



CATO

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

A Message to Our Shareholders

A year ago we stated that 2012 would be a challenging year similar to 2011, and it was. While the first quarter appeared to start off okay, the year, and particularly the fourth quarter, continued to be difficult due to slow job growth, higher food and gas prices, and later, higher payroll taxes going into the new year. All of these continue to affect our customers' discretionary budgets.

In these uncertain times, we remain committed to providing our customers value through great fashion, great quality, and low prices every day. We continue to focus on executing our growth strategies and to work hard on refining our merchandise mix and assortments.

Net sales for the year increased to \$933.8 million, up 1% over 2011 while 2012 same store sales were down 4%. Our net income decreased to \$61.7 million from \$ 64.8 million. Earnings per share was \$2.11, a decrease of 5%. Although 2012 was below last year, it was the fifth straight year of strong earnings performance and the second best year in our history.

We continue to maintain a strong balance sheet with over \$190 million in cash. We utilize our cash to internally fund new concepts and store development, meet infrastructure needs, and provide additional value to long-term shareholders through dividends and share repurchases. Our cash position provides us flexibility in this competitive and volatile fashion segment.

We continued to demonstrate our commitment to providing shareholders value through increasing dividends. We increased our annual dividend by 9% in March 2012 and paid dividends of \$1.00 per share on an annualized basis. As a result of the political uncertainty and the tax treatment of dividends, we accelerated the payment of the 2013 full-year dividend of \$1.00 per share into the fourth quarter of 2012. In addition, we declared a special dividend of another \$1.00 per share. In all, we returned over \$87 million, or \$2.98 per share to shareholders in 2012. In February 2013, we raised the quarterly dividend by \$0.05, or 20% on an annualized basis. The Company still has approximately 2 million shares authorized for repurchase.

The real estate market continues to have limited growth with the lack of shopping center development. We anticipate new store growth of 65 stores including 40 new Cato stores, 15 new Versona stores, 5 new It's Fashion stores, and 5 new It's Fashion Metro stores. We anticipate closing up to 15 stores during 2013. We are continuing to work hard to accelerate growth in our core Cato concept through testing of alternative real estate strategies.

We opened our first Versona store in 2011 and have grown to 25 stores as of the end of 2012. The Versona target customer is a higher income customer which allows us to diversify our overall customer base. We are refining our store model to better align it with sales trends by reducing inventory and occupancy costs. We continue to receive positive feedback from customers and are well positioned to expand this concept profitably.

We have pulled back on store development of our It's Fashion Metro concept as this customer group has been hit the hardest during these tough financial times. We continue to put more emphasis on our core fashion apparel and accessories which has offset our reduction of urban brands. We are testing a larger format Its Fashion store focused on the core junior and plus fashion apparel and accessories.

We are currently pursuing the start-up of our e-commerce program which we anticipate to be fully operational by the end of 2013. We have been working towards this goal with improvements to our website, expanding our customer e-mail list, and increasing our presence in social media. We anticipate incorporating the fulfillment process into our existing DC. This is very positive as it will give us time to evaluate our future DC needs.

We also completed a major expansion of our home office headquarters by adding over 60,000 square feet. This will provide the needed space to accommodate our strategic initiatives. The existing building space will be renovated to improve efficiencies in our operations and the working environment for our associates.

We will continue to invest in our infrastructure and anticipate capital expenditures of approximately \$44 million. This will include new store development, the home office renovation, and investment into our e-commerce strategy. The Company will also continue to enhance and upgrade our systems.

We recently purchased approximately 300 acres of land located over the state line in South Carolina, about 10 minutes away from our current facility. This long-term investment will provide the flexibility for expanding our facilities to continue to support our growing Company.

The economic environment continues to be challenging in 2013 for all the reasons we have mentioned above. The investments we are making will help us grow our business. We continue to manage our costs and bring our customer the fashion, quality, and value she desires. By continuing to focus on the customer and getting better at all aspects of our business, we will be well positioned for continued growth.



John P. D. Cato

John P. D. Cato
Chairman, President &
Chief Executive Officer



The Cato Corporation is a leading specialty retailer of value-priced women's fashion apparel operating three concepts, Cato, It's Fashion and Versona Accessories. The Company currently operates over 1,310 specialty stores throughout the United States. Cato stores offer exclusive merchandise with updated fashion and quality comparable to mall specialty stores at low prices every day. Cato stores average approximately 4,500 square feet and are located primarily in strip shopping centers anchored by national discounters or market dominant grocery stores. The It's Fashion concept includes both It's Fashion and It's Fashion Metro stores. It's Fashion stores provide junior-inspired fashion apparel and accessories at low prices every day with stores averaging approximately 3,400 square feet. It's Fashion Metro stores are an expanded version of the It's Fashion store with the latest styles for the entire family including urban-inspired brands at low prices every day. It's Fashion Metro stores average approximately 9,700 square feet. The Versona Accessories concept offers quality fashion jewelry and accessories accented by key apparel items at exceptional values every day. The Versona stores average approximately 7,300 square feet. The Company is headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina.



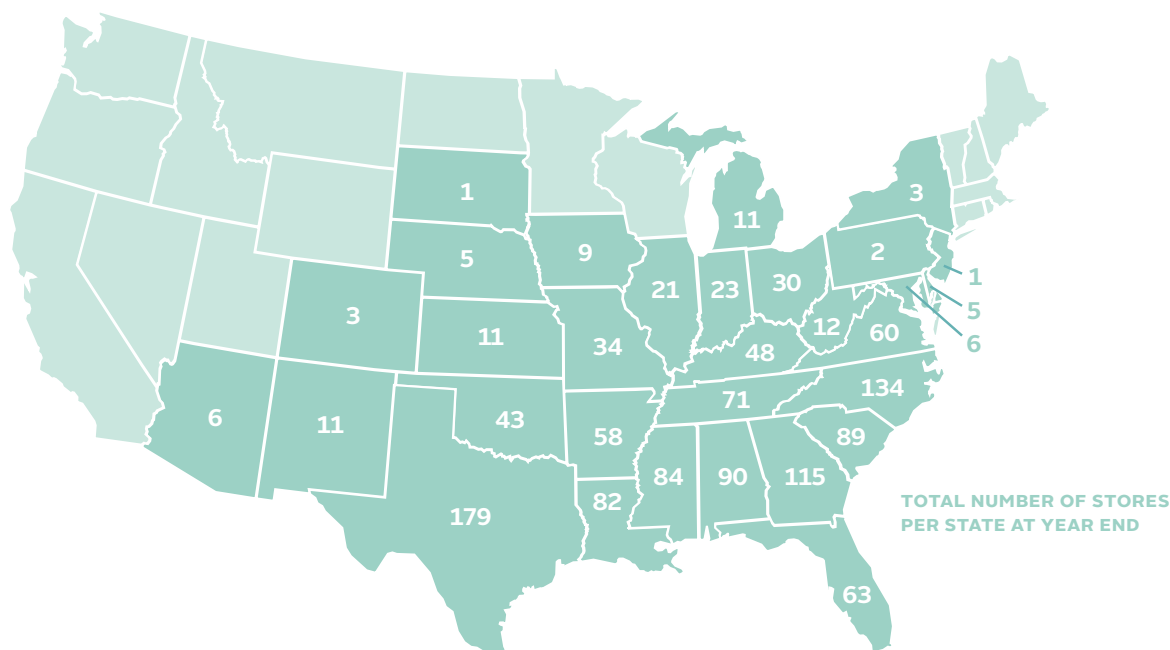
Financial Highlights

FISCAL YEAR	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
FOR THE YEAR ENDED					
Retail sales	\$ 933,782	\$ 920,622	\$ 913,079	\$ 872,138	\$ 845,676
Total revenue	944,048	931,458	924,685	884,001	857,718
Comparable store sales increase (decrease)	(4)%	(1)%	3%	1%	(1)%
Income before income taxes	98,971	100,271	92,772	66,920	52,610
Income tax expense	37,303	35,437	33,921	21,935	18,976
Net income	\$ 61,668	\$ 64,834	\$ 58,851	\$ 44,985	\$ 33,634
Net income as a percentage of retail sales	6.6%	7.0%	6.4%	5.2%	4.0%
Cash dividends paid per share	\$ 2.980	\$.875	\$.720	\$.660	\$.660
Basic earnings per share	\$ 2.11	\$ 2.21	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.53	\$ 1.14
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 2.11	\$ 2.21	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.53	\$ 1.14
Stores open at end of year	1,310	1,288	1,282	1,271	1,281
Number of stores opened	34	38	37	35	65
Number of stores closed	12	32	26	45	102
Net increase (decrease) in number of stores	22	6	11	(10)	(37)
AT YEAR END					
Cash, cash equivalents, short-term investments and restricted cash	\$ 194,646	\$ 245,989	\$ 234,851	\$ 200,915	\$ 144,803
Working capital	230,612	272,139	251,523	214,024	164,639
Current ratio	2.4	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.1
Total assets	532,646	551,089	532,759	492,063	435,353
Total Stockholders' equity	345,234	366,679	334,014	298,649	261,813

Dollars in thousands, except per share data and selected operating data
The fiscal year ended February 2, 2013 contained 53 weeks versus 52 weeks in the prior fiscal years 2008-2011.



Delivering Fashion & Value to Customers.



Cato currently operates three different concepts with 1,072 Cato stores, 213 It's Fashion and It's Fashion Metro stores and 25 Versona Accessories stores as of the end of 2012. Each concept targets a different customer base, occupies a unique niche and provides growth opportunities. Across all concepts, the Company focuses on providing fashion and accessories at exceptional values.

The Cato concept provides fashion with great styling, quality and fit at low prices every day. The concept offers a broad assortment of exclusive merchandise under its Cato label. Cato stores average approximately 4,500 square feet.

It's Fashion serves a younger customer with great fashions at low prices every day. It's Fashion Metro is an expanded version of It's Fashion. The larger easy-to-shop stores offer trendy fashions for the entire family at low prices every day. It's Fashion stores average approximately 3,400 square feet while It's Fashion Metro stores are generally 8,000 to 10,000 square feet.

Versona carries apparel, fashion jewelry, shoes, handbags, scarves, belts and gifts in stores that are generally 6,000 to 10,000 square feet. Most are our private label products developed both in-house and with outside designers. We have leveraged our product development and sourcing teams to manufacture the merchandise around the world. Versona provides all women a place where they can create their own style, a place for guilt free indulgence.



Management Executive Group

John P. D. Cato

*Chairman, President and
Chief Executive Officer*

John R. Howe

*Executive Vice President,
Chief Financial Officer*

Sally J. Almason

*Executive Vice President, Merchandising –
Cato and Versona Concepts*

Michael T. Greer

*Executive Vice President,
Director of Stores*

Gordon D. Smith

*Executive Vice President,
Chief Real Estate and
Store Development Officer*

Board of Directors

John P. D. Cato

*Chairman, President and
Chief Executive Officer*

Thomas B. Henson ^{1,3}

*Chief Executive Officer
American Spirit Media, LLC*

Bryan F. Kennedy, III ^{1,3}

*President
Park Sterling Bank*

Thomas E. Meckley ³

*Consultant
Agility Recovery Solutions
Retired Partner
Ernst & Young LLP*

Bailey W. Patrick ^{1,2}

*General Manager
Merrifield Patrick Vermillion LLC*

D. Harding Stowe ^{1,2}

*Chairman and
Chief Executive Officer
New South Pizza*

Edward I. Weisiger, Jr. ^{1,2}

*President and
Chief Executive Officer
Carolina Tractor & Equipment Company*

¹ Member of the Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee

² Member of the Compensation Committee

³ Member of the Audit Committee

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 February 2, 2013

or

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

Commission File Number 1-31340

The Cato Corporation

Registrant

Delaware
State of Incorporation

8100 Denmark Road
Charlotte, North Carolina 28273-5975
Address of Principal Executive Offices

56-0484485
I.R.S. Employer Identification Number

704/554-8510
Registrant's Telephone Number

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

<u>Title of Class</u>	<u>Name of Exchange on Which Registered</u>
Class A Common Stock	New York Stock Exchange
Preferred Share Purchase Rights	New York Stock Exchange

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

Indicate by check mark, if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of the Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the 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. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer", "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 12b-2). Yes No

The aggregate market value of the Registrant's Class A Common Stock held by non-affiliates of the Registrant as of July 28, 2012, the last business day of the Company's most recent second quarter, was \$ 799,367,185 based on the last reported sale price per share on the New York Stock Exchange on that date.

As of February 2, 2013, there were 27,543,376 shares of Class A common stock and 1,743,525 shares of Class B common stock outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the proxy statement relating to the 2013 annual meeting of shareholders are incorporated by reference into the following part of this annual report:

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

THE CATO CORPORATION

FORM 10-K

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Forward-looking Information

The following information should be read along with the Consolidated Financial Statements, including the accompanying Notes appearing in this report. Any of the following are “forward-looking” statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended: (1) statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K that reflect projections or expectations of our future financial or economic performance; (2) statements that are not historical information; (3) statements of our beliefs, intentions, plans and objectives for future operations, including those contained in “Business,” “Properties,” “Legal Proceedings,” “Controls and Procedures” and “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations”; (4) statements relating to our operations or activities for our fiscal year ending February 1, 2014 (“fiscal 2013”) and beyond, including, but not limited to, statements regarding expected amounts of capital expenditures and store openings, relocations, remodels and closures; and (5) statements relating to our future contingencies. When possible, we have attempted to identify forward-looking statements by using words such as “expects,” “anticipates,” “approximates,” “believes,” “estimates,” “hopes,” “intends,” “may,” “plans,” “should” and variations of such words and similar expressions. We can give no assurance that actual results or events will not differ materially from those expressed or implied in any such forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements included in this report are based on information available to us as of the filing date of this report, but subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements. Such factors include, but are not limited to, the following: any actual or perceived deterioration in, or uncertainties regarding, prevailing U.S. and global economic, political or financial market conditions; changes in other factors that drive consumer or corporate confidence and spending, including, but not limited to, levels of unemployment, fuel, energy and food costs, wage rates, tax rates, home values, consumer net worth and the availability of credit; uncertainties regarding the impact of any governmental responses to the foregoing conditions; competitive factors and pricing pressures; our ability to predict fashion trends; consumer apparel and accessory buying patterns; adverse weather or similar conditions that may affect our sales or operations; inventory risks due to shifts in market demand; and other factors discussed under “Risk Factors” in Part I, Item 1A of this annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 2, 2013 (“fiscal 2012”), as amended or supplemented, and in other reports we file with or furnish to the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) from time to time. We do not undertake, and expressly decline, any obligation to update any such forward-looking information contained in this report, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.

As used herein, the terms “we,” “our,” “us” (or similar terms), the “Company” or “Cato” include The Cato Corporation and its subsidiaries, except that when used with reference to common stock or other securities described herein and in describing the positions held by management of the Company, such terms include only The Cato Corporation. Our website is located at www.catocorp.com where we make available free of charge, our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, proxy statements and other reports (including amendments to these reports) filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These reports are available as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file these materials with the SEC. We also post on our website the charters of our Audit, Compensation and Corporate Governance and Nominating Committees; our Corporate Governance Guidelines, Code of Business Conduct and Ethics; and any amendments or waivers thereto; and any other corporate governance materials contemplated by SEC or New York Stock Exchange regulations. The information contained on our website, www.catocorp.com, is not, and should in no way be construed as, a part of this or any other report that we filed with or furnished the SEC.

PART I

Item 1. *Business:*

General

The Company, founded in 1946, operated 1,310 fashion specialty stores at February 2, 2013, in 31 states, principally in the southeastern United States, under the names “Cato,” “Cato Fashions,” “Cato Plus,” “It’s Fashion,” “It’s Fashion Metro” and “Versona Accessories.” The Cato concept seeks to offer quality fashion apparel and accessories at low prices, every day in junior/missy, plus sizes and girls sizes 7 to 16. The Cato concept’s stores feature a broad assortment of apparel and accessories, including dressy, career, and casual sportswear, dresses, coats, shoes, lingerie, costume jewelry and handbags. A major portion of the Cato concept’s merchandise is sold under its private label and is produced by various vendors in accordance with the concept’s specifications. The It’s Fashion and It’s Fashion Metro concepts offer fashion with a focus on the latest trendy styles for the entire family at low prices every day. The Versona Accessories concept offers quality fashion jewelry and accessories accented by key apparel items at exceptional values every day. The Company’s stores range in size from 2,000 to 19,000 square feet and are located primarily in strip shopping centers anchored by national discounters or market-dominant grocery stores. The Company emphasizes friendly customer service and coordinated merchandise presentations in an appealing store environment. The Company offers its own credit card and layaway plan. Credit and layaway sales under the Company’s plan represented 9% of retail sales in fiscal 2012. See Note 14 to the Consolidated Financial Statements, “Reportable Segment Information” for a discussion of information regarding the Company’s two reportable segments: retail and credit.

Business

The Company’s primary objective is to be the leading fashion specialty retailer for fashion and value in its markets. Management believes the Company’s success is dependent upon its ability to differentiate its stores from department stores, mass merchandise discount stores and competing specialty stores. The key elements of the Company’s business strategy are:

Merchandise Assortment. The Company’s stores offer a wide assortment of on-trend apparel and accessory items in primarily junior/missy, plus sizes, girls sizes 7 to 16, mens and kids sizes newborn to 7 with an emphasis on color, product coordination and selection. Colors and styles are coordinated and presented so that outfit selection is easily made.

Value Pricing. The Company offers quality merchandise that is generally priced below comparable merchandise offered by department stores and mall specialty apparel chains, but is generally more fashionable than merchandise offered by discount stores. Management believes that the Company has positioned itself as the every day low price leader in its market segment.

Strip Shopping Center Locations. The Company locates its stores principally in convenient strip centers anchored by national discounters or market-dominant grocery stores that attract large numbers of potential customers.

Customer Service. Store managers and sales associates are trained to provide prompt and courteous service and to assist customers in merchandise selection and wardrobe coordination.

Credit and Layaway Programs. The Company offers its own credit card and a layaway plan to make the purchase of its merchandise more convenient for its customers.

Merchandising

Merchandising

The Company seeks to offer a broad selection of high quality and exceptional value apparel and accessories to suit the various lifestyles of fashion and value conscious customers. In addition, the Company strives to offer on-trend fashion in exciting colors with consistent fit and quality.

The Company's merchandise lines include dressy, career, and casual sportswear, dresses, coats, shoes, lingerie, costume jewelry, handbags, men's wear and lines for kids and newborns. The Company primarily offers exclusive merchandise with fashion and quality comparable to mall specialty stores at low prices, every day.

