SYMS CORP Form 10-Q January 06, 2011

SYMS CORP

**UNITED STATES** 

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

for the quarterly period ended November 27, 2010 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 1-8546

#### SYMS CORP

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

NEW JERSEY (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization) 22-2465228 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

One Syms Way, Secaucus, New Jersey (Address of Principal Executive Offices)

07094 (Zip Code)

Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code: (201) 902-9600

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 b

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Yes " No " Not applicable to the registrant

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

| Large Accelerated Filer "                               | Accelerated Filer þ       | Non-Accelerated Filer "   | Smaller Reporting Company "     |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Indicate by check mark whether                          | the registrant is a shell | company (as defined in Ru | ule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). |
|   | Yes "                     | No þ                      |                                 |
| At December 31, 2010 the latest value \$0.05 per share. | practicable date, there   | were 14,448,188 shares ou | atstanding of Common Stock, par |
|   |                           |                           |                                 |
|   |                           |                           |                                 |
|   |                           |                           |                                 |

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## Consolidated Condensed Balance Sheets

| (In thousands except per share amounts)                              |    |                            |    |                              |    |                                   |
|--|----|----------------------------|----|------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------|
|  |    | vember 27, 2010 (naudited) |    | bruary 27,<br>2010<br>(NOTE) |    | ovember 28,<br>2009<br>Jnaudited) |
| ASSETS   | (0 | naudited)                  | ,  | (NOIL)                       | (( | Jilaudited)                       |
| CURRENT ASSETS:  |    |                            |    |                              |    |                                   |
| Cash and cash equivalents  | \$ | 3,739                      | \$ | 2,049                        | \$ | 10,997                            |
| Receivables  | Ψ  | 5,348                      | Ψ  | 3,195                        | Ψ  | 36,362                            |
| Income tax receivable  |    | 2,462                      |    | -                            |    | -                                 |
| Merchandise inventories - net  |    | 103,093                    |    | 82,234                       |    | 102,830                           |
| Deferred income taxes  |    | 6,286                      |    | 5,912                        |    | 3,045                             |
| Assets held for sale   |    | 8,618                      |    | 14,392                       |    | 10,024                            |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets                            |    | 8,087                      |    | 7,645                        |    | 8,044                             |
| Tropala expenses and other earrent assets                            |    | 0,007                      |    | 7,015                        |    | 0,011                             |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS   |    | 137,633                    |    | 115,427                      |    | 171,302                           |
|  |    | ,,                         |    | ,:                           |    |                                   |
| PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT – Net   |    | 120,355                    |    | 118,539                      |    | 124,988                           |
| DEFERRED INCOME TAXES  |    | 29,373                     |    | 18,113                       |    | 11,611                            |
| BUILDING AND AIR RIGHTS  |    | 9,134                      |    | 9,134                        |    | 9,134                             |
| OTHER ASSETS   |    | 7,534                      |    | 7,866                        |    | 6,517                             |
|  |    | ,                          |    | •                            |    | ·                                 |
| TOTAL ASSETS   | \$ | 304,029                    | \$ | 269,079                      | \$ | 323,552                           |
|  |    |                            |    |                              |    |                                   |
| LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY                                 |    |                            |    |                              |    |                                   |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES:   |    |                            |    |                              |    |                                   |
| Accounts payable   | \$ | 50,439                     | \$ | 47,356                       | \$ | 66,148                            |
| Accrued expenses   |    | 20,529                     |    | 9,945                        |    | 15,304                            |
| Obligations to customers   |    | 5,320                      |    | 5,328                        |    | 5,240                             |
|  |    |                            |    |                              |    |                                   |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES  |    | 76,288                     |    | 62,629                       |    | 86,692                            |
|  |    |                            |    |                              |    |                                   |
| LONG TERM DEBT   |    | 42,977                     |    | 8,402                        |    | 32,977                            |
|  |    |                            |    |                              |    |                                   |
| OTHER LONG TERM LIABILITIES  |    | 5,991                      |    | 3,016                        |    | 2,073                             |
|  |    |                            |    |                              |    |                                   |
| SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY   |    |                            |    |                              |    |                                   |
| Preferred stock, par value \$100 per share. Authorized 1,000 shares; |    |                            |    |                              |    |                                   |
| none outstanding   |    | -                          |    | -                            |    | -                                 |
| Common stock, par value \$0.05 per share. Authorized 30,000 shares;  |    |                            |    |                              |    |                                   |
| 14,448 shares outstanding (net of 4,448 treasury shares) as of       |    |                            |    |                              |    |                                   |
| November 27, 2010, and 14,598 shares outstanding (net of 4,298       |    |                            |    |                              |    |                                   |
| treasury shares) as of February 27, 2010 and November 28, 2009       |    | 800                        |    | 800                          |    | 800                               |
| Additional paid-in capital   |    | 21,605                     |    | 21,605                       |    | 21,605                            |
| Treasury stock   |    | (47,110)                   |    | (45,903)                     |    | (45,903)                          |

| Accumulated other comprehensive loss       | (1,489)          | (1,491)    | (2,127) |
|--|------------------|------------|---------|
| Retained earnings                          | 204,967          | 220,021    | 227,435 |
| TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY                 | 178,773          | 195,032    | 201,810 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY | \$<br>304,029 \$ | 269,079 \$ | 323,552 |

NOTE: The balance sheet at February 27, 2010 has been derived from the audited financial statements at that date but does not include all of the information and footnotes required by generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements.

See Notes to Consolidated Condensed Financial Statements

**SYMS CORP** 

## Consolidated Condensed Statements of Operations (Unaudited)

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

For the Thirteen Weeks Ended For the Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended November 27, 2000 ember 28, 2009 November 27, 2010 vember 28, 2009

