notes. This redemption was funded by borrowings on the senior secured revolving credit facility. The completion of the redemption discharges the Indenture dated as of May 30, 2007 between Spartan Stores and the Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee (the "Indenture") and the Convertible Notes.

Our principal sources of liquidity are cash flows generated from operations and our senior secured revolving credit facility which has maximum available credit of \$200.0 million. As of March 30, 2013, our senior secured revolving credit facility had outstanding borrowings of \$47.6 million, additional available borrowings of \$149.3 million and maximum availability of \$129.5 million which exceeds the minimum excess availability levels, as defined in the credit agreement. The revolving credit facility matures December 2017, and is secured by substantially all of our assets. We believe that cash generated from operating activities and available borrowings under the credit facility will be sufficient to meet anticipated requirements for working capital, capital expenditures, dividend payments, and senior note debt redemption and debt service obligations for the foreseeable future. However, there can be no assurance that our business will continue to generate cash flow at or above current levels or that we will maintain our ability to borrow under our credit facility.

Available borrowings under the credit facility are based on stipulated advance rates on eligible assets, as defined in the credit agreement. The credit facility contains a covenant that includes a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio as defined in the credit agreement. This covenant was not applicable for fiscal 2013 as we

maintained minimum excess availability levels, as defined in the credit agreement. The credit facility provides for the issuance of letters of credit, of which \$0.6 million were outstanding and unused as of March 30, 2013. Borrowings under the revolving credit portion of the facility bear interest at the London InterBank Offered Rate (“LIBOR”) plus 1.50%, adjusted based upon availability levels, or the prime rate plus 0.25% (weighted average interest rate of 2.68% at March 30, 2013).

Our current ratio decreased to 1.07:1.00 at March 30, 2013 from 1.13:1.00 at March 31, 2012 and our investment in working capital was \$13.2 million at March 30, 2013 versus \$24.7 million at March 31, 2012. Our debt to total capital ratio increased slightly to 0.31:1.00 at March 30, 2013 versus 0.30:1.00 at March 31, 2012.

Total Net debt is a non-GAAP financial measure that is defined as long term debt and capital lease obligations plus current maturities of long-term debt and capital lease obligations less cash and cash equivalents. The Company believes investors find the information useful because it reflects the amount of long term debt obligations that are not covered by available cash and temporary investments.

Following is a reconciliation of long-term debt and capital lease obligations to total net long-term debt and capital lease obligations as of March 30, 2013 and March 31, 2012.

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>March 31, 2013</u>	<u>March 31, 2012</u>
Current maturities of long-term debt and capital lease obligations .....	\$ 4,067	\$ 4,449
Long-term debt and capital lease obligations .....	145,876	133,565
Total Debt .....	149,943	138,014
Cash and cash equivalents .....	(6,097)	(26,476)
<b>Total net long-term debt</b> .....	<u>\$143,846</u>	<u>\$111,538</u>

The table below presents our significant contractual obligations as of March 30, 2013 <sup>(1)</sup>:

	<u>Payment Due by Period</u>				
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Less than 1 year</u>	<u>1-3 years</u>	<u>3-5 years</u>	<u>More than 5 years</u>
	(In thousands)				
Long-term debt .....	\$ 97,895	\$ 41	\$ 65	\$ 97,715	\$ 74
Estimated interest on long-term debt .....	17,696	4,438	8,868	3,012	1,378
Capital leases (2) .....	52,048	4,026	7,553	8,395	32,074
Interest on capital leases .....	34,276	4,072	7,370	6,098	16,736
Operating leases (2) .....	124,672	28,345	44,452	26,009	25,866
Lease and ancillary costs of closed stores, including imputed interest .....	8,483	3,441	4,754	288	—
Purchase obligations (merchandise) (3) .....	23,741	3,734	6,196	5,000	8,811
FIN 48 unrecognized tax liability .....	2,648	718	1,708	222	—
Self-insurance liability .....	7,167	5,774	947	300	146
Total .....	<u>\$420,674</u>	<u>\$58,615</u>	<u>\$89,466</u>	<u>\$155,434</u>	<u>\$117,159</u>

- (1) Excludes funding of pension and other postretirement benefit obligations. We are not required nor do we intend to make a contribution to our defined benefit pension plan in fiscal 2014. Also excludes contributions under various multi-employer pension plans, which totaled \$8.20 million in fiscal 2013. For additional information, refer to Note 9 to the consolidated financial statements.
- (2) Operating and capital lease obligations do not include common area maintenance, insurance or tax payments for which we are also obligated. In fiscal 2013, these charges totaled approximately \$9.0 million.
- (3) The majority of our purchases involve supply orders to purchase products for resale in the ordinary course of business. These contracts are typically cancelable and therefore no amounts have been included in the

table above. Also excluded are contracts that do not contain minimum annual purchase commitments but include other standard contractual considerations that must be fulfilled in order to earn \$2.4 million in advanced contract monies that has been received where recognition has been deferred on the Consolidated Balance Sheet. The purchase obligations shown in this table represent the amount of product we are contractually obligated to purchase to earn \$7.0 million in advanced contract monies that are receivable under the contracts. At March 30, 2013, \$2.0 million in advanced contract monies has been received under these contracts where recognition has been deferred on the Consolidated Balance Sheet. If we do not fulfill these purchase obligations, we would only be obligated to repay the unearned upfront contract monies.

#### *Cash Dividends*

We paid a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.08 per common share in each quarter of fiscal year 2013, \$0.065 in fiscal 2012 and \$0.05 in fiscal 2011. Under our senior revolving credit facility, we are generally permitted to pay dividends in any fiscal year up to an amount such that all cash dividends together with any cash distributions or share repurchases do not exceed \$30.0 million. Although we currently expect to continue to pay a quarterly cash dividend, adoption of a dividend policy does not commit the board of directors to declare future dividends. Each future dividend will be considered and declared by the board of directors in its discretion. Whether the board of directors continues to declare dividends depends on a number of factors, including our future financial condition and profitability and compliance with the terms of our credit facilities.

#### *Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges*

For purposes of calculating the ratio of earnings to fixed charges under the terms of the New Senior Notes, earnings consist of net earnings, as adjusted under the terms of the Senior Notes indenture, plus income tax expense, fixed charges and non-cash charges, less cash payments relating to non-cash charges added back to net earnings in prior periods. Fixed charges consist of interest cost, including capitalized interest, and amortization of debt issue costs. Our ratio of earnings to fixed charges was 7.67:1.00 for fiscal 2013.

#### *Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements*

We had letters of credit of \$0.6 million outstanding and unused at March 30, 2013. The letters of credit are maintained primarily to support payment or deposit obligations. We pay a commission of approximately 2% on the face amount of the letters of credit.

#### *Recently Adopted Accounting Standards*

In June 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") No. 2011-05, "Presentation of Comprehensive Income." The objective of this amendment is to improve the comparability, consistency and transparency of financial reporting and to increase the prominence of items reported in other comprehensive income. Specifically, this amendment requires that all non-owner changes in shareholders' equity be presented either in a single continuous statement of comprehensive income or in two separate but consecutive statements. The new rules became effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011. Because the standard only affects the presentation of comprehensive income and do not affect what is included in comprehensive income, the standard did not have a material effect on our consolidated financial statements.

In September 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-08, "Intangibles-Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Testing Goodwill for Impairment." ASU No. 2011-08 permits the entity to first assess qualitative factors to determine whether certain events and circumstances exist that indicate that it is more likely than not that goodwill is impaired. If as a result of the qualitative assessment it is determined that it is not more likely than not that goodwill is impaired, then we are not required to take further action and calculate the fair value of the reporting unit. ASU No. 2011-08 was effective for interim and annual goodwill impairment tests performed for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2011. We continued to test our goodwill for impairment using the allowed two step test.

### Recently Issued Accounting Standards

In July 2012, the FASB issued ASU No. 2012-02, “Intangibles-Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Testing Indefinite-Lived Intangible Assets for Impairment.” ASU No. 2012-02 essentially expanded the amendment discussed above to apply to the testing of all indefinite-lived intangible assets in order to improve consistency in impairment testing guidance among long-lived asset categories. ASU No. 2012-02 was effective for annual and interim goodwill impairment tests performed for fiscal years beginning after September 15, 2012. We do not expect that the adoption of this standard will have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In February 2013, the FASB issued ASU No. 2013-02, “Reporting Amounts Reclassified Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income.” ASU No. 2013-02 requires companies to provide additional information about the amounts reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive income by component. In addition, companies are required to present, either on the face of the financial statements or in the notes, significant amounts reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive income by the respective line items of net income. The amendments are effective prospectively for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2012. This ASU does not change the requirements for reporting net income or other comprehensive income. Because the standard only affects the presentation of comprehensive income and does not affect what is included in comprehensive income, we do not anticipate this standard will have a material effect on our consolidated financial statements.

### Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure About Market Risk

We are exposed to industry related price changes on several commodities, such as dairy, meat and produce that we buy and sell in both our Distribution and Retail segments. These products are purchased for and sold from inventory in the ordinary course of business. We are also exposed to other general commodity price changes such as utilities, insurance and fuel costs.

We had \$47.6 million variable rate debt as of March 30, 2013. The senior secured revolving credit facility currently bears interest at the LIBOR plus 1.25% or the prime rate (weighted average interest rate of 2.68% at March 30, 2013) on the revolving credit portion of the facility. The weighted average interest rates on outstanding debt including loan fee amortization for fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011 were 8.43%, 8.05% and 7.81%, respectively.

At March 30, 2013 and March 31, 2012, the estimated fair value of our long-term debt, including current maturities, was higher than book value by approximately \$2.8 million and \$4.7 million, respectively. The estimated fair values were based on market quotes for similar instruments.

The following table sets forth the principal cash flows of our debt outstanding and related weighted average interest rates by year of maturity as of March 30, 2013:

(In thousands, except rates)	March 30, 2013		Aggregate Payments by Fiscal Year					Thereafter
	Fair Value	Total	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Fixed rate debt								
Principal payable . . . . .	\$105,112	\$102,297	\$4,067	\$3,776	\$3,841	\$54,185	\$ 4,280	\$32,148
Average interest rate . . . . .		7.55%	7.55%	7.54%	7.51%	7.91%	8.54%	8.70%
Variable rate debt								
Principal payable . . . . .	47,646	47,646	—	—	—	—	47,646	—
Average interest rate . . . . .		2.68%					2.68%	

**Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data**

**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of  
Spartan Stores, Inc. and Subsidiaries  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Spartan Stores, Inc. and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of March 30, 2013 and March 31, 2012, and the related consolidated statements of earnings, comprehensive income, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended March 30, 2013. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Spartan Stores, Inc. and subsidiaries as of March 30, 2013 and March 31, 2012, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended March 30, 2013, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of March 30, 2013, based on the criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated May 23, 2013 expressed an unqualified opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche LLP  
Grand Rapids, MI  
May 23, 2013

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

**Spartan Stores, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
(In thousands)

	<b>March 30, 2013</b>	<b>March 31, 2012</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents .....	\$ 6,097	\$ 26,476
Accounts receivable, net .....	60,979	58,637
Inventories, net .....	124,657	99,778
Prepaid expenses .....	10,822	9,478
Other current assets .....	1,304	13,686
Deferred taxes on income .....	2,310	1,582
<b>Total current assets</b> .....	<b>206,169</b>	<b>209,637</b>
<b>Property and equipment</b>		
Land and improvements .....	23,093	23,456
Buildings and improvements .....	261,348	235,886
Equipment .....	302,161	298,028
<b>Total property and equipment</b> .....	<b>586,602</b>	<b>557,370</b>
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization .....	314,476	300,594
<b>Property and equipment, net</b> .....	<b>272,126</b>	<b>256,776</b>
<b>Goodwill</b> .....	<b>246,840</b>	<b>240,194</b>
<b>Other, net</b> .....	<b>64,532</b>	<b>56,866</b>
<b>Total assets</b> .....	<b>\$789,667</b>	<b>\$763,473</b>
<b>Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable .....	\$120,651	\$107,703
Accrued payroll and benefits .....	38,356	39,366
Accrued income taxes .....	6,132	12,352
Other accrued expenses .....	23,784	21,083
Current maturities of long-term debt and capital lease obligations .....	4,067	4,449
<b>Total current liabilities</b> .....	<b>192,990</b>	<b>184,953</b>
<b>Long-term liabilities</b>		
Deferred income taxes .....	80,578	83,807
Postretirement benefits .....	14,092	13,618
Other long-term liabilities .....	20,476	23,922
Long-term debt and capital lease obligations .....	145,876	133,565
<b>Total long-term liabilities</b> .....	<b>261,022</b>	<b>254,912</b>
<b>Commitments and contingencies (Note 7)</b>		
<b>Shareholders' equity</b>		
Common stock, voting, no par value; 50,000 shares authorized; 21,751 and 22,215 shares outstanding .....	146,564	155,134
Preferred stock, no par value, 10,000 shares authorized; no shares outstanding .....	—	—
Accumulated other comprehensive loss .....	(13,687)	(13,793)
Retained earnings .....	202,778	182,267
<b>Total shareholders' equity</b> .....	<b>335,655</b>	<b>323,608</b>
<b>Total liabilities and shareholders' equity</b> .....	<b>\$789,667</b>	<b>\$763,473</b>

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EARNINGS**

**Spartan Stores, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
(In thousands, except per share data)

	Year Ended		
	March 30, 2013	March 31, 2012	March 26, 2011
<b>Net sales</b> .....	\$2,608,160	\$2,634,226	\$2,533,064
<b>Cost of sales</b> .....	2,062,616	2,078,116	1,976,549
<b>Gross profit</b> .....	545,544	556,110	556,515
<b>Operating expenses</b>			
Selling, general and administrative .....	482,987	489,650	488,017
Restructuring, asset impairment and other .....	1,589	(23)	532
<b>Total operating expenses</b> .....	484,576	489,627	488,549
<b>Operating earnings</b> .....	60,968	66,483	67,966
<b>Other income and expenses</b>			
Interest expense .....	13,410	15,037	15,104
Debt extinguishment .....	5,047	—	—
Other, net .....	(756)	(110)	(97)
<b>Total other income and expenses</b> .....	17,701	14,927	15,007
<b>Earnings before income taxes and discontinued operations</b> .....	43,267	51,556	52,959
Income taxes .....	15,425	19,686	20,420
<b>Earnings from continuing operations</b> .....	27,842	31,870	32,539
<b>Loss from discontinued operations, net of taxes</b> .....	(432)	(112)	(232)
<b>Net earnings</b> .....	\$ 27,410	\$ 31,758	\$ 32,307
<b>Basic earnings per share:</b>			
Earnings from continuing operations .....	\$ 1.28	\$ 1.40	\$ 1.44
Loss from discontinued operations .....	(0.02)	(0.01)*	(0.01)
Net earnings .....	\$ 1.26	\$ 1.39	\$ 1.43
<b>Diluted earnings per share:</b>			
Earnings from continuing operations .....	\$ 1.27	\$ 1.39	\$ 1.43
Loss from discontinued operations .....	(0.02)	—	(0.01)
Net earnings .....	\$ 1.25	\$ 1.39	\$ 1.42
<b>Weighted average shares outstanding:</b>			
Basic .....	21,773	22,791	22,606
Diluted .....	21,848	22,887	22,688

\* Includes rounding.