The Company believes that the collaboration of its merchandising team with an expanded in-house product development and direct sourcing function has enhanced merchandise offerings and delivers quality exclusive on-trend styles at lower prices. The product development and direct sourcing operations provide research on emerging fashion and color trends, technical services and direct sourcing options.

As a part of its merchandising strategy, members of the Company's merchandising staff frequently attend trade shows to stay abreast of latest trends and styles, visit selected stores to monitor the merchandise offerings of other retailers, regularly communicate with store operations associates and frequently confer with key vendors. The Company also takes aggressive markdowns on slow-selling merchandise and typically does not carry over merchandise to the next season.

Purchasing, Allocation and Distribution

Although the Company purchases merchandise from approximately 1,500 suppliers, most of its merchandise is purchased from approximately 100 primary vendors. In fiscal 2012, purchases from the Company's largest vendor accounted for approximately 4% of the Company's total purchases. The Company is not dependent on its largest vendor or any other vendor for merchandise purchases, and the loss of any single vendor or group of vendors would not have a material adverse effect on the Company's operating results or financial condition. A substantial portion of the Company's merchandise is sold under its private labels and is produced by various vendors in accordance with the Company's strict specifications. The Company purchases most of its merchandise from domestic importers and vendors, which typically minimizes the time necessary to purchase and obtain shipments. This enables the Company to react to merchandise trends in a more timely fashion. Although a significant portion of the Company's merchandise is manufactured overseas, the Company does not expect that any economic, political or social unrest in any one country would have a material adverse effect on the Company's ability to obtain adequate supplies of merchandise. However, the Company can give no assurance that any changes or disruptions in its merchandise supply chain would not materially and adversely affect the Company. See "Risk Factors – Risks Relating To Our Business – Because we source a significant portion of our merchandise directly and indirectly from overseas we are subject to risks associated with international operations, and changes, disruptions, cost changes or other problems affecting the Company's merchandise supply chain could materially and adversely affect the Company's business, results of operations and financial condition."

An important component of the Company's strategy is the allocation of merchandise to individual stores based on an analysis of sales trends by merchandise category, customer profiles and climatic conditions. A merchandise control system provides current information on the sales activity of each merchandise style in each of the Company's stores. Point-of-sale terminals in the stores collect and transmit sales and inventory information to the Company's central database, permitting timely response to sales trends on a store-by-store basis.

All merchandise is shipped directly to the Company's distribution center in Charlotte, North Carolina, where it is inspected and then allocated by the merchandise distribution staff for shipment to individual stores. The flow of merchandise from receipt at the distribution center to shipment to stores is controlled by an on-line system. Shipments are made by common carrier, and each store receives at least one shipment per week. The centralization of the Company's distribution process also subjects it to risks in the event of damage to or destruction of its distribution facility or other disruptions affecting the distribution center or the flow of goods into or out of Charlotte, North Carolina generally. See "Risk Factors – Risks Relating To Our Business – A disruption or shutdown of our centralized distribution center or transportation network could materially and adversely affect our business and results of operations."

Advertising

The Company uses television, in-store signage, graphics, a Company website and social media as its primary advertising media. The Company's total advertising expenditures were approximately 0.7%, 0.8% and 0.7% of retail sales for fiscal years 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

Store Operations

The Company's store operations management team consists of one director of stores, five territorial managers, 17 regional managers and 141 district managers. Regional managers receive a salary plus a bonus based on achieving targeted goals for sales, payroll and shrinkage control. District managers receive a salary plus a bonus based on achieving targeted objectives for district sales increases and shrinkage control. Stores are typically staffed with a manager, two assistant managers and additional part-time sales associates depending on the size of the store and seasonal personnel needs. Store managers receive a salary and all other store personnel are paid on an hourly basis. Store managers, assistant managers and sales associates are eligible for monthly and semi-annual bonuses based on achieving targeted goals for their store's sales increases and shrinkage control.

The Company constantly strives to improve its training programs to develop associates. Over 80% of store and field management are promoted from within, allowing the Company to internally staff an expanding store base. The Company has training programs at each level of store operations. New store managers are trained in training stores managed by experienced associates who have achieved superior results in meeting the Company's goals for store sales, payroll expense and shrinkage control. The type and extent of district manager training varies depending on whether the district manager is promoted from within or recruited from outside the Company.

Store Locations

Most of the Company's stores are located in the southeastern United States in a variety of markets ranging from small towns to large metropolitan areas with trade area populations of 20,000 or more. Stores average approximately 4,500 square feet in size.

All of the Company's stores are leased. Approximately 97% are located in strip shopping centers and 3% in enclosed shopping malls. The Company typically locates stores in strip shopping centers anchored by a national discounter, primarily Wal-Mart Supercenters, or market-dominant grocery stores. The Company's strip center locations provide ample parking and shopping convenience for its customers.

The Company's store development activities consist of opening new stores in new and existing markets and relocating selected existing stores to more desirable locations in the same market area. The following table sets forth information with respect to the Company's development activities since fiscal 2008.

Store Development

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Number of Stores Beginning of Year</u>	<u>Number Opened</u>	<u>Number Closed</u>	<u>Number of Stores End of Year</u>
2008.....	1,318	65	102	1,281
2009.....	1,281	35	45	1,271
2010.....	1,271	37	26	1,282
2011.....	1,282	38	32	1,288
2012.....	1,288	34	12	1,310

In fiscal 2012 the Company relocated nine stores.

The Company expects to open 65 new stores during fiscal 2013. The expected new store openings include 40 Cato stores, five It's Fashion stores, five It's Fashion Metro stores (including the conversion of approximately two existing It's Fashion stores) and 15 Versona Accessories stores. The Company anticipates closing up to 15 stores by year end, including the two conversions. In addition, the Company also expects to relocate 15 stores and remodel 10 stores.

The Company periodically reviews its store base to determine whether any particular store should be closed based on its sales trends and profitability. The Company intends to continue this review process to identify underperforming stores.

Credit and Layaway

Credit Card Program

The Company offers its own credit card, which accounted for 4.5%, 4.8% and 5.2% of retail sales in fiscal 2012, 2011 and 2010 respectively. The Company's net bad debt expense was 4.3%, 5.3% and 6.6% of credit sales in fiscal 2012, 2011 and 2010 respectively.

Customers applying for the Company's credit card are approved for credit if they have a satisfactory credit record and the Company has considered the customer's ability to make the required minimum payment. Customers are required to make minimum monthly payments based on their account balances. If the balance is not paid in full each month, the Company assesses the customer a finance charge. If payments are not received on time, the customer is assessed a late fee subject to regulatory limits.

Layaway Plan

Under the Company's layaway plan, merchandise is set aside for customers who agree to make periodic payments. The Company adds a nonrefundable administrative fee to each layaway sale. If no payment is made for four weeks, the customer is considered to have defaulted, and the merchandise is returned to the selling floor and again offered for sale, often at a reduced price. All payments made by customers who subsequently default on their layaway purchase are returned to the customer upon request, less the administrative fee and a restocking fee.

The Company defers recognition of layaway sales to the accounting period when the customer picks up and completely pays for layaway merchandise. Administrative fees are recognized in the period in which the customer picks up the merchandise or upon default of the layaway purchase. Recognition of restocking fees occurs in the accounting period when the customer defaults on the layaway purchase. Layaway sales represented approximately 4.8% of retail sales in 2012 and 4.7% in each of the two fiscal years, 2011 and 2010 respectively.

Information Technology Systems

The Company's information technology systems provide daily financial and merchandising information that is used by management to enhance the timeliness and effectiveness of purchasing and pricing decisions. Management uses a daily report comparing actual sales with planned sales and a weekly ranking report to monitor and control purchasing decisions. Weekly reports are also produced which reflect sales, weeks of supply of inventory and other critical data by product categories, by store and by various levels of responsibility reporting. Purchases are made based on projected sales, but can be modified to accommodate unexpected increases or decreases in demand for a particular item.

Sales information is projected by merchandise category and, in some cases, is further projected and actual performance measured by stock keeping unit (SKU). Merchandise allocation models are used to distribute merchandise to individual stores based upon historical sales trends, climatic differences, customer demographic differences and targeted inventory turnover rates.

Competition

The women's retail apparel industry is highly competitive. The Company believes that the principal competitive factors in its industry include merchandise assortment and presentation, fashion, price, store location and customer service. The Company competes with retail chains that operate similar women's apparel specialty stores. In addition, the Company competes with mass merchandise chains, discount store chains, major department stores, off-price retailers and internet based retailers. Although we believe we compete favorably with respect to the principal competitive factors described above, many of our direct and indirect competitors are well-established national, regional or local chains, and some have substantially greater financial, marketing and other resources. The Company expects its stores in larger cities and metropolitan areas to face more intense competition.

Seasonality

Due to the seasonal nature of the retail business, the Company has historically experienced and expects to continue to experience seasonal fluctuations in its revenues, operating income and net income. Results of a period shorter than a full year may not be indicative of results expected for the entire year. Furthermore, the seasonal nature of our business may affect comparisons between periods. See Note 13 of the Consolidated Financial Statements for information regarding our quarterly results of operations for the last two fiscal years.

Regulation

A variety of laws affect the revolving credit card program offered by the Company. The Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009 ("The Act") amended the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan. The Act contained provisions addressing matters such as change in terms, notices, limits on fees, rate increases, payment allocation and account disclosures. The Act requires creditors to provide consumers with account disclosures that are timely and in a form that is readily understandable. The Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act also requires certain disclosures to potential customers concerning credit information used as a basis to deny credit. The Federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act and Regulation B promulgated thereunder prohibit lenders from discrimination against any credit applicants, establish guidelines for gathering and evaluating credit information and require written notification when credit is denied. Regulation AA, Unfair or Deceptive Acts or Practices, establishes consumer complaint procedures and defines unfair or deceptive practices in extending credit to consumers. The Federal Trade Commission has adopted or proposed various trade regulation rules dealing with unfair credit and collection practices and the preservation of consumers' claims and defenses. The Company is also subject to the U.S. Patriot Act and the Bank Secrecy Act, which require the Company to monitor account holders

and account transactions, respectively. Additionally, the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act requires the Company to disclose, initially and annually, to its customers, the Company's privacy policy as it relates to a customer's non-public personal information.

Associates

As of February 2, 2013, the Company employed approximately 9,600 full-time and part-time associates. The Company also employs additional part-time associates during the peak retailing seasons. The Company is not a party to any collective bargaining agreements and considers its associate relations to be good.

Item 1A. Risk Factors:

An investment in our common stock involves numerous types of risks. You should carefully consider the following risk factors, in addition to the other information contained in this report, including the disclosures under "Forward-looking Information" above in evaluating our Company and any potential investment in our common stock. If any of the following risks or uncertainties occur, our business, financial condition and operating results could be materially and adversely affected, the trading price of our common stock could decline and you could lose all or a part of your investment in our common stock. The risks and uncertainties described in this section are not the only ones facing us. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also materially and adversely affect our business operating results and financial condition.

Risks Relating To Our Business:

If we are unable to anticipate, identify and respond to rapidly changing fashion trends and customer demands in a timely manner, our business and results of operations could materially suffer.

Customer tastes and fashion trends, particularly for women's apparel, are volatile, tend to change rapidly and cannot be predicted with certainty. Our success depends in part upon our ability to consistently anticipate and respond to changing merchandise trends and consumer preferences in a timely manner. Accordingly, any failure by us to anticipate, identify and respond to changing fashion trends could adversely affect consumer acceptance of our merchandise, which in turn could adversely affect our business and our image with our customers. If we miscalculate either the market for our merchandise or our customers' tastes or purchasing habits, we may be required to sell a significant amount of unsold inventory at below average markups over cost, or below cost, which would adversely affect our margins and results of operations.

Existing and increased competition in the women's retail apparel industry may negatively impact our business, results of operations, financial condition and market share.

The women's retail apparel industry is highly competitive. We compete primarily with discount stores, mass merchandisers, department stores, off-price retailers, specialty stores, and internet-based retailers, many of which have substantially greater financial, marketing and other resources than we have. Many of our competitors offer frequent promotions and reduce their selling prices. In some cases our competitors are expanding into markets in which we have a significant market presence. As a result of this competition, including close-out sales and going-out-of-business sales by other women's apparel retailers, we may experience pricing pressures, increased marketing expenditures, as well as loss of market share, which could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Unusual weather, natural disasters or similar events may adversely affect our sales or operations.

Extreme changes in weather, natural disasters or similar events can influence customer trends and

shopping habits. For example, heavy rainfall or other extreme weather conditions over a prolonged period might make it difficult for our customers to travel to our stores and thereby reduce our sales and profitability. Our business is also susceptible to unseasonable weather conditions. For example, extended periods of unseasonably warm temperatures during the winter season or cool weather during the summer season could render a portion of our inventory incompatible with those unseasonable conditions. Reduced sales from extreme or prolonged unseasonable weather conditions would adversely affect our business. The occurrence or threat of extreme weather, natural disasters, power outages, terrorist acts, outbreaks of flu or other communicable diseases or other catastrophic events could reduce customer traffic in our stores and likewise disrupt our ability to conduct operations, which could materially and adversely affect us.

Because we source a significant portion of our merchandise directly and indirectly from overseas, we are subject to risks associated with international operations, and changes, disruptions, cost changes or other problems affecting the Company's merchandise supply chain could materially and adversely affect the Company's business, results of operations and financial condition.

A significant amount of our merchandise is manufactured overseas, principally in East Asia. We directly import some of this merchandise and indirectly import the remaining merchandise from domestic vendors who acquire the merchandise from foreign sources. As a result, political, financial or other forms of instability or other events resulting in the disruption of trade from countries affecting our supply chain, increased security requirements for imported merchandise, or the imposition of additional regulations or changes in duties, quotas, tariffs, taxes or other factors affecting the availability or cost of imports, could cause significant delays or interruptions in the supply of our merchandise or increase our costs. Our costs are also affected by currency fluctuations. Any changes in the value of the dollar relative to foreign currencies may increase our cost of goods sold. Any of these factors could have a material adverse effect on our business. In addition, increased energy and transportation costs have caused us significant cost increases, and continued increases in these costs or the disruption of the means by which merchandise is transported to us could cause additional cost increases or interruptions of our supply chain which could be significant. If we are forced to source merchandise from other countries or other domestic vendors with foreign sources in different countries, those goods may be more expensive or of a different or inferior quality from the ones we now sell. Furthermore, our dependence on third party vendors to manufacture and supply our merchandise subjects us to numerous risks that our vendors will fail to perform as we expect. For example, the deterioration in any of our key vendors' financial condition, their failure to ship merchandise in a timely manner that meets our specifications, or other failures to follow our vendor guidelines or comply with applicable laws and regulations, including compliant labor and environmental practices, could expose us to operational, quality, competitive, reputational and legal risks. If we are not able to timely or adequately replace the merchandise we currently source with merchandise produced elsewhere, or if our vendors fail to perform as we expect, our business, results of operations and financial condition could be adversely affected. Activities conducted by us or on our behalf outside the United States further subject us to numerous U.S. and international regulations and compliance risks, as discussed below under "Our business operations subject us to legal compliance and litigation risks that could result in increased costs or liabilities, divert our management's attention or otherwise adversely affect our business."

Fluctuations in the price, availability and quality of inventory may result in higher cost of goods, which the Company may not be able to pass on to the customers.

Vendors are increasingly passing on higher production costs, which may impact our ability to maintain or grow our margins. The price and availability of raw materials may be impacted by demand, regulation, weather and crop yields, as well as other factors. Additionally, manufacturers are experiencing increases in other manufacturing costs, such as transportation, labor and benefit costs. These increases in production costs result in higher merchandise costs to the Company. Due to the Company's limited flexibility in price point, the Company may not be able to pass on those cost increases to the consumer, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Any actual or perceived deterioration in the conditions that drive consumer confidence and spending may materially and adversely affect consumer demand for our apparel and accessories and our results of operations.

Consumer spending habits, including spending for our apparel and accessories, are affected by, among other things, prevailing economic conditions and uncertainties, political conditions and uncertainties (such as those currently being debated in the U.S. regarding budgetary, spending and tax policies), levels of employment, fuel, energy and food costs, salaries and wage rates and other sources of income, tax rates, home values, consumer net worth, the availability of consumer credit, consumer confidence and consumer perceptions of adverse changes in or trends affecting any of these conditions. Any perception that these conditions may be worsening or continuing to trend negatively may significantly weaken many of these drivers of consumer spending habits. Adverse perceptions of these conditions or uncertainties regarding them also generally cause consumers to defer purchases of discretionary items, such as our merchandise, or to purchase cheaper alternatives to our merchandise, all of which may also adversely affect our net sales and results of operations. In addition, numerous events, whether or not related to actual economic conditions, such as downturns in the stock markets, acts of war or terrorism, political unrest or natural disasters, or similar events, may also dampen consumer confidence, and accordingly, lead to reduced consumer spending. Any of these events could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

The failure, disruption or security breach relating to our information technology systems could adversely affect our business.

We rely on our existing information technology systems for merchandise operations, including merchandise planning, replenishment, pricing, ordering, markdowns and product life cycle management. In addition to merchandise operations, we utilize our information technology systems for our distribution processes, as well as our financial systems, including accounts payable, general ledger, accounts receivable, sales, banking, inventory and fixed assets. Any disruption in the operation of our information technology systems, or our failure to continue to upgrade or improve such systems could adversely affect our business. Modifications and/or upgrades to our current information technology systems may also disrupt our operations. In addition, any security breach or other problem that results in the unauthorized disclosure of confidential customer information, such as personally identifiable information and payment information, or other confidential information regarding our associates, vendors or other third parties with whom we do business, could adversely affect our standing with these constituents and expose us to the risk of litigation and liability. Any such occurrences could result in reputational damage or loss of business or goodwill and could adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.

A disruption or shutdown of our centralized distribution center or transportation network could materially and adversely affect our business and results of operations.

The distribution of our products is centralized in one distribution center in Charlotte, North Carolina and distributed through our network of third party freight carriers. The merchandise we purchase is shipped directly to our distribution center, where it is prepared for shipment to the appropriate stores and subsequently delivered to the stores by our third party freight carriers. If the distribution center or our third party freight carriers were to be shutdown or lose significant capacity for any reason, our operations would likely be seriously disrupted. Such problems could occur as the result of any loss, destruction or impairment of our ability to use our distribution center, as well as any broader problem generally affecting the ability to ship goods into our distribution center or deliver goods to our stores. As a result, we could incur significantly higher costs and longer lead times associated with distributing our products to our stores during the time it takes for us to reopen or replace the distribution center and/or our transportation network. Any such occurrence could adversely affect our business, results of operations

and financial condition.