| Net sales                                     | \$<br>120,739 | \$<br>135,159 | \$<br>344,257  | \$<br>261,852 |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Cost of goods sold                            | 69,394        | 77,291        | 202,046        | 154,750       |
| Gross profit                                  | 51,345        | 57,868        | 142,211        | 107,102       |
|   |               |               |                |               |
| Expenses:                                     |               |               |                |               |
| Selling, general and administrative           | 31,966        | 35,339        | 99,692         | 80,620        |
| Advertising                                   | 1,667         | 4,501         | 5,911          | 6,406         |
| Occupancy, net                                | 14,807        | 14,126        | 44,523         | 30,181        |
| Depreciation and amortization                 | 3,630         | 2,991         | 10,485         | 7,958         |
| Asset impairment charge                       | 1,721         | -             | 1,721          | -             |
| Bargain purchase gain                         | -             | (307)         | -              | (9,714)       |
| Acquisition costs                             | -             | 194           | -              | 4,762         |
| Other income                                  | (2)           | (24,764)      | (36)           | (24,781)      |
| Restructuring charge                          | 831           | -             | 2,133          | -             |
| Total expenses                                | 54,620        | 32,080        | 164,429        | 95,432        |
|   |               |               |                |               |
| Income (loss) from operations                 | (3,275)       | 25,788        | (22,218)       | 11,670        |
|   |               |               |                |               |
| Interest expense                              | 499           | 514           | 1,147          | 1,389         |
|   |               |               |                |               |
| Income (loss) before income taxes             | (3,774)       | 25,274        | (23,365)       | 10,281        |
|   |               |               |                |               |
| Income tax benefit                            | (459)         | (372)         | (8,311)        | (5,441)       |
|   |               |               |                |               |
| Net income (loss)                             | \$<br>(3,315) | \$<br>25,646  | \$<br>(15,054) | \$<br>15,722  |
|   |               |               |                |               |
| Net income (loss) per share – basic           | \$<br>(0.23)  | \$<br>1.76    | \$<br>(1.04)   | \$<br>1.08    |
|   |               |               |                |               |
| Weighted average shares outstanding – basic   | 14,448        | 14,593        | 14,458         | 14,591        |
|   |               |               |                |               |
| Net income (loss) per share – diluted         | \$<br>(0.23)  | \$<br>1.76    | \$<br>(1.04)   | \$<br>1.08    |
|   |               |               |                |               |
| Weighted average shares outstanding - diluted | 14,448        | 14,594        | 14,458         | 14,592        |

See Notes to Consolidated Condensed Financial Statements

## Consolidated Condensed Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited)

(In thousands)

For the Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended November 27, 2010 November 28, 2009

| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:                                     |                |              |
|---|----------------|--------------|
| Net income (loss)   | \$<br>(15,054) | \$<br>15,722 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash (used) provided by |                |              |
| operating activities:   |                |              |
| Depreciation and amortization   | 10,199         | 7,958        |
| Asset impairment  | 1,721          | -            |
| Bargain purchase gain   | -              | (9,714)      |
| Deferred income taxes   | (11,634)       | (1,802)      |
| (Gain) loss on disposition of assets                                      | (47)           | 262          |
| (Increase) decrease in operating assets:                                  |                |              |
| Receivables   | (2,153)        | (4,855)      |
| Income tax receivable   | (2,462)        | -            |
| Merchandise inventories   | (20,859)       | (29,034)     |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets                                 | (442)          | (2,226)      |
| Other assets  | 94             | 5,966        |
| Life insurance proceeds receivable  | -              | (29,918)     |
| Increase (decrease) in operating liabilities:                             |                |              |
| Accounts payable  | 3,083          | 51,212       |
| Accrued expenses  | 10,585         | 5,579        |
| Obligations to customers  | (8)            | (248)        |
| Other long term liabilities   | 2,975          | 160          |
| Net cash (used) provided by operating activities                          | (24,002)       | 9,062        |
|   |                |              |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:                                     |                |              |
| Purchase of Filene's Basement   | -              | (38,927)     |
| Expenditures for property and equipment                                   | (14,082)       | (9,982)      |
| Proceeds from sale of land, building and other assets                     | 6,406          | -            |
| Net cash used in investing activities                                     | (7,676)        | (48,909)     |
|   |                |              |
| CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:                                     |                |              |
| Cash surrender value advance  | -              | 16,000       |
| Exercise of stock options   | -              | 45           |
| Purchase of Treasury shares   | (1,207)        | -            |
| Borrowings on revolving credit facility                                   | 317,709        | 33,343       |
| Repayments on revolving credit facility                                   | (283,134)      | (366)        |
| Net cash provided by financing activities                                 | 33,368         | 49,022       |
|   | ,              | ·            |
| NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS                                 | 1,690          | 9,175        |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF PERIOD                            | 2,049          | 1,822        |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF PERIOD                                  | \$<br>3,739    | \$<br>10,997 |
| ,   | ,              | , ,          |

| SUPPLEMENTAL CASH FLOW INFORMATION:                      |             |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Cash paid during the period for:                         |             |             |
| Interest   | \$<br>1,002 | \$<br>458   |
|  |             |             |
| Income taxes (net of refunds)                            | \$<br>(125) | \$<br>(844) |
|  |             |             |
| See Notes to Consolidated Condensed Financial Statements |             |             |
|  |             |             |
| 3  |             |             |
|  |             |             |

Notes to Consolidated Condensed Financial Statements (Unaudited)

### Note 1 - The Company

As of November 27, 2010, Syms Corp (the "Company"), operated a chain of 48 "off-price" apparel stores located predominantly on the east coast of the United States under the Syms ("Syms") and Filene's Basement ("Filene's" or "Filene's Basement") names. Each Syms and Filene's Basement store offers a broad range of first quality, in season merchandise bearing nationally recognized designer and brand-name labels. The Company, through a wholly-owned subsidiary, acquired certain inventory, fixed assets, equipment, intellectual property and real property leases and certain other net assets of Filene's Basement, on June 18, 2009, pursuant to an auction conducted in accordance with §363 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code (see Note 11). As a result, since June 19, 2009, the Company has operated both the Syms and Filene's Basement stores. The Company operates in a single reporting segment – the operation of "off-price" retail stores.

#### Note 2 - Basis of Presentation

The accompanying unaudited consolidated condensed financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for interim financial information and pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). As applicable under such rules and regulations, certain information and footnote disclosures have been condensed or omitted. We believe that all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring accruals) considered necessary for a fair presentation have been included. Operating results for the thirteen and thirty-nine week periods ended November 27, 2010 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the entire fiscal year ending February 26, 2011 or any other period. For further information, refer to the financial statements and footnotes thereto included in the Company's annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 27, 2010.

Occupancy expenses for the thirteen and thirty-nine week periods ended November 27, 2010 and November 28, 2009 have been reduced by net rental income of \$594,000, \$582,000, \$1,674,000 and \$1,763,000, respectively, from real estate holdings incidental to the Company's retail operations.

The preparation of these consolidated condensed financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States, of necessity requires management to make estimates and assumptions that may affect the reported amounts and related disclosures. Actual amounts could differ from such estimates.

The Company's fiscal year ends the Saturday nearest to the end of February. The fiscal year ended February 27, 2010 ("fiscal 2009") was comprised of 52 weeks. The fiscal year ending February 26, 2011 ("fiscal 2010") will also be comprised of 52 weeks.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments – As of November 27, 2010, February 27, 2010 and November 28, 2009, management estimates that the fair value of cash and cash equivalents, receivables, accounts payable, accrued expenses and other current liabilities and long-term debt are carried at amounts that reasonably approximate their fair value. Refer to Note 10 for ASC 820, "Fair Value Measurements" ("ASC 820") disclosures.