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

**Spartan Stores, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
(In thousands)

	Year Ended		
	March 30, 2013	March 31, 2012	March 26, 2011
<b>Net earnings</b> .....	\$27,410	\$31,758	\$32,307
<b>Other comprehensive income, before tax</b>			
Pension curtailment <sup>1</sup> .....	—	—	(3,985)
Change in fair value of interest rate swap <sup>2</sup> .....	—	330	(431)
Interest rate swap termination charge <sup>3</sup> .....	—	775	—
Pension and postretirement liability adjustment <sup>4</sup> .....	173	(2,353)	4,346
<b>Total other comprehensive income (loss), before tax</b> .....	173	(1,248)	(70)
<b>Income tax (benefit) expense related to items of other comprehensive income</b> .....	(67)	471	27
<b>Comprehensive income</b> .....	\$27,516	\$30,981	\$32,264

(1) Amount is gross of tax of \$1,543 in fiscal 2011

(2) Amount is gross of tax of \$(119) in fiscal 2012 and \$166 in fiscal 2011

(3) Amount is gross of tax of \$(321) in fiscal 2012

(4) Amount is gross of tax of \$(67) in fiscal 2013, \$911 in fiscal 2012 and \$(1,682) in fiscal 2011

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY**

**Spartan Stores, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
(In thousands)

	<u>Shares Outstanding</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)</u>	<u>Retained Earnings</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Balance – March 27, 2010</b> .....	22,450	\$158,225	\$(12,973)	\$128,653	\$273,905
Net earnings .....	—	—	—	32,307	32,307
Other comprehensive loss .....	—	—	(43)	—	(43)
Dividends – \$0.20 per share .....	—	—	—	(4,525)	(4,525)
Repurchase of equity component of convertible debt, net of taxes of \$246 .....	—	(388)	—	—	(388)
Stock-based employee compensation .....	—	5,379	—	—	5,379
Issuances of common stock and related tax benefit on stock option exercises .....	33	428	—	—	428
Issuances of restricted stock and related income tax benefits .....	222	(295)	—	—	(295)
Cancellations of restricted stock .....	(86)	(1,263)	—	—	(1,263)
<b>Balance – March 26, 2011</b> .....	22,619	\$162,086	\$(13,016)	\$156,435	\$305,505
Net earnings .....	—	—	—	31,758	31,758
Other comprehensive loss .....	—	—	(777)	—	(777)
Dividends – \$0.26 per share .....	—	—	—	(5,926)	(5,926)
Share repurchase .....	(687)	(12,381)	—	—	(12,381)
Stock-based employee compensation .....	—	5,048	—	—	5,048
Issuances of common stock and related tax benefit on stock option exercises and bonus plan .....	93	1,311	—	—	1,311
Issuances of restricted stock and related income tax benefits .....	255	(116)	—	—	(116)
Cancellations of restricted stock .....	(65)	(814)	—	—	(814)
<b>Balance – March 31, 2012</b> .....	22,215	\$155,134	\$(13,793)	\$182,267	\$323,608
Net earnings .....	—	—	—	27,410	27,410
Other comprehensive income .....	—	—	106	—	106
Dividends – \$0.32 per share .....	—	—	—	(6,899)	(6,899)
Share repurchase .....	(634)	(11,381)	—	—	(11,381)
Repurchase of equity component of convertible debt, net of taxes of \$587 .....	—	(935)	—	—	(935)
Stock-based employee compensation .....	—	4,062	—	—	4,062
Issuances of common stock and related tax benefit on stock option exercises and bonus plan .....	32	650	—	—	650
Issuances of restricted stock and related income tax benefits .....	226	35	—	—	35
Cancellations of restricted stock .....	(88)	(1,001)	—	—	(1,001)
<b>Balance – March 30, 2013</b> .....	21,751	\$146,564	\$(13,687)	\$202,778	\$335,655

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

**Spartan Stores, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
(In thousands)

	Year Ended		
	March 30, 2013	March 31, 2012	March 26, 2011
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net earnings	\$ 27,410	\$ 31,758	\$ 32,307
Loss from discontinued operations	432	112	232
Earnings from continuing operations	27,842	31,870	32,539
Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Restructuring, asset impairment and other	1,589	(23)	532
Convertible debt interest	3,282	3,745	3,462
Loss on debt extinguishment	5,047	—	—
Depreciation and amortization	38,854	36,767	35,273
LIFO income – warehouse consolidation	—	—	(3,450)
LIFO expense (income)	335	1,401	(735)
Postretirement benefits expense	651	3,817	3,501
Deferred taxes on income	(4,121)	17,861	19,655
Stock-based compensation expense	4,062	5,048	5,372
Excess tax benefit on stock compensation	(299)	(237)	(212)
Other, net	(276)	(399)	31
Change in operating assets and liabilities:			
Accounts receivable	(1,941)	(2,309)	(1,855)
Inventories	(23,750)	2,635	17,885
Prepaid expenses	(5,446)	(4,888)	2,431
Other assets	12,382	(12,284)	(115)
Accounts payable	12,984	8,841	(14,496)
Accrued payroll and benefits	(325)	845	4,698
Postretirement benefits	(4,514)	(6,746)	(6,251)
Accrued income taxes	(3,038)	9,968	—
Other accrued expenses and other liabilities	(3,977)	(2,178)	(8,509)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>59,341</b>	<b>93,734</b>	<b>89,756</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchases of property and equipment	(42,012)	(42,518)	(33,029)
Net proceeds from the sale of assets	2,440	678	41
Acquisitions, net of cash acquired	(13,720)	(478)	(1,250)
Other	236	(1,482)	1,115
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(53,056)</b>	<b>(43,800)</b>	<b>(33,123)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Proceeds from revolving credit facility	\$ 504,468	\$ 4,933	\$ 143,179
Payments on revolving credit facility	(456,818)	(49,933)	(143,179)
Share repurchase	(11,381)	(12,381)	—
Proceeds from long-term borrowings	9,679	—	—
Repurchase of convertible notes	(57,973)	—	(10,724)
Repayment of other long-term debt	(5,265)	(5,318)	(4,681)
Financing fees paid	(2,721)	—	—
Excess tax benefit on stock compensation	299	237	212
Proceeds from sale of common stock	398	1,182	349
Dividends paid	(6,899)	(5,926)	(4,525)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(26,213)</b>	<b>(67,206)</b>	<b>(19,369)</b>
<b>Cash flows from discontinued operations</b>			
Net cash used in operating activities	(451)	(76)	(2,610)
<b>Net cash used in discontinued operations</b>	<b>(451)</b>	<b>(76)</b>	<b>(2,610)</b>
<b>Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(20,379)</b>	<b>(17,348)</b>	<b>34,654</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year</b>	<b>26,476</b>	<b>43,824</b>	<b>9,170</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>	<b>\$ 6,097</b>	<b>\$ 26,476</b>	<b>\$ 43,824</b>
<b>Supplemental Cash Flow Information:</b>			
Cash paid for interest	\$ 9,422	\$ 10,248	\$ 10,653
Cash paid for income taxes	\$ 10,240	\$ 202	\$ 509

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Note 1**

**Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Basis of Presentation**

*Principles of Consolidation:* The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Spartan Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries (“Spartan Stores”). All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated.

*Use of Estimates:* The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect amounts reported therein. Due to the inherent uncertainty involved in making estimates, actual results reported in future periods might differ from those estimates.

*Fiscal Year:* Spartan Stores’ fiscal year ends on the last Saturday of March. The fiscal years ended March 30, 2013 and March 26, 2011 each consisted of 52 weeks. The fiscal year ended March 31, 2012 consisted of 53 weeks.

*Revenue Recognition:* The Retail segment recognizes revenues from the sale of products at the point of sale. Customer returns are immaterial. Discounts provided to customers by Spartan Stores at the time of sale are recognized as a reduction in sales as the products are sold. Spartan Stores does not recognize a sale when it awards customer loyalty points or sells gift cards and gift certificates; rather, a sale is recognized when the customer loyalty points, gift card or gift certificate are redeemed to purchase product. The Distribution segment recognizes revenues when products are delivered or ancillary services are provided. Sales and excise taxes are excluded from revenue.

*Cost of Sales:* Cost of sales includes purchase costs, freight, physical inventory adjustments, markdowns and promotional allowances. Vendor allowances that relate to our buying and merchandising activities consist primarily of promotional allowances, which are generally allowances on purchased quantities and, to a lesser extent, slotting allowances, which are billed to vendors for our merchandising costs such as setting up warehouse infrastructure. Vendor allowances are recognized as a reduction in cost of sales when the related product is sold. Lump sum payments received for multi-year contracts are amortized over the life of the contracts based on contractual terms. The distribution segment includes shipping and handling costs in the selling, general and administrative section of operating expenses on the Consolidated Statement of Earnings.

*Cash and Cash Equivalents:* Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the date of purchase.

*Accounts Receivable:* Accounts receivable are shown net of allowances for credit losses of \$1.2 million in fiscal 2013 and \$0.9 million in fiscal 2012. Spartan Stores evaluates the adequacy of its allowances by analyzing the aging of receivables, customer financial condition, historical collection experience, the value of collateral and other economic and industry factors. Actual collections may differ from historical experience, and if economic, business or customer conditions deteriorate significantly, adjustments to these reserves may be required. When Spartan Stores becomes aware of factors that indicate a change in a specific customer’s ability to meet its financial obligations, we record a specific reserve for credit losses. Operating results include bad debt expense of \$0.9 million, \$0.7 million, and \$0.9 million for fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

*Inventory Valuation:* Inventories are valued at the lower of cost or market using the last-in, first-out (“LIFO”) method. If replacement cost had been used, inventories would have been \$44.1 million and \$43.8 million higher at March 30, 2013 and March 31, 2012, respectively. The replacement cost method utilizes the most current unit purchase cost to calculate the value of inventories. During fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011, certain inventory quantities were reduced. The reductions resulted in liquidation of LIFO inventory carried at

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

lower costs prevailing in prior years, the effect of which decreased the LIFO provision in fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011 by \$1.0 million, \$3.0 million and \$7.7 million, respectively. Spartan Stores accounts for its Distribution inventory using a perpetual system and utilizes the retail inventory method to value inventory for center store products in the Retail segment. Under the retail inventory method, inventory is stated at cost with cost of sales and gross margin calculated by applying a cost ratio to the retail value of inventories. Fresh and pharmacy products are accounted for at cost in the Retail segment. We evaluate inventory shortages throughout the year based on actual physical counts in our facilities. We record allowances for inventory shortages based on the results of recent physical counts to provide for estimated shortages from the last physical count to the financial statement date.

*Long-Lived Assets:* Spartan Stores reviews and evaluates long-lived assets for impairment when events or circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. When the undiscounted future cash flows are not sufficient to recover an asset's carrying amount, the fair value is compared to the carrying value to determine the impairment loss to be recorded. Long-lived assets to be disposed of are reported at the lower of carrying amount or fair value, less the cost to sell. Fair values are determined by independent appraisals or expected sales prices based upon market participant data developed by internal licensed real estate professionals. Estimates of future cash flows and expected sales prices are judgments based upon Spartan Stores' experience and knowledge of operations. These estimates project cash flows several years into the future and are affected by changes in the economy, real estate market conditions and inflation.

*Goodwill and Intangible Assets:* Goodwill represents the excess purchase price over the fair value of tangible net assets acquired in business combinations after amounts have been allocated to intangible assets. Goodwill is not amortized, but is reviewed for impairment during the fourth quarter of each year, or whenever events occur or circumstances change that would more likely than not reduce the fair value of a reporting unit below its carrying amount, using a discounted cash flow model and comparable market values of each reporting segment. Measuring the fair value of reporting units would constitute a Level 3 measurement under the fair value hierarchy. See Note 6 for a discussion of levels. Intangible assets primarily consist of trade names, favorable lease agreements, prescription lists, non-compete agreements, liquor licenses and franchise fees. Favorable leases are amortized on a straight-line basis over the related lease terms. Prescription lists are amortized on a straight-line basis over the period of expected benefit. Non-compete agreements are amortized on a straight-line basis over the length of the agreements. Franchise fees are amortized on a straight-line basis over the term of the franchise agreement. An indefinite-lived trade name is not amortized. A trade name with a definite-life is amortized over the expected life of the asset. Liquor licenses are not amortized as they have indefinite lives. Intangible assets are included in Other assets in the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

*Debt Issuance Costs:* Debt issuance costs are amortized over the term of the related financing agreement and are included in Other Assets in the consolidated balance sheets.

*Property and Equipment:* Property and equipment are recorded at cost. Expenditures for normal repairs and maintenance are charged to operations as incurred. Depreciation expense on land improvements, buildings and improvements and equipment is computed using the straight-line method as follows:

Land improvements . . . . .	15 years
Buildings and improvements . . . . .	15 to 40 years
Equipment . . . . .	3 to 15 years

Property under capital leases and leasehold improvements are amortized on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the remaining terms of the leases or the estimated useful lives of the assets.

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*Insurance Reserves:* Spartan Stores is primarily self-insured for workers' compensation, general liability and health care costs. Self-insurance liabilities are recorded based on claims filed and an estimate of claims incurred but not yet reported. Workers' compensation and general liability liabilities are actuarially estimated based on available historical information. We have purchased stop-loss coverage to limit our exposure to any significant exposure on a per claim basis. Our exposure for workers' compensation, general liability and health care is \$0.5 million, \$0.5 million and \$0.3 million, respectively, per claim.

A summary of changes in Spartan Stores' self-insurance liability is as follows:

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>March 30, 2013</u>	<u>March 31, 2012</u>	<u>March 26, 2011</u>
Beginning balance .....	\$ 5,714	\$ 7,008	\$ 7,960
Expense .....	27,955	26,376	28,959
Claim payments .....	<u>(26,502)</u>	<u>(27,670)</u>	<u>(29,911)</u>
Ending balance .....	<u>\$ 7,167</u>	<u>\$ 5,714</u>	<u>\$ 7,008</u>

The current portion of the self-insurance liability is included in "Other accrued expenses" and the long-term portion is included in "Other long-term liabilities" in the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

*Income Taxes:* Deferred income tax assets and liabilities are computed for differences between the financial statement and tax bases of assets and liabilities that will result in taxable or deductible amounts in the future. Such deferred income tax asset and liability computations are based on enacted tax laws and rates applicable to periods in which the differences are expected to affect taxable income. Valuation allowances are established when necessary to reduce deferred tax assets to the amounts expected to be realized. Income tax expense is the tax payable or refundable for the period plus or minus the change during the period in deferred and other tax assets and liabilities.