Our ability to attract consumers and grow our revenues is dependent on the success of our store location strategy and our ability to successfully open new stores as planned.

Our sales are dependent in part on the location of our stores in shopping centers where we believe our consumers and potential consumers shop. In addition, our ability to grow our revenues has been substantially dependent on our ability to secure space for and open new stores in attractive locations. Centers where we currently operate existing stores or seek to open new stores may be adversely affected by, among other things, general economic downturns or those particularly affecting the commercial real estate industry, the closing of anchor stores, changes in tenant mix and changes in customer shopping preferences. To take advantage of consumer traffic and the shopping preferences of our consumers, we need to maintain and acquire stores in desirable locations where competition for suitable store locations is intense. A decline in customer popularity of the strip shopping centers where we generally locate our stores or in availability of space in desirable centers and locations, or an increase in the cost of such desired space, could adversely affect consumer traffic and reduce our sales and net earnings or increase our operating costs.

Our ability to open and operate new stores depends on many factors, some of which are beyond our control. These factors include, but are not limited to, our ability to identify suitable store locations, negotiate acceptable lease terms, and hire and train appropriate store personnel. In addition, our continued expansion into new regions of the country where we have not done business before may present new challenges in competition, distribution and merchandising as we enter these new markets. Our failure to successfully and timely execute our plans for opening new stores or the failure of these stores to perform up to our expectations, could adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Failure to attract, train, and retain skilled personnel could adversely affect our business and our financial condition.

Like most retailers, we experience significant associate turnover rates, particularly among store sales associates and managers. Because our continued store growth will require the hiring and training of new associates, we must continually attract, hire and train new store associates to meet our staffing needs. A significant increase in the turnover rate among our store sales associates and managers would increase our recruiting and training costs, as well as possibly cause a decrease in our store operating efficiency and productivity. We compete for qualified store associates, as well as experienced management personnel, with other companies in our industry or other industries, many of whom have greater financial resources than we do.

In addition, we depend on key management personnel to oversee the operational divisions of the Company for the support of our existing business and future expansion. The success of executing our business strategy depends in large part on retaining key management. We compete for key management personnel with other retailers, and our inability to attract and retain qualified personnel could limit our ability to continue to grow.

If we are unable to retain our key management and store associates or attract, train, or retain other skilled personnel in the future, we may not be able to service our customers effectively or execute our business strategy, which could adversely affect our business, results, and financial condition.

Our business operations subject us to legal compliance and litigation risks that could result in increased costs or liabilities, divert our management's attention or otherwise adversely affect our business.

Our operations are subject to federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations, as well as U.S. and foreign laws and regulations relating to our activities in foreign countries from which we source our

merchandise. Our business is also subject to litigation risk in all of these jurisdictions, including foreign jurisdictions that may lack well-established or reliable legal systems for resolving legal disputes. Compliance risks and litigation claims have or may arise in the ordinary course of our business and include, among other issues, employment issues, commercial disputes, intellectual property issues, product-oriented matters, tax, customer relations and personal injury claims. International activities subject us to a number of U.S. and international regulations, including but not limited to, restrictions on trade, license and permit requirements, import and export license requirements, privacy and data protection laws, environmental laws, records and information management regulations, tariffs and taxes and anti-corruption laws, such as the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, violations of which by persons acting on the Company's behalf may result in significant investigation costs and severe criminal or civil sanctions. These and other liabilities to which we may be subject could negatively affect our business, operating results and financial condition. These matters frequently raise complex factual and legal issues, which are subject to risks and uncertainties and could divert significant management time. In addition, governing laws, rules and regulations, and interpretations of existing laws are subject to change from time to time. Compliance and litigation matters could result in unexpected expenses and liability, as well as have an adverse effect on our operations and our reputation.

If we fail to protect our trademarks and other intellectual property rights or infringe the intellectual property rights of others, our business, brand image, growth strategy, results of operations and financial condition could be adversely affected.

We believe that our "Cato", "It's Fashion", "It's Fashion Metro" and "Versona" trademarks are integral to our store designs, brand recognition and our ability to successfully build consumer loyalty. Although we have registered these trademarks with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office ("PTO") and have also registered, or applied for registration of, additional trademarks with the PTO that we believe are important to our business, we cannot assure that these registrations will prevent imitation of our trademarks, merchandising concepts, store designs or private label merchandise or the infringement of our other intellectual property rights by others. Infringement of our names, concepts, store designs or merchandise generally, or particularly in a manner that projects lesser quality or carries a negative connotation of our image could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

In addition, we cannot assure that others will not try to block the manufacture or sale of our private label merchandise by claiming that our merchandise violates their trademarks or other proprietary rights. In the event of such a conflict, we could be subject to lawsuits or other actions, the ultimate resolution of which we cannot predict; however, such a controversy could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We may experience market conditions that could adversely impact the valuation and liquidity of, and our ability to access, our short-term investments and cash and cash equivalents.

Our short-term investments and cash equivalents are primarily comprised of investments in federal, state, municipal and corporate debt securities. The value of those securities may be impacted by factors beyond our control, such as changes to credit ratings, rates of default, collateral value, discount rates, and strength and quality of market credit and liquidity. As federal, state and municipal entities struggle with declining tax revenues and budget deficits, we cannot be assured of our ability to timely access these investments if the market for these issues declines. Similarly, the default by issuers could adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations and ability to execute our business strategy. In addition, we have significant amounts of cash and cash equivalents at financial institutions that are in excess of the federally insured limits. An economic downturn or development of adverse conditions affecting the financial sector and stability of financial institutions could cause us to experience losses on our deposits.

Maintaining and improving our internal control over financial reporting and other requirements necessary to operate as a public company may strain our resources and any material failure in these controls may negatively impact our business, the price of our common stock and market confidence in our reported financial information.

As a public company, we are subject to the reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, the rules of the SEC and New York Stock Exchange and certain aspects of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the “Dodd-Frank Act”) and related rule-making that has been and will continue to be implemented over the next several years under the mandates of the Dodd-Frank Act. The requirements of these rules and regulations have, and may continue to, increase our compliance costs and place significant strain on our personnel, systems and resources. To satisfy the SEC’s rules implementing the requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, we must continue to document, test, monitor and enhance our internal control over financial reporting, which is a costly and time-consuming effort that must be re-evaluated frequently. We cannot give assurance that our disclosure controls and procedures and our internal control over financial reporting, as defined by applicable SEC rules, will be adequate in the future. Any failure to maintain the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or to comply with the other various laws and regulations to which we are and will continue to be subject, or to which we may become subject in the future, as a public company could have an adverse material impact on our business, our financial condition and the price of our common stock. In addition, our efforts to comply with these requirements, particularly with new requirements under the Dodd-Frank Act that have yet to be implemented, could significantly increase our compliance costs.

Changes to accounting rules and regulations may adversely affect our reported results of operations and financial condition.

In an effort to provide greater comparability of financial reporting in an increasing global environment, accounting regulatory authorities are entering into collaborative efforts to converge U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles with International Financial Reporting Standards. These changes in accounting rules or regulations may significantly impact our future reported results of operations and financial position. Changes in accounting rules or regulations and varying interpretations of existing accounting rules and regulations have significantly affected our reported financial statements and those of other participants in the retail industry in the past and may continue to do so in the future.

Proposed changes to lease accounting standards may require lessees to capitalize operating leases in their financial statements in the future. If adopted, this change will have a major impact on the Company as a retailer with numerous leased locations. Such a change would require Cato to record a significant amount of lease-related assets and liabilities on our balance sheet and make other changes to the recording and classification of lease-related expenses on our statements of income and cash flows. This change could lead to the perception by investors that we are highly leveraged and would change the calculation of numerous financial metrics and measures of our performance and financial condition. This and other future changes to accounting rules or regulations may adversely affect our reported results of operations and financial position.

The Company’s ability to successfully integrate new businesses into its existing business, to the extent it enters new lines of business in the future, will affect the Company’s financial condition and results of operations.

The Company’s long-term business strategy includes growth through the development of new store concepts. This growth may require significant capital expenditures and management attention. The Company may not realize any of the anticipated benefits of a new business and integration costs may exceed anticipated amounts. We have incurred substantial financial commitments and fixed costs related to our retail stores that we will not be able to recover if our stores are not successful and that could potentially result in impairment charges. If we cannot successfully execute our growth strategies, our

financial condition and results of operations may be adversely impacted.

A failure of our expansion into e-commerce operations could significantly disrupt our business and lead to reduced sales, growth prospects and reputational damage.

Expanding our operations to incorporate an e-commerce business is an important part of our growth strategy. Many of our competitors already have e-commerce businesses that are substantially larger and more developed than ours, which places us at a competitive disadvantage. Our e-commerce operations will be subject to numerous risks, including rapid changes in technology, website downtime and other technical failures, security breaches, consumer privacy concerns, changes in state tax laws and government regulation of internet activities. Our failure to successfully respond to these risks and uncertainties could impact our e-commerce sales, increase our costs, diminish our growth prospects, and damage our brand, which could negatively impact our results of operations and financial position.

Government enacted health care reform could adversely affect our business and results of operations.

In March 2010, the United States government enacted health care reform legislation, known as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. This legislation expands the Company's responsibility for providing employees with insurance coverage that meets minimum eligibility and coverage requirements or, alternatively, beginning in 2014, the legislation imposes penalties for failure to offer this coverage. The legislation also includes provisions that will impact the number of individuals with insurance coverage, the types of coverage and level of health benefits that will be required. The Company is still assessing the legislation's potential impact on the Company's health care expenses. However, due to the extent we are required to provide health insurance benefits to our employees that are more extensive than the health insurance benefits we currently provide and to a potentially larger proportion of our employees, or pay penalties if we elect not to provide these benefits, our expenses will increase. If we are unable to offset these cost increases by raising our prices or cutting other costs, such increased expenses could materially and adversely affect our results of operations.

Risks Relating To Our Common Stock:

Our operating results are subject to seasonal and quarterly fluctuations, which could adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

Our business varies with general seasonal trends that are characteristic of the retail apparel industry. As a result, our stores typically generate a higher percentage of our annual net sales and profitability in the first and second quarters of our fiscal year compared to other quarters. Accordingly, our operating results for any one fiscal period are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected from any future period, and such seasonal and quarterly fluctuations could adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

The interests of a principal shareholder may limit the ability of other shareholders to influence the direction of the Company.

As of April 2, 2013, John P. D. Cato, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, beneficially controlled approximately 39% of the voting power of our common stock. As a result, Mr. Cato may be able to control or significantly influence substantially all matters requiring approval by the shareholders, including the election of directors and the approval of mergers and other business combinations. Mr. Cato may have interests that differ from those of other shareholders, and may vote in a way with which other shareholders disagree or perceive as adverse to their interests. In addition, the concentration of voting power held by Mr. Cato could have the effect of preventing, discouraging or deferring a change in control of the Company, which could depress the market price of our common stock.

Conditions in the stock market generally, or particularly relating to our Company or common stock, may materially and adversely affect the market price of our common stock and make its trading price more volatile.

The trading price of our common stock at times has been, and is likely to continue to be, subject to significant volatility. A variety of factors may cause the price of the common stock to fluctuate, perhaps substantially, including, but not limited to, those discussed elsewhere in this report, as well as the following: low trading volume; general market fluctuations resulting from factors not directly related to our operations or the inherent value of our common stock; announcements of developments related to our business; fluctuations in our reported operating results; general conditions in the fashion and retail industry; conditions in the domestic or global economy or the domestic or global credit or capital markets; changes in financial estimates or the scope of coverage given to our Company by securities analysts; negative commentary regarding our Company and corresponding short-selling market behavior; adverse customer relations developments; significant changes in our senior management team; and legal proceedings. Over the past several years the stock market in general, and the market for shares of equity securities of many retailers in particular, have experienced extreme price fluctuations that have at times been unrelated to the operating performance of those companies. Such fluctuations and market volatility based on these or other factors may materially and adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

Item 1B. *Unresolved Staff Comments:*

None.

Item 2. *Properties:*

The Company's distribution center and general offices are located in a Company-owned building of approximately 552,000 square feet located on a 15-acre tract in Charlotte, North Carolina. The Company's automated merchandise handling and distribution activities occupy approximately 418,000 square feet of this building and its general offices and corporate training center are located in the remaining 134,000 square feet. This includes a 60,000 square foot addition to the general offices which was completed in the fall of 2012. A building of approximately 24,000 square feet located on a 2-acre tract adjacent to the Company's existing location is used for receiving and distribution of store and office operating supplies. In December 2012, the Company completed a land purchase of approximately 295 acres in York County, South Carolina, just south of Charlotte.

Item 3. *Legal Proceedings:*

From time to time, claims are asserted against the Company arising out of operations in the ordinary course of business. The Company currently is not a party to any pending litigation that it believes is likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Item 3A. Executive Officers of the Registrant:

The executive officers of the Company and their ages as of April 2, 2013 are as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Position</u>
John P. D. Cato.....	62	Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer
John R. Howe	50	Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer
Sally Almason	59	Executive Vice President, Merchandising Cato and Versona concepts
Michael T. Greer	50	Executive Vice President, Director of Stores
Gordon Smith	57	Executive Vice President, Chief Real Estate and Store Development Officer

John P. D. Cato has been employed as an officer of the Company since 1981 and has been a director of the Company since 1986. Since January 2004, he has served as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer. From May 1999 to January 2004, he served as President, Vice Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer. From June 1997 to May 1999, he served as President, Vice Chairman of the Board and Chief Operating Officer. From August 1996 to June 1997, he served as Vice Chairman of the Board and Chief Operating Officer. From 1989 to 1996, he managed the Company's off-price concept, serving as Executive Vice President and as President and General Manager of the It's Fashion concept from 1993 to August 1996. Mr. Cato is currently a director of Harris Teeter Supermarkets, Inc.

John R. Howe has been employed by the Company since 1986. Since September 2008, he has served as Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer. From June 2007 until September 2008, he served as Senior Vice President, Controller. From 1999 to 2007, he served as Vice President, Assistant Controller. From 1997 to 1999, he served as Assistant Vice President, Budgets and Planning. From 1995 to 1997, he served as Director, Budgets and Planning. From 1990 to 1995, he served as Assistant Tax Manager. From 1986 to 1990, Mr. Howe held various positions within the finance area.

Sally Almason has been employed by the Company since 1995. Since November 2010, she has served as Executive Vice President, Merchandising Cato and Versona concepts. From 2009 to 2010, she has served as Executive Vice President, General Merchandise Manager for the Cato concept. From 2004 to 2009, she served as Senior Vice President, General Merchandise Manager for the Cato concept. From 1995 to 2004, she served as Vice President, Divisional Merchandise Manager for the Cato concept.

Michael T. Greer has been employed by the Company since 1985. Since May 2006, he has served as Executive Vice President, Director of Stores of the Company. From November 2004 until May 2006, he served as Senior Vice President, Director of Stores of the Company. From February 2004 until November 2004, he served as Senior Vice President, Director of Stores of the Cato concept. From 2002 to 2003 Mr. Greer served as Vice President, Director of Stores of the It's Fashion concept. From 1999 to 2001 he served as Territorial Vice President of Stores of the Cato concept and from 1996 to 1999 he served as Regional Vice President of Stores of the Cato concept. From 1985 to 1995, Mr. Greer held various store operational positions in the Cato concept.

Gordon Smith has been employed by the Company since 1989. Since July 2011, he has served as Executive Vice President, Chief Real Estate and Store Development Officer. From February 2008 until July 2011 Mr. Smith served as Senior Vice President, Real Estate. From October 1989 to February 2008, Mr. Smith served as Assistant Vice President, Corporate Real Estate.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures:

No matters requiring disclosure.

PART II

Item 5. *Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities:*

Market & Dividend Information

The Company's Class A Common Stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") under the symbol CATO. Below is the market range and dividend information for the four quarters of fiscal 2012 and 2011.

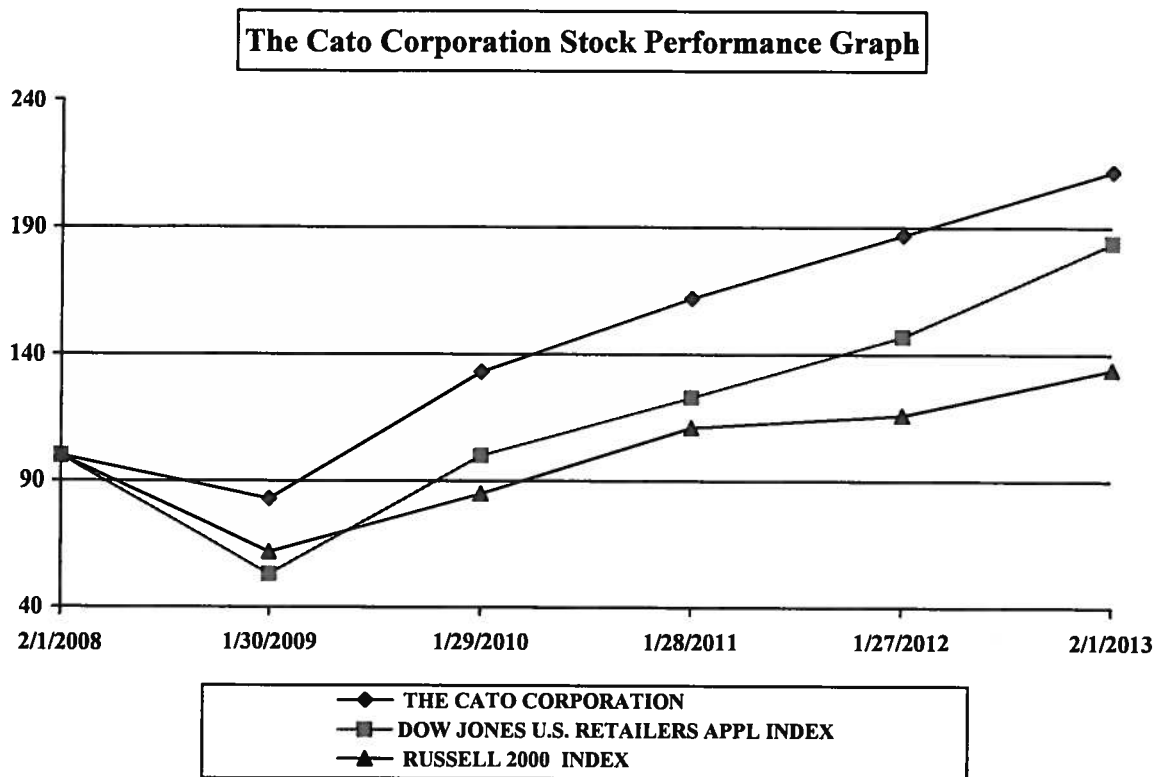
<u>2012</u>	<u>Price</u>		<u>Dividend</u>
	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	
First quarter	\$ 29.19	\$ 25.93	\$ 0.23
Second quarter	31.71	27.50	0.25
Third quarter	31.75	27.50	0.25
Fourth quarter	29.99	26.08	2.25

<u>2011</u>	<u>Price</u>		<u>Dividend</u>
	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	
First quarter	\$ 25.64	\$ 23.03	\$ 0.185
Second quarter	30.74	25.11	0.23
Third quarter	28.19	21.98	0.23
Fourth quarter	26.95	22.83	0.23

As of April 2, 2013 the approximate number of record holders of the Company's Class A Common Stock was 5,000 and there were 2 record holders of the Company's Class B Common Stock.