#### Note 3 - Other Assets

The Company has historically recorded the cash surrender value of officers' life insurance policies on the balance sheet as a non-current asset. Such amounts were \$2.0 million, \$1.9 million and \$1.8 million at November 27, 2010,

February 27, 2010 and November 28, 2009, respectively. In March 2009, as a result of uncertainties surrounding the financial viability of the life insurance company underwriting two of these policies, the Company withdrew \$16.0 million of accumulated cash value which was ultimately used in connection with the Company's acquisition of Filene's, more fully discussed in Note 11 below. The Company continued to be a beneficiary of life insurance policies insuring Mr. Sy Syms, the Company's founder and Chairman, who died on November 17, 2009. Pursuant to those policies, in December 2009, the Company received cash proceeds of approximately \$29.9 million, which was net of the aforementioned, previously received \$16.0 million in cash values. Net of the cash surrender value of officer's life insurance of \$5.1 million recorded as of August 29, 2009 in other assets, the Company realized a net gain of \$24.8 million. Upon receipt, the aforementioned cash proceeds were used to repay a portion of the Company's senior debt facility.

#### Note 4 - Merchandise Inventories

Merchandise inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market on a first-in, first-out (FIFO) basis, as determined by the retail inventory method. As part of the integration plan for the Company, the Syms stores converted their merchandise systems over to that used by Filene's, effective October 3, 2010. For the period October 4, 2009 through October 2, 2010, the Syms stores utilized the moving weighted average cost method. Prior to October 4, 2009, all of the Company's inventories were determined by the retail inventory method. The change in the method of recording Syms inventory in the third quarter of fiscal 2009 and 2010 did not have a material impact on reported results of operations.

#### Note 5 - Bank Credit Facilities

The Company had an unsecured \$40 million, revolving credit facility with Israel Discount Bank ("IDB") through June 4, 2009, the agreement for which contained various financial covenants and ratio requirements. There were no borrowings under this facility during its term and the Company was in compliance with its covenants during the period in which this facility was available. Effective June 5, 2009 the Company revised this facility to a secured \$40 million, revolving credit facility with the same bank and in connection with the acquisition of Filene's, borrowed \$24.0 million under this facility. On August 27, 2009 the Company entered into a \$75 million, secured, revolving credit facility with Bank of America which replaced the IDB facility, and expires on August 27, 2012. In connection with the new Bank of America facility, the Company incurred and capitalized approximately \$1.1 million of deferred financing costs, which are being amortized over the term of the agreement. This facility calculates availability to borrow utilizing a formula which considers accounts receivable, inventory and certain real estate and bears interest at various rates depending on availability under formula. As of November 27, 2010, the interest rate on the facility was Prime +2.25% or LIBOR +3.25%. The Company was in compliance in all respects with the Bank of America facility at November 27, 2010. As of November 27, 2010, approximately \$43.0 million was outstanding under this facility. Each of the Company's loan facilities have had sub-limits for letters of credit, which when utilized, reduce availability under the facility. At November 27, 2010, February 27, 2010 and November 28, 2009 the Company had outstanding letters of credit of \$8.0 million, \$6.6 million and \$6.0 million, respectively.

#### Note 6 - Net Income (Loss) per Share

Basic net income (loss) per share has been computed based upon the weighted average common shares outstanding. Diluted net income (loss) per share gives effect to the potential dilution that would have occurred if options were exercised. The following table sets forth basic and diluted average shares and the related net income (loss) per share:

|                                       | Thirteen Weeks Ended   |         |              | Γ       | Thirty-Nine V | Weeks    | Veeks Ended |           |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---------|--------------|---------|---------------|----------|-------------|-----------|
|                                       | November 27,           |         | November 28, |         | November 27,  |          | Nov         | ember 28, |
|                                       | 2010                   |         | 2009         |         | 2010          |          |             | 2009      |
|                                       | (in thousands except p |         |              | t per s | share amoun   | ts)      |             |           |
| Basic and diluted net income (loss)   |                        |         |              |         |               |          |             |           |
| per share:                            |                        |         |              |         |               |          |             |           |
| Net income (loss)                     | \$                     | (3,315) | \$           | 25,646  | \$            | (15,054) | \$          | 15,722    |
| Average shares outstanding – basic    |                        | 14,448  |              | 14,593  |               | 14,458   |             | 14,591    |
| Net income (loss) per share - basic   | \$                     | (0.23)  | \$           | 1.76    | \$            | (1.04)   | \$          | 1.08      |
| Average shares outstanding – diluted  |                        | 14,448  |              | 14,594  |               | 14,458   |             | 14,592    |
| Net income (loss) per share – diluted | \$                     | (0.23)  | \$           | 1.76    | \$            | (1.04)   | \$          | 1.08      |

For periods with losses, options are excluded from the computations of diluted net (loss) per share because the effect would be anti-dilutive. Options to purchase 97,500 and 102,290 shares of common stock at prices ranging from \$5.21 to \$15.01 per share were outstanding at November 27, 2010 and November 28, 2009, respectively.

### Note 7 – Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In April 2010, the FASB issued ASU 2010-13, "Compensation – Stock Compensation (Topic 718) – Effect of Denominating the Exercise Price of a Share-Based Payment Award in the Currency of the Market in Which the Underlying Equity Security Trades." ASU 2010-13 provides amendments to Topic 718 to clarify that an employee share-based payment award with an exercise price denominated in the currency of a market in which a substantial portion of the entity's equity securities trades should not be considered to contain a condition that is not a market, performance, or service condition. Therefore, an entity would not classify such an award as a liability if it otherwise qualifies as equity. The amendments in ASU 2010-13 are effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning on or after December 15, 2010. The adoption of this standard is not expected to have a material impact on the Company's results of operation or our financial position.

## Note 8 – Share Based Compensation

The Company's Amended and Restated Stock Option and Appreciation Plan allows for the granting of incentive stock options, as defined in Section 422A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as amended), non-qualified stock options and stock appreciation rights. The plan requires that incentive stock options be granted at an exercise price not less than the fair market value of the Common Stock on the date the option is granted. The exercise price of incentive stock options for holders of more than 10% of the voting rights of the Company must be not less than 110% of the fair market value of the Common Stock on the date of grant. Non-qualified options and stock appreciation rights may be granted at any exercise price, subject to applicable laws. The Company has reserved 1,500,000 shares of Common Stock for such issuances. The Company is no longer granting options under its Amended and Restated Incentive Stock Option and Appreciation Plan.

No option or stock appreciation rights may be granted under the Amended and Restated Incentive Stock Option Plan after July 28, 2013. The maximum exercise period for any option or stock appreciation right under the plan is ten years from the date the option is granted (five years for any optionee who holds more than 10% of the voting rights of the Company).

The Company's 2005 Stock Option Plan (the "2005 Plan") permits the grant of options, share appreciation rights, restricted shares, restricted share units, performance units, performance shares, cash-based awards and other share-based awards. Key employees, non-employee directors, and third party service providers of the Company who are selected by a committee designated by the Board of Directors of the Company are eligible to participate in the 2005 Plan. The maximum number of shares of Common Stock issuable under the Plan is 850,000, subject to certain adjustments in the event of changes to the Company's capital structure.