*Earnings per share:* Basic earnings per share ("EPS") excludes dilution and is computed by dividing net earnings by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted EPS is computed by increasing the weighted average number of common shares outstanding by the dilutive effect of the issuance of common stock for options outstanding under Spartan Stores' stock incentive plans. Unvested restricted stock awards contain non-forfeitable rights to dividends and, therefore, are considered participating securities and included in the computation of basic earnings per share pursuant to the two-class method.

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted earnings per share for continuing operations:

<u>(In thousands, except per share amounts)</u>	<u>March 30, 2013</u>	<u>March 31, 2012</u>	<u>March 26, 2011</u>
Numerator:			
Earnings from continuing operations .....	<u>\$27,842</u>	<u>\$31,870</u>	<u>\$32,539</u>
Denominator:			
Weighted average shares outstanding – basic .....	21,773	22,791	22,606
Effect of dilutive stock options .....	<u>75</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>82</u>
Weighted average shares outstanding – diluted ...	<u>21,848</u>	<u>22,887</u>	<u>22,688</u>
Basic earnings per share from continuing operations ...	<u>\$ 1.28</u>	<u>\$ 1.40</u>	<u>\$ 1.44</u>
Diluted earnings per share from continuing operations .....	<u>\$ 1.27</u>	<u>\$ 1.39</u>	<u>\$ 1.43</u>

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Weighted average shares issuable upon the exercise of stock options that were not included in the earnings per share calculations because they were anti-dilutive were 369,969 in fiscal 2013, 239,326 in fiscal 2012, and 435,446 in fiscal 2011.

*Stock-Based Compensation:* All share-based payments to employees are recognized in the financial statements as compensation cost based on the fair value on the date of grant. Spartan Stores determines the fair value of stock option awards using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. The grant date closing price per share of Spartan Stores stock is used to estimate the fair value of restricted stock awards and restricted stock units. The value of the portion of awards expected to vest is recognized as expense over the requisite service period.

*Shareholders' Equity:* Spartan Stores' restated articles of incorporation provide that the board of directors may at any time, and from time to time, provide for the issuance of up to 10 million shares of preferred stock in one or more series, each with such designations as determined by the board of directors. At March 30, 2013, there were no shares of preferred stock outstanding.

*Advertising Costs:* Spartan Stores' advertising costs are expensed as incurred and are included in selling, general and administrative expenses. Advertising expenses were \$13.6 million, \$14.5 million and \$14.2 million in fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

*Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss):* As of March 30, 2013 and March 31, 2012, the accumulated other comprehensive loss consisted of the pension and postretirement liability.

***Recently Adopted Accounting Standards***

In June 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") No. 2011-05, "Presentation of Comprehensive Income." The objective of this amendment is to improve the comparability, consistency and transparency of financial reporting and to increase the prominence of items reported in other comprehensive income. Specifically, this amendment requires that all non-owner changes in shareholders' equity be presented either in a single continuous statement of comprehensive income or in two separate but consecutive statements. The new rules became effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011. Because the standard only affects the presentation of comprehensive income and does not affect what is included in comprehensive income, the standard did not have a material effect on Spartan Stores' consolidated financial statements.

In September 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-08, "Intangibles-Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Testing Goodwill for Impairment." ASU No. 2011-08 permits the entity to first assess qualitative factors to determine whether certain events and circumstances exist that indicate that it is more likely than not that goodwill is impaired. If as a result of the qualitative assessment it is determined that it is not more likely than not that goodwill is impaired, then Spartan Stores is not required to take further action and calculate the fair value of the reporting unit. ASU No. 2011-08 was effective for interim and annual goodwill impairment tests performed for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2011. During fiscal 2013, Spartan Stores' continued to test its goodwill for impairment using the allowed two step test.

***Recently Issued Accounting Standards***

In July 2012, the FASB issued ASU No. 2012-02, "Intangibles-Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Testing Indefinite-Lived Intangible Assets for Impairment." ASU No. 2012-02 essentially expanded the amendment discussed above to apply to the testing of all indefinite-lived intangible assets in order to improve consistency in impairment testing guidance among long-lived asset categories. ASU No. 2012-02 was effective for annual and interim goodwill impairment tests performed for fiscal years beginning after September 15, 2012. We do not expect that the adoption of this standard will have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

In February 2013, the FASB issued ASU No. 2013-02, "Reporting Amounts Reclassified Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income." ASU No. 2013-02 requires companies to provide additional information about the amounts reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive income by component. In addition, companies are required to present, either on the face of the financial statements or in the notes, significant amounts reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive income by the respective line items of net income. The amendments are effective prospectively for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2012. This ASU does not change the requirements for reporting net income or other comprehensive income. Because the standard only affects the presentation of comprehensive income and does not affect what is included in comprehensive income, we do not anticipate this standard will have a material effect on our consolidated financial statements.

**Note 2**

**Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets**

Changes in the carrying amount of goodwill were as follows:

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>Retail</u>	<u>Distribution</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance at March 26, 2011:			
Goodwill . . . . .	\$235,351	\$92,493	\$327,844
Accumulated impairment charges . . . . .	(86,600)	—	(86,600)
Goodwill, net . . . . .	148,751	92,493	241,244
Other (Note 3) . . . . .	(1,050)	—	(1,050)
Balance at March 31, 2012:			
Goodwill . . . . .	234,301	92,493	326,794
Accumulated impairment charges . . . . .	(86,600)	—	(86,600)
Goodwill, net . . . . .	147,701	92,493	240,194
Acquisition . . . . .	5,016	2,233	7,249
Other (Note 3) . . . . .	(603)	—	(603)
Balance at March 30, 2013:			
Goodwill . . . . .	238,714	94,726	333,440
Accumulated impairment charges . . . . .	(86,600)	—	(86,600)
Goodwill, net . . . . .	<u>\$152,114</u>	<u>\$94,726</u>	<u>\$246,840</u>

The following table reflects the components of amortized intangible assets, included in "Other, net" on the Consolidated Balance Sheets:

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>March 30, 2013</u>		<u>March 31, 2012</u>	
	<u>Gross Carrying Amount</u>	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>	<u>Gross Carrying Amount</u>	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>
Non-compete agreements . . . . .	\$ 4,517	\$ 2,997	\$ 3,504	\$ 2,616
Favorable leases . . . . .	3,758	1,997	3,906	1,815
Customer lists . . . . .	12,138	8,027	11,065	6,330
Trade name . . . . .	1,219	59	—	—
Franchise fees and other . . . . .	305	99	625	242
Total . . . . .	<u>\$21,937</u>	<u>\$13,179</u>	<u>\$19,100</u>	<u>\$11,003</u>

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The weighted average amortization period for amortizable intangible assets is as follows:

Non-compete agreements .....	8.1 years
Favorable leases .....	14.9 years
Customer lists .....	7.3 years
Trade name .....	7.0 years
Franchise fees and other .....	9.7 years

Amortization expense for intangible assets was \$2.3 million, \$2.2 million and \$2.1 million for fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively. Estimated amortization expense for each of the five succeeding fiscal years is as follows:

(In thousands)

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Amortization Expense</u>
2014 .....	\$2,566
2015 .....	1,893
2016 .....	1,512
2017 .....	976
2018 .....	803

Indefinite-lived intangible assets that are not amortized consist primarily of a trade name and licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages which totaled \$26.6 and \$26.5 million as of March 30, 2013 and March 31, 2012.

**Note 3**

**Restructuring, Asset Impairment and Other**

The following table provides the activity of restructuring costs for fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011. Restructuring costs recorded in the Consolidated Balance Sheets are included in "Other accrued expenses" in Current liabilities and "Other long-term liabilities" in Long-term liabilities based on when the obligations are expected to be paid.

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>Lease and Ancillary Costs</u>	<u>Severance</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance at March 27, 2010 .....	\$33,882	\$ 2,056	\$ —	\$ 35,938
Provision for lease and related ancillary costs, net of sublease income .....	1,876			1,876(a)
Provision for severance .....		644		644(a)
Other .....			288	288(a)
Reversal of liability related to lease termination .....	(6,948)	—	—	(6,948)(b)
Changes in estimates (Note 2) .....	(7,423)	—	—	(7,423)(c)
Accretion expense .....	1,145	—	—	1,145
Payments .....	(7,230)	(2,700)	(288)	(10,218)
Balance at March 26, 2011 .....	15,302	—	—	15,302
Changes in estimates (Note 2) .....	(1,318)	—	—	(1,318)(c)
Accretion expense .....	535	—	—	535
Payments .....	(3,417)	—	—	(3,417)
Balance at March 31, 2012 .....	11,102	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 11,102
Changes in estimates (Note 2) .....	(696)	—	—	(696)(c)
Accretion expense .....	384	—	—	384
Payments .....	(2,815)	—	—	(2,815)
Balance at March 30, 2013 .....	<u>\$ 7,975</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 7,975</u>

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

- (a) The provision for lease and related ancillary costs, severance and other costs represents the initial charges estimated to be incurred for the closing of a warehouse in the Distribution segment. Later in fiscal 2011, the estimate for these charges was reduced by \$0.3 million.
- (b) The net benefit related to favorable lease termination resulted from a lease being terminated by a bankruptcy judge. The lease related to a closed store and was reflected in our restructuring cost liability.
- (c) Goodwill was reduced by \$0.6 million, \$1.1 million and \$7.1 million in fiscal 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively, as a result of these changes in estimates as the initial charges for certain stores were established in the purchase price allocations for previous acquisitions.

Restructuring, asset impairment and other included in the Consolidated Statements of Earnings consisted of the following:

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Asset impairment charges (a) . . . . .	\$1,682	\$ 243	\$ 7,859
Provision for lease and related ancillary costs, severance and other costs related to warehouse closing (b) . . . . .	—	—	2,546
Net benefit related to favorable lease terminations (c) . . . . .	—	—	(5,888)
Changes in estimates (d) . . . . .	(93)	(266)	—
Pension curtailment income (e) . . . . .	—	—	(3,985)
	<u>\$1,589</u>	<u>\$ (23)</u>	<u>\$ 532</u>

- (a) The asset impairment charges were incurred in the Retail segment due to the economic and competitive environment of certain stores.
- (b) The provision for lease and related ancillary costs, severance and other costs was incurred for the closing of a warehouse in the Distribution segment.
- (c) The net benefit related to favorable lease terminations was realized in the Retail segment as a result of three leases being terminated by a bankruptcy judge. One of the leases related to a closed store and was reflected in our restructuring cost liability. The other two leases were capital leases. The net benefit consists of the reversal of the restructuring cost liability and the net value of the two capital lease obligations and assets.
- (d) The changes in estimates relate to revised estimates of lease ancillary costs associated with previously closed facilities. The Distribution segment realized \$(37) in fiscal 2012. The remaining amounts were realized in the Retail segment.
- (e) The pension curtailment income resulted from the freezing of the cash balance pension plan (see Note 9). The Retail and Distribution segments realized income of \$1.7 million and \$2.3 million, respectively.

Store lease obligations included in restructuring costs include the present value of future minimum lease payments, calculated using a risk-free interest rate, and related ancillary costs from the date of closure to the end of the remaining lease term, net of estimated sublease income.

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Note 4**  
**Long-Term Debt**

Spartan Stores' long-term debt consists of the following:

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>March 30,</u> <u>2013</u>	<u>March 31,</u> <u>2012</u>
Senior secured revolving credit facility, due June 2017 .....	\$ 47,646	\$ —
6.625% Senior Notes due December 2016 .....	50,000	—
3.375% Convertible Senior Notes, net of unamortized debt discount .....	—	88,856
Capital lease obligations (Note 8) .....	52,048	48,864
Other, 7.00% – 9.25%, due fiscal 2014 – 2021 .....	249	294
	<u>149,943</u>	<u>138,014</u>
Less current portion .....	4,067	4,449
Total long-term debt .....	<u>\$145,876</u>	<u>\$133,565</u>

Available borrowings under our \$200.0 million revolving credit facility are based on stipulated advance rates on eligible assets, as defined in the credit agreement. The credit agreement requires that Spartan Stores maintain excess availability of 10% of the borrowing base as such term is defined in the credit agreement. The credit facility contains a covenant that includes a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio as defined in the credit agreement. This covenant was not applicable for fiscal 2013 as we maintained minimum excess availability levels, as defined in the credit agreement. Spartan Stores had available borrowings of \$129.5 million at March 30, 2013 and excess availability of \$149.3 million. Payment of dividends and repurchases of outstanding shares are permitted, provided that certain levels of excess availability are maintained. The credit facility provides for the issuance of letters of credit, of which \$0.6 million were outstanding as of March 30, 2013. Borrowings under the revolving credit portion of the facility bear interest at LIBOR plus 1.50% or the prime rate plus 0.25% (weighted average interest rate of 2.68% at March 30, 2013).

On December 6, 2012, Spartan Stores completed a private exchange and sale of \$50.0 million aggregate principal amount of newly issued four year unsecured 6.625% Senior Notes due 2016 (“New Notes”) for \$40.3 million aggregate principal amount of Spartan Stores' existing Convertible Senior Notes due 2027 and \$9.7 million in cash. The New Notes mature on December 15, 2016 and are senior unsecured debt and rank equally in right of payment with Spartan Stores' other existing and future senior debt. The New Notes are effectively subordinated to Spartan Stores' existing and future secured debt to the extent of the value of the assets securing such debt. Interest on the New Notes accrues at a rate of 6.625% per annum. Interest on the New Notes is payable semiannually on June 15 and December 15 of each year, commencing on June 15, 2013.

Spartan Stores may redeem the New Notes in whole or in part at any time on or after December 15, 2014, at the option of the Company at the following redemption prices (expressed as percentages of the principal amount), together with accrued and unpaid interest to the date of purchase:

<u>Year of Redemption</u>	<u>Redemption Price</u>
2014 .....	103.31250%
2015 and thereafter .....	101.65625%

At any time prior to December 15, 2014, Spartan Stores may redeem up to 35% of the New Notes with the net cash proceeds of certain equity offerings specified in the New Notes indenture at a redemption price of 100% of the principal amount plus the annual coupon on the New Notes, together with accrued and unpaid interest, but

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

only if at least 65% of the original aggregate principal amount of the New Notes would remain outstanding following such redemption. Before December 15, 2014, the New Notes may be redeemed, in whole or in part at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount plus an “Applicable Premium” (as defined in the New Notes indenture) that is intended to provide holders with approximately the rate of return they would have received had they held such redeemed New Notes until December 15, 2014.

On May 30, 2007, Spartan Stores issued \$110 million in aggregate principal amount of unsecured 3.375% Convertible Senior Notes due May 15, 2027. The Convertible Senior Notes were general unsecured obligations and ranked equally in right of payment with all of our other existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated obligations. They were effectively subordinated to secured indebtedness to the extent of the assets securing such indebtedness. The Convertible Senior Notes were structurally subordinated to Spartan Stores’ subsidiaries’ indebtedness and other liabilities. The Convertible Senior Notes were not guaranteed by our subsidiaries.