Stock Performance Graph

The following graph compares the yearly change in the Company's cumulative total shareholder return on the Company's Common Stock (which includes Class A Stock and Class B Stock) for each of the Company's last five fiscal years with (i), the Dow Jones U.S. Retailers, Apparel Index and (ii) the Russell 2000 Index.



THE CATO CORPORATION
STOCK PERFORMANCE TABLE
(BASE 100 – IN DOLLARS)

LAST TRADING DAY OF THE FISCAL YEAR	THE CATO CORPORATION	DOW JONES U.S. RETAILERS, APPL INDEX	RUSSELL 2000 INDEX
2/1/2008	100	100	100
1/30/2009	83	53	62
1/29/2010	133	100	85
1/28/2011	162	123	111
1/27/2012	187	147	116
2/1/2013	212	184	134

The graph assumes an initial investment of \$100 on February 1, 2008, the last trading day prior to the commencement of the Company's 2008 fiscal year, and that all dividends were reinvested.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

The following table summarizes the Company's purchases of its common stock for the three months ended February 2, 2013:

<u>Period</u>	<u>Total Number of Shares Purchased</u>	<u>Average Price Paid per Share (1)</u>	<u>Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs (2)</u>	<u>Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares that may yet be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs (2)</u>
November 2012	221	\$ 28.11	221	
December 2012	-	-	-	
January 2013	-	-	-	
Total	221	\$ 28.11	221	1,976,300

(1) Prices include trading costs.

(2) As of October 27, 2012, the Company's share repurchase program had 1,976,511 shares remaining in open authorizations. During the fourth quarter ending February 2, 2013, the company repurchased and retired 221 shares under this program for approximately \$6,212 or an average market price of \$28.11 per share. As of the fourth quarter ending February 2, 2013, the Company had 1,976,300 shares remaining in open authorizations. There is no specified expiration date for the Company's repurchase program.

Item 6. Selected Financial Data:

Certain selected financial data for the five fiscal years ended February 2, 2013 have been derived from the Company's audited financial statements. The financial statements and Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm's integrated audit reports for the three most recent fiscal years are contained elsewhere in this report. All data set forth below are qualified by reference to, and should be read in conjunction with, the Company's Consolidated Financial Statements (including the Notes thereto) and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" appearing elsewhere in this annual report.

<u>Fiscal Year (1)</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
	(Dollars in thousands, except per share data and selected operating data)				
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS DATA:					
Retail sales	\$ 933,782	\$ 920,622	\$ 913,079	\$ 872,138	\$ 845,676
Other income	10,266	10,836	11,606	11,863	12,042
Total revenues	944,048	931,458	924,685	884,001	857,718
Cost of goods sold (exclusive of depreciation shown below)	581,961	574,176	563,262	554,055	562,056
Selling, general and administrative (exclusive of depreciation shown below)	244,327	238,982	250,763	245,444	227,645
Selling, general and administrative percent of retail sales	26.2%	26.0%	27.5%	28.1%	26.9%
Depreciation	22,455	21,825	21,822	21,829	22,572
Interest expense	116	21	37	66	53
Interest and other income	(3,782)	(3,817)	(3,971)	(4,313)	(7,218)
Income before income taxes	98,971	100,271	92,772	66,920	52,610
Income tax expense	37,303	35,437	33,921	21,935	18,976
Net income	\$ 61,668	\$ 64,834	\$ 58,851	\$ 44,985	\$ 33,634
Basic earnings per share	\$ 2.11	\$ 2.21	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.53	\$ 1.14
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 2.11	\$ 2.21	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.53	\$ 1.14
Cash dividends paid per share	\$ 2.980	\$ 0.875	\$ 0.720	\$ 0.660	\$ 0.660
SELECTED OPERATING DATA:					
Stores open at end of year	1,310	1,288	1,282	1,271	1,281
Average sales per store (2)	\$ 722,000	\$ 716,000	\$ 716,000	\$ 678,000	\$ 640,000
Average sales per square foot of selling space	\$ 161	\$ 162	\$ 168	\$ 165	\$ 162
BALANCE SHEET DATA (at period end):					
Cash, cash equivalents, short-term investments and restricted cash	\$ 194,646	\$ 245,989	\$ 234,851	\$ 200,915	\$ 144,803
Working capital	230,612	272,139	251,523	214,024	164,639
Total assets	532,646	551,089	532,759	492,063	435,353
Total stockholders' equity	345,234	366,679	334,014	298,649	261,813

(1) The fiscal year 2012 contained 53 weeks versus 52 weeks for all other years shown.

(2) Calculated using actual sales volume for stores open for the full year and an estimated annual sales volume for new stores opened during the year.

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

Results of Operations

The table below sets forth certain financial data of the Company expressed as a percentage of retail sales for the years indicated:

Fiscal Year Ended	February 2, 2013	January 28, 2012	January 29, 2011
Retail sales	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %
Other income	1.1	1.2	1.3
Total revenues	101.1	101.2	101.3
Cost of goods sold	62.3	62.4	61.7
Selling, general and administrative	26.2	26.0	27.5
Depreciation	2.4	2.4	2.4
Interest and other income	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.4)
Income before income taxes	10.6	10.9	10.2
Net income	6.6 %	7.0 %	6.4 %

Fiscal 2012 Compared to Fiscal 2011

Retail sales increased by 1.4% to \$933.8 million in fiscal 2012 compared to \$920.6 million in fiscal 2011. The fiscal year ended February 2, 2013 contained 53 weeks versus 52 weeks in fiscal year ended January 28, 2012. The increase in retail sales in fiscal 2012 was largely attributable to sales from new store development partially offset by same store sales decline. Same store sales decreased 4.0% from fiscal 2011. Same store sales includes stores that have been open more than 15 months. Stores that have been relocated or expanded are also included in the same store sales calculation after they have been open more than 15 months. The method of calculating same store sales varies across the retail industry. As a result, our same store sales calculation may not be comparable to similarly titled measures reported by other companies. Total revenues, comprised of retail sales and other income (principally finance charges and late fees on customer accounts receivable and layaway fees), increased by 1.3% to \$944.0 million in fiscal 2012 compared to \$931.5 million in fiscal 2011. The Company operated 1,310 stores at February 2, 2013 compared to 1,288 stores operated January 28, 2012.

In fiscal 2012, the Company opened 34 new stores, relocated nine stores and closed 12 stores.

Other income in total, as included in total revenues in fiscal 2012, decreased to \$10.3 million from \$10.8 million in fiscal 2011. The decrease resulted primarily from lower credit revenue and finance charges and layaway charges.

Credit revenue of \$6.9 million represented 0.7% of total revenue in fiscal 2012, a decrease compared to 2011 credit revenue of \$7.7 million or 0.8% of total revenue. The slight decrease in credit revenue was primarily due to reductions in finance and late charge income as a result of lower accounts receivable balances. Credit revenue is comprised of interest earned on the Company's private label credit card portfolio and related fee income. Related expenses include principally bad debt expense, payroll, postage and other administrative expenses and totaled \$3.9 million in fiscal 2012 compared to \$4.4 million in fiscal 2011. The decrease in these expenses was principally due to a reduction in bad debt expense of \$0.5 million. See Note 14 of the Consolidated Financial Statements for a schedule of credit-related expenses. Total segment credit income before taxes decreased \$ 0.2 million from \$ 3.2 million in 2011 to \$ 3.0 million in 2012 due to lower credit revenue. Total credit income of \$3.0 million in 2012 represented 3.0% of total income before taxes of \$99.0 million compared to total credit income of \$3.2 million in 2011 which represented 3.2% of 2011 total income before taxes.

Cost of goods sold was \$582.0 million, or 62.3% of retail sales, in fiscal 2012 compared to \$574.2 million, or 62.4% of retail sales, in fiscal 2011. The slight decrease in cost of goods sold as a percent of retail sales resulted primarily from lower procurement costs offset by higher store occupancy costs. Cost of goods sold includes merchandise costs, net of discounts and allowances, buying costs, distribution costs, occupancy costs, freight and inventory shrinkage. Net merchandise costs and in-bound freight are capitalized as inventory costs. Buying and distribution costs include payroll, payroll-related costs and operating expenses for the buying departments and distribution center. Occupancy expenses include rent, real estate taxes, insurance, common area maintenance, utilities and maintenance for stores and distribution facilities. Total gross margin dollars (retail sales less cost of goods sold and excluding depreciation) increased by 1.6% to \$351.8 million in fiscal 2012 from \$346.4 million in fiscal 2011. Gross margin as presented may not be comparable to that of other companies.

Selling, general and administrative expenses (“SG&A”), which primarily include corporate and store payroll, related payroll taxes and benefits, insurance, supplies, advertising, bank and credit card processing fees and bad debts were \$244.3 million in fiscal 2012 compared to \$239.0 million in fiscal 2011, an increase of 2.2%. As a percent of retail sales, SG&A was 26.2% compared to 26.0% in the prior year. The overall dollar increase in SG&A resulted primarily from an increase in payroll costs, professional fees, losses on asset disposals, and store impairments partially offset by a decrease in accrued incentive compensation.

Depreciation expense was \$22.5 million in fiscal 2012 compared to \$21.8 million in fiscal 2011. Depreciation expense increased from fiscal 2011 due to an increase in the Company’s store count and related investments in store development, information technology investments, and the completion of the home office expansion.

Interest and other income remained flat at \$3.8 million in fiscal 2012 compared to \$3.8 million in fiscal 2011. Miscellaneous income and interest income were lower compared to fiscal 2011, partially offset by an increase in gains on the sales of investments. See Note 2 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for further details.

Income tax expense was \$37.3 million, or 4.0% of retail sales in fiscal 2012 compared to \$35.4 million, or 3.8% of retail sales in fiscal 2011. The increase resulted from a higher effective tax rate partially offset by lower pre-tax income. The effective tax rate was 37.7% in fiscal 2012 compared to 35.3% in fiscal 2011, due to higher state taxes and a correction of an immaterial prior period error. See Note 1 to the Consolidated Financial Statements, “Summary of Significant Accounting Policies” for a discussion of the correction of this prior period error.

Fiscal 2011 Compared to Fiscal 2010

Retail sales increased by 0.8% to \$920.6 million in fiscal 2011 compared to \$913.1 million in fiscal 2010. The increase in retail sales in fiscal 2011 was largely attributable to sales from new store development partially offset by same store sales decline. Same store sales decreased 1% from fiscal 2010. Total revenues, comprised of retail sales and other income (principally finance charges and late fees on customer accounts receivable and layaway fees), increased by 0.7% to \$931.5 million in fiscal 2011 compared to \$924.7 million in fiscal 2010. The Company operated 1,288 stores at January 28, 2012 compared to 1,282 stores operated at January 29, 2011.

In fiscal 2011, the Company opened 38 new stores, relocated four stores and closed 32 stores.

Other income in total, as included in total revenues in fiscal 2011, decreased to \$10.8 million from \$11.6 million in fiscal 2010. The decrease resulted primarily from lower credit revenue and finance charges and layaway charges.

Credit revenue of \$7.7 million represented 0.8% of total revenue in fiscal 2011, a decrease compared to 2010 credit revenue of \$8.5 million or 0.9% of total revenue. The slight decrease in credit revenue was primarily due to reductions in finance and late charge income as a result of lower accounts receivable balances and regulatory changes. Credit revenue is comprised of interest earned on the Company’s private label credit

card portfolio and related fee income. Related expenses include principally bad debt expense, payroll, postage and other administrative expenses and totaled \$4.4 million in fiscal 2011 compared to \$5.4 million in fiscal 2010. The decrease in these expenses was principally due to a reduction in postage expense and bad debt expense of \$1.2 million. See Note 14 of the Consolidated Financial Statements for a schedule of credit-related expenses. Total segment credit income before taxes increased \$0.1 million from \$3.1 million in 2010 to \$3.2 million in 2011 due to a decrease in related operating expenses. Total credit income of \$3.2 million in 2011 represented 3.2% of total income before taxes of \$100.3 million compared to total credit income of \$3.1 million in 2010 which represented 3.3% of 2010 total income before taxes.

Cost of goods sold was \$574.2 million, or 62.4% of retail sales, in fiscal 2011 compared to \$563.3 million, or 61.7% of retail sales, in fiscal 2010. The increase in cost of goods sold as a percent of retail sales resulted primarily from higher procurement costs and store occupancy costs. Total gross margin dollars (retail sales less cost of goods sold and excluding depreciation) decreased by 1.0% to \$346.4 million in fiscal 2011 from \$349.8 million in fiscal 2010. Gross margin as presented may not be comparable to that of other companies.

Selling, general and administrative expenses (“SG&A”), which primarily include corporate and store payroll, related payroll taxes and benefits, insurance, supplies, advertising, bank and credit card processing fees and bad debts were \$239.0 million in fiscal 2011 compared to \$250.8 million in fiscal 2010, a decrease of 4.7%. As a percent of retail sales, SG&A was 26.0% compared to 27.5% in the prior year. The overall dollar decrease in SG&A resulted primarily from a decrease in accrued incentive compensation costs and insurance costs partially offset by an increase in payroll costs.

Depreciation expense was \$21.8 million in both fiscal 2011 and fiscal 2010. Depreciation expense was flat from period to period because the Company’s store count and related investments in store development, as well as its information technology investments, were relatively stable.

Interest and other income was \$3.8 million in fiscal 2011 compared to \$4.0 million in fiscal 2010. The decrease was due to lower miscellaneous income, partially offset by increased interest income and gift card breakage income. See Note 2 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for further details.

Income tax expense was \$35.4 million, or 3.8% of retail sales in fiscal 2011 compared to \$33.9 million, or 3.7% of retail sales in fiscal 2010. The increase resulted from higher pre-tax income partially offset by a reduction in the effective tax rate. The effective tax rate was 35.3% in fiscal 2011 compared to 36.6% in fiscal 2010 primarily as a result of a reduction of a reserve for unrecognized tax benefits from the closing of state income tax audits.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

Other than operating leases in the ordinary course of business, the Company is not a party to any off-balance sheet arrangements.

Critical Accounting Policies

The Company’s accounting policies are more fully described in Note 1 to the Consolidated Financial Statements. As disclosed in Note 1 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, the preparation of the Company’s financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States (“GAAP”) requires management to make estimates and assumptions about future events that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Future events and their effects cannot be determined with absolute certainty. Therefore, the determination of estimates requires the exercise of judgment. Actual results inevitably will differ from those estimates, and such differences may be material to the financial statements. The most significant accounting estimates inherent in the preparation of the Company’s financial statements include the allowance for doubtful accounts receivable, inventory shrinkage, the calculation of potential asset impairment, workers’ compensation, general and auto insurance liabilities, reserves relating to self-insured health insurance, and uncertain tax positions.

The Company's critical accounting policies and estimates are discussed with the Audit Committee.

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

The Company evaluates the collectability of accounts receivable and records an allowance for doubtful accounts based on the accounts receivable aging and estimates of actual write-offs. The allowance is reviewed for adequacy and adjusted, as necessary, on a quarterly basis. The Company also provides for estimated uncollectible late fees charged based on historical write-offs. The Company's financial results can be significantly impacted by changes in bad debt write-off experience and the aging of the accounts receivable portfolio.

Merchandise Inventories

The Company's inventory is valued using the weighted-average cost method and is stated at the lower of cost or market. Physical inventories are conducted throughout the year to calculate actual shrinkage and inventory on hand. Estimates based on actual shrinkage results are used to estimate inventory shrinkage, which is accrued for the period between the last physical inventory and the financial reporting date. The Company regularly reviews its inventory levels to identify slow moving merchandise and uses markdowns to clear slow moving inventory.

Lease Accounting

The Company recognizes rent expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term as defined in ASC 840 - *Leases*. Our lease agreements generally provide for scheduled rent increases during the lease term or rent holidays, including rental payments commencing at a date other than the date of initial occupancy. We include any rent escalation and rent holidays in our straight-line rent expense. In addition, we record landlord allowances for normal tenant improvements as deferred rent, which is included in other noncurrent liabilities in the consolidated balance sheets. This deferred rent is amortized over the lease term as a reduction of rent expense. Also, leasehold improvements are amortized using the straight-line method over the shorter of their estimated useful lives or the related lease term. See Note 1 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for further information on the Company's accounting for its leases.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets

The Company primarily invests in property and equipment in connection with the opening and remodeling of stores and in computer software and hardware. The Company periodically reviews its store locations and estimates the recoverability of its assets, recording an impairment charge, if necessary, when the Company decides to close the store or otherwise determines that future estimated undiscounted cash flows associated with those assets will not be sufficient to recover the carrying value. This determination is based on a number of factors, including the store's historical operating results and cash flows, estimated future sales growth, real estate development in the area and perceived local market conditions that can be difficult to predict and may be subject to change. In addition, the Company regularly evaluates its computer-related and other long-lived assets and may accelerate depreciation over the revised useful life if the asset is expected to be replaced or has limited future value. When assets are retired or otherwise disposed of, the cost and related accumulated depreciation or amortization are removed from the accounts, and any resulting gain or loss is reflected in income for that period.

Insurance Liabilities

The Company is primarily self-insured for health care, workers' compensation and general liability costs. These costs are significant primarily due to the large number of the Company's retail locations and associates. The Company's self-insurance liabilities are based on the total estimated costs of claims filed

and estimates of claims incurred but not reported, less amounts paid against such claims, and are not discounted. Management reviews current and historical claims data in developing its estimates. The Company also uses information provided by outside actuaries with respect to health care, workers' compensation and general liability claims. If the underlying facts and circumstances of the claims change or the historical experience upon which insurance provisions are recorded is not indicative of future trends, then the Company may be required to make adjustments to the provision for insurance costs that could be material to the Company's reported financial condition and results of operations. Historically, actual results have not significantly deviated from estimates.