Consistent with ASC 718 "Share-Based Payments", share-based compensation cost is measured at grant date, based on the estimated fair value of the award, and is recognized as expense over the requisite service period. The fair value of each option award is estimated on the date of grant using a Black-Scholes option valuation model. Expected volatility is based on the historical volatility of the price of the Company's stock. The risk-free interest rate is based on U.S. Treasury issues with a term equal to the expected life of the option. The Company uses historical data to estimate expected dividend yield, expected life and forfeiture rates. There were no options granted during the thirty-nine weeks ended November 27, 2010, and all options previously issued are fully vested.

Stock option activity during the thirty-nine weeks ended November 27, 2010 is as follows:

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

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|  |            |          | Weighted     |           |
|--|------------|----------|--------------|-----------|
|  |            | Weighted | Average      |           |
|  |            | Average  | Remaining    | Aggregate |
|  | Number     | Exercise | Contracted   | Intrinsic |
|  | of Options | Price    | Term (years) | Value     |
| Outstanding February 28, 2010            | 98         | \$ 15.01 | -            | -         |
| Options granted                          | -          | -        | -            | -         |
| Options exercised                        | -          | -        | -            | -         |
| Options forfeited                        | -          | -        | -            | -         |
| Options outstanding at November 27, 2010 | 98         | \$ 15.01 | 4.6          | -         |
| Options exercisable at November 27, 2010 | 98         | \$ 15.01 | 4.6          | -         |

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As of November 27, 2010, there was no unrecognized stock-based compensation cost related to options granted under the Company's plans that will be recognized in future periods.

#### Note 9 – Income Taxes

For the thirteen week period ended November 27, 2010 the effective income tax rate was 12.2% as compared to (1.5%) for the comparable period a year ago. For the thirty-nine week period ended November 27, 2010, the effective income tax rate was 35.6% as compared to (52.9%) for the comparable period a year ago. In 2010 the difference between the effective income tax rate and the federal statutory rate is primarily state income taxes, adjustments related to prior year income taxes, and to a lesser extent permanent differences in the deductibility of expenses for book and tax. In 2009 this difference related mostly to the non-taxable nature of the life insurance proceeds received and recorded in income in the third quarter, partially offset by the effect of adjustments related to prior year taxes. The change in the effective income tax rate is primarily due to the above noted items occurring in one year and not the other.

The Company recognizes interest and, if applicable, penalties, which could be assessed, related to uncertain tax positions in income tax expense. For the thirteen and thirty-nine week periods ended November 27, 2010, the Company recorded approximately \$3,000 and \$10,000, respectively in interest before federal and state tax effect. The aggregate tax liability related to uncertain tax positions, plus related interest and penalties, as of November 27, 2010 is approximately \$318,000.

#### Note 10 – Fair Value Measurements

Effective March 1, 2009, the Company adopted the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Statement No. 157 (now ASC Subtopic 820-10), Fair Value Measurements ("ASC 820-10"), for financial assets and liabilities. This statement defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands the related disclosure requirements. The statement indicates, among other things, that a fair value measurement assumes a transaction to sell an asset or transfer a liability occurs in the principal market for the asset or liability or, in the absence of a principal market, the most advantageous market for the asset or liability. The Company adopted the provisions of ASC 820-10 with respect to its non-financial assets and liabilities during the first quarter of fiscal 2009. However, there were no non-financial assets or liabilities requiring initial measurement or subsequent re-measurement during fiscal 2009 or the first thirty-nine weeks of fiscal 2010.

In order to increase consistency and comparability in fair value measurements, ASC 820-10 establishes a hierarchy for observable and unobservable inputs used to measure fair value into three broad levels, which are described below:

- Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets that are accessible at the measurement date for assets or liabilities. The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to Level 1 inputs.
- •Level 2: Observable prices that are based on inputs not quoted on active markets, but corroborated by market data.
- •Level 3: Unobservable inputs are used when little or no market data is available. The fair value hierarchy gives the lowest priority to Level 3 inputs.

In determining fair value, the Company utilizes valuation techniques that maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs to the extent possible as well as considers counterparty credit risk in its assessment of fair value.

Assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis include the following as of November 27, 2010, February 27, 2010 and November 28, 2009:

|  | Fair Val  | ue Measurem  | ent at Nov  | ember 27, 2      | 2010 Using |              |              |           |
|--|-----------|--------------|-------------|------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
|  |           | Quoted       | S           | ignificant       |            |              |              |           |
|  |           | Prices Other |             | Significant      |            | Tota         |              |           |
|  | In Active |              | O           | bservable        | Unobse     |              |              | Carrying  |
|  |           | Markets      |             | Inputs           | -          | Inputs       |              | Value at  |
| <i>(</i> 7 . 1 . 1 . 1 . 1 . 1 . 1 . 1 . 1 . 1 . | 4         |              | .~          | 1.0\             | ·~         | 1.0\         |              | vember    |
| (In thousands)                                   | ()        | Level 1)     | (L          | (Level 2) (Level |            | rel 3)       | 2            | 7, 2010   |
| Cash and cash equivalents                        | \$        | 3,739        | \$          | -                | \$         | -            | \$           | 3,739     |
| Cash surrender value                             |           |              |             |                  |            |              |              |           |
| - Officers' Life Insurance                       | \$        | -            | \$          | 1,974            | \$         | -            | \$           | 1,974     |
|  | Fair Va   | lue Measurer | nent at Fel | oruary 27, 20    | 010 Using  |              |              |           |
|  |           | Quoted       |             | ignificant       | υ          |              |              |           |
|  |           | Prices       |             | Other            | Signi      | ificant      |              | Total     |
|  |           | In Active    | O           | Observable U     |            | Unobservable |              | Carrying  |
|  |           | Markets      | Inputs      |                  | Inputs     |              | Value at     |           |
|  |           |              | F ****      |                  |            |              | February 27, |           |
| (In thousands)                                   | ()        | Level 1)     | (L          | (Level 2)        |            | rel 3)       | 2010         |           |
| Cash and cash equivalents                        | \$        | 2,049        | \$          | -                | \$         | -            | \$           | 2,049     |
| Cash surrender value                             |           |              |             |                  |            |              |              |           |
| - Officers' Life Insurance                       | \$        |              | \$          | 1,905            | \$         |              | \$           | 1,905     |
| - Officers Life insurance                        | Ψ         | -            | Ψ           | 1,903            | ψ          | -            | Ψ            | 1,903     |
|  | Fair Val  | ue Measurem  | ent at Nov  | ember 28, 2      | 2009 Using |              |              |           |
|  |           | Quoted       | Si          | gnificant        |            |              |              |           |
|  |           | Prices       |             | Other            | Signi      | ficant       |              | Total     |
|  |           | In Active    | Ol          | oservable        | Unobser    | vable        |              | Carrying  |
|  |           | Markets      |             | Inputs           | I          | nputs        |              | Value at  |
|  |           |              |             |                  |            |              |              | ember 28, |
| (In thousands)                                   | (I        | Level 1)     | (L          | evel 2)          | (Leve      | el 3)        |              | 2009      |
| Cash and cash equivalents                        | \$        | 10,997       | \$          | -                | \$         | -            | \$           | 10,997    |
|  |           |              |             |                  |            |              |              |           |
| Cash surrender value                             | ф         |              | ф           | 1.026            | ф          |              | Φ.           | 1.006     |
| <ul> <li>Officers' Life Insurance</li> </ul>     | \$        | -            | \$          | 1,836            | \$         | -            | \$           | 1,836     |