During the first quarter of fiscal 2011, Spartan Stores repurchased \$12.3 million in principal amount of its outstanding Convertible Senior Notes for approximately \$10.7 million and recognized a resultant gain of \$0.1 million. In the third quarter of fiscal 2013, Spartan Stores repurchased \$40.3 million in principal amount of its convertible senior notes resulting in a loss of approximately \$2.3 million. During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2013, Spartan Stores repurchased the remaining \$57.4 million principal amount of the Convertible Senior Notes. The repurchase of the Convertible Senior Notes resulted in a loss of approximately \$2.8 million. The completion of the redemption discharges the Indenture dated as of May 30, 2007 between Spartan Stores and the Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee (the “Indenture”) and the Senior Convertible Notes.

The amount of interest expense recognized and the effective interest rate for Spartan Stores’ Convertible Senior Notes were as follows:

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Contractual coupon interest . . . . .	\$2,687	\$3,353	\$3,333
Amortization of discount on convertible senior notes . . . . .	3,282	3,745	3,462
Interest expense . . . . .	<u>\$5,969</u>	<u>\$7,098</u>	<u>\$6,795</u>
Effective interest rate . . . . .	8.125%	8.125%	8.125%

The debt and equity components recognized for Spartan Stores’ Convertible Senior Notes were as follows:

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>March 30, 2013</u>	<u>March 31, 2012</u>
Principal amounts . . . . .	\$—	\$97,740
Unamortized discount . . . . .	—	8,884
Net carrying amount . . . . .	—	88,856
Common stock . . . . .	—	16,032

The weighted average interest rates including loan fee amortization for fiscal 2013, 2012 and fiscal 2011 were 8.43%, 8.05% and 7.81%, respectively.

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

At March 30, 2013, long-term debt was due as follows:

(In thousands)	
<u>Fiscal Year</u>	
2014 .....	\$ 4,067
2015 .....	3,776
2016 .....	3,841
2017 .....	54,185
2018 .....	51,926
Thereafter .....	32,148
	<u>\$149,943</u>

**Note 5**  
**Derivative Instruments**

Spartan Stores has limited involvement with derivative financial instruments and uses them only to manage well-defined interest rate risk exposure when appropriate, based on market conditions. Spartan Stores' objective in managing exposure to changes in interest rates is to reduce fluctuations in earnings and cash flows, and consequently, from time to time Spartan Stores uses interest rate swap agreements to manage this risk. Spartan Stores does not use financial instruments or derivatives for any trading or other speculative purposes.

On January 2, 2009, Spartan Stores entered into an interest rate swap agreement. The interest rate swap was considered to be a cash flow hedge of interest payments on \$45.0 million of borrowings under Spartan Stores' senior secured revolving credit facility by effectively converting a portion of the variable rate debt to a fixed rate basis. Under the terms of the agreement, Spartan Stores agreed to pay the counterparty a fixed interest rate of 3.33% and the counterparty agreed to pay Spartan Stores a floating interest rate based upon the 1-month LIBOR plus 1.25% on a notional amount of \$45 million. The interest rate swap agreement was to expire concurrently with its senior secured revolving credit facility on December 24, 2012. However, the swap agreement was terminated in the third quarter of fiscal 2012, resulting in a \$0.8 million termination charge which was recorded in interest expense.

For derivative instruments that are designated and qualify as cash flow hedges, the effective portion of the gain or loss on the derivative is reported as a component of other comprehensive income and reclassified into earnings in the same period during which the hedged transaction affects earnings. Gains and losses on the derivative representing hedge ineffectiveness are recognized in current earnings. There was no impact on earnings in fiscal 2012 as the cash flow hedge was highly effective through its termination at the end of the third quarter of fiscal 2012.

The following table provides a summary of the financial statement effect of the derivative financial instrument designated as an interest rate cash flow hedge for fiscal 2012 and 2011:

	<u>Location in Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
(Gain) loss, net of taxes, recognized in other comprehensive income .....	Other comprehensive income	\$(665)	\$265
Pre-tax loss reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss .....	Interest expense	646	833
Pre-tax termination charge .....	Interest expense	775	—

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Note 6**  
**Fair Value Measurements**

Financial instruments include cash and cash equivalents, accounts and notes receivable, accounts payable and long-term debt. The carrying amounts of cash and cash equivalents, accounts and notes receivable, and accounts payable approximate fair value because of the short-term nature of these financial instruments. At March 30, 2013 and March 31, 2012 the estimated fair value and the book value of our debt instruments were as follows:

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>March 30, 2013</u>	<u>March 31, 2012</u>
Book value of debt instruments:		
Current maturities of long-term debt and capital lease obligations . . . . .	\$ 4,067	\$ 4,449
Long-term debt and capital lease obligations . . . . .	145,876	133,565
Equity component of convertible debt . . . . .	—	8,884
Total book value of debt instruments . . . . .	<u>149,943</u>	<u>146,898</u>
Fair value of debt instruments . . . . .	<u>152,758</u>	<u>144,374</u>
Excess (deficiency) of fair value over book value . . . . .	<u>\$ 2,815</u>	<u>\$ (2,524)</u>

The estimated fair value of debt is based on market quotes for instruments with similar terms and remaining maturities (level 3 valuation technique).

ASC 820 prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value into the following hierarchy:

- Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3: Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability, reflecting the reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing.

Long-lived assets totaling \$3.6 million and \$0.2 in fiscal years 2013 and 2012, respectively, were measured at a fair value of \$1.9 and \$0.1, respectively, on a nonrecurring basis using Level 3 inputs as defined in the fair value hierarchy. Our accounting and finance team management, who report to the chief financial officer, determine our valuation policies and procedures. The development and determination of the unobservable inputs for level 3 fair value measurements and fair value calculations are the responsibility of our accounting and finance team management and are approved by the chief financial officer. Fair value of long-lived assets is determined by estimating the amount and timing of net future cash flows, discounted using a risk-adjusted rate of interest. Spartan Stores estimates future cash flows based on experience and knowledge of the market in which the assets are located, and when necessary, uses real estate brokers. See Note 3 for discussion of long-lived asset impairment charges.

**Note 7**  
**Commitments and Contingencies**

Spartan Stores subleases property at certain locations and received rental income of \$1.9 million in both fiscal 2013 and 2012. In the event of the customer's default, Spartan Stores would be responsible for fulfilling these lease obligations. The future payment obligations under these leases are disclosed in Note 8.

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Unions represent approximately 8% of Spartan Stores' associates. These associates are covered by a collective bargaining agreement. On October 6, 2012 General Teamsters Union Local 406 ratified a three-year labor agreement which expires on October 10, 2015.

Various lawsuits and claims, arising in the ordinary course of business, are pending or have been asserted against Spartan Stores. While the ultimate effect of such actions cannot be predicted with certainty, management believes that their outcome will not result in an adverse effect on the consolidated financial position, operating results or liquidity of Spartan Stores.

Spartan Stores contributes to the Central States multi-employer pension plan based on obligations arising from its collective bargaining agreement covering its warehouse union associates. This plan provides retirement benefits to participants based on their service to contributing employers. The benefits are paid from assets held in trust for that purpose. Trustees are appointed by employers and unions; however, Spartan Stores is not a trustee. The trustees typically are responsible for determining the level of benefits to be provided to participants as well as for such matters as the investment of the assets and the administration of the plan. Spartan Stores will continue contributions to the Central States, Southeast and Southwest Areas Pension Fund under the terms outlined in the "Primary Schedule" of Central States' Rehabilitation Plan. This schedule requires an increase in employer contributions of 5% over the previous year's contribution.

Based on the most recent information available to Spartan Stores, management believes that the present value of actuarial accrued liabilities in this multi-employer plan significantly exceeds the value of the assets held in trust to pay benefits. Because Spartan Stores is one of a number of employers contributing to this plan, it is difficult to ascertain what the exact amount of the underfunding would be, although management anticipates that Spartan Stores' contributions to this plan will increase each year. Management believes that funding levels have not changed significantly since year-end. To reduce this under funding, management expects meaningful increases in expense as a result of required incremental multi-employer pension plan contributions in future years. Any adjustment for withdrawal liability will be recorded when it is probable that a liability exists and can be reasonably determined.

**Note 8**  
**Leases**

Most of Spartan Stores' retail locations are operated in leased facilities. Spartan Stores' also leases small ancillary warehouse facilities, its tractor and trailer fleet and certain other equipment. Most of the property leases contain renewal options of varying terms. Terms of certain leases contain provisions requiring payment of percentage rent based on sales and payment of executory costs such as property taxes, utilities, insurance and maintenance. Terms of certain leases of transportation equipment contain provisions requiring payment of percentage rent based upon miles driven. Portions of certain property are subleased to others.

Rental expense, net of sublease income, under operating leases consisted of the following:

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Minimum rentals . . . . .	\$31,993	\$32,204	\$32,464
Contingent payments . . . . .	672	805	806
Sublease income . . . . .	<u>(1,928)</u>	<u>(1,899)</u>	<u>(1,926)</u>
	<u>\$30,737</u>	<u>\$31,110</u>	<u>\$31,344</u>

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Total future lease commitments of Spartan Stores under operating leases in effect at March 30, 2013 are as follows:

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>Used in Operations</u>	<u>Subleased to Others</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Fiscal Year</b>			
2014 .....	\$ 27,228	\$1,118	\$ 28,346
2015 .....	22,840	1,027	23,867
2016 .....	19,880	704	20,584
2017 .....	14,453	462	14,915
2018 .....	10,859	235	11,094
Thereafter .....	25,866	—	25,866
Total .....	<u>\$121,126</u>	<u>\$3,546</u>	<u>\$124,672</u>

Total future lease commitments of Spartan Stores under capital leases in effect at March 30, 2013 are as follows:

<u>(In thousands)</u>	
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	
2014 .....	\$ 8,097
2015 .....	7,574
2016 .....	7,349
2017 .....	7,371
2018 .....	7,123
Thereafter .....	48,810
Total .....	86,324
Interest .....	(34,276)
Present value of minimum lease obligations .....	52,048
Current portion .....	4,026
Long-term obligations .....	<u>\$ 48,022</u>

Amortization expense for property under capital leases was \$3.8 million, \$3.6 million and \$4.3 million in fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

Assets held under capital leases consisted of the following:

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>March 30, 2013</u>	<u>March 31, 2012</u>
Buildings and improvements .....	\$63,164	\$48,297
Equipment .....	3,924	3,924
	67,088	52,221
Less accumulated depreciation .....	25,705	19,934
Net property .....	<u>\$41,383</u>	<u>\$32,287</u>

One of Spartan Stores' subsidiaries leases retail store facilities to others. Of the stores leased to others, several are owned and others were obtained through leasing arrangements and are accounted for as operating leases. A majority of the leases provide for minimum and contingent rentals based upon stipulated sales volumes and contain renewal options. Certain of the leases contain escalation clauses.

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Owned assets, included in property and equipment, which are leased to others are as follows:

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>March 30,</u> <u>2013</u>	<u>March 31,</u> <u>2012</u>
Land and improvements .....	\$1,173	\$1,173
Buildings .....	5,942	5,942
	7,115	7,115
Less accumulated depreciation .....	4,427	4,043
Net property .....	<u>\$2,688</u>	<u>\$3,072</u>

Future minimum rentals to be received under operating leases in effect at March 30, 2013 are as follows:

(In thousands)

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Owned</u> <u>Property</u>	<u>Leased</u> <u>Property</u>	<u>Total</u>
2014 .....	\$1,539	\$1,263	\$2,802
2015 .....	916	1,164	2,080
2016 .....	719	831	1,550
2017 .....	555	499	1,054
2018 .....	469	250	719
Thereafter .....	30	—	30
Total .....	<u>\$4,228</u>	<u>\$4,007</u>	<u>\$8,235</u>

**Note 9**

**Associate Retirement Plans**

Spartan Stores' retirement programs include pension plans providing non-contributory benefits and salary reduction defined contribution plans providing contributory benefits. Substantially all of Spartan Stores' associates not covered by collective bargaining agreements are covered by either a frozen non-contributory cash balance pension plan ("Company Plan"), a defined contribution plan or both. Associates covered by collective bargaining agreements are included in multi-employer pension plans.

Effective January 1, 2011, the Cash Balance Pension Plan was frozen and, as a result, additional service credits are no longer added to each Associate's account, however, interest credits will continue to accrue. Effective the same date, employer matching contributions to the Savings Plus 401(k) Plan were reinstated at a rate of 50% of pay deferral contributions up to 6% of each Associate's qualified compensation. Additionally, a provision allowing for a discretionary annual profit sharing contribution was added to the Savings Plus 401(k) Plan.

In conjunction with this change to the Cash Balance Pension Plan, pre-tax curtailment income of \$4.0 million was recognized in the third quarter of fiscal 2011 and is included in Restructuring, asset impairment and other on the Consolidated Statements of Earnings. No additional associates are eligible to participate in the Cash Balance Pension Plan after January 1, 2011.

Prior to the plan freeze, Spartan Stores' Company Plan benefit formula utilized a cash balance approach. Under the cash balance formula, credits were added annually to a participant's "account" based on a percent of the participant's compensation and years of vested service at the beginning of each calendar year. At Spartan

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Stores' discretion, interest credits are also added annually to a participant's account based upon the participant's account balance as of the last day of the immediately preceding calendar year. Annual payments to the pension trust fund are determined in compliance with the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1976 ("ERISA"). Company Plan assets consist principally of common stocks and U.S. government and corporate obligations. The Company Plan does not hold any Spartan Stores stock.

Spartan Stores also maintains a Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan ("SERP"), which provides nonqualified deferred compensation benefits to Spartan Stores' officers. Benefits under the SERP are paid from Spartan Stores' general assets, as there is no separate trust established to fund benefits.

Expense for employer contributions made to defined contribution plans totaled \$4.8 million, \$5.4 million and \$2.5 million in fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively. These expenses include a discretionary profit sharing company contribution, which was added to the plan effective January 1, 2011.

Spartan Stores and certain subsidiaries provide health care benefits to retired associates who have at least 30 years of service or 10 years of service and have attained age 55, and who were not covered by collective bargaining arrangements during their employment ("covered associates"). Qualified covered associates that retired prior to March 31, 1992 receive major medical insurance with deductible and coinsurance provisions until age 65 and Medicare supplemental benefits thereafter. Covered associates retiring after April 1, 1992 are eligible for monthly postretirement health care benefits of \$5 multiplied by the associate's years of service. This benefit is in the form of a credit against the monthly insurance premium. The retiree pays the balance of the premium.