Uncertain Tax Positions

The Company records liabilities for uncertain tax positions principally related to state income taxes as of the balance sheet date. These liabilities reflect the Company's best estimate of its ultimate income tax liability based on the tax codes, regulations, and pronouncements of the jurisdictions in which we do business. Estimating our ultimate tax liability involves significant judgments regarding the application of complex tax regulations across many jurisdictions. Despite the Company's belief that the estimates and judgments are reasonable, differences between the estimated and actual tax liabilities can and do exist from time to time. These differences may arise from settlements of tax audits, expiration of the statute of limitations, or the evolution and application of the various jurisdictional tax codes and regulations. Any differences will be recorded in the period in which they become known and could have a material effect on the results of operations in the period the adjustment is recorded.

Revenue Recognition

While the Company's recognition of revenue is predominantly derived from routine retail transactions and does not involve significant judgment, revenue recognition represents an important accounting policy of the Company. As discussed in Note 1 to the Consolidated Financial Statements, the Company recognizes sales at the point of purchase when the customer takes possession of the merchandise and pays for the purchase, generally with cash or credit. Sales from purchases made with Cato credit, gift cards and layaway sales are also recorded when the customer takes possession of the merchandise. Gift cards are recorded as deferred revenue within accrued expenses until they are redeemed or forfeited. Layaway sales are recorded as deferred revenue within accrued expenses until the customer takes possession or forfeits the merchandise. Gift cards do not have expiration dates. A provision is made for estimated product returns based on sales volumes and the Company's experience; actual returns have not varied materially from amounts provided historically.

The Company recognizes income on unredeemed gift cards ("gift card breakage") as a component of other income. Gift card breakage is determined after 60 months when the likelihood of the remaining balances being redeemed is remote based on our historical redemption data and there is no legal obligation to remit the remaining balances to relevant jurisdictions. Gift card breakage income is analyzed and recognized on a quarterly basis and is not expected to be material.

Finance revenue on the Company's private label credit card portfolio is recognized as earned under the interest method. Late fees are recognized as earned, less provisions for estimated uncollectible fees.

Liquidity, Capital Resources and Market Risk

The Company has consistently maintained a strong liquidity position. Cash provided by operating activities during fiscal 2012 was \$80.4 million as compared to \$81.3 million in fiscal 2011. These amounts have enabled the Company to fund its regular operating needs, capital expenditure program, cash dividend payments and selective repurchases of the Company's common stock. In addition, the Company maintains \$35.0 million of unsecured revolving credit facilities for short-term financing of seasonal cash needs, none of which was outstanding at February 2, 2013.

Cash provided by operating activities for these periods was primarily generated by earnings adjusted for depreciation, deferred taxes, and changes in working capital. The decrease of \$0.9 million for fiscal 2012 over fiscal 2011 is primarily due to a decrease in net income and an increase in merchandise inventories and prepaid assets, partially offset by a decrease in accrued bonus and accounts receivables.

The Company believes that its cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments, together with cash flows from operations and borrowings available under its revolving credit agreement, will be adequate to fund the Company's proposed capital expenditures, dividends and other operating requirements for fiscal 2013 and for the foreseeable future.

At February 2, 2013, the Company had working capital of \$230.6 million compared to \$272.1 million and \$251.5 million at January 28, 2012 and January 29, 2011, respectively. Additionally, the Company had \$1.0 million, \$2.0 million, and \$2.4 million invested in privately managed investment funds and other miscellaneous equities for fiscal years 2012, 2011, and 2010, respectively, which are reported under Other assets in the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

At February 2, 2013, the Company had an unsecured revolving credit agreement, which provided for borrowings of up to \$35.0 million. The revolving credit agreement is committed until August 2013. The Company is in the process of extending the credit agreement. The credit agreement contains various financial covenants and limitations, including the maintenance of specific financial ratios with which the Company was in compliance as of February 2, 2013. There were no borrowings outstanding under this credit facility during the fiscal year ended February 2, 2013 or the fiscal year ended January 28, 2012.

The Company had approximately \$2.9 million, \$2.3 million, and \$7.2 at February 2, 2013, January 28, 2012, and January 29, 2011, respectively, of outstanding irrevocable letters of credit relating to purchase commitments.

Expenditures for property and equipment totaled \$45.2 million, \$35.9 million and \$19.6 million in fiscal 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively. The expenditures for fiscal 2012 were primarily for store development, investments in new technology, general office expansion, and land acquisition. In fiscal 2013, the Company is planning to invest approximately \$43.8 million in capital expenditures. This includes expenditures to open 40 new Cato stores, five new It's Fashion stores, five new It's Fashion Metro stores including the conversion of up to two It's Fashion stores to It's Fashion Metro stores, 15 new Versona Accessories stores, the relocation of 15 Cato stores and the remodeling of 10 Cato stores. In addition, the Company has planned for additional investments in technology, the completion of the general office addition, the renovation of the current office space, and additional investment into our e-commerce initiative, all to be implemented or begun over the next 12 months.

Net cash provided by investing activities totaled \$2.1 million for fiscal 2012 compared to \$59.7 million and \$55.7 million used for the comparable periods of 2011 and 2010. The increase in cash was due primarily to an increase in sales of short-term investments partially offset by an increase in expenditures for property and equipment.

On May 24, 2012, the Board of Directors increased the quarterly dividend by 9% from \$.23 per share to \$.25 per share.

On November 30, 2012, the Board of Directors declared a special dividend of \$1.00 per share and accelerated the 2013 dividend of \$1.00 per share. Both were paid on December 28, 2012 to shareholders of record on December 14, 2012. Including the regular quarterly dividend of \$0.25 per share, approximately \$66.0 million was paid.

The Company does not use derivative financial instruments.

See Note 4, "Fair Value Measurements," for information regarding the Company's financial assets that are measured at fair value.

The Company's investment portfolio was primarily invested in corporate bonds and tax-exempt and taxable governmental debt securities held in managed accounts with underlying ratings of A or better at February 2, 2013. At January 28, 2012, the Company also held tax-exempt variable rate demand notes ("VRDN"). At February 2, 2013, the securities had contractual maturities which range from 13 days to 28 years. Although the Company's investments in VRDN's had underlying securities with contractual maturities longer than one year, the VRDN's themselves have interest rate resets of 7 days and were considered short-term investments. These securities are classified as available-for-sale and are recorded as Short-term investments, Restricted investments and Other assets on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets at estimated fair value, with unrealized gains and losses reported net of taxes in Accumulated other comprehensive income.

Additionally, at February 2, 2013, the Company had \$0.6 million of privately managed funds, \$0.5 million of corporate equities and a single auction rate security ("ARS") of \$3.5 million which continues to fail its auction. All of these assets are recorded within Other assets in the Consolidated Balance Sheets. At January 28, 2012, the Company had \$1.6 million of privately managed funds, \$0.4 million of corporate equities, and a single ARS of \$3.5 million, all of which are recorded within Other assets in the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Level 1 category securities are measured at fair value using quoted active market prices. Level 2 investment securities include corporate and municipal bonds for which quoted prices may not be available on active exchanges for identical instruments. Their fair value is principally based on market values determined by management with assistance of a third party pricing service. Since quoted prices in active markets for identical assets are not available, these prices are determined by the pricing service using observable market information such as quotes from less active markets and/or quoted prices of securities with similar characteristics, among other factors.

The ARS of \$3,450,000 par value was issued by the Wake County, NC Industrial Facilities & Pollution Control Financing Authority. The security is an obligation of Carolina Power & Light Company and has a credit rating of AAA. The Company has collected all interest payments when due since the security was purchased and continues to expect that it will receive all interest due on the security in full and on a timely basis in the future.

The Company's failed ARS is recorded at par value which approximates fair value using Level 3 inputs. Because there is no active market for this particular ARS, its fair value was determined through the use of a discounted cash flow analysis. The terms used in the analysis were based on management's estimate of the timing of future liquidity, which assumes that the security will be called or refinanced by the issuer or settled with a broker dealer prior to maturity. The discount rates used in the discounted cash flow analysis were based on market rates for similar liquid tax exempt securities with comparable ratings and maturities. Due to the uncertainty surrounding the timing of future liquidity, the Company also considered a liquidity/risk value reduction. In estimating the fair value of this ARS, the Company also considered the financial condition and near-term prospects of the issuer, the probability that the Company will be unable to collect all amounts due according to the contractual terms of the security and whether the security has been downgraded by a rating agency. The Company's valuation is sensitive to market conditions and management's judgment and can change significantly based on the assumptions used.

The Company's privately managed funds consist of two types of funds. The privately managed funds cannot be redeemed at net asset value at a specific date without advance notice. As a result, the Company has classified the investments as Level 3.

Deferred compensation plan assets consist of life insurance policies. These life insurance policies are valued based on the cash surrender value of the insurance contract, which is determined based on such factors as the fair value of the underlying assets and discounted cash flow and are therefore classified within level 3 of the valuation hierarchy. The level 3 liability associated with the life insurance policies represents a deferred compensation obligation, the value of which is tracked via underlying insurance funds. These funds are designed to mirror existing mutual funds and money market funds that are observable and actively traded. Cash surrender values are provided by third parties and reviewed for reasonableness by the Company.

The following table shows the Company's obligations and commitments as of February 2, 2013, to make future payments under noncancellable contractual obligations (in thousands):

Contractual Obligations (1)	Payments Due During One Year Fiscal Period Ending						
	Total	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Thereafter
Merchandise letters of credit	\$ 2,869	\$ 2,869	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operating leases	182,940	62,637	43,100	31,685	21,272	12,324	11,922
Total Contractual Obligations	\$ 185,809	\$ 65,506	\$ 43,100	\$ 31,685	\$ 21,272	\$ 12,324	\$ 11,922

(1) In addition to the amounts shown in the table above, \$8.9 million of unrecognized tax benefits have been recorded as liabilities in accordance with ASC 740 and we are uncertain if or when such amounts may be settled. See Note 12, Income Taxes, of the Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In June 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued guidance on the presentation of comprehensive income in financial statements to improve the comparability, consistency and transparency of financial reporting and to increase the prominence of items that are recorded in other comprehensive income. The new accounting guidance requires entities to report components of comprehensive income in either (1) a continuous statement of comprehensive income or (2) two separate but consecutive statements. The provisions of this new guidance are effective for the Company the first quarter of fiscal 2012. The Company has adopted this guidance and it does not have any effect on operating results or financial position.

In January 2012, the Company adopted accounting guidance that amends the existing requirements for fair value measurement and disclosure. The guidance expands the disclosure requirements around fair value measurements categorized in Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy. It also requires disclosure of the level in the fair value hierarchy of items that are not measured at fair value in the statement of financial position but whose fair value must be disclosed. It also clarifies and expands upon existing requirements for measurement of the fair value of financial assets and liabilities as well as instruments classified in stockholders' equity. The adoption of this guidance did not have a significant impact on the consolidated financial statements.

In the first quarter of 2013, the Company will be required to adopt new accounting guidance requiring additional disclosures on reclassifications from accumulated other comprehensive income into net income. The new accounting guidance requires entities to report either parenthetically on the face of the financial statements or in the footnotes of these reclassifications for each financial statement line item. This new guidance only impacts disclosures and as such will have no impact on the Company's consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Item 7A. *Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk:*

The Company is subject to market rate risk from exposure to changes in interest rates based on its financing, investing and cash management activities, but the Company does not believe such exposure is material.

Item 8. *Financial Statements and Supplementary Data:*

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of The Cato Corporation:

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated balance sheets and the related consolidated statements of income and comprehensive income, stockholders' equity and cash flows present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Cato Corporation and its subsidiaries at February 2, 2013 and January 28, 2012, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended February 2, 2013 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, in our opinion, the financial statement schedule listed in the accompanying index and appearing on page S-2 presents fairly, in all material respects, the information set forth therein when read in conjunction with the related consolidated financial statements. Also in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of February 2, 2013, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). The Company's management is responsible for these financial statements and financial statement schedule, 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 opinions on these financial statements, on the financial statement schedule, and on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our integrated 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 audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement and whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audits of the financial statements included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed 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 (i) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (ii) 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 (iii) 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 its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Charlotte, North Carolina
April 2, 2013

THE CATO CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	<u>Fiscal Year Ended</u>		
	<u>February 2, 2013</u>	<u>January 28, 2012</u>	<u>January 29, 2011</u>
	(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)		
REVENUES			
Retail sales	\$ 933,782	\$ 920,622	\$ 913,079
Other income (principally finance charges, late fees and layaway charges)	<u>10,266</u>	<u>10,836</u>	<u>11,606</u>
Total revenues	<u>944,048</u>	<u>931,458</u>	<u>924,685</u>
COSTS AND EXPENSES, NET			
Cost of goods sold (exclusive of depreciation shown below)	581,961	574,176	563,262
Selling, general and administrative (exclusive of depreciation shown below)	244,327	238,982	250,763
Depreciation	22,455	21,825	21,822
Interest expense	116	21	37
Interest and other income	<u>(3,782)</u>	<u>(3,817)</u>	<u>(3,971)</u>
Cost and expenses, net	<u>845,077</u>	<u>831,187</u>	<u>831,913</u>
Income before income taxes	98,971	100,271	92,772
Income tax expense	37,303	35,437	33,921
Net income	<u>\$ 61,668</u>	<u>\$ 64,834</u>	<u>\$ 58,851</u>
Basic earnings per share	<u>\$ 2.11</u>	<u>\$ 2.21</u>	<u>\$ 2.00</u>
Diluted earnings per share	<u>\$ 2.11</u>	<u>\$ 2.21</u>	<u>\$ 2.00</u>
Dividends per share	<u>\$ 2.980</u>	<u>\$ 0.875</u>	<u>\$ 0.720</u>
Comprehensive income:			
Net income	\$ 61,668	\$ 64,834	\$ 58,851
Unrealized gain (loss) on available-for-sale securities, net of deferred income taxes of (\$69), \$406, and (\$112) for fiscal 2012, 2011 and 2010 respectively	<u>(115)</u>	<u>660</u>	<u>(258)</u>
Comprehensive income	<u>\$ 61,553</u>	<u>\$ 65,494</u>	<u>\$ 58,593</u>

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

THE CATO CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

	February 2, 2013	January 28, 2012
	(Dollars in thousands)	
ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 31,069	\$ 34,893
Short-term investments	157,578	205,771
Restricted cash and investments	5,999	5,325
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$2,053 at February 2, 2013 and \$2,362 at January 28, 2012	40,016	43,024
Merchandise inventories	140,738	130,382
Deferred income taxes	4,631	3,579
Prepaid expenses	10,183	6,158
Total Current Assets	390,214	429,132
Property and equipment – net	134,227	115,445
Other assets	8,205	6,512
Total Assets	\$ 532,646	\$ 551,089
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 99,247	\$ 94,073
Accrued expenses	43,773	37,584
Accrued bonus and benefits	2,290	10,192
Accrued income taxes	14,292	15,144
Total Current Liabilities	159,602	156,993
Deferred income taxes	3,330	7,887
Other noncurrent liabilities (primarily deferred rent)	24,480	19,530
Commitments and contingencies:	-	-
Stockholders' Equity:		
Preferred stock, \$100 par value per share, 100,000 shares authorized, none issued	-	-
Class A common stock, \$.033 par value per share, 50,000,000 shares authorized; 27,543,376 and 27,418,884 shares issued at February 2, 2013 and January 28, 2012 respectively	918	914
Convertible Class B common stock, \$.033 par value per share, 15,000,000 shares authorized; 1,743,525 shares at February 2, 2013 and 1,743,525 shares at January 28, 2013	58	58
Additional paid-in capital	76,594	72,030
Retained earnings	266,843	292,741
Accumulated other comprehensive income	821	936
Total Stockholders' Equity	345,234	366,679
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	\$ 532,646	\$ 551,089

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

THE CATO CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	Year Ended		
	February 2, 2013	January 28, 2012	January 29, 2011
(Dollars in thousands)			
Operating Activities:			
Net income	\$ 61,668	\$ 64,834	\$ 58,851
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation	22,455	21,825	21,822
Provision for doubtful accounts	1,259	1,723	2,827
Share based compensation	2,796	2,559	2,341
Excess tax benefits from share-based compensation	(509)	(417)	(468)
Deferred income taxes	(5,540)	(1,944)	4,531
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	1,747	743	733
Impairment of store assets	2,011	-	-
Changes in operating assets and liabilities which provided (used) cash:			
Accounts receivable	1,749	(5,044)	(2,376)
Merchandise inventories	(10,356)	13,646	(14,380)
Prepaid and other assets	(5,689)	(1,968)	10
Accrued income taxes	(343)	3,700	1,389
Accounts payable, accrued expenses and other liabilities	9,103	(18,316)	4,196
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>80,351</u>	<u>81,341</u>	<u>79,476</u>
Investing Activities:			
Expenditures for property and equipment	(45,175)	(35,890)	(19,559)
Purchase of short-term investments	(108,662)	(109,098)	(144,630)
Sales of short-term investments	156,642	85,796	110,778
Change in restricted cash and investments provided (used)	(674)	(499)	(2,251)
Net cash provided (used) in investing activities	<u>2,131</u>	<u>(59,691)</u>	<u>(55,662)</u>
Financing Activities:			
Dividends paid	(87,222)	(25,715)	(21,216)
Repurchase of common stock	(367)	(10,622)	(5,863)
Proceeds from employee stock purchase plan	723	488	436
Excess tax benefits from share-based compensation	509	417	468
Proceeds from stock options exercised	51	45	606
Net cash provided (used) in financing activities	<u>(86,306)</u>	<u>(35,387)</u>	<u>(25,569)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(3,824)	(13,737)	(1,755)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	34,893	48,630	50,385
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	<u>\$ 31,069</u>	<u>\$ 34,893</u>	<u>\$ 48,630</u>