On an annual recurring basis, the Company is required to use fair value measures when measuring plan assets of the Company's pension plans. As the Company elected to adopt the measurement date provisions of ASC 715, "Employers' Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans," as of March 4, 2007, the Company was required to determine the fair value of the Company's pension plan assets as of February 27, 2010. The fair value of pension plan assets was \$7.0 million at February 27, 2010. As of November 27, 2010, the fair value of

pension plan assets was \$7.5 million. These assets are valued in active liquid markets.

Additionally, on a nonrecurring basis, the Company uses fair value measures when analyzing asset impairment. Long-lived assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. If it is determined such indicators are present and the review indicates that the assets will not be fully recoverable, based on undiscounted estimated cash flows over the remaining amortization periods, their carrying values are reduced to estimated fair value. During the quarter ended November 27, 2010, the Company wrote down assets with a carrying amount of \$1.7 million to a fair value of zero and recorded it as an asset impairment charge. Measurements based on undiscounted cash flows are considered to be level 3 inputs.

### Note 11 – Acquisition of Filene's Basement

On June 19, 2009 the Company, through a wholly-owned subsidiary, acquired certain inventory, fixed assets, equipment, intellectual property and real property leases and certain other net assets of Filene's Basement, Inc., an off-price retail clothing chain, pursuant to an order of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware. The purchase price paid at closing was approximately \$64.4 million in cash, of which \$38.9 million was paid for by the Company. Approximately \$25.0 million was paid for by Vornado Realty Trust and its joint venture partners to acquire a termination of their lease in Boston, Massachusetts and to make changes to their lease for a Filene's Basement location in New York, New York. The Company's portion of the purchase price was paid for through \$23.9 million in borrowings under the Company's asset-based revolving credit facility (Note 5) and the remainder from cash on hand. The acquisition was accounted for as a business combination using the purchase method of accounting under the provisions of SFAS 141(R) (now ASC Topic 805), Business Combinations.

The consolidated condensed financial statements presented herein include the results of operations for Filene's during the period from June 19, 2009 through November 27, 2010.

### Note 12 – Related Party Transaction

On March 9, 2010, the Company purchased 150,196 shares of the Company's Common Stock from the Sy Syms Revocable Living Trust at a price of \$8.04 per share. The purchase was approved by a committee of the Board consisting solely of the independent members of the Board. The price approved by the committee, after consultation with a financial consultant and counsel, represented a 5% discount to a thirty day volume weighted average price.

## Note 13 – Asset Impairment and Restructuring Charge

Since the acquisition of Filene's in June 2009, the Company has continued to assess the most effective manner in which to integrate the operations of Filene's and Syms to maximize the synergies of combining the two businesses. This plan included the integration of the two IT systems into one common platform, the consolidation of distribution center functions, the co-branding of several stores, the closing of Filene's Massachusetts office and related reductions in staffing levels. In addition, the Company closed one under-performing store in the current quarter, will be closing a second store in the 4th quarter of fiscal 2010, and will continue to re-evaluate under-performing stores for closure or possible lease modifications in the future. The closure of the store in the current quarter resulted in a restructuring charge of \$515,000, representing the present value of the remaining lease payments through May 2012. The closure of the store in the 4th quarter of fiscal 2010 is also expected to result in a restructuring charge for the present value of the remaining lease payments.

The consolidation of distribution center functions will involve a shift of most merchandise processing to the Company's Massachusetts distribution center, a transition that should be completed by February 2011. The New Jersey distribution center will be converted to a cross docking operation, will serve to replenish the high volume New

York City stores, and will continue to house the adjoining retail store and corporate offices. In connection with this consolidation, the closure of the Filene's office in Massachusetts, and the closure of the store in the 4th quarter of fiscal 2010, the Company recorded an asset impairment charge of approximately \$1.7 million in the current quarter. Related severance costs associated with staffing level reductions of approximately 210 people will be \$515,000, \$103,000 of which was recorded in the current quarter as a restructuring charge and the remainder of which will be recorded in the 4th quarter of fiscal 2010, when communicated.

As a result of broadening the scope of the Company's restructuring plan in the current quarter, management believed it was more informative to reclassify certain expenses incurred in prior quarters that are more appropriately presented as restructuring costs. As a result, a total of \$1.3 million incurred in the first and second quarters has been reclassified from SG&A expense to restructuring. Included in the \$1.3 million are \$581,000 in professional fees related to the integration of the two IT systems, \$462,000 in severance costs, and \$259,000 of legal costs.

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

Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This Quarterly Report (including but not limited to factors discussed below, in the "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," as well as those discussed elsewhere in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q) includes forward-looking statements (within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934) and information relating to the Company that are based on the beliefs of management of the Company as well as assumptions made by and information currently available to management of the Company. When used in this Quarterly Report, the words "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "expect," "intend," "plan," and similar expressions, as they relate to the Company or the management of the Company, identify forward-looking statements. Such statements reflect the current views of the Company with respect to future events, the outcome of which is subject to certain risks, including among others general economic and market conditions, decreased consumer demand for the Company's products, possible disruptions in the Company's information or communication systems, possible work stoppages or increases in labor costs, effects of competition, possible disruptions or delays in the opening of new stores or inability to obtain suitable sites for new stores, higher than anticipated store closings or relocation costs, higher interest rates, unanticipated increases in merchandise or occupancy costs, unanticipated difficulties which may arise with the integration of Filene's Basement and other factors which may be outside the Company's control. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results or outcomes may vary materially from those described herein as anticipated, believed, estimated, expected, intended or planned. Subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to the Company or persons acting on its behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements in this paragraph and elsewhere described in this Quarterly Report and other reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

### Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the appropriate application of certain accounting policies, many of which require us to make estimates and assumptions about future events and their impact on amounts reported in the financial statements and related notes. Since future events and their impact cannot be determined with certainty, the actual results will inevitably differ from the Company's estimates. Such differences could be material to the financial statements.

The Company believes that its application of accounting policies, and the estimates inherently required by the policies, are reasonable. These accounting policies and estimates are reevaluated periodically, and adjustments are made when facts and circumstances dictate a change. Historically, the Company has found the application of accounting policies to be appropriate, and actual results have not differed materially from those determined using necessary estimates.