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The following tables set forth the change in benefit obligation, change in plan assets, weighted average assumptions used in actuarial calculations and components of net periodic benefit costs for Spartan Stores' pension and postretirement benefit plans excluding multi-employer plans. The accrued benefit costs are reported in Postretirement benefits in the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

	<u>Pension Benefits</u>		<u>SERP Benefits</u>		<u>Postretirement Benefits</u>	
	<u>March 30, 2013</u>	<u>March 31, 2012</u>	<u>March 30, 2013</u>	<u>March 31, 2012</u>	<u>March 30, 2013</u>	<u>March 31, 2012</u>
<b>(In thousands, except percentages)</b>						
<b>Change in benefit obligation</b>						
Benefit obligation at beginning of year . . . . .	\$59,950	\$60,421	\$ 985	\$1,071	\$ 9,130	\$ 8,633
Service cost . . . . .	—	—	—	—	194	192
Interest cost . . . . .	2,587	2,893	39	51	404	424
Actuarial loss . . . . .	1,565	508	31	(27)	549	162
Benefits paid . . . . .	(3,900)	(3,872)	(178)	(110)	(295)	(281)
Benefit obligation at end of year . . . . .	<u>\$60,202</u>	<u>\$59,950</u>	<u>\$ 877</u>	<u>\$ 985</u>	<u>\$ 9,982</u>	<u>\$ 9,130</u>
<b>Change in plan assets</b>						
Plan assets at fair value at beginning of year . . . .	\$59,076	\$58,352	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Actual return on plan assets . . . . .	5,375	596	—	—	—	—
Company contributions . . . . .	4,039	4,000	178	110	295	281
Benefits paid . . . . .	(3,900)	(3,872)	(178)	(110)	(295)	(281)
Plan assets at fair value at measurement date . . .	<u>\$64,590</u>	<u>\$59,076</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>
Funded (unfunded) status . . . . .	<u>\$ 4,388</u>	<u>\$ (874)</u>	<u>\$(877)</u>	<u>\$ (985)</u>	<u>\$(9,982)</u>	<u>\$(9,130)</u>
<b>Components of net amount recognized in financial position:</b>						
Noncurrent assets . . . . .	\$ 4,388	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Current liabilities . . . . .	—	—	(104)	(90)	(332)	(313)
Noncurrent liabilities . . . . .	—	(874)	(773)	(895)	(9,650)	(8,817)
Net asset/(liability) . . . . .	<u>\$ 4,388</u>	<u>\$ (874)</u>	<u>\$(877)</u>	<u>\$ (985)</u>	<u>\$(9,982)</u>	<u>\$(9,130)</u>
<b>Amounts recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income:</b>						
Net actuarial loss . . . . .	\$19,541	\$20,131	\$ 359	\$ 410	\$ 2,780	\$ 2,367
Prior service credit . . . . .	—	—	—	—	(342)	(396)
	<u>\$19,541</u>	<u>\$20,131</u>	<u>\$ 359</u>	<u>\$ 410</u>	<u>\$ 2,438</u>	<u>\$ 1,971</u>
<b>Weighted average assumptions at Measurement date</b>						
Discount rate . . . . .	3.90%	4.50%	3.90%	4.50%	3.90%	4.50%
Expected return on plan assets . . . . .	6.55%	7.50%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The benefit obligation for pension plans is measured as the projected benefit obligation; the benefit obligation for postretirement benefit plans is measured as the accumulated benefit obligation. The accumulated benefit obligation for both of the defined benefit pension plans was \$61.1 million and \$60.9 million at March 30, 2013 and March 31, 2012, respectively.

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Components of net periodic benefit cost**

(In thousands)	Pension Benefits			SERP		
	March 30, 2013	March 31, 2012	March 26, 2011	March 30, 2013	March 31, 2012	March 26, 2011
Service cost .....	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 2,621	\$—	\$—	\$ 45
Interest cost .....	2,587	2,893	3,077	39	51	52
Expected return on plan assets .....	(4,499)	(4,081)	(4,265)	—	—	—
Amortization of prior service cost .....	—	—	(478)	—	—	—
Amortization of actuarial net loss .....	1,279	1,656	1,557	32	40	41
Net periodic benefit (income) cost .....	(633)	468	2,512	71	91	138
Settlement expense .....	—	—	—	50	—	—
Total (income) expense .....	\$ (633)	\$ 468	\$ 2,512	\$121	\$ 91	\$138

	Postretirement Benefits		
	March 30, 2013	March 31, 2012	March 26, 2011
Service cost .....	\$194	\$192	\$193
Interest cost .....	404	424	420
Amortization of prior service credit .....	(54)	(54)	(54)
Amortization of actuarial net loss .....	137	133	124
Net periodic benefit cost .....	\$681	\$695	\$683

The net actuarial loss and prior service cost included in “Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income” and expected to be recognized in net periodic benefit cost during fiscal year 2014 are as follows:

(In thousands)	Pension Benefits	SERP Benefits	Postretirement Benefits
Net actuarial loss .....	\$1,302	\$ 30	\$178
Prior service credit .....	—	—	(56)
	\$1,302	\$ 30	\$122

Prior service costs (credits) are amortized on a straight-line basis over the average remaining service period of active participants. Actuarial gains and losses are amortized over the average remaining service life of active participants when the accumulation of such gains and losses exceeds 10% of the greater of the projected benefit obligation and the fair value of plan assets.

Spartan Stores has assumed an average long-term expected return on pension plan assets of 6.55% as of March 30, 2013. The expected return assumption was modeled by third-party investment portfolio managers, based on asset allocations and the expected return and risk components of the various asset classes in the portfolio. Determining projected stock and bond returns and then applying these returns to the target asset allocations of the plan assets developed the expected return. Equity returns were based primarily on historical returns of the S&P 500 Index. Fixed-income projected returns were based primarily on historical returns for the broad U.S. bond market. This overall return assumption is believed to be reasonable over a longer-term period that is consistent with the liabilities.

Assumed health care cost trend rates have a significant effect on the amounts reported for the postretirement plan. The assumed health care cost trend rate used in measuring the accumulated postretirement benefit

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

obligation was 8.50% pre-65 and 7.50% post-65 for fiscal 2013, 8.00% for fiscal 2012 and 8.50% for fiscal 2011, decreasing .50% per year to 5.00%. A 1% increase in the assumed health care cost trend rate would increase the accumulated postretirement benefit obligation by 0.46% and the total service and interest cost by 0.37%. A 1% decrease in the assumed health care cost trend rate would decrease the accumulated postretirement benefit obligation by 0.62% and total service and interest cost by 0.53%.

Spartan Stores has an investment policy for the pension plan with a long-term asset allocation mix designed to meet the long-term retirement obligations. The asset allocation mix is reviewed annually and, on a regular basis, actual allocations are rebalanced to approximate the prevailing targets. The following table summarizes actual allocations as of March 30, 2013 and March 31, 2012:

Asset Category	Target Range	Plan Assets	
		March 30, 2013	March 31, 2012
Equity securities	51.0 – 66.0%	58.7%	66.0%
Fixed income	27.0 – 37.0	37.9	29.3
Cash equivalents	2.0 – 12.0	3.4	4.7
Total	100.0%	100%	100%

The investment policy emphasizes the following key objectives: (1) maintain the purchasing power of the current assets and all future contributions by producing positive real rates of return on plan assets; (2) maximize return within reasonable and prudent levels of risk in order to minimize contributions and (3) control costs of administering the plan and managing the investments.

The fair value of Spartan Stores' pension plan assets at March 30, 2013 by asset category is as follows:

(In thousands)	Total	Fair Value Measurements		
		Quoted prices in markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Significant observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)
Mutual funds	\$58,471	\$58,471	\$ —	\$ —
Money market fund	2,229	—	2,229	—
Guaranteed annuity contract	3,890	—	—	3,890
Total fair value	\$64,590	\$58,471	\$2,229	\$3,890

The fair value of Spartan Stores' pension plan assets at March 31, 2012 by asset category is as follows:

(In thousands)	Total	Fair Value Measurements		
		Quoted prices in markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Significant observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)
Mutual funds	\$52,222	\$52,222	\$ —	\$ —
Money market fund	2,829	—	2,829	—
Guaranteed annuity contract	4,025	—	—	4,025
Total fair value	\$59,076	\$52,222	\$2,829	\$4,025

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Level 3 assets consisted of the guaranteed annuity contract. A reconciliation of the beginning and ending balances for Level 3 assets follows:

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Balance, beginning of year .....	\$4,025	\$4,193
Purchases, sales, issuances and settlements (net) .....	(420)	(424)
Realized gains .....	285	256
Balance, end of year .....	<u>\$3,890</u>	<u>\$4,025</u>

See Note 6 for a discussion of the levels of the fair value hierarchy. The assets' fair value measurement level above is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

The following is a description of the valuation methods used for the plan's assets measured at fair value in the above tables:

- Cash & money market funds: The carrying value approximates fair value.
- Mutual Funds/Collective Trusts: These investments are publicly traded investments, which are valued using the net asset value (NAV). The NAV of the mutual funds is a quoted price in an active market. The NAV is determined once a day after the closing of the exchange based upon the underlying assets in the fund, less the fund's liabilities, expressed on a per-share basis. The NAV is a quoted price in an active market and classified within level 1 of the fair value hierarchy of ASC 820.
- Guaranteed Annuity Contracts: The guaranteed annuity contract is an immediate participation contract held with an insurance company that acts as custodian of the pension plan's assets. The guaranteed annuity contract is stated at contract value as determined by the custodian, which approximates fair value. We evaluate the general financial condition of the custodian as a component of validating whether the calculated contract value is an accurate approximation of fair value. The review of the general financial condition of the custodian is considered obtainable/observable through the review of readily available financial information the custodian is required to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The group annuity contract is classified within level 3 of the valuation hierarchy of ASC 820.

The methods described above may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the Plan believes its valuations methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement.

Spartan Stores made contributions of \$4.0 million in fiscal year 2013 to move the cash balance pension plan to a fully funded status and reduce future pension expense. A contribution is not expected to be made in fiscal year 2014. The following estimated benefit payments are expected to be paid in the following fiscal years:

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>Pension Benefits and SERP Benefits</u>	<u>Other Benefits</u>
2014 .....	\$ 5,582	\$ 332
2015 .....	4,893	357
2016 .....	4,874	393
2017 .....	5,083	428
2018 .....	5,050	464
2019 to 2023 .....	21,172	2,820

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

In addition to the plans described above, Spartan Stores participates in a multi-employer pension plan and other defined contribution plans for substantially all associates covered by collective bargaining agreements.

Spartan Stores' makes contributions to the multi-employer health and welfare plan in amounts set forth in the related collective bargaining agreements. This plan provides medical, dental, pharmacy, vision, and other ancillary benefits to active employees and retirees as determined by the trustees of the plan. The vast majority of Spartan Stores' contributions benefits active employees and as such, may not constitute contributions to a postretirement benefit plan. However, Spartan Stores is unable to separate contribution amounts to postretirement benefit plans from contribution amounts paid for active participants in the plan.

Expense is recognized in connection with these plans as contributions are funded, in accordance with accounting standards. Spartan Stores contributed \$8.2 million, \$8.2 million and \$7.3 million to these plans for fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively. The risks of participating in these multi-employer plans are different from the risks associated with single-employer plans in the following respects:

- a. Assets contributed to the multi-employer plan by one employer may be used to provide benefits to employees of other participating employers.
- b. If a participating employer stops contributing to the plan, the unfunded obligations of the plan may be borne by the remaining participating employers.
- c. If a company chooses to stop participating in some multi-employer plans, or makes market exits or otherwise has participation in the plan drop below certain levels, the company may be required to pay those plans an amount based on the underfunded status of the plan, referred to as a withdrawal liability.

Spartan Stores' participation in this plan is outlined in the tables below. The EIN/Pension Plan Number column provides the Employee Identification Number ("EIN") and the three-digit plan number, if applicable. Unless otherwise noted, the most recent Pension Protection Act zone status ("PPA") available in 2013 and 2012 relates to the plans' two most recent fiscal year-ends. The zone status is based on information that Spartan Stores' received from the plan and is certified by each plan's actuary. Among other factors, red zone status plans are generally less than 65 percent funded and are considered in critical status. The FIP/RP Status Pending/Implemented column indicates plans for which a financial improvement plan ("FIP") or a rehabilitation plan ("RP") is either pending or has been implemented by the trustees of each plan.

Pension Fund	EIN – Pension Plan Number	Plan Month / Day End	Pension Protection Act Zone Status		FIP/RP Status Pending/Implemented	Contributions			Surcharges Imposed or Amortization Provisions
			2013	2012		2013	2012	2011	
Central States, Southeast and Southwest Areas Pension Fund	366044243-001	12/31	Red	Red	Implemented	\$8,248	\$8,232	\$7,336	No

The following table describes the expiration of Spartan Stores' collective bargaining agreements associated with the significant multi-employer plans in which Spartan Stores' participates:

Pension Fund	Total Collective Bargaining Agreements	Expiration Date	% of Associates under Collective Bargaining Agreement	Over 5% Contribution 2013
Central States, Southeast and Southwest Areas Pension Fund . . . . .	1	10/10/2015	8.0%	No

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

At the date the financial statements were issued, Forms 5500 were generally not available for the plan years ending in 2012.

See Note 7 for further information regarding Spartan's participation in the Central States, Southeast and Southwest Areas Pension Fund.

**Note 10**  
**Taxes on Income**

The income tax provision for continuing operations is summarized as follows:

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>March 30,</u> <u>2013</u>	<u>March 31,</u> <u>2012</u>	<u>March 26,</u> <u>2011</u>
Currently payable:			
Federal .....	\$17,056	\$ (191)	\$ (536)
State .....	<u>2,490</u>	<u>2,016</u>	<u>1,301</u>
Total currently payable .....	19,546	1,825	765
Deferred:			
Federal .....	(3,361)	15,734	16,644
State .....	<u>(760)</u>	<u>2,127</u>	<u>3,011</u>
Total deferred .....	<u>(4,121)</u>	<u>17,861</u>	<u>19,655</u>
Total .....	<u>\$15,425</u>	<u>\$19,686</u>	<u>\$20,420</u>

The effective income tax rates are different from the statutory federal income tax rates for the following reasons:

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Federal statutory income tax rate .....	35.0%	35.0%	35.0%
State taxes, net of federal income tax benefit .....	4.4	5.2	5.3
Tax credits .....	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.1)
Charitable product donations .....	(0.8)	(0.7)	(0.7)
Other .....	<u>(1.8)</u>	<u>(0.2)</u>	<u>0.1</u>
Effective income tax rate .....	<u>35.7%</u>	<u>38.2%</u>	<u>38.6%</u>

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Deferred tax assets and liabilities resulting from temporary differences as of March 30, 2013 and March 31, 2012 are as follows:

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Deferred tax assets:		
Employee benefits .....	\$ 15,108	\$ 15,075
Allowance for doubtful accounts .....	460	365
Intangible assets .....	1,107	740
Restructuring .....	17	121
Deferred revenue .....	1,085	879
Accrued rent .....	1,210	1,023
All other .....	1,280	343
Total deferred tax assets .....	<u>20,267</u>	<u>18,546</u>
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Property and equipment .....	32,404	30,983
Inventory .....	6,916	6,424
Goodwill .....	48,575	40,769
Convertible debt interest .....	1,365	15,384
Leases .....	7,943	6,271
All other .....	1,332	940
Total deferred tax liabilities .....	<u>98,535</u>	<u>100,771</u>
Net deferred tax liability .....	<u>\$(78,268)</u>	<u>\$ (82,225)</u>

A reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of unrecognized tax benefits is as follows:

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>March 30,</u> <u>2013</u>	<u>March 31,</u> <u>2012</u>
Balance at beginning of year .....	\$2,493	\$2,320
Gross increases – tax positions taken in prior years .....	67	74
Gross decreases – tax positions taken in prior years .....	(404)	(483)
Gross increases – tax positions taken in current year .....	670	589
Lapse of statute of limitations .....	<u>(178)</u>	<u>(7)</u>
Balance at end of year .....	<u>\$2,648</u>	<u>\$2,493</u>

In the fourth quarter of fiscal 2012 we elected to accelerate the recognition of certain revenues for tax purposes, which resulted in a \$12.4 million increase in taxes payable and a related increase in other current assets at March 31, 2012. These amounts reversed in fiscal 2013.