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

THE CATO CORPORATION

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

	Class A		Convertible		Additional Paid-in Capital	Retained Earnings	Accumulated		Total Stockholders' Equity
	Common Stock	Common Stock	Class B Common Stock	Other Comprehensive Income					
(Dollars in thousands)									
Balance — January 30, 2010	\$ 928	\$ 58	\$ 64,706	\$ 232,423	\$ 534				298,649
Comprehensive income:									
Net income	-	-	-	58,851	-	-	-	-	58,851
Unrealized losses on available-for-sale securities, net of deferred income tax benefit of (\$112)	-	-	-	-	(258)	-	-	(258)	(258)
Dividends paid (\$.72 per share)	-	-	-	-	(21,216)	-	-	(21,216)	(21,216)
Class A common stock sold through employee stock purchase plan — 23,849 shares	1	-	512	-	-	-	-	-	513
Class A common stock sold through stock option plans — 42,675 shares	1	-	739	-	-	-	-	-	740
Class A common stock issued through restricted stock grant plans 109,291 shares	4	-	2,299	13	-	-	-	-	2,316
Windfall tax benefit from equity compensation plans	-	-	281	-	-	-	-	-	281
Repurchase and retirement of treasury shares — 260,277 shares	(9)	-	-	(5,854)	-	-	-	-	(5,863)
Balance — January 29, 2011	\$ 925	\$ 58	\$ 68,537	\$ 264,217	\$ 276				334,013
Comprehensive income:									
Net income	-	-	-	64,834	-	-	-	-	64,834
Unrealized gains on available-for-sale securities, net of deferred income tax liability of \$406	-	-	-	-	660	-	-	660	660
Dividends paid (\$.875 per share)	-	-	-	(25,715)	-	-	-	(25,715)	(25,715)
Class A common stock sold through employee stock purchase plan — 23,975 shares	1	-	571	-	-	-	-	-	572
Class A common stock sold through stock option plans — 4,875 shares	-	-	290	-	-	-	-	-	290
Class A common stock issued through restricted stock grant plans 85,556 shares	3	-	2,459	12	-	-	-	-	2,474
Windfall tax benefit from equity compensation plans	-	-	173	-	-	-	-	-	173
Repurchase and retirement of treasury shares — 453,655 shares	(15)	-	-	(10,607)	-	-	-	-	(10,622)
Balance — January 28, 2012	\$ 914	\$ 58	\$ 72,030	\$ 292,741	\$ 936				366,679
Comprehensive income:									
Net income	-	-	-	61,668	-	-	-	-	61,668
Unrealized gains on available-for-sale securities, net of deferred income tax benefit of (\$69)	-	-	-	-	(115)	-	-	(115)	(115)
Dividends paid (\$2.98 per share)	-	-	-	(87,222)	-	-	-	(87,222)	(87,222)
Class A common stock sold through employee stock purchase plan — 32,995 shares	1	-	849	-	-	-	-	-	850
Class A common stock sold through stock option plans — 5,750 shares	-	-	562	-	-	-	-	-	562
Class A common stock issued through restricted stock grant plans 98,743 shares	3	-	2,644	23	-	-	-	-	2,670
Windfall tax benefit from equity compensation plans	-	-	509	-	-	-	-	-	509
Repurchase and retirement of treasury shares — 12,997 shares	-	-	-	(367)	-	-	-	-	(367)
Balance — February 2, 2013	\$ 918	\$ 58	\$ 76,594	\$ 266,843	\$ 821				345,234

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

THE CATO CORPORATION

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

Principles of Consolidation: The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of The Cato Corporation and its wholly-owned subsidiaries (the "Company"). All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated.

Correction of Prior Period Error: In connection with the preparation of our consolidated financial statements for the year ended February 2, 2013, the Company recorded the following out of period adjustments: (1) corrected its accounting for accrued landlord insurance by recording additional pre-tax expense of \$1.2 million in 2012 which originated prior to fiscal year 2008; (2) corrected fiscal year 2011 federal income tax expense by recording an additional \$1.1 million of income tax expense in 2012; and (3) corrected prior period state income tax expense of \$0.6 million in 2012, of which \$0.5 million originated in fiscal year 2011 and \$0.1 million in fiscal year 2010. The Company has assessed the materiality of these errors and concluded that the errors were not material to any of the current or previously issued financial statements.

Description of Business and Fiscal Year: The Company has two reportable segments — the operation of a fashion specialty stores segment ("Retail Segment") and a credit card segment ("Credit Segment"). The apparel specialty stores operate under the names "Cato," "Cato Fashions," "Cato Plus," "It's Fashion," "It's Fashion Metro" and "Versona Accessories" and are located primarily in strip shopping centers principally in the southeastern United States. The Company's fiscal year ends on the Saturday nearest January 31.

Use of Estimates: The preparation of the Company's financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States ("GAAP") requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Significant accounting estimates reflected in the Company's financial statements include the allowance for doubtful accounts receivable, reserves relating to self-insured health insurance, workers' compensation liabilities, general and auto insurance liabilities, inventory shrinkage, uncertain tax positions and the calculation of asset impairment.

Cash and Cash Equivalents: Cash equivalents consist of highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Short-Term Investments: Investments with original maturities beyond three months are classified as short-term investments. See Note 3 for the Company's estimated fair value of, and other information regarding, its short-term investments. The Company's short-term investments are all classified as available-for-sale. As they are available for current operations, they are classified on the Consolidated Balance Sheets as Current Assets. Available-for-sale securities are carried at fair value, with unrealized gains and temporary losses, net of income taxes, reported as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income. Other than temporary declines in the fair value of investments are recorded as a reduction in the cost of the investments in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets and a reduction of Interest and other income in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income. The cost of debt securities is adjusted for amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts to maturity. The amortization of premiums, accretion of discounts and realized gains and losses are included in Interest and other income.

THE CATO CORPORATION

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

Restricted Cash and Investments: In addition, the Company has \$6.0 million in escrow at February 2, 2013 as security and collateral for administration of the Company's self-insured workers' compensation and general liability coverage which is reported as Restricted cash and investments on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Supplemental Cash Flow Information: Income tax payments, net of refunds received, for the fiscal years ended February 2, 2013, January 28, 2012 and January 29, 2011 were \$43,124,000, \$34,290,000 and \$27,615,000, respectively.

Inventories: Merchandise inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market as determined by the weighted-average cost method.

Property and Equipment: Property and equipment are recorded at cost. Maintenance and repairs are expensed to operations as incurred; renewals and betterments are capitalized. Depreciation is determined on the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the related assets excluding leasehold improvements. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the shorter of the estimated useful life or lease term. For leases with renewal periods at the Company's option, the Company generally uses the original lease term plus reasonably assured renewal option periods (generally one five year option period) to determine estimated useful lives. Typical estimated useful lives are as follows:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Estimated Useful Lives</u>
Land improvements	10 years
Buildings	30-40 years
Leasehold improvements	5-10 years
Fixtures and equipment	3-10 years
Information technology equipment and software	3-10 years

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets

The Company invests in property and equipment primarily in connection with the opening and remodeling of stores and in computer software and hardware. The Company periodically reviews its store locations and estimates the recoverability of its assets, recording an impairment charge, if necessary, when the Company decides to close the store or otherwise determines that future estimated undiscounted cash flows associated with those assets will not be sufficient to recover the carrying value. This determination is based on a number of factors, including the store's historical operating results and cash flows, estimated future sales growth, real estate development in the area and perceived local market conditions that can be difficult to predict and may be subject to change. Store asset impairment charges incurred in fiscal 2012 were \$2,011,000. Store asset impairment charges incurred in fiscal 2011 and 2010 are de minimis. In addition, the Company regularly evaluates its computer-related and other long-lived assets and may accelerate depreciation over the revised useful life if the asset is expected to be replaced or has limited future value. When assets are retired or otherwise disposed of, the cost and related accumulated depreciation or amortization are removed from the accounts, and any resulting gain or loss is reflected in income for that period.

Leases

The Company determines the classification of leases consistent with ASC 840 - *Leases*. The Company leases all of its retail stores. Most lease agreements contain construction allowances and rent escalations. For purposes of recognizing incentives and minimum rental expenses on a straight-line basis

THE CATO CORPORATION

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

over the terms of the leases, including renewal periods considered reasonably assured, the Company begins amortization as of the initial possession date which is when the Company enters the space and begins to make improvements in preparation for intended use.

For construction allowances, the Company records a deferred rent liability in Other noncurrent liabilities on the Consolidated Balance Sheets and amortizes the deferred rent over the term of the respective lease as a reduction to Cost of goods sold on the Consolidated Statements of Income and Comprehensive Income.

For scheduled rent escalation clauses during the lease terms or for rental payments commencing at a date other than the date of initial occupancy, the Company records minimum rental expenses on a straight-line basis over the terms of the leases.

Revenue Recognition

The Company recognizes sales at the point of purchase when the customer takes possession of the merchandise and pays for the purchase, generally with cash or credit. Sales from purchases made with Cato credit, gift cards and layaway sales are also recorded when the customer takes possession of the merchandise. Gift cards are recorded as deferred revenue until they are redeemed or forfeited. Layaway sales are recorded as deferred revenue until the customer takes possession or forfeits the merchandise. Gift cards do not have expiration dates. A provision is made for estimated merchandise returns based on sales volumes and the Company's experience; actual returns have not varied materially from amounts provided historically.

In fiscal 2012, 2011 and 2010, the Company recognized \$500,000, \$470,000 and \$391,000, respectively, of income on unredeemed gift cards ("gift card breakage") as a component of Other income on the Consolidated Statements of Income and Comprehensive Income. Gift card breakage is determined after 60 months when the likelihood of the remaining balances being redeemed is remote based on our historical redemption data and there is no legal obligation to remit the remaining balances to relevant jurisdictions.

The Company offers its own credit card to customers. All credit activity is performed by the Company's wholly-owned subsidiaries. None of the credit card receivables are secured. Finance income is recognized as earned under the interest method and late charges are recognized in the month in which they are assessed, net of provisions for estimated uncollectible amounts. The Company evaluates the collectability of accounts receivable and records an allowance for doubtful accounts based on the aging of accounts and estimates of actual write-offs. Finance revenue on the Company's private label credit card portfolio is recognized as earned under the interest method. Late fees are recognized as earned, less provisions for estimated uncollectible fees.

Cost of Goods Sold: Cost of goods sold includes merchandise costs, net of discounts and allowances, buying costs, distribution costs, occupancy costs, freight, and inventory shrinkage. Net merchandise costs and in-bound freight are capitalized as inventory costs. Buying and distribution costs include payroll, payroll-related costs and operating expenses for our buying departments and distribution center. Occupancy expenses include rent, real estate taxes, insurance, common area maintenance, utilities and maintenance for stores and distribution facilities. Buying, distribution, occupancy and internal transfer costs are treated as period costs and are not capitalized as part of inventory.

Advertising: Advertising costs are expensed in the period in which they are incurred. Advertising expense was approximately \$6,186,000, \$7,056,000 and \$6,663,000 for the fiscal years ended February 2, 2013, January 28, 2012 and January 29, 2011, respectively.

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

Stock Repurchase Program: For fiscal year ending February 2, 2013, the Company had 1,976,300 shares remaining in open authorization. There is no specified expiration date for the Company's repurchase program.

Earnings Per Share: ASC 260 - *Earnings Per Share*, requires dual presentation of basic EPS and diluted EPS on the face of all income statements for all entities with complex capital structures. The Company has presented one basic EPS and one diluted EPS amount for all common shares in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income. While the Company's certificate of incorporation provides the right for the Board of Directors to declare dividends on Class A shares without declaration of commensurate dividends on Class B shares, the Company has historically paid the same dividends to both Class A and Class B shareholders and the Board of Directors has resolved to continue this practice. Accordingly, the Company's allocation of income for purposes of EPS computation is the same for Class A and Class B shares and the EPS amounts reported herein are applicable to both Class A and Class B shares.

Basic EPS is computed as net income less earnings allocated to non-vested equity awards divided by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted EPS reflects the potential dilution that could occur from common shares issuable through stock options and the Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

	Fiscal Year Ended		
	February 2, 2013	January 28, 2012	January 29, 2011
Numerator			
Net earnings	\$ 61,668	\$ 64,834	\$ 58,851
Earnings allocated to non-vested equity awards	(894)	(1,016)	(989)
Net earnings available to common stockholders	\$ 60,774	\$ 63,818	\$ 57,862
Denominator			
Basic weighted average common shares outstanding	28,796,815	28,896,355	28,985,627
Dilutive effect of stock options and restricted stock	3,563	4,930	6,692
Diluted weighted average common shares outstanding	28,800,378	28,901,285	28,992,319
Net income per common share			
Basic earnings per share	\$ 2.11	\$ 2.21	\$ 2.00
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 2.11	\$ 2.21	\$ 2.00

Vendor Allowances: The Company receives certain allowances from vendors primarily related to purchase discounts and markdown and damage allowances. All allowances are reflected in cost of goods sold as earned when the related products are sold. Cash consideration received from a vendor is presumed to be a reduction of the purchase cost of merchandise and is reflected as a reduction of inventory. The Company does not receive cooperative advertising allowances.

Income Taxes: The Company files a consolidated federal income tax return. Income taxes are provided based on the asset and liability method of accounting, whereby deferred income taxes are provided for temporary differences between the financial reporting basis and the tax basis of the

THE CATO CORPORATION

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

Company's assets and liabilities.

Unrecognized tax benefits for uncertain tax positions are established in accordance with ASC 740 when, despite the fact that the tax return positions are supportable, the Company believes these positions may be challenged and the results are uncertain. The Company adjusts these liabilities in light of changing facts and circumstances. Potential accrued interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits within operations are recognized as a component of earnings before taxes.

Store Opening Costs: Costs relating to the opening of new stores or the relocating or expanding of existing stores are expensed as incurred. A portion of construction, design, and site selection costs are capitalized to new, relocated and remodeled stores.

Closed Store Lease Obligations: At the time stores are closed, provisions are made for the rentals required to be paid over the remaining lease terms on a discounted cash flow basis, reduced by any expected sublease rentals.

Insurance: The Company is self-insured with respect to employee health care, workers' compensation and general liability. The Company's self-insurance liabilities are based on the total estimated cost of claims filed and estimates of claims incurred but not reported, less amounts paid against such claims, and are not discounted. Management reviews current and historical claims data in developing its estimates. The Company has stop-loss insurance coverage for individual claims in excess of \$300,000 for employee healthcare, \$350,000 for workers' compensation and \$250,000 for general liability.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments: The Company's carrying values of financial instruments, such as cash and cash equivalents, short-term investments, restricted cash and short-term investments, approximate their fair values due to their short terms to maturity and/or their variable interest rates.

Stock Based Compensation: The Company records compensation expense associated with restricted stock and other forms of equity compensation in accordance with ASC 718 - *Compensation - Stock Compensation*. Compensation cost associated with stock awards recognized in all years presented includes: 1) amortization related to the remaining unvested portion of all stock awards based on the grant date fair value and 2) adjustments for the effects of actual forfeitures versus initial estimated forfeitures.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In June 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued guidance on the presentation of comprehensive income in financial statements to improve the comparability, consistency and transparency of financial reporting and to increase the prominence of items that are recorded in other comprehensive income. The new accounting guidance requires entities to report components of comprehensive income in either (1) a continuous statement of comprehensive income or (2) two separate but consecutive statements. The provisions of this new guidance are effective for the Company the first quarter of fiscal 2012. The Company has adopted this guidance and it does not have any effect on operating results or financial position.

In January 2012, the Company adopted accounting guidance that amends the existing requirements for fair value measurement and disclosure. The guidance expands the disclosure requirements around fair value measurements categorized in Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy. It also requires disclosure of the level in the fair value hierarchy of items that are not measured at fair value in the statement of financial position but whose fair value must be disclosed. It also clarifies and expands upon existing requirements for measurement of the fair value of financial assets and liabilities as well as instruments classified in

THE CATO CORPORATION

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

stockholders' equity. The adoption of this guidance did not have a significant impact on the Consolidated Financial Statements.

In the first quarter of 2013, the Company will be required to adopt new accounting guidance requiring additional disclosures on reclassifications from accumulated other comprehensive income into net income. The new accounting guidance requires entities to report either parenthetically on the face of the financial statements or in the footnotes of these reclassifications for each financial statement line item. This new guidance only impacts disclosures and as such will have no impact on the Company's consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

2. Interest and Other Income:

The components of Interest and other income are shown below (in thousands):

	<u>February 2, 2013</u>	<u>January 28, 2012</u>	<u>January 29, 2011</u>
Dividend income	\$ (19)	\$ (16)	\$ (15)
Interest income	(1,518)	(1,618)	(1,544)
Miscellaneous income	(1,852)	(1,943)	(2,334)
Net gain on investment sales	<u>(393)</u>	<u>(240)</u>	<u>(78)</u>
Interest and other income	<u>\$ (3,782)</u>	<u>\$ (3,817)</u>	<u>\$ (3,971)</u>

3. Short-Term Investments:

At February 2, 2013, the Company's investment portfolio was primarily invested in governmental debt securities held in managed accounts. These securities are classified as available-for-sale as they are highly liquid and are recorded on the Consolidated Balance Sheets at estimated fair value, with unrealized gains and temporary losses reported net of taxes in Accumulated other comprehensive income.

The table below reflects gross accumulated unrealized gains (losses) in short-term investments at February 2, 2013 and January 28, 2012.

	<u>February 2, 2013</u>			<u>January 28, 2012</u>		
	<u>Debt securities issued by various states of the United States and political subdivisions of the states</u>	<u>Corporate debt securities</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Debt securities issued by various states of the United States and political subdivisions of the states</u>	<u>Corporate debt securities</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cost basis	148,605	7,989	156,594	177,019	27,552	204,571
Unrealized gains	980	46	1,026	1,032	187	1,219
Unrealized (loss)	<u>(42)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(42)</u>	<u>(12)</u>	<u>(7)</u>	<u>(19)</u>
Estimated fair value	<u>\$ 149,543</u>	<u>\$ 8,035</u>	<u>\$ 157,578</u>	<u>\$ 178,039</u>	<u>\$ 27,732</u>	<u>\$ 205,771</u>

Accumulated other comprehensive income on the Consolidated Balance Sheets reflects the accumulated unrealized net gains in short-term investments in addition to unrealized gains from equity investments and restricted cash investments. The table below reflects gross accumulated unrealized gains in these investments at February 2, 2013 and January 28, 2012.

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

Security Type	February 2, 2013			January 28, 2012		
	Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	Deferred Tax Benefit	Unrealized Net Gain/(Loss)	Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	Deferred Tax Benefit	Unrealized Net Gain/(Loss)
Short-Term Investments	\$ 990	\$ (372)	\$ 618	\$ 1,200	\$ (451)	\$ 749
Equity Investments	326	(123)	203	300	(113)	187
Total	\$ 1,316	\$ (495)	\$ 821	\$ 1,500	\$ (564)	\$ 936

4. Fair Value Measurements:

The following tables set forth information regarding the Company's financial assets that are measured at fair value (in thousands) as of February 2, 2013 and January 28, 2012.