The Company's accounting policies are more fully described in Note 1 to the Financial Statements, located in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal 2009. The Company has identified certain critical accounting policies that are

### described below.

Merchandise Inventory – Inventory is stated at the lower of cost or market, on a first-in, first-out (FIFO) basis, as determined by the retail inventory method. As part of the integration plan for the Company, the Syms stores converted their merchandise systems over to that used by Filene's, effective October 3, 2010. For the period October 4, 2009 through October 2, 2010, the Syms stores utilized the moving weighted average cost method. Prior to October 4, 2009, all of the Company's inventories were determined by the retail inventory method. The change in the method of recording Syms inventory in the third quarter of fiscal 2009 and 2010 did not have a material impact on reported results of operations. Under the retail method, inventory cost and the resulting gross margins are calculated by applying a cost to retail ratio between the costs of goods available for sale and the retail value of inventories. The significant estimates used are for markdowns and shrinkage.

Factors considered in the determination of permanent markdowns include current and anticipated demand, customer preferences and age of the merchandise, fashion trends and weather conditions. In addition, inventory is also evaluated against corporate pre-determined historical markdown trends. When a decision is made to permanently markdown merchandise, the resulting gross margin reduction is recognized in the period the markdown is recorded. The timing of the decision, particularly surrounding the balance sheet date, can have a significant effect on the results of operations.

Shrinkage is estimated as a percentage of sales for the period from the date of the last physical inventory to the end of the fiscal year. Physical inventories are taken at least annually for all locations and inventory records are adjusted accordingly. The shrinkage rate from the most recent physical inventory, in combination with historical experience, is used as the standard for the shrinkage accrual following the physical inventory.

The Company has found the use of these estimates to be appropriate and actual results have not differed materially. However, the Company is subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause its future estimates to differ materially from past experience.

Long-Lived Assets - In evaluation of the fair value and future benefits and any potential impairment of long-lived assets, the Company performs analyses of the anticipated undiscounted future net cash flows of the related long-lived assets. If the carrying value of the related asset exceeds the undiscounted cash flows, the Company reduces the carrying value to its fair value, which is generally calculated using discounted cash flows. Various factors including future sales growth and profit margins are included in this analysis. To the extent these future projections or the Company's strategies change, the conclusion regarding impairment may differ from the Company's current estimates. During the quarter ended November 27, 2010, the Company wrote down assets with a carrying amount of \$1.7 million to a fair value of zero and recorded it as an asset impairment charge.

Deferred Tax Valuation Allowance - The Company has considered future taxable income and ongoing prudent and feasible tax planning strategies that could produce additional future taxable income in assessing the need for a valuation allowance. Should the Company determine that it will not be able to realize all or part of its net deferred tax asset in the future, an adjustment to the deferred tax asset will be charged to income in the period such determination is made.

## **Results of Operations**

Thirteen Weeks Ended November 27, 2010 Compared to Thirteen Weeks Ended November 28, 2009

Net sales decreased by \$14.4 million or 11% to \$120.7 million during the thirteen weeks ended November 27, 2010. Sales were \$135.2 million in the prior year period. Comparable store sales decreased 6% in the thirteen weeks ended November 27, 2010, causing \$8.2 million of the sales decrease. Comparable store sales in the prior year period decreased 10%. The Company's comparable store sales computation only includes stores that have been owned and operated by the Company for a period of at least twelve months. In addition, the Company has closed 6 stores in the past year that had contributed \$8.4 million of sales in the thirteen weeks ended November 28, 2009. Partially offsetting these store closings, was \$2.4 million of sales from a new store opened during the thirteen weeks ended November 27, 2010. During the thirteen weeks ended November 27, 2010, one store opened and one store closed.

Gross profit decreased by \$6.5 million to \$51.3 million during the thirteen weeks ended November 27, 2010 from \$57.9 million during the thirteen weeks ended November 28, 2009. Gross profit as a percent of net sales decreased by 30 basis points to 42.5% during the thirteen weeks ended November 27, 2010 from 42.8% during the comparable prior

year period. Gross profit as a percent of net sales decreased primarily as a result of lower initial markup, partially offset by lower markdowns.

Selling, general and administrative expense ("SG&A") decreased \$3.3 million to \$32.0 million for the thirteen weeks ended November 27, 2010 as compared to \$35.3 million for the thirteen weeks ended November 28, 2009. As a percentage of net sales, SG&A increased approximately 40 basis points to 26.5% of net sales during the thirteen weeks ended November 27, 2010 from 26.1% of net sales in the comparable prior year period. The decrease in SG&A dollars was primarily due to lower payroll, supplies and credit card fees as a result of operating fewer stores and generating lower sales. In addition, the prior year period included life insurance premiums on the Company's founder and transitional service fees for the Filene's business prior to Syms taking over these services.

Advertising expense for the thirteen weeks ended November 27, 2010 was \$1.7 million or 1.4% of net sales as compared to \$4.5 million or 3.3% of net sales for the thirteen weeks ended November 28, 2009. Advertising expense for the thirteen week period ended November 27, 2010 decreased primarily due to the Company being less promotional this year. During the thirteen week period ended November 28, 2009, the Company celebrated Filene's 100th anniversary and Syms' 50th anniversary.

Occupancy costs (net) were \$14.8 million or 12.3% of net sales for the thirteen weeks ended November 27, 2010 as compared to \$14.1 million or 10.5% of net sales for the thirteen weeks ended November 28, 2009. The increase in occupancy costs was due to the opening of one new store and occupancy increases in several stores, partially offset by the closing of several stores. Included as a reduction of net occupancy cost is rental income from third parties on real estate holdings incidental to the Company's retail operations. For the thirteen week period ended November 27, 2010 and November 28, 2009, rental income was \$594,000 and \$582,000, respectively.

Depreciation and amortization expense was \$3.6 million or 3.0% of net sales for the thirteen weeks ended November 27, 2010 as compared to \$3.0 million or 2.2% of net sales for the thirteen weeks ended November 28, 2009. Depreciation and amortization expense for the thirteen week period ended November 27, 2010 increased primarily due to capital expenditure additions during the current and past fiscal years.

During the review of the results for the quarter ended November 27, 2010, the Company determined that one store's long-lived assets had been impaired. In addition, consistent with the Company's integration plan, the Company decided to shift most of it's merchandise processing to its Massachusetts distribution center. The New Jersey distribution center will be converted to a cross docking operation, will serve to replenish the high volume New York City stores, and will continue to house the adjoining retail store and corporate offices. In conjunction with this move, an office in Massachusetts will be closed. The store impairment, the change in operation of the New Jersey facility, and the closing of the Massachusetts office will result in an impairment charge of approximately \$1.7 million.