Spartan Stores anticipates that \$0.7 million of the unrecognized tax benefits will be settled prior to March 29, 2014. Spartan Stores recognizes interest and penalties accrued related to unrecognized tax benefits in income tax expense. Accrued interest and penalties are not material. As of March 30, 2013, the balance of unrecognized tax benefits included tax positions of \$1.9 million that would reduce Spartan Stores' effective income tax rate if recognized in future periods.

Spartan Stores files income tax returns with federal, state and local tax authorities within the United States. In May 2012, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) completed its examination of Spartan Stores' federal income tax returns for fiscal year 2010. With few exceptions, we are no longer subject to U.S. federal, state or local examinations by tax authorities for fiscal years before 2008.

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Note 11**

**Stock-Based Compensation**

Spartan Stores has two shareholder-approved ten-year stock incentive plans covering 4,200,000 shares of Spartan Stores' common stock: the Spartan Stores, Inc. 2001 Stock Incentive Plan (the "2001 Plan") and the Spartan Stores, Inc. Stock Incentive Plan of 2005 (the "2005 Plan"). The plans provide for the granting of incentive stock options, non-qualified stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units, stock awards, and other stock-based awards to directors, officers and other key associates. Shares issued, as a result of stock option exercises, will be funded with the issuance of new shares. Holders of restricted stock and stock awards are entitled to participate in cash dividends and dividend equivalents. The 2001 plan expired on May 8, 2011 and no shares remained unissued as of that date. As of March 30, 2013, 818,258 shares remained unissued under the 2005 Plan.

Stock option awards were granted with an exercise price equal to the market value of Spartan Stores common stock at the date of grant, vest and become exercisable in 25 percent increments over a four-year service period and have a maximum contractual term of ten years. Upon a "Change in Control", as defined by the Plan, all outstanding options vest immediately. The fair value of each stock option grant was estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. Expected volatility was determined based upon a combination of historical volatility of Spartan Stores common stock and the expected volatilities of guideline companies that are comparable to Spartan Stores in most significant respects to reflect management's best estimate of Spartan Stores' future volatility over the option term. Due to certain events that were considered unusual and/or infrequent in nature, and that resulted in significant business changes during the limited historical exercise period, management did not believe that Spartan Stores' historical exercise data provided a reasonable basis upon which to estimate the expected term of stock options. Therefore, the expected term of stock options granted was determined using the "simplified" method as described in SEC Staff Accounting Bulletins that uses the following formula:  $((\text{vesting term} + \text{original contract term})/2)$ . The risk-free interest rate was based on the U.S. Treasury yield curve in effect at the time of grant, using U.S. constant maturities with remaining terms equal to the expected term. Expected dividend yield is based on historical dividend payments. No stock options were granted in fiscal 2013, 2012, or 2011.

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The following table summarizes stock option activity for the three years ended March 30, 2013:

	Shares Under Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life Years	Aggregate Intrinsic Value (In thousands)
<b>Options outstanding at March 27, 2010</b> . . . . .	831,849	\$17.39	6.90	\$1,279
Granted . . . . .	—	—		
Exercised . . . . .	(27,128)	7.85		231
Cancelled . . . . .	—	—		
<b>Options outstanding at March 26, 2011</b> . . . . .	804,721	17.71	6.02	1,243
Granted . . . . .	—	—		
Exercised . . . . .	(84,630)	11.64		572
Cancelled . . . . .	(16,962)	17.94		
<b>Options outstanding at March 31, 2012</b> . . . . .	703,129	18.43	5.53	1,926
Granted . . . . .	—	—		
Exercised . . . . .	(25,050)	8.10		210
Cancelled . . . . .	(24,608)	18.64		
<b>Options outstanding at March 30, 2013</b> . . . . .	<u>653,471</u>	18.82	4.65	1,428
<b>Options exercisable at March 26, 2011</b> . . . . .	<u>519,733</u>	16.94	5.19	1,095
<b>Options exercisable at March 31, 2012</b> . . . . .	<u>557,787</u>	18.60	5.22	1,581
<b>Options exercisable at March 30, 2013</b> . . . . .	<u>619,658</u>	\$19.09	4.57	\$1,304
<b>Vested and expected to vest in the future at March 30, 2013</b> . . . . .	<u>652,078</u>	\$18.83	4.65	\$1,423

Cash received from option exercises was \$0.2 million, \$1.0 million and \$0.2 million during fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

Restricted shares awarded to employees vest ratably over a four-year service period and one year for grants to the Board of Directors. Awards granted to employees prior to fiscal 2012 vest ratably over a five-year service period. Awards are subject to certain transfer restrictions and forfeiture prior to vesting. All shares fully vest upon a "Change in Control" as defined by the Plan. Compensation expense, representing the fair value of the stock at the measurement date of the award, is recognized over the vesting period.

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The following table summarizes restricted stock activity for the three years ended March 30, 2013:

	<u>Shares</u>	<u>Weighted Average Grant-Date Fair Value</u>
<b>Outstanding and nonvested at March 27, 2010</b> .....	618,722	\$18.28
Granted .....	216,890	15.37
Vested .....	(280,437)	18.21
Forfeited .....	<u>(7,404)</u>	16.99
<b>Outstanding and nonvested at March 26, 2011</b> .....	547,771	16.99
Granted .....	222,848	16.06
Vested .....	(175,433)	17.60
Forfeited .....	<u>(14,293)</u>	15.67
<b>Outstanding and nonvested at March 31, 2012</b> .....	580,893	16.48
Granted .....	215,014	17.78
Vested .....	(217,737)	17.47
Forfeited .....	<u>(31,988)</u>	16.52
<b>Outstanding and nonvested at March 30, 2013</b> .....	<u>546,182</u>	\$16.59

The total fair value of shares vested during fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011 was \$3.9 million, \$2.8 million and \$4.3 million, respectively.

Share-based compensation expense recognized and included in "Selling, general and administrative expenses" in the Consolidated Statements of Earnings and related tax benefits were as follows:

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Stock options .....	\$ 196	\$ 1,238	\$ 929
Restricted stock .....	3,866	3,810	4,443
Tax benefits .....	<u>(1,572)</u>	<u>(1,928)</u>	<u>(2,081)</u>
	<u>\$ 2,490</u>	<u>\$ 3,120</u>	<u>\$ 3,291</u>

As of March 30, 2013, total unrecognized compensation cost related to non-vested share-based awards granted under our stock incentive plans was less than \$0.1 million for stock options and \$5.6 million for restricted stock. The remaining compensation costs not yet recognized are expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 0.1 years for stock options and 2.3 years for restricted stock.

Spartan Stores recognized tax deductions of \$4.3 million, \$3.5 million and \$4.6 million related to the exercise of stock options and the vesting of restricted stock during fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

Spartan Stores has a stock bonus plan covering 300,000 shares of Spartan Stores common stock. Under the provisions of this plan, certain officers and key associates of Spartan Stores may elect to receive a portion of their annual bonus in common stock rather than cash and will be granted additional shares of common stock worth 30% of the portion of the bonus they elect to receive in stock. Compensation expense is recorded based upon the market price of the stock as of the measurement date. A total of 71,156 shares remained unissued under the plan at March 30, 2013.

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Spartan Stores has an associate stock purchase plan covering 200,000 shares of Spartan Stores common stock. The plan provides that associates of Spartan Stores and its subsidiaries may purchase shares at 95% of the fair market value. As of March 30, 2013, 26,568 shares had been issued under the plan.

**Note 12**  
**Supplemental Cash Flow Information**

Non-cash financing activities include the issuance of restricted stock to employees and directors of \$3.9 million, \$3.6 million and \$3.3 million for fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively, and the exchange of \$40.3 million of Convertible Senior Notes for New Notes in fiscal 2013. Non-cash investing activities include capital expenditures included in accounts payable of \$3.3 million, \$3.3 million and \$4.0 million for fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011 respectively. In fiscal 2013, 2012 and 2011, Spartan Stores entered into capital lease agreements totaling \$4.0 million, \$9.7 million and \$4.2 million, respectively.

**Note 13**  
**Discontinued Operations**

Certain of our retail and grocery distribution operations have been recorded as discontinued operations. Results of the discontinued operations are excluded from the accompanying notes to the condensed consolidated financial statements for all periods presented, unless otherwise noted.

The results of discontinued operations reported on the Consolidated Statements of Earnings are reported net of tax.

Discontinued operations did not have sales for fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011. Significant assets and liabilities of discontinued operations are as follows:

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>March 30, 2013</u>	<u>March 31, 2012</u>
Current assets .....	\$ 38	\$1,589
Property, net .....	4,810	4,001
Other long-term assets .....	653	1,463
Current liabilities .....	800	268
Long-term liabilities .....	32	74

**Note 14**  
**Reporting Segment Information**

Spartan Stores has two reportable segments. The Distribution segment supplies independent retail customers and its own retail stores with dry grocery, produce, dairy, meat, delicatessen, bakery, beverages, frozen food, seafood, floral, general merchandise, pharmacy and health and beauty care items. Sales to independent retail customers and inter-segment sales are recorded based upon a “cost plus” model for grocery, frozen, dairy, pharmacy and health and beauty care items and a “variable mark-up” model for meat, deli, bakery, produce, seafood, floral and general merchandise products. To supply its wholesale customers, Spartan Stores operates a fleet of tractors, conventional trailers and refrigerated trailers, substantially all of which are leased by Spartan Stores.

The Retail segment operates supermarkets in Michigan that typically offer dry grocery, produce, frozen, dairy, meat, beverages, floral, seafood, health and beauty care, delicatessen and bakery goods. Additionally, complementing these offerings, approximately 66% of the stores offer pharmacy services and 30 fuel centers were in operation as of March 30, 2013.

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Identifiable assets represent total assets directly associated with the reporting segments. Eliminations in assets identified to segments include intercompany receivables, payables and investments.

The following tables set forth information about Spartan Stores by reporting segment:

<u>(In thousands)</u>	<u>Distribution</u>	<u>Retail</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Year Ended March 30, 2013</b>			
Net sales to external customers . . . . .	\$1,120,650	\$1,487,510	\$2,608,160
Inter-segment sales . . . . .	663,578	—	663,578
Depreciation and amortization . . . . .	8,712	30,369	39,081
Operating earnings . . . . .	45,630	15,338	60,968
Capital expenditures . . . . .	8,797	33,215	42,012
<b>Year Ended March 31, 2012 (53 weeks)</b>			
Net sales to external customers . . . . .	\$1,138,739	\$1,495,487	\$2,634,226
Inter-segment sales . . . . .	660,628	—	660,628
Depreciation and amortization . . . . .	8,444	28,350	36,794
Operating earnings . . . . .	44,292	22,191	66,483
Capital expenditures . . . . .	9,375	33,143	42,518
<b>Year Ended March 26, 2011</b>			
Net sales to external customers . . . . .	\$1,089,689	\$1,443,375	\$2,533,064
Inter-segment sales . . . . .	663,827	—	663,827
Depreciation and amortization . . . . .	8,465	26,693	35,158
Operating earnings . . . . .	47,987	19,979	67,966
Capital expenditures . . . . .	8,800	24,229	33,029
	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
<b>Total Assets at Year End</b>			
Distribution . . . . .	\$ 254,326	\$ 216,873	\$ 261,028
Retail . . . . .	529,840	541,110	484,839
Discontinued operations . . . . .	5,501	5,490	5,529
Total . . . . .	<u>\$ 789,667</u>	<u>\$ 763,473</u>	<u>\$ 751,396</u>

Spartan Stores offers a wide variety of grocery products, general merchandise and health and beauty care, pharmacy, fuel and other items and services. The following table presents sales by type of similar product and services:

<u>(Dollars in thousands)</u>	<u>2013</u>		<u>2012</u>		<u>2011</u>	
			(53 weeks)			
Non-perishables (1) . . . . .	\$1,289,461	49.4%	\$1,293,147	49.1%	\$1,297,719	51.2%
Perishables (2) . . . . .	930,659	35.7	933,545	35.4	906,945	35.8
Fuel . . . . .	209,028	8.0	219,903	8.4	123,262	4.9
Pharmacy . . . . .	179,012	6.9	187,631	7.1	205,138	8.1
Consolidated net sales . . . . .	<u>\$2,608,160</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>\$2,634,226</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>\$2,533,064</u>	<u>100%</u>

(1) Consists primarily of general merchandise, grocery, beverages, snacks and frozen foods.

(2) Consists primarily of produce, dairy, meat, bakery, deli, floral and seafood.

**SPARTAN STORES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Note 15**

**Quarterly Financial Information (unaudited)**

Earnings per share amounts for each quarter are required to be computed independently and may not equal the amount computed for the total year. Common stock prices are the high and low sales prices for transactions reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market for each period.