Description	February 2, 2013	Prices in	Significant	Significant
		Active Markets for Identical Assets Level 1	Other Observable Inputs Level 2	Unobservable Inputs Level 3
Assets:				
State/Municipal Bonds	\$ 151,377	\$ -	\$ 151,377	\$ -
Corporate Bonds	8,035	-	8,035	-
Auction Rate Securities (ARS)	3,450	-	-	3,450
U.S. Treasury Notes	3,906	3,906	-	-
Cash Surrender Value of Life Insurance	2,051	-	-	2,051
Privately Managed Funds	561	-	-	561
Corporate Equities	474	474	-	-
Certificates of Deposit	100	100	-	-
Total Assets	\$ 169,954	\$ 4,480	\$ 159,412	\$ 6,062
Liabilities:				
Deferred Compensation	(2,178)	-	-	(2,178)
Total Liabilities	\$ (2,178)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (2,178)

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

<u>Description</u>	<u>January 28, 2012</u>	<u>Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets Level 1</u>	<u>Significant Other Observable Inputs Level 2</u>	<u>Significant Unobservable Inputs Level 3</u>
State/Municipal Bonds	\$ 152,650	\$ -	\$ 152,650	\$ -
Corporate Bonds	27,732	-	27,732	-
Auction Rate Securities (ARS)	3,450	-	-	3,450
Variable Rate Demand Notes (VRDN)	26,472	26,472	-	-
U.S. Treasury Notes	3,174	3,174	-	-
Privately Managed Funds	1,604	-	-	1,604
Corporate Equities	443	443	-	-
Certificates of Deposit	100	100	-	-
Total	<u>\$ 215,625</u>	<u>\$ 30,189</u>	<u>\$ 180,382</u>	<u>\$ 5,054</u>

The Company's investment portfolio was primarily invested in corporate bonds and tax-exempt and taxable governmental debt securities held in managed accounts with underlying ratings of A or better at February 2, 2013. At January 28, 2012, the Company also held tax-exempt variable rate demand notes ("VRDN"). At February 2, 2013, the securities had contractual maturities which range from 13 days to 28 years. Although the Company's investments in VRDN's had underlying securities with contractual maturities longer than one year, the VRDN's themselves have interest rate resets of 7 days and were considered short-term investments. These securities are classified as available-for-sale and are recorded as Short-term investments, Restricted investments and Other assets on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets at estimated fair value, with unrealized gains and losses reported net of taxes in Accumulated other comprehensive income.

Additionally, at February 2, 2013, the Company had \$0.6 million of privately managed funds, \$0.5 million of corporate equities and a single auction rate security ("ARS") of \$3.5 million which continues to fail its auction. At January 28, 2012, the Company had \$1.6 million of privately managed funds, \$0.4 million of corporate equities and a single ARS of \$3.5 million. All of these assets are recorded within Other assets in the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Level 1 category securities are measured at fair value using quoted active market prices. Level 2 investment securities include corporate and municipal bonds for which quoted prices may not be available on active exchanges for identical instruments. Their fair value is principally based on market values determined by management with assistance of a third party pricing service. Since quoted prices in active markets for identical assets are not available, these prices are determined by the pricing service using observable market information such as quotes from less active markets and/or quoted prices of securities with similar characteristics, among other factors.

The ARS of \$3,450,000 par value was issued by the Wake County, NC Industrial Facilities & Pollution Control Financing Authority. The security is an obligation of Carolina Power & Light Company and has a credit rating of AAA. The Company has collected all interest payments when due since the security was purchased and continues to expect that it will receive all interest due on the security in full and on a timely basis in the future.

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

The Company's failed ARS is recorded at par value which approximates fair value using Level 3 inputs at each reporting period. Because there is no active market for this particular ARS, its fair value was determined to approximate par value based on an estimate of fair value through the use of a discounted cash flow analysis. The terms used in the analysis were based on management's estimate of the timing of future liquidity, which assumes that the security will be called or refinanced by the issuer or settled with a broker dealer prior to maturity. The discount rates used in the discounted cash flow analysis were based on market rates for similar liquid tax exempt securities with comparable ratings and maturities. Due to the uncertainty surrounding the timing of future liquidity, the Company also considered a liquidity/risk value reduction. In estimating the fair value of this ARS, the Company also considered the financial condition and near-term prospects of the issuer, the probability that the Company will be unable to collect all amounts due according to the contractual terms of the security and whether the security has been downgraded by a rating agency. The Company's valuation is sensitive to market conditions and management's judgment and can change significantly based on the assumptions used.

The Company's privately managed funds consist of two types of funds. The privately managed funds cannot be redeemed at net asset value at a specific date without advance notice. As a result, the Company has classified the investments as Level 3.

Deferred compensation plan assets consist of life insurance policies. These life insurance policies are valued based on the cash surrender value of the insurance contract, which is determined based on such factors as the fair value of the underlying assets and discounted cash flow and are therefore classified within level 3 of the valuation hierarchy. The level 3 liability associated with the life insurance policies represents a deferred compensation obligation, the value of which is tracked via underlying insurance funds. These funds are designed to mirror existing mutual funds and money market funds that are observable and actively traded. Cash surrender values are provided by third parties and reviewed for reasonableness by the Company.

**Fair Value Measurements Using Significant
Unobservable Asset Inputs (Level 3)**

	<u>Available-For-Sale</u>		<u>Other</u>		<u>Cash</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Debt Securities</u>		<u>Investments</u>			
	<u>ARS</u>		<u>Private Equity</u>			
Beginning Balance at January 28, 2012	\$ 3,450		\$ 1,604		\$ -	\$ 5,054
Redemptions	-		(1,041)		-	(1,041)
Additions	-		-		1,932	1,932
Total gains or (losses)						
Included in earnings (or changes in net assets)	-		-		119	119
Included in other comprehensive income	-		(2)		-	(2)
Ending Balance at February 2, 2013	<u>\$ 3,450</u>		<u>\$ 561</u>		<u>\$ 2,051</u>	<u>\$ 6,062</u>

**Fair Value Measurements Using Significant
Unobservable Liability Inputs (Level 3)**

	<u>Deferred</u>	
	<u>Compensation</u>	<u>Total</u>
Beginning Balance at January 28, 2012	\$ -	\$ -
Additions	(2,001)	(2,001)
Total (gains) or losses		
Included in earnings (or changes in net assets)	(177)	(177)
Ending Balance at February 2, 2013	<u>\$ (2,178)</u>	<u>\$ (2,178)</u>

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

	Fair Value Measurements Using Significant Unobservable Asset Inputs (Level 3)		
	Available-For-Sale Debt Securities	Other Investments	Total
	ARS	Private Equity	
	ARS	Private Equity	Total
Beginning Balance at January 29, 2011	\$ 3,450	\$ 1,925	\$ 5,375
Redemptions	-	(321)	(321)
Total gains or (losses)			
Included in earnings (or changes in net assets)	-	-	-
Included in other comprehensive income	-	-	-
Ending Balance at January 28, 2012	\$ 3,450	\$ 1,604	\$ 5,054

Quantitative information regarding the significant unobservable inputs related to the ARS as of February 2, 2013 were as follows:

Fair Value	Valuation Technique	Unobservable Inputs	
\$3,450	Net present value of cash flows	Total Term	9.66 Years
		Yield	0.23%
		Comparative bond discount rate	0.21%

Significant increases or decreases in certain of the inputs could result in a lower fair value measurement. For example, a decrease in the yield, or an increase to the comparative bond discount rate could result in a lower fair value.

5. Accounts Receivable:

Accounts receivable consist of the following (in thousands):

	February 2, 2013	January 28, 2012
Customer accounts — principally deferred payment accounts	\$ 29,936	\$ 32,963
Miscellaneous trade receivables	12,133	12,423
Total	42,069	45,386
Less allowance for doubtful accounts	2,053	2,362
Accounts receivable — net	\$ 40,016	\$ 43,024

Finance charge and late charge revenue on customer deferred payment accounts totaled \$6,929,000, \$7,716,000 and \$8,535,000 for the fiscal years ended February 2, 2013, January 28, 2012 and January 29, 2011, respectively, and charges against the allowance for doubtful accounts were approximately \$1,259,000, \$1,723,000 and \$2,827,000 for the fiscal years ended February 2, 2013, January 28, 2012 and January 29, 2011, respectively. Expenses relating to the allowance for doubtful accounts are classified as a component of Selling, general and administrative expense in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income and Comprehensive Income.

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

6. Property and Equipment:

Property and equipment consist of the following (in thousands):

	February 2, 2013	January 28, 2012
Land and improvements	\$ 6,980	\$ 6,874
Buildings	25,948	19,982
Leasehold improvements	86,540	75,378
Fixtures and equipment	199,815	184,476
Information technology equipment and software	57,378	54,153
Construction in progress	9,004	6,892
Total	385,665	347,755
Less accumulated depreciation	251,438	232,310
Property and equipment — net	\$ 134,227	\$ 115,445

Construction in progress primarily represents costs related to new store development and investments in new technology.

7. Accrued Expenses:

Accrued expenses consist of the following (in thousands):

	February 2, 2013	January 28, 2012
Accrued payroll and related items	\$ 7,929	\$ 7,642
Property and other taxes	14,011	12,599
Accrued self-insurance	9,706	7,797
Other	12,127	9,546
Total	\$ 43,773	\$ 37,584

8. Financing Arrangements

As of February 2, 2013, the Company had an unsecured revolving credit agreement to borrow \$35.0 million. The revolving credit agreement is committed until August 2013. The Company is in the process of extending the credit agreement. The credit agreement contains various financial covenants and limitations, including the maintenance of specific financial ratios with which the Company was in compliance as of February 2, 2013. There were no borrowings outstanding under this credit facility during the periods ended February 2, 2013, January 28, 2012 or January 29, 2011. Interest on any borrowings is based on One Month LIBOR, which was 0.199% at February 2, 2013.

At February 2, 2013, January 28, 2012 and January 29, 2011, the Company had approximately \$2.9 million, \$2.3 million and \$7.2 million, respectively, of outstanding irrevocable letters of credit relating to purchase commitments.

9. Stockholders' Equity:

The holders of Class A Common Stock are entitled to one vote per share, whereas the holders of Class B Common Stock are entitled to ten votes per share. Each share of Class B Common Stock may be converted at any time into one share of Class A Common Stock. Subject to the rights of the holders of any shares of Preferred Stock that may be outstanding at the time, in the event of liquidation, dissolution or

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

winding up of the Company, holders of Class A Common Stock are entitled to receive a preferential distribution of \$1.00 per share of the net assets of the Company. Cash dividends on the Class B Common Stock cannot be paid unless cash dividends of at least an equal amount are paid on the Class A Common Stock.

The Company's certificate of incorporation provides that shares of Class B Common Stock may be transferred only to certain "Permitted Transferees" consisting generally of the lineal descendants of holders of Class B Stock, trusts for their benefit, corporations and partnerships controlled by them and the Company's employee benefit plans. Any transfer of Class B Common Stock in violation of these restrictions, including a transfer to the Company, results in the automatic conversion of the transferred shares of Class B Common Stock held by the transferee into an equal number of shares of Class A Common Stock.

On March 25, 2013, the Company paid a quarterly dividend of \$0.05 per share.

10. Employee Benefit Plans:

The Company has a defined contribution retirement savings plan ("401(k) plan") which covers all associates who meet minimum age and service requirements. The 401(k) plan allows participants to contribute up to 60% of their annual compensation up to the maximum elective deferral, designated by the IRS. The Company is obligated to make a minimum contribution to cover plan administrative expenses. Further Company contributions are at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The Company's contributions for the years ended February 2, 2013, January 28, 2012 and January 29, 2011 were approximately \$1,186,000, \$1,200,000 and \$1,181,000, respectively.

The Company has a trustee, non-contributory Employee Stock Ownership Plan ("ESOP"), which covers substantially all associates who meet minimum age and service requirements. The amount of the Company's discretionary contribution to the ESOP is determined annually by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors and can be made in Company Class A Common stock or cash. The Company has chosen to contribute cash and the plan purchases stock on the open market consistent with prior years. The Committee approved a contribution of approximately \$508,000 for year ended February 2, 2013. The Company's contribution for the year ended January 28, 2012 was \$514,000 and year ended January 29, 2011 was \$12,586,000.

The Company is primarily self-insured for health care. These costs are significant primarily due to the large number of the Company's retail locations and associates. The Company's self-insurance liabilities are based on the total estimated costs of claims filed and estimates of claims incurred but not reported, less amounts paid against such claims. Management reviews current and historical claims data in developing its estimates. If the underlying facts and circumstances of the claims change or the historical trend is not indicative of future trends, then the Company may be required to record additional expense or a reduction to expense which could be material to the Company's reported financial condition and results of operations. The Company funds health care contributions to a third party provider.

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

11. Leases:

The Company has operating lease arrangements for store facilities and equipment. Facility leases generally are at a fixed rate for periods of five years with renewal options. For leases with landlord capital improvement funding, the funded amount is recorded as a deferred liability and amortized over the term of the lease as a reduction to rent expense on the Consolidated Statements of Income. Equipment leases are generally for one to three year periods.

The minimum rental commitments under non-cancelable operating leases are (in thousands):

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	
2013	\$ 62,637
2014	43,100
2015	31,685
2016	21,272
2017	12,324
Thereafter	<u>11,922</u>
Total minimum lease payments	<u>\$ 182,940</u>

The following schedule shows the composition of total rental expense for all leases (in thousands):

<u>Fiscal Year Ended</u>	<u>February 2, 2013</u>	<u>January 28, 2012</u>	<u>January 29, 2011</u>
Minimum rentals	\$ 59,887	\$ 56,671	\$ 53,680
Contingent rent	<u>16</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>30</u>
Total rental expense	<u>\$ 59,903</u>	<u>\$ 56,699</u>	<u>\$ 53,710</u>

12. Income Taxes:

Unrecognized tax benefits for uncertain tax positions are established in accordance with ASC 740 when, despite the fact that the tax return positions are supportable, the Company believes these positions may be challenged and the results are uncertain. The Company adjusts these liabilities in light of changing facts and circumstances. As of February 2, 2013, the Company had gross unrecognized tax benefits totaling approximately \$8.9 million, of which approximately \$6.2 million would affect the effective tax rate if recognized. The Company had approximately \$5.0 million, \$4.7 million and \$5.0 million of interest and penalties accrued related to uncertain tax positions as of February 2, 2013, January 28, 2012 and January 29, 2011, respectively. The Company recognizes interest and penalties related to the resolution of uncertain tax positions as a component of income tax expense. The Company recognized \$899,000, \$956,000 and \$760,000 of interest and penalties in the Consolidated Statement of Income and Comprehensive Income for the years ended February 2, 2013, January 28, 2012 and January 29, 2011, respectively. The Company is no longer subject to U.S. federal income tax examinations for years before 2008. In state and local tax jurisdictions, the Company has limited exposure before 2004. During the next 12 months, various state and local taxing authorities' statutes of limitations will expire and certain state examinations may close which could result in a potential reduction of unrecognized tax benefits.

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

A reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of gross unrecognized tax benefits is as follows (in thousands):

<u>Fiscal Year Ended</u>	<u>February 2, 2013</u>	<u>January 28, 2012</u>	<u>January 29, 2011</u>
Balances, beginning	\$ 8,689	\$ 8,343	\$ 10,331
Additions for tax positions of the current year	1,222	1,118	1,124
Additions for tax positions prior years	-	250	114
Reduction for tax positions of prior years for:			
Changes in judgment	-	-	(2,779)
Settlements during the period	(581)	(685)	(122)
Lapses of applicable statute of limitations	(438)	(337)	(325)
Balance, ending	<u>\$ 8,892</u>	<u>\$ 8,689</u>	<u>\$ 8,343</u>

The provision for income taxes consists of the following (in thousands):

<u>Fiscal Year Ended</u>	<u>February 2, 2013</u>	<u>January 28, 2012</u>	<u>January 29, 2011</u>
Current income taxes:			
Federal	\$ 38,415	\$ 29,048	\$ 24,916
State	4,429	3,181	3,166
Total	<u>42,844</u>	<u>32,229</u>	<u>28,082</u>
Deferred income taxes:			
Federal	(4,952)	2,867	5,217
State	(589)	341	622
Total	<u>(5,541)</u>	<u>3,208</u>	<u>5,839</u>
Total income tax expense	<u>\$ 37,303</u>	<u>\$ 35,437</u>	<u>\$ 33,921</u>

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

Significant components of the Company's deferred tax assets and liabilities as of February 2, 2013 and January 28, 2012 are as follows (in thousands):

	<u>February 2, 2013</u>	<u>January 28, 2012</u>
Deferred tax assets:		
Allowance for doubtful accounts	\$ 772	\$ 888
Inventory valuation	1,232	-
Capital loss carryforward	-	40
Deferred lease liability	4,174	5,145
Non-deductible accrued liabilities	1,355	1,232
Other taxes	1,564	1,420
Federal benefit of uncertain tax positions	3,910	3,803
Equity compensation expense	2,728	1,774
Other	1,952	1,411
Total deferred tax assets	<u>17,687</u>	<u>15,713</u>
Deferred tax liabilities		
Property and equipment	12,425	15,253
Unrealized gains on short-term investments	495	564
Health care expense	1,150	1,403
Inventory valuation	-	617
Other	2,316	2,184
Total deferred tax liabilities	<u>16,386</u>	<u>20,021</u>
Net deferred tax liabilities (assets)	<u>\$ (1,301)</u>	<u>\$ 4,308</u>

The reconciliation of the Company's effective income tax rate with the statutory rate is as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year Ended</u>	<u>February 2, 2013</u>	<u>January 28, 2012</u>	<u>January 29, 2011</u>
Federal income tax rate	35.0 %	35.0 %	35.0 %
State income taxes	3.2	1.7	2.7
Tax credits	(1.1)	(1.0)	(1.4)
Tax exempt interest	(0.5)	(0.5)	(0.4)
Effects of permanent differences	0.1	(0.1)	0.4
Other	1.0	0.2	0.3
Effective income tax rate	<u>37.7 %</u>	<u>35.3 %</u>	<u>36.6 %</u>

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

13. Quarterly Financial Data (Unaudited):

Summarized quarterly financial results are as follows (in thousands, except per share data):

<u>Fiscal 2012</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Third</u>	<u>Fourth</u>
Total revenues	275,344	234,063	200,005	234,636
Gross profit (exclusive of depreciation)	117,512	91,604	69,606	83,365
Net income	31,723	17,333	4,669	7,944
Basic earnings per share	\$ 1.09	\$ 0.59	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.27
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 1.09	\$ 0.59	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.27
<u>Fiscal 2011</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Third</u>	<u>Fourth</u>
Total revenues	273,660	236,806	196,685	224,307
Gross profit (exclusive of depreciation)	115,255	91,650	70,867	79,510
Net income	30,521	18,103	6,105	10,105
Basic earnings per share	\$ 1.04	\$ 0.61	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.35
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 1.04	\$ 0.61	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.35

As discussed in Note 1, the Company has corrected its consolidated financial statements by recording the following out of period adjustments in fiscal year 2012: (1) increasing landlord insurance expense for the three months and fiscal year ended February 2, 2013 by \$1.2 million which originated prior to fiscal year 2008; (2) federal income tax expense for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2011 was corrected in fiscal year 2012 by recording \$1.1 million additional income tax expense in 2012; and (3) state income tax expense of \$0.6 million was recorded for the three months and fiscal year ended February 2, 2013, \$0.5 million of which originated in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2011. The Company has determined that these adjustments are not material to our consolidated financial statements for any of the affected periods. The Company will disclose these corrections in future 10Q filings as appropriate.