Other income was \$0 for the thirteen weeks ended November 27, 2010 as compared to other income of \$24.8 million or 18.3% of net sales for the thirteen weeks ended November 28, 2009. Last year's income was from a gain on life insurance proceeds from officers' life insurance policies on the Company's founder, who passed away on November 17, 2009.

The Company closed one store during the quarter ended November 27, 2010. The Company is required to continue to make lease payments through May 2012 with respect to that store. The Company has recorded the present value of these remaining lease payments as a restructuring charge during the quarter ended November 27, 2010. This charge totals approximately \$0.5 million. In addition, as part of the integration of the Syms and Filenes operations, a total of \$0.3 million of certain IT related professional fees and severance costs associated with staffing level reductions were incurred and have also been presented as restructuring costs.

Interest expense was \$0.5 million or 0.4% of net sales for the thirteen weeks ended November 27, 2010 as compared to \$0.5 million or 0.4% of net sales for the thirteen weeks ended November 28, 2009. For the thirteen weeks ended November 27, 2010 interest expense was a result of borrowings on the Company's revolving credit facility. During the prior year period, interest expense was due to borrowing against the cash surrender value of officers' life insurance policies and borrowings on the Company's revolving credit facility.

As a result of the above-noted items, the loss before income taxes for the thirteen weeks ended November 27, 2010 was \$3.8 million as compared to a profit of \$25.3 million for the same period last year.

For the thirteen week period ended November 27, 2010 the effective income tax rate was 12.2% as compared to (1.5%) for the comparable period a year ago. The difference between the effective income tax rate and the federal statutory rate is primarily state income taxes, in 2009 the non-taxable nature of the life insurance proceeds, adjustments related to prior year income taxes, and to a lesser extent permanent differences in the deductibility of expenses for book and tax. The increase in the effective income tax rate is due primarily to changes in the amount of permanent differences in deductibility of expenses for book and tax purposes, the adjustments related to prior year taxes and the life insurance gain occurring only in 2009.

Thirty-nine Weeks Ended November 27, 2010 Compared to Thirty-nine Weeks Ended November 28, 2009

Net sales increased by \$82.4 million or 31% to \$344.3 million during the thirty-nine weeks ended November 27, 2010. Sales were \$261.9 million in the comparable period last year. This increase was primarily the result of having a full nine months of sales in 2010 from the Filene's stores which were acquired in mid-June 2009. This contributed \$91.3 million of the sales increase. Comparable store sales increased 3% and contributed \$7.1 million of the sales increase in the thirty-nine weeks ended November 27, 2010. Comparable store sales in the prior year period decreased 18%. The Company's comparable store sales computation only includes stores that have been owned and operated by the Company for a period of at least twelve months. In addition, the Company opened one store during the thirty-nine week period ended November 27, 2010 which contributed \$2.4 million of the sales increase. Partially offsetting the above sales increases was the loss of \$18.4 million of sales resulting from the closing of 8 stores during the current and past fiscal years. During the thirty-nine weeks ended November 27, 2010, one store opened and three stores closed.

Gross profit increased by \$35.1 million to \$142.2 million during the thirty-nine weeks ended November 27, 2010 from \$107.1 million during the thirty-nine weeks ended November 28, 2009. Gross profit as a percent of net sales increased by 40 basis points to 41.3% during the thirty-nine weeks ended November 27, 2010 from 40.9% during the comparable prior year period. This increase was primarily due to the Company being less promotional this year and thus, taking less promotional markdowns.

SG&A increased \$19.3 million to \$99.7 million for the thirty-nine weeks ended November 27, 2010 as compared to \$80.4 million for the thirty-nine weeks ended November 28, 2009 primarily as a result of the Filene's acquisition. As a percentage of net sales, SG&A decreased approximately 170 basis points to 29.0% of net sales during the thirty-nine weeks ended November 27, 2010 from 30.7% of net sales in the comparable prior year period. SG&A as a percentage of net sales decreased primarily as a result of the Filene's acquisition and the related leveraging of expenses over a larger sales base.

Advertising expense for the thirty-nine weeks ended November 27, 2010 was \$5.9 million or 1.7% of net sales as compared to \$6.4 million or 2.4% of net sales for the thirty-nine weeks ended November 28, 2009. Advertising expense for the thirty-nine week period ending November 27, 2010 decreased primarily due to the Company being less promotional this year. During the thirty-nine week period ended November 28, 2009, the Company celebrated Filene's 100th anniversary and Syms' 50th anniversary.

Occupancy costs (net) were \$44.5 million or 12.9% of net sales for the thirty-nine weeks ended November 27, 2010 as compared to \$30.2 million or 11.5% of net sales for the thirty-nine weeks ended November 28, 2009 with the increase primarily related to the Filene's acquisition. Included as a reduction of net occupancy cost is rental income from third parties on real estate holdings incidental to the Company's retail operations. For the thirty-nine week period ended November 27, 2010 and November 28, 2009, rental income was \$1,674,000 and \$1,763,000, respectively.

Depreciation and amortization expense was \$10.5 million or 3.0% of net sales for the thirty-nine weeks ended November 27, 2010 as compared to \$8.0 million or 3.0% of net sales for the thirty-nine weeks ended November 28, 2009. For the thirty-nine weeks ended November 27, 2010 versus the same period last year, depreciation and amortization expense increased primarily as a result of the Filene's acquisition and due to capital expenditure additions during the current and past fiscal years.

During the thirty-nine weeks ended November 27, 2010, the Company determined that one store's long-lived assets had been impaired. In addition, consistent with the Company's integration plan, the Company decided to shift most of it's merchandise processing to its Massachusetts distribution center. The New Jersey distribution center will be converted to a cross docking operation, will serve to replenish the high volume New York City stores, and will continue to house the adjoining retail store and corporate offices. In conjunction with this move, an office in Massachusetts will be closed. The store impairment, the change in operation of the New Jersey facility, and the closing of the Massachusetts office will result in an impairment charge of approximately \$1.7 million.

In conjunction with the acquisition of Filene's in June 2009, the Company preliminarily determined that the fair values of assets acquired exceeded the purchase price by approximately \$9.7 million, resulting in a bargain purchase gain, based upon valuations of inventory, fixed assets, equipment and intangible assets net of deferred taxes, customer obligations and other adjustments. Acquisition costs of \$4.8 million, including investment banking, legal, professional and other costs, were expensed in the thirty-nine weeks ended November 28, 2009.

Other expense was \$0 for the thirty-nine weeks ended November 27, 2010 as compared to other income of \$24.8 million or 9.5% of net sales for the thirty-nine weeks ended November 28, 2009. Last year's income was from a gain on life insurance proceeds from officers' life insurance policies on the Company's founder, who passed away on November 17, 2009.

The Company opened one store and closed three stores during the thirty-nine weeks ended November 27, 2010. The Company is required to continue to make lease payments on one of these closed stores through May 2012. The Company has recorded the present value of these payments as a restructuring charge, which totals approximately \$0.5 million. As part of the integration of the Syms and Filenes operations, a total of \$1.6 million of certain IT related professional fees, legal fees and severance costs associated with staffing level reductions were incurred and have also been presented as restructuring costs.