<u>(In thousands, except per share data)</u>	<u>Full Year</u> <u>(52 weeks)</u>	<u>4<sup>th</sup> Quarter</u> <u>(12 weeks)</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter</u> <u>(16 weeks)</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter</u> <u>(12 weeks)</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter</u> <u>(12 weeks)</u>
<b>Fiscal 2013</b>					
Net sales . . . . .	\$2,608,160	\$592,809	\$789,880	\$621,559	\$603,912
Gross margin . . . . .	545,544	132,643	160,955	130,226	121,720
Restructuring, asset impairment and other . . . . .	1,589	1,233	—	356	—
Debt extinguishment . . . . .	5,047	2,762	2,285	—	—
Earnings from continuing operations before income taxes . . . . .	43,267	13,012	5,092	16,558	8,605
Earnings from continuing operations . . . . .	27,842	7,939	3,472	10,355	6,076
Discontinued operations, net of taxes . . . . .	(432)	(237)	(72)	(50)	(73)
Net earnings . . . . .	\$ 27,410	\$ 7,702	\$ 3,400	\$ 10,305	\$ 6,003
Earnings from continuing operations per share:					
Basic . . . . .	\$ 1.28	\$ 0.37	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.48	\$ 0.28
Diluted . . . . .	1.27	0.36	0.16	0.47	0.28
Net earnings per share:					
Basic . . . . .	\$ 1.26	\$ 0.35	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.47	\$ 0.27
Diluted . . . . .	1.25	0.35	0.16	0.47	0.27
Dividends . . . . .	\$ 6,899	\$ 1,740	\$ 1,739	\$ 1,740	\$ 1,680
Common stock price – High . . . . .	18.74	18.33	16.61	18.74	18.66
Common stock price – Low . . . . .	13.44	15.20	13.62	13.44	15.91

<u>(In thousands, except per share data)</u>	<u>Full Year</u> <u>(53 weeks)</u>	<u>4<sup>th</sup> Quarter</u> <u>(13 weeks)</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter</u> <u>(16 weeks)</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter</u> <u>(12 weeks)</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter</u> <u>(12 weeks)</u>
<b>Fiscal 2012</b>					
Net sales . . . . .	\$2,634,226	\$614,773	\$797,242	\$619,647	\$602,564
Gross margin . . . . .	556,110	135,086	162,950	132,737	125,337
Restructuring, asset impairment and other . . . . .	(23)	114	(2)	(135)	—
Earnings from continuing operations before income taxes . . . . .	51,556	16,369	7,752	16,611	10,824
Earnings from continuing operations . . . . .	31,870	10,477	4,988	10,270	6,135
Discontinued operations, net of taxes . . . . .	(112)	23	(11)	(18)	(106)
Net earnings . . . . .	31,758	10,500	4,977	10,252	6,029
Earnings from continuing operations per share:					
Basic . . . . .	\$ 1.40	\$ 0.46	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.45	\$ 0.27
Diluted . . . . .	1.39	0.46	0.22	0.45	0.27
Net earnings per share:					
Basic . . . . .	\$ 1.39	\$ 0.46	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.45	\$ 0.27
Diluted . . . . .	1.39	0.46	0.22	0.45	0.26
Dividends . . . . .	\$ 5,926	\$ 1,469	\$ 1,487	\$ 1,486	\$ 1,484
Common stock price – High . . . . .	21.37	19.24	19.21	21.37	19.81
Common stock price – Low . . . . .	14.01	16.95	14.01	14.06	14.35

**Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure**

Not applicable.

**Item 9A. Controls and Procedures*****Disclosure Controls and Procedures***

An evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of Spartan Stores' disclosure controls and procedures (as currently defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) was performed as of March 30, 2013 (the "Evaluation Date"). This evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of Spartan Stores' management, including its Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") and Chief Financial Officer ("CFO"). As of the Evaluation Date, Spartan Stores' management, including the CEO and CFO, concluded that Spartan Stores' disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the Evaluation Date to ensure that material information required to be disclosed in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified by the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports that we file or submit under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 is accumulated and communicated to management, including our principal executive and principal financial officers as appropriate to allow for timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

***Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting***

The management of Spartan Stores, including the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Spartan Stores' internal controls were designed by, or under the supervision of, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, and effected by the Company's Board of Directors, management and other personnel, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of its financial reporting and the preparation and presentation of the consolidated financial statements for external purposes in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States and includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that in reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of Spartan Stores; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of Spartan Stores are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of Spartan Stores; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of Spartan Stores' assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Management of Spartan Stores conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of its internal controls over financial reporting based on the framework in *Internal Control—Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. This evaluation included review of the documentation of controls, evaluation of the design effectiveness of controls, testing of the operating effectiveness of controls and a conclusion on this evaluation. Through this evaluation, management did not identify any material weakness in the Company's internal control. There are inherent limitations in the effectiveness of any system of internal control over financial reporting. Based on the evaluation, management has concluded that Spartan Stores' internal control over financial reporting was effective as of March 30, 2013.

The registered public accounting firm that audited the consolidated financial statements included in this Form 10-K Annual Report has issued an attestation report on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of March 30, 2013 as stated in their report on the following page.

## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of  
Spartan Stores, Inc. and Subsidiaries  
Grand Rapids, MI

We have audited the internal control over financial reporting of Spartan Stores, Inc. and subsidiaries (the “Company”) as of March 30, 2013, based on criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. The Company’s management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company’s internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

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

A company’s internal control over financial reporting is a process designed by, or under the supervision of, the company’s principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, and effected by the company’s board of directors, management, and other personnel to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company’s internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company’s assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Also, projections of any evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of March 30, 2013, based on the criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended March 30, 2013 of the Company and our report dated May 23, 2013 expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements,

/s/ Deloitte & Touche LLP

Grand Rapids, Michigan  
May 23, 2013

*Changes in Internal Controls Over Financial Reporting*

During the last fiscal quarter, there was no change in Spartan Stores' internal control over financial reporting that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, Spartan Stores' internal control over financial reporting.

**Item 9B. Other Information**

None.

## PART III

### Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance

The information required by this item is here incorporated by reference from the sections titled “The Board of Directors,” “Spartan Stores’ Executive Officers,” “Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance,” “Corporate Governance Principles,” and “Transactions with Related Persons” in Spartan Stores’ definitive proxy statement relating to its annual meeting of shareholders to be held in 2013.

### Item 11. Executive Compensation

The information required by this item is here incorporated by reference from the sections entitled “Executive Compensation,” “Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control,” “Compensation of Directors,” “Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation” and “Compensation Committee Report” in Spartan Stores’ definitive proxy statement relating to its annual meeting of shareholders to be held in 2013.

### Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters

The information required by this item is here incorporated by reference from the section titled “Ownership of Spartan Stores Stock” in Spartan Stores’ definitive proxy statement relating to its annual meeting of shareholders to be held in 2013.

The following table provides information about Spartan Stores’ equity compensation plans regarding the number of securities to be issued under these plans, the weighted-average exercise prices of options outstanding under these plans and the number of securities available for future issuance as of the end of fiscal 2013.

#### EQUITY COMPENSATION PLANS

Plan Category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (a)	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights (b)	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) (c)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders (1) . . . . .	653,471	\$ 18.82	889,414
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders . . . .	—	Not applicable	—
Total . . . . .	<u>653,471</u>	<u>\$ 18.82</u>	<u>889,414</u>

(1) Consists of the Spartan Stores, Inc. 1991 Stock Option Plan, the Spartan Stores, Inc. 2001 Stock Incentive Plan, the Spartan Stores, Inc. 2001 Stock Bonus Plan, and the Stock Incentive Plan of 2005. Stock options may no longer be issued under the 1991 Stock Option Plan. The numbers of shares reflected in column (c) in the table above with respect to the Stock Incentive Plan of 2005 (962,938 shares) and the 2001 Stock Bonus Plan (82,647 shares) represent shares that may be issued other than upon the exercise of an option, warrant or right. Each plan listed above contains customary anti-dilution provisions that are applicable in the event of a stock split or certain other changes in Spartan Stores’ capitalization.

### Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence

The information required by this item is here incorporated by reference from the section titled “Transactions with Related Persons” and the table captioned “Board of Directors Committee Membership” in Spartan Stores’ definitive proxy statement relating to its annual meeting of shareholders to be held in 2013.

**Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services**

The information required by this item is here incorporated by reference from the section titled “Independent Auditors” in Spartan Stores’ definitive proxy statement relating to its annual meeting of shareholders to be held in 2013.

## PART IV

### Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules

(a) The following documents are filed as part of this Report:

#### 1. Financial Statements.

##### A. In Item 8.

Reports of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm of Deloitte & Touche LLP dated May 23, 2013

Consolidated Balance Sheets at March 30, 2013 and March 31, 2012

Consolidated Statements of Earnings for each of the three years in the period ended March 30, 2013

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for each of the three years in the period ended March 30, 2013

Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity for each of the three years in the period ended March 30, 2013

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for each of the three years in the period ended March 30, 2013

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

#### 2. Financial Statement Schedules.

Schedules are omitted because the required information is either inapplicable or presented in the consolidated financial statements or related notes.

### 3. Exhibits.

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Document</u>
2.1	Asset Purchase Agreement dated October 13, 2008 by and among VG's Food Center, Inc. and VG's Pharmacy, Inc. as Seller and Family Fare, LLC as Purchaser. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Current Report on Form 8-K filed October 15, 2008. Here incorporated by reference. Exhibits and schedules to this agreement are listed and identified in the agreement. Omitted exhibits and schedules will be furnished supplementally to the Commission upon request.
3.1	Restated Articles of Incorporation of Spartan Stores, Inc. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended January 1, 2011. Here incorporated by reference.
3.2	Bylaws of Spartan Stores, Inc., as amended. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 10, 2011. Here incorporated by reference.
4.1	Indenture dated December 6, 2012 by and among Spartan Stores, Inc., The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Trustee, and the Company's subsidiaries as Guarantors. Previously filed as an exhibit to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K on December 6, 2012. Here incorporated by reference.
4.2	Form of 6.625% Senior Notes Due 2016. Previously filed as an exhibit to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K on December 6, 2012. Here incorporated by reference.
4.3	Indenture by and between Spartan Stores, Inc. and The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee dated as of May 30, 2007. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Current Report on Form 8-K, filed May 30, 2007. Here incorporated by reference.
4.4	Registration Rights Agreement among Spartan Stores, Inc. and Banc of America Securities LLC and Bear, Stearns & Co., Inc., as representatives of the Initial Purchasers named therein dated as of May 30, 2007. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Current Report on Form 8-K, filed May 30, 2007. Here incorporated by reference.
4.5	Form of 3.375% Convertible Senior Note due 2027. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Current Report on Form 8-K, filed May 30, 2007. Here incorporated by reference.
10.1	Exchange and Purchase Agreement dated December 4, 2012 between the Company and the Holder named therein. Previously filed as an exhibit to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K on December 6, 2012. Here incorporated by reference.
10.2	Purchase Agreement by and among Spartan Stores, Inc. and the Initial Purchasers named therein dated as of May 23, 2007. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 28, 2009. Here incorporated by reference.
10.3	Loan and Security Agreement dated December 23, 2003, by and among Spartan Stores, Inc. and certain subsidiaries as borrowers, Congress Financial Corporation (Central) as agent, the lenders named therein as lenders, and joined in by certain subsidiaries of Spartan Stores, Inc. as guarantors. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 28, 2009. Here incorporated by reference.
10.4	Amendment No. 2 to Loan and Security Agreement dated December 22, 2004, between Spartan Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries and Congress Financial Corporation, Key Bank National Association, Fleet Capital Corporation, National City Business Credit, General Electric Capital Corporation, and Fifth Third Bank. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 26, 2011. Here incorporated by reference.

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Document</u>
10.5	Amendment No. 3 to Loan and Security Agreement dated December 9, 2005 between Spartan Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries and Wachovia Capital Finance Corporation (Central), Key Bank National Association, Bank of America Leasing & Capital, LLC, National City Business Credit, General Electric Capital Corporation, and Fifth Third Bank. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 26, 2011. Here incorporated by reference.
10.6	Amendment No. 4 to Loan and Security Agreement dated March 17, 2006 between Spartan Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries and Wachovia Capital Finance Corporation (Central), Key Bank National Association, Bank of America Leasing & Capital, LLC, National City Business Credit, General Electric Capital Corporation, and Fifth Third Bank. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 26, 2011. Here incorporated by reference.
10.7	Amendment No. 5 to Loan and Security Agreement dated April 5, 2007 between Spartan Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries and Wachovia Capital Finance Corporation (Central), Key Bank National Association, Bank of America Leasing & Capital, LLC, National City Business Credit, General Electric Capital Corporation, and Fifth Third Bank. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 31, 2012. Here incorporated by reference.
10.8	Amendment No. 6 to Loan and Security Agreement dated May 22, 2007 between Spartan Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries and Wachovia Capital Finance Corporation (Central), Key Bank National Association, Bank of America N.A., National City Business Credit, Inc., General Electric Capital Corporation, and Fifth Third Bank. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 28, 2009. Here incorporated by reference.
10.9	Amendment No. 7 to Loan and Security Agreement dated May 20, 2009 between Spartan Stores, Inc. and subsidiaries and Wachovia Capital Finance Corporation (Central), Key Bank National Association, Bank of America N.A., National City Business Credit, Inc., General Electric Capital Corporation, and Fifth Third Bank. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Current Report on Form 8-K filed May 22, 2009. Here incorporated by reference.
10.10	Amendment No. 8 to Loan and Security Agreement dated May 4, 2010 between Spartan Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries and Wachovia Capital Finance Corporation (Central), Key Bank National Association, Bank of America N.A., National City Business Credit, Inc., General Electric Capital Corporation, and Fifth Third Bank. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Current Report on Form 8-K on May 7, 2010. Here incorporated by reference.
10.11	Amendment No. 9 to Loan and Security Agreement dated September 30, 2010 between Spartan Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries and Wells Fargo Capital Finance, LLC, Key Bank National Association, Bank of America, N.A., PNC Bank N.A., General Electric Capital Corporation, and Fifth Third Bank. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Current Report on Form 8-K on October 5, 2010. Here incorporated by reference.
10.12	Amendment No. 10 to Loan and Security Agreement dated July 19, 2011 between Spartan Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries and Wells Fargo Capital Finance, LLC, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Key Bank National Association, Bank of America, N.A., PNC Bank N.A., General Electric Capital Corporation, and Fifth Third Bank. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Current Report on Form 8-K on July 20, 2011. Here incorporated by reference.
10.13	Amendment No. 11 to Loan and Security Agreement dated June 8, 2012 between Spartan Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries and Wells Fargo Capital Finance, LLC, Bank of America, N.A., PNC Bank National Association, Fifth Third Bank and US Bank National Association. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Current Report on Form 8-K filed June 13, 2012. Here incorporated by reference.