Interest expense was \$1.1 million or 0.3% of net sales for the thirty-nine weeks ended November 27, 2010 as compared to \$1.4 million or 0.5% of net sales for the thirty-nine weeks ended November 28, 2009. For the thirty-nine weeks ended November 27, 2010 interest expense was a result of borrowings on the Company's revolving credit facility. During the prior year period, interest expense was due to borrowings against the cash surrender value of officers' life insurance policies and borrowings on the Company's revolving credit facility.

As a result of the above-noted items, the loss before income taxes for the thirty-nine weeks ended November 27, 2010 was \$23.4 million as compared to a profit of \$10.3 million for the same period last year.

For the thirty-nine week period ended November 27, 2010, the effective income tax rate was 35.6% as compared to (52.9%) for the comparable period a year ago. In 2010 the difference between the effective income tax rate and the federal statutory rate is primarily state income taxes, adjustments related to prior year income taxes, and to a lesser extent permanent differences in the deductibility of expenses for book and tax. In 2009 this difference related mostly to the non-taxable nature of the life insurance proceeds received and recorded in income in the third quarter, partially offset by the effect of adjustments related to prior year taxes. The change in the effective income tax rate is primarily due to the above noted items occurring in one year and not the other.

### Liquidity and Capital Resources

Working capital as of November 27, 2010 was \$61.3 million, a decrease of \$23.3 million as compared to \$84.6 million as of November 28, 2009. This decrease in working capital is primarily attributable to lower receivables and

cash partially offset by lower accounts payable.

Net cash used by operating activities totaled \$24.0 million for the thirty-nine weeks ended November 27, 2010 as compared to net cash provided by operating activities of \$9.1 million for the thirty-nine weeks ended November 28, 2009. The use of cash during the thirty-nine weeks ended November 27, 2010 was the result of an increase in inventory and net loss partially offset by an increase in accrued expenses.

Net cash used by investing activities was \$7.7 million for the thirty-nine weeks ended November 27, 2010, comprised of capital expenditures for property and equipment of \$14.1 million, partially offset by the proceeds from the sale of land, building and other assets of two former store locations. Net cash used by investing activities for the thirty-nine weeks ended November 28, 2009 was \$48.9 million, comprised of \$38.9 million for the purchase of Filene's and \$10.0 million for capital expenditures for property and equipment.

Net cash provided by financing activities was \$33.4 million for the thirty-nine weeks ended November 27, 2010, as compared to net cash provided by financing activities of \$49.0 million for the thirty-nine weeks ended November 28, 2009. The cash provided this year was the result of net borrowings on our credit facility partially offset by the purchase of treasury shares.

The Company had an unsecured \$40 million, revolving credit facility with Israel Discount Bank ("IDB") through June 4, 2009, the agreement for which contained various financial covenants and ratio requirements. There were no borrowings under this facility during its term and the Company was in compliance with its covenants during the period in which this facility was available. Effective June 5, 2009 the Company revised this facility to a secured \$40 million, revolving credit facility with the same bank and in connection with the acquisition of Filene's, borrowed \$24.0 million under this facility. On August 27, 2009 the Company entered into a \$75 million, secured, revolving credit facility with Bank of America which replaced the IDB facility, and expires on August 27, 2012. In connection with the new Bank of America facility, the Company incurred and capitalized approximately \$1.1 million of deferred financing costs, which are being amortized over the term of the agreement. This facility calculates availability to borrow utilizing a formula which considers accounts receivable, inventory and certain real estate and bears interest at various rates depending on availability under formula. As of November 27, 2010, the interest rate on the facility was Prime +2.25% or LIBOR +3.25%. The Company was in compliance in all respects with the Bank of America facility at November 27, 2010. As of November 27, 2010, approximately \$43.0 million was outstanding under this facility. Each of the Company's loan facilities have had sub-limits for letters of credit, which when utilized, reduce availability under the facility. At November 27, 2010 and November 28, 2009 the Company had outstanding letters of credit of \$8.0 million and \$6.0 million, respectively.

The U.S. economy is continuing to experience weakness across virtually every sector. Such continued weakness could negatively affect the Company's cash, sales and/or operating performance and, further, could limit additional capital if needed and increase operating and financing costs. Management believes that existing cash, internally generated funds, trade credit, funds available from the revolving credit facility and other financing, if needed, will be sufficient for anticipated working capital and capital expenditure requirements for the fiscal year ending February 26, 2011.

#### Impact of Inflation and Changing Prices

Although the Company cannot accurately determine the precise effect of inflation on its operations, it does not believe inflation has had a material effect on sales or results of operations.

### **Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

See Note 7 of Notes to Consolidated Condensed Financial Statements for a description of the Recent Accounting Pronouncements including the respective dates of adoption and the effects on Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

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

The Company's operations are not currently subject to material market risks for interest rates, foreign currency rates or other market price risks.

#### Item 4. Controls and Procedures

### a) Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

The Company's management, with the participation of the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, evaluated the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) promulgated under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the "Exchange Act") as of the end of the fiscal quarter ended November 27, 2010. Based on this evaluation, the CEO and CFO have concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the fiscal quarter ended November 27, 2010 to ensure that information that is required to be disclosed by the Company in the reports it files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a control system, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that it will detect or uncover failures within the Company to disclose information otherwise required to be set forth in the Company's periodic reports.

### b) Changes in Internal Controls Over Financial Reporting

There have been no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting (as such term is defined in Rules 13(a)-15(f) and 15(d)-15(f) under the Exchange Act) during the fiscal quarter covered by this quarterly report on Form 10Q that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

#### Part II. Other Information

Item 1.

#### LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The Company is a party to routine legal proceedings incidental to its business. Some of the actions to which the Company is a party are covered by insurance and are being defended or reimbursed by the Company's insurance carriers.

Item 1a. RISK FACTORS

In addition to the other information set forth in this report, you should carefully consider the factors discussed in Part I "Item 1A. Risk Factors" in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 27, 2010 (Fiscal 2009), which could materially affect the Company's business, financial condition or future results. The risks described in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K are not the only risks facing the Company. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to the Company or that the Company currently deems to be immaterial may also materially adversely affect the Company's business, financial condition and/or operating results.

Item 6. EXHIBITS

(a) Exhibits filed with this Form 10-Q

31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

- 31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
- 32.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
- 32.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

#### **SIGNATURES**

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

#### **SYMS CORP**

Date: January 6, 2011 By /s/ Marcy Syms

MARCY SYMS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (Principal Executive Officer)

Date: January 6, 2011 By /s/ Seth L. Udasin

SETH L. UDASIN

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT CHIEF FINANCIAL and ADMINISTRATIVE

**OFFICER** 

(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

#### **EXHIBIT INDEX**

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