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Document</u>
10.14	Amendment No. 12 to Loan and Security Agreement dated December 4, 2012 by and among Spartan Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries and Wells Fargo Capital Finance, LLC, Bank of America, N.A., PNC Bank National Association, Fifth Third Bank and US Bank National Association. Previously filed as an exhibit to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K on December 6, 2012. Here incorporated by reference.
10.15	Letter Agreement between Spartan Stores, Inc. and Wachovia Capital Finance Corporation (Central) as Agent for the Lenders, dated August 17, 2007.
10.16*	Spartan Stores, Inc. Executive Cash Incentive Plan of 2010 as amended. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Current Report on Form 8-K on August 12, 2010. Here incorporated by reference.
10.17*	Form of Long-Term Executive Incentive Plan Award for fiscal 2013. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 23, 2012. Here incorporated by reference.
10.18*	Form of Long-Term Executive Incentive Plan Award for fiscal 2012. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 18, 2011. Here incorporated by reference.
10.19	Form of Amended and Restated Long-Term Executive Incentive Plan Award for fiscal 2011. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 18, 2011. Here incorporated by reference.
10.20*	Spartan Stores, Inc. Stock Incentive Plan of 2005, as amended. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 27, 2010. Here incorporated by reference.
10.21*	Determination of Compensation Committee pursuant to the Spartan Stores, Inc. Stock Incentive Plan of 2005. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Current Report on Form 8-K on August 3, 2009. Here incorporated by reference.
10.22*	Spartan Stores, Inc. Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan, as amended. Previously filed as an as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 27, 2010. Here incorporated by reference.
10.23*	Spartan Stores, Inc. Supplemental Executive Savings Plan. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores Form S-8 Registration Statement filed on December 21, 2001. Here incorporated by reference.
10.24*	Spartan Stores, Inc. Cash Incentive Plan of 2010 as amended. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 19, 2010. Here incorporated by reference.
10.25*	Spartan Stores, Inc. 2001 Stock Incentive Plan.
10.26*	Form of Restricted Stock Award to officers, dated May 15, 2012. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ending June 23, 2012. Here incorporated by reference.
10.27*	Form of Restricted Stock Award to non-employee directors, dated May 15, 2012. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ending June 23, 2012. Here incorporated by reference.
10.28*	Form of Stock Option Award to executive officers. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ending June 20, 2009. Here incorporated by reference.

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Document</u>
10.29*	Form of Stock Option Award to non-employee directors. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ending June 20, 2009. Here incorporated by reference.
10.30*	Form of Executive Employment Agreement between Spartan Stores, Inc. and certain executive officers, as amended. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 31, 2012. Here incorporated by reference.
10.31*	Form of Executive Severance Agreement between Spartan Stores, Inc. and certain executive officers as amended. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 31, 2012. Here incorporated by reference.
21	Subsidiaries of Spartan Stores, Inc.
23	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
24	Powers of Attorney.
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.1	Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350. This exhibit is furnished, not filed, in accordance with SEC Release Number 33-8212.
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

\* These documents are management contracts or compensation plans or arrangements required to be filed as exhibits to this Form 10-K.



## EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Document</u>
2.1	Asset Purchase Agreement dated October 13, 2008 by and among VG's Food Center, Inc. and VG's Pharmacy, Inc. as Seller and Family Fare, LLC as Purchaser. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Current Report on Form 8-K filed October 15, 2008. Here incorporated by reference. Exhibits and schedules to this agreement are listed and identified in the agreement. Omitted exhibits and schedules will be furnished supplementally to the Commission upon request.
3.1	Restated Articles of Incorporation of Spartan Stores, Inc. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended January 1, 2011. Here incorporated by reference.
3.2	Bylaws of Spartan Stores, Inc., as amended. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 10, 2011. Here incorporated by reference.
4.1	Indenture dated December 6, 2012 by and among Spartan Stores, Inc., The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Trustee, and the Company's subsidiaries as Guarantors. Previously filed as an exhibit to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K on December 6, 2012. Here incorporated by reference.
4.2	Form of 6.625% Senior Notes Due 2016. Previously filed as an exhibit to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K on December 6, 2012. Here incorporated by reference.
4.3	Indenture by and between Spartan Stores, Inc. and The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee dated as of May 30, 2007. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Current Report on Form 8-K, filed May 30, 2007. Here incorporated by reference.
4.4	Registration Rights Agreement among Spartan Stores, Inc. and Banc of America Securities LLC and Bear, Stearns & Co., Inc., as representatives of the Initial Purchasers named therein dated as of May 30, 2007. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Current Report on Form 8-K, filed May 30, 2007. Here incorporated by reference.
4.5	Form of 3.375% Convertible Senior Note due 2027. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Current Report on Form 8-K, filed May 30, 2007. Here incorporated by reference.
10.1	Exchange and Purchase Agreement dated December 4, 2012 between the Company and the Holder named therein. Previously filed as an exhibit to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K on December 6, 2012. Here incorporated by reference.
10.2	Purchase Agreement by and among Spartan Stores, Inc. and the Initial Purchasers named therein dated as of May 23, 2007. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 28, 2009. Here incorporated by reference.
10.3	Loan and Security Agreement dated December 23, 2003, by and among Spartan Stores, Inc. and certain subsidiaries as borrowers, Congress Financial Corporation (Central) as agent, the lenders named therein as lenders, and joined in by certain subsidiaries of Spartan Stores, Inc. as guarantors. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 28, 2009. Here incorporated by reference.
10.4	Amendment No. 2 to Loan and Security Agreement dated December 22, 2004, between Spartan Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries and Congress Financial Corporation, Key Bank National Association, Fleet Capital Corporation, National City Business Credit, General Electric Capital Corporation, and Fifth Third Bank. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 26, 2011. Here incorporated by reference.

**Exhibit  
Number**

**Document**

- 10.5 Amendment No. 3 to Loan and Security Agreement dated December 9, 2005 between Spartan Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries and Wachovia Capital Finance Corporation (Central), Key Bank National Association, Bank of America Leasing & Capital, LLC, National City Business Credit, General Electric Capital Corporation, and Fifth Third Bank. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 26, 2011. Here incorporated by reference.
- 10.6 Amendment No. 4 to Loan and Security Agreement dated March 17, 2006 between Spartan Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries and Wachovia Capital Finance Corporation (Central), Key Bank National Association, Bank of America Leasing & Capital, LLC, National City Business Credit, General Electric Capital Corporation, and Fifth Third Bank. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 26, 2011. Here incorporated by reference.
- 10.7 Amendment No. 5 to Loan and Security Agreement dated April 5, 2007 between Spartan Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries and Wachovia Capital Finance Corporation (Central), Key Bank National Association, Bank of America Leasing & Capital, LLC, National City Business Credit, General Electric Capital Corporation, and Fifth Third Bank. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 31, 2012. Here incorporated by reference.
- 10.8 Amendment No. 6 to Loan and Security Agreement dated May 22, 2007 between Spartan Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries and Wachovia Capital Finance Corporation (Central), Key Bank National Association, Bank of America N.A., National City Business Credit, Inc., General Electric Capital Corporation, and Fifth Third Bank. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 28, 2009. Here incorporated by reference.
- 10.9 Amendment No. 7 to Loan and Security Agreement dated May 20, 2009 between Spartan Stores, Inc. and subsidiaries and Wachovia Capital Finance Corporation (Central), Key Bank National Association, Bank of America N.A., National City Business Credit, Inc., General Electric Capital Corporation, and Fifth Third Bank. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Current Report on Form 8-K filed May 22, 2009. Here incorporated by reference.
- 10.10 Amendment No. 8 to Loan and Security Agreement dated May 4, 2010 between Spartan Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries and Wachovia Capital Finance Corporation (Central), Key Bank National Association, Bank of America N.A., National City Business Credit, Inc., General Electric Capital Corporation, and Fifth Third Bank. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Current Report on Form 8-K on May 7, 2010. Here incorporated by reference.
- 10.11 Amendment No. 9 to Loan and Security Agreement dated September 30, 2010 between Spartan Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries and Wells Fargo Capital Finance, LLC, Key Bank National Association, Bank of America, N.A., PNC Bank N.A., General Electric Capital Corporation, and Fifth Third Bank. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Current Report on Form 8-K on October 5, 2010. Here incorporated by reference.
- 10.12 Amendment No. 10 to Loan and Security Agreement dated July 19, 2011 between Spartan Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries and Wells Fargo Capital Finance, LLC, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Key Bank National Association, Bank of America, N.A., PNC Bank N.A., General Electric Capital Corporation, and Fifth Third Bank. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Current Report on Form 8-K on July 20, 2011. Here incorporated by reference.
- 10.13 Amendment No. 11 to Loan and Security Agreement dated June 8, 2012 between Spartan Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries and Wells Fargo Capital Finance, LLC, Bank of America, N.A., PNC Bank National Association, Fifth Third Bank and US Bank National Association. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Current Report on Form 8-K filed June 13, 2012. Here incorporated by reference.

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Document</u>
10.14	Amendment No. 12 to Loan and Security Agreement dated December 4, 2012 by and among Spartan Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries and Wells Fargo Capital Finance, LLC, Bank of America, N.A., PNC Bank National Association, Fifth Third Bank and US Bank National Association. Previously filed as an exhibit to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K on December 6, 2012. Here incorporated by reference.
10.15	Letter Agreement between Spartan Stores, Inc. and Wachovia Capital Finance Corporation (Central) as Agent for the Lenders, dated August 17, 2007.
10.16*	Spartan Stores, Inc. Executive Cash Incentive Plan of 2010 as amended. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Current Report on Form 8-K on August 12, 2010. Here incorporated by reference.
10.17*	Form of Long-Term Executive Incentive Plan Award for fiscal 2013. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 23, 2012. Here incorporated by reference.
10.18*	Form of Long-Term Executive Incentive Plan Award for fiscal 2012. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 18, 2011. Here incorporated by reference.
10.19	Form of Amended and Restated Long-Term Executive Incentive Plan Award for fiscal 2011. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 18, 2011. Here incorporated by reference.
10.20*	Spartan Stores, Inc. Stock Incentive Plan of 2005, as amended. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 27, 2010. Here incorporated by reference.
10.21*	Determination of Compensation Committee pursuant to the Spartan Stores, Inc. Stock Incentive Plan of 2005. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Current Report on Form 8-K on August 3, 2009. Here incorporated by reference.
10.22*	Spartan Stores, Inc. Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan, as amended. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 27, 2010. Here incorporated by reference.
10.23*	Spartan Stores, Inc. Supplemental Executive Savings Plan. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores Form S-8 Registration Statement filed on December 21, 2001. Here incorporated by reference.
10.24*	Spartan Stores, Inc. Cash Incentive Plan of 2010 as amended. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 19, 2010. Here incorporated by reference.
10.25*	Spartan Stores, Inc. 2001 Stock Incentive Plan.
10.26*	Form of Restricted Stock Award to officers, dated May 15, 2012. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ending June 23, 2012. Here incorporated by reference.
10.27*	Form of Restricted Stock Award to non-employee directors, dated May 15, 2012. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ending June 23, 2012. Here incorporated by reference.
10.28*	Form of Stock Option Award to executive officers. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ending June 20, 2009. Here incorporated by reference.

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Document</u>
10.29*	Form of Stock Option Award to non-employee directors. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ending June 20, 2009. Here incorporated by reference.
10.30*	Form of Executive Employment Agreement between Spartan Stores, Inc. and certain executive officers, as amended. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 31, 2012. Here incorporated by reference.
10.31*	Form of Executive Severance Agreement between Spartan Stores, Inc. and certain executive officers as amended. Previously filed as an exhibit to Spartan Stores' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended March 31, 2012. Here incorporated by reference.
21	Subsidiaries of Spartan Stores, Inc.
23	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
24	Powers of Attorney.
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.1	Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350. This exhibit is furnished, not filed, in accordance with SEC Release Number 33-8212.
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

\* These documents are management contracts or compensation plans or arrangements required to be filed as exhibits to this Form 10-K.

**EXHIBIT 31.1**  
**CERTIFICATION**

I, Dennis Eidson, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 10-K of Spartan Stores, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of registrant's Board of Directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: May 23, 2013

/s/ DENNIS EIDSON

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Dennis Eidson  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
(Principal Executive Officer)

**EXHIBIT 31.2**  
**CERTIFICATION**

I, David M. Staples, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 10-K of Spartan Stores, Inc.;

2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;

3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;

4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:

a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;dvsdbfxdbxfdbxcvb

b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and

d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and

5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of registrant's Board of Directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and

b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: May 23, 2013

/s/ DAVID M. STAPLES

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David M. Staples  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial Officer)

**EXHIBIT 32.1**  
**CERTIFICATION**

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350, each of the undersigned hereby certifies in his capacity as an officer of Spartan Stores, Inc. (the "Company") that the Annual Report of the Company on Form 10-K for the accounting period ended March 30, 2013 fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and that information contained in such report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition of the Company at the end of such period and the results of operations of the Company for such period.

This Certificate is given pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350 and for no other purpose.

Dated: May 23, 2013

/s/ DENNIS EIDSON

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Dennis Eidson  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
(Principal Executive Officer)

Dated: May 23, 2013

/s/ DAVID M. STAPLES

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David M. Staples  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial Officer)

A signed original of this written statement has been provided to Spartan Stores, Inc. and will be retained by Spartan Stores, Inc. and furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission or its staff upon request.

## Corporate Officers

### Dennis Eidson

President and Chief Executive Officer

### David M. Staples

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

### Theodore C. Adornato

Executive Vice President Wholesale Operations

### Derek Jones

Executive Vice President Retail Operations

### Alex J. DeYonker

Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

### Alan R. Hartline

Executive Vice President Merchandising and Marketing

### David deS. Couch

Vice President Information Technology

### Thomas A. VanHall

Vice President Finance

## Corporate Information

### Transfer Agent

Computershare  
P.O. Box 43078  
Providence, Rhode Island 02940

800.622.6757 (US, Canada & Puerto Rico)  
781.575.4735 (non-US)

### Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Deloitte & Touche LLP  
Suite 600  
38 Commerce Avenue SW  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503  
616.336.7900

### Legal Counsel

Warner Norcross & Judd LLP  
900 Fifth Third Center  
111 Lyon Street NW  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503  
616.752.2000

## Board of Directors

### Craig C. Sturken

Chairman

### Dennis Eidson

President and Chief Executive Officer

### M. Shân Atkins<sup>1,2</sup>

Managing Director of Chetrum Capital LLC

### Wendy A. Beck<sup>2</sup>

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd.

### Dr. Frank M. Gambino<sup>3</sup>

Professor of Marketing and Director of Food & Consumer Packaged Goods Marketing Program in the Haworth College of Business at Western Michigan University

### Yvonne R. Jackson<sup>1,3</sup>

President and Principal of BeecherJackson, Inc.

### Frederick J. Morganthall II<sup>1,2</sup>

President and Chief Executive Officer of Harris Teeter Supermarkets, Inc.

### Elizabeth A. Nickels<sup>2</sup>

Executive Director of the Herman Miller Foundation

### Timothy J. O'Donovan<sup>1,3</sup>

Retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Wolverine World Wide, Inc.

## Investor Information

On May 20, 2013 there were 435 shareholders of record of Spartan Stores, Inc. common stock.

Spartan Stores, Inc. common stock is listed on the National Market System of the NASDAQ Global Market under the trading symbol "SPTN".

**A copy of Spartan Stores, Inc.'s Annual Report to the Securities and Exchange Commission on Form 10-K for the year ended March 30, 2013, may be obtained by any shareholder without charge by writing to:**

### Spartan Stores, Inc.

c/o Investor Relations  
850 76th Street SW  
Mailcode: GR761214  
P.O. Box 8700  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49518-8700

616.878.8793

[www.spartanstores.com](http://www.spartanstores.com)

<sup>1</sup> Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

<sup>2</sup> Audit Committee

<sup>3</sup> Compensation Committee



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[www.spartanstores.com](http://www.spartanstores.com)