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

14. Reportable Segment Information

The Company has determined that it has four operating segments, as defined under ASC 280-10, including Cato, It's Fashion, Versona Accessories and Credit. As outlined in ASC 280-10, the Company has two reportable segments: Retail and Credit. The Company has aggregated its retail operating segments based on the aggregation criteria outlined in ASC 280-10, which states that two or more operating segments may be aggregated into a single reportable segment if aggregation is consistent with the objective and basic principles of ASC 280-10, if the segments have similar economic characteristics, similar product, similar production processes, similar clients and similar methods of distribution.

The Company's retail operating segments have similar economic characteristics and similar operating, financial and competitive risks. They are similar in nature of product, as they all offer women's apparel, shoes and accessories. Merchandise inventory of the Company's operating segments is sourced from the same countries and some of the same vendors, using similar production processes. Clients of the Company's operating segments have similar characteristics. Merchandise for the Company's operating segments is distributed to retail stores in a similar manner through the Company's single distribution center and is subsequently distributed to clients in a similar manner, through its retail stores.

The Company operates its women's fashion specialty retail stores in 31 states as of February 2, 2013, principally in the southeastern United States. The Company offers its own credit card to its customers and all credit authorizations, payment processing, and collection efforts are performed by a separate subsidiary of the Company.

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

The following schedule summarizes certain segment information (in thousands):

<u>Fiscal 2012</u>	<u>Retail</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Total</u>
Revenues	\$ 937,119	\$ 6,929	\$ 944,048
Depreciation	22,404	51	22,455
Interest and other income	(3,782)	-	(3,782)
Income before taxes	95,972	2,999	98,971
Total assets	463,527	69,119	532,646
Capital expenditures	44,924	251	45,175

<u>Fiscal 2011</u>	<u>Retail</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Total</u>
Revenues	\$ 923,742	\$ 7,716	\$ 931,458
Depreciation	21,785	40	21,825
Interest and other income	(3,817)	-	(3,817)
Income before taxes	97,037	3,234	100,271
Total assets	471,397	79,692	551,089
Capital expenditures	35,804	86	35,890

<u>Fiscal 2010</u>	<u>Retail</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Total</u>
Revenues	\$ 916,150	\$ 8,535	\$ 924,685
Depreciation	21,801	21	21,822
Interest and other income	(3,971)	-	(3,971)
Income before taxes	89,703	3,069	92,772
Total assets	457,182	75,577	532,759
Capital expenditures	19,559	-	19,559

The accounting policies of the segments are the same as those described in the summary of significant accounting policies in Note 1. The Company evaluates performance based on profit or loss from operations before income taxes. The Company does not allocate certain corporate expenses to the credit segment.

The following schedule summarizes the direct expenses of the credit segment which are reflected in selling, general and administrative expenses (in thousands):

	<u>February 2, 2013</u>	<u>January 28, 2012</u>
Bad debt expense	\$ 1,259	\$ 1,723
Payroll	919	954
Postage	751	757
Other expenses	<u>950</u>	<u>1,008</u>
Total expenses	<u>\$ 3,879</u>	<u>\$ 4,442</u>

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

15. Stock Based Compensation:

As of February 2, 2013, the Company had two long-term compensation plans pursuant to which stock-based compensation was outstanding or could be granted. The Company's 1987 Non-Qualified Stock Option Plan is for the granting of options to officers and key employees and the 2004 Amended and Restated Incentive Compensation Plan is for the granting of various forms of equity-based awards, including restricted stock and stock options, to officers and key employees.

The following table presents the number of options and shares of restricted stock initially authorized and available for grant under each of the plans as of February 2, 2013:

	1987 <u>Plan</u>	2004 <u>Plan</u>	<u>Total</u>
Options and/or restricted stock initially authorized	5,850,000	1,350,000	7,200,000
Options and/or restricted stock available for grant:			
January 28, 2012	20,127	542,309	562,436
February 2, 2013	20,127	443,566	463,693

In accordance with ASC 718, the fair value of current restricted stock awards is estimated on the date of grant based on the market price of the Company's stock and is amortized to compensation expense on a straight-line basis over the related vesting periods. As of February 2, 2013, there was \$6,352,000 of total unrecognized compensation expense related to nonvested restricted stock awards, which is expected to be recognized over a remaining weighted-average vesting period of 2.3 years. The total fair value of the shares recognized as compensation expense during the twelve months ended February 2, 2013, January 28, 2012 and January 29, 2011 was \$2,669,000, \$2,475,000 and \$2,316,000, respectively. The expenses are classified as a component of Selling, general and administrative expenses in the Consolidated Statements of Income.

THE CATO CORPORATION

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

The following summary shows the changes in the shares of restricted stock outstanding during the years ended February 2, 2013, January 28, 2012, and January 29, 2011:

	<u>Number of Shares</u>	<u>Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value Per Share</u>
Restricted stock awards at January 30, 2010	496,428	\$ 19.74
Granted	119,120	24.54
Vested	(88,901)	22.79
Forfeited or expired	<u>(17,191)</u>	20.05
Restricted stock awards at January 29, 2011	509,456	\$ 20.32
Granted	102,449	25.41
Vested	(128,103)	20.53
Forfeited or expired	<u>(22,461)</u>	21.33
Restricted stock awards at January 28, 2012	461,341	\$ 21.44
Granted	110,397	28.23
Vested	(114,172)	18.83
Forfeited or expired	<u>(17,420)</u>	24.95
Restricted stock awards at February 2, 2013	440,146	\$ 23.70

The Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan allows eligible full-time employees to purchase a limited number of shares of the Company's Class A Common Stock during each semi-annual offering period at a 15% discount through payroll deductions. During the twelve month periods ended February 2, 2013, the Company sold 33,000 shares to employees at an average discount of \$ 3.86 per share under the Employee Stock Purchase Plan. The compensation expense recognized for the 15% discount given under the Employee Stock Purchase Plan was approximately \$ 128,000, \$ 84,000 and \$ 77,000 for fiscal years 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively. These expenses are classified as a component of selling, general and administrative expenses.

No options were granted in fiscal 2012, 2011 and 2010. As of February 2, 2013, vested and exercisable options totaled 9,550 shares with a weighted average price of \$13.47, remaining contractual term of 2.12 years and an intrinsic value of \$136,000.

The total intrinsic value of options exercised during the years ended February 2, 2013, January 28, 2012 and January 29, 2011 was \$79,000, \$57,000 and \$463,000, respectively.

There was no stock option expense for the years ended February 2, 2013, January 28, 2012 and January 29, 2011.

Stock option awards outstanding under the Company's current plans were granted at exercise prices which were equal to the market value of the Company's stock on the date of grant, vest over five years, and expire no later than ten years after the grant date.

THE CATO CORPORATION

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

16. Commitments and Contingencies:

The Company does not have any guarantees with third parties.

The Company is a defendant in legal proceedings considered to be in the normal course of business. The resolution of such currently pending matters, individually or collectively, are not expected to have a material effect on the Company's results of operations, cash flows or financial position.

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

None.

Item 9A. *Controls and Procedures:*

Conclusion Regarding the Effectiveness of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

We carried out an evaluation, with the participation of our Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as of February 2, 2013. Based on this evaluation, our Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer concluded that, as of February 2, 2013, our disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rule 13a-15(e), under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”), were effective to ensure that information we are required to disclose in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC’s rules and forms and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Management’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f). Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer, we carried out an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of February 2, 2013 based on the *Internal Control – Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (“COSO”). Based on this evaluation, management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of February 2, 2013.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, our independent registered public accounting firm, has audited the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of February 2, 2013, as stated in its report which is included herein.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

No change in the Company’s internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f)) has occurred during the Company’s fiscal quarter ended February 2, 2013 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company’s internal control over financial reporting.

Item 9B. *Other Information:*

None.

PART III

Item 10. *Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance:*

Information contained under the captions “Election of Directors,” “Meetings and Committees,” “Corporate Governance Matters” and “Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance” in the Registrant’s Proxy Statement for its 2013 annual stockholders’ meeting (the “2013 Proxy Statement”) is incorporated by reference in response to this Item 10. The information in response to this Item 10 regarding executive officers of the Company is contained in Item 3A, Part I hereof under the caption “Executive Officers of the Registrant.”

Item 11. Executive Compensation:

Information contained under the captions “2012 Executive Compensation,” “fiscal 2012 Director Compensation,” “Corporate Governance Matters-Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation” in the Company’s 2013 Proxy Statement is incorporated by reference in response to this Item.

Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters:**Equity Compensation Plan Information**

The following table provides information about stock options outstanding and shares available for future awards under all of Cato’s equity compensation plans. The information is as of February 2, 2013.

<u>Plan Category</u>	<u>(a)</u> <u>Number of Securities to be Issued upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights(1)</u>	<u>(b)</u> <u>Weighted-Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights(1)</u>	<u>(c)</u> <u>Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column (a)) (2)</u>
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	9,550	\$13.47	576,893
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	-	-	-
Total	<u>9,550</u>	<u>\$13.47</u>	<u>576,893</u>

(1) This column contains information regarding employee stock options only; there are no outstanding warrants or stock appreciation rights.

(2) Includes the following:

443,566 shares available for grant under the Company’s stock incentive plan, referred to as the 2004 Incentive Compensation Plan. Under this plan, non-qualified stock options may be granted to key associates.

20,127 shares available for grant under the Company’s stock incentive plan, referred to as the “1987 Non-qualified Stock Option Plan.” Stock options have terms of 10 years, vest evenly over 5 years, and are assigned an exercise price of not less than the fair market value of the Company’s stock on the date of grant; and

113,200 shares available under the 2003 Employee Stock Purchase Plan. Eligible associates may participate in the purchase of designated shares of the Company’s common stock. The purchase price of this stock is equal to 85% of the lower of the closing price at the beginning or the end of each semi-annual stock purchase period.

Information contained under “Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management” in the 2013 Proxy Statement is incorporated by reference in response to this Item.

Item 13. *Certain Relationships and Related Transactions and Director Independence:*

Information contained under the caption “Certain Relationships and Related Person Transactions,” “Corporate Governance Matters-Director Independence” and “Meetings and Committees” in the 2013 Proxy Statement is incorporated by reference in response to this Item.

Item 14. *Principal Accountant Fees and Services:*

Information contained under the captions “Ratification of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm-Audit Fees” and “Policy on Audit Committee Pre-Approval of Audit and Permissible Non-Audit Service by the Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm” in the 2013 Proxy Statement is incorporated by reference in response to this item.

PART IV

Item 15. *Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules:*

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

(1) Financial Statements:

	Page
Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	31
Consolidated Statements of Income and Comprehensive Income for the fiscal years ended February 2, 2013, January 28, 2012 and January 29, 2011	32
Consolidated Balance Sheets at February 2, 2013 and January 28, 2012	33
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the fiscal years ended February 2, 2013, January 28, 2012 and January 29, 2011	34
Consolidated Statements of Stockholders’ Equity for the fiscal years ended February 2, 2013, January 28, 2012 and January 29, 2011	35
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	36
(2) Financial Statement Schedule: The following report and financial statement schedule is filed herewith:	
Schedule II — Valuation and Qualifying Accounts.....	69

All other schedules are omitted as the required information is inapplicable or the information is presented in the Consolidated Financial Statements or related Notes thereto.

(3) Index to Exhibits: The following exhibits listed in the Index below are filed with this report or, as noted, incorporated by reference herein. The Company will supply copies of the following exhibits to any shareholder upon receipt of a written request addressed to the Corporate Secretary, The Cato Corporation, 8100 Denmark Road, Charlotte, NC 28273 and the payment of \$.50 per page to help defray the costs of handling, copying and postage. In most cases, documents incorporated by reference to exhibits to our registration statements, reports or proxy statements filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission are available to the public over the Internet from the SEC’s web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy any such document at the SEC’s public reference room located at Room 1580, 100 F. Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549 under the Company’s SEC file number (1-31340).

**Exhibit
Number**

Description of Exhibit

- 3.1 Registrant's Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant dated March 6, 1987, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Form S-8 of the Registrant filed February 7, 2000 (SEC File No. 333-96283).
- 3.2 Registrant's By Laws incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to Form 8-K of the Registrant filed December 10, 2007.
- 4.1 Rights Agreement dated December 18, 2003, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Form 8-A12G of the Registrant filed December 22, 2003 and as amended in Form 8-A12B/A filed on January 6, 2004.
- 10.2* 1999 Incentive Compensation Plan dated August 26, 1999, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to Form S-8 of the Registrant filed February 7, 2000 (SEC File No. 333-96283).
- 10.3* 2004 Incentive Compensation Plan, amended and restated as of May 22, 2008, incorporated by reference to Appendix A to Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed April 11, 2008.
- 10.4* Form of Agreement, dated as of August 29, 2003, between the Registrant and Wayland H. Cato, Jr., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99(c) to Form 8-K of the Registrant filed on July 22, 2003.
- 10.5* Form of Agreement, dated as of August 29, 2003, between the Registrant and Edgar T. Cato, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99(d) to Form 8-K of the Registrant filed on July 22, 2003.
- 10.6* Retirement Agreement between Registrant and Wayland H. Cato, Jr. dated August 29, 2003 incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Form 10-Q of the Registrant for quarter ended August 2, 2003.
- 10.7* Retirement Agreement between Registrant and Edgar T. Cato dated August 29, 2003, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to Form 10-Q of the Registrant for the quarter ended August 2, 2003.
- 10.9* Letter Agreement between the Registrant and John R. Howe dated as of August 28, 2008, incorporated by Reference to Exhibit 99.1 to Form 8-K of the Registrant filed September 3, 2008.
- 10.10* Deferred Compensation Plan effective July 28, 2011, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Form 8-K of the Registrant filed on July 19, 2011.
- 21.1** Subsidiaries of Registrant.
- 23.1** Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
- 31.1** Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Principal Executive Officer.
- 31.2** Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Principal Financial Officer.
- 32.1** Section 1350 Certification of Chief Executive Officer.
- 32.2** Section 1350 Certification of Chief Financial Officer.
-
- 101.1** The following materials from Registrant's Annual Report on form 10-K for the fiscal years

ended February 2, 2013, formatted in XBRL: (i) Consolidated Statements of Income and Comprehensive Income for the fiscal years ended January 29, 2011, January 28, 2012 and January 29, 2011; (ii) Consolidated Balance Sheets at ended February 2, 2013 and January 28, 2012; (iii) Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the fiscal years ended ended February 2, 2013, January 28, 2012 and January 29, 2011; (iv) Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for the fiscal years ended February 2, 2013, January 28, 2012 and January 29, 2011; and (v) Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

* Management contract or compensatory plan required to be filed under Item 15 of this report and Item 601 of Regulation S-K.

** Filed or submitted electronically herewith.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Cato has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

The Cato Corporation

By /s/ JOHN P. D. CATO
John P. D. Cato
Chairman, President and
Chief Executive Officer

By /s/ JOHN R. HOWE
John R. Howe
Executive Vice President
Chief Financial Officer

By /s/ JEFFREY R. SHOCK
Jeffrey R. Shock
Senior Vice President
Controller

Date: April 2, 2013

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below on April 2, 2013 by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities indicated:

/s/ JOHN P. D. CATO
John P. D. Cato
(President and Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer) and Director)

/s/ BAILEY W. PATRICK
Bailey W. Patrick
(Director)

/s/ JOHN R. HOWE
John R. Howe
(Executive Vice President
Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer))

/s/ THOMAS B. HENSON
Thomas B. Henson
(Director)

/s/ JEFFREY R. SHOCK
Jeffrey R. Shock
(Senior Vice President
Controller (Principal Accounting Officer))

/s/ BRYAN F. KENNEDY III
Bryan F. Kennedy III
(Director)

/s/ THOMAS E. MECKLEY
Thomas E. Meckley
(Director)

/s/ D. HARDING STOWE
D. Harding Stowe
(Director)

/s/ EDWARD I. WEISIGER, JR
Edward I. Weisiger, Jr.
(Director)

SUBSIDIARIES OF THE REGISTRANT

<u>Name of Subsidiary</u>	<u>State of Incorporation/Organization</u>	<u>Name under which Subsidiary does Business</u>
CHW LLC	Delaware	CHW LLC
Providence Insurance Company, Limited	A Bermudian Company	Providence Insurance Company, Limited
CatoSouth LLC	North Carolina	CatoSouth LLC
Cato of Texas L.P.	Texas	Cato of Texas L.P.
Cato Southwest, Inc.	Delaware	Cato Southwest, Inc.
CaDel LLC	Delaware	CaDel LLC
CatoWest LLC	Nevada	CatoWest LLC
Cedar Hill National Bank	A Nationally Chartered Bank	Cedar Hill National Bank
catocorp.com, LLC	Delaware	catocorp.com, LLC
Cato Land Development, LLC	South Carolina	Cato Land Development, LLC

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statements on Form S-8 (No. 333-176511, 333-119300, 333-119299, 333-96283, 33-41314, 33-41315, 33-69844, and 333-96285) of The Cato Corporation of our report dated April 2, 2013 relating to the financial statements, financial statement schedule and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, which appears in this Form 10-K.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Charlotte, North Carolina
April 2, 2013

**PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 RULE 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a), AS ADOPTED
PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, John P. D. Cato, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 10-K of The Cato Corporation (the “registrant”);
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: April 2, 2013

/s/ John P. D. Cato

John P. D. Cato
Chairman, President and
Chief Executive Officer

**PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL OFFICER CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 RULE 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a), AS ADOPTED
PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, John R. Howe, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 10-K of The Cato Corporation (the “registrant”);
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: April 2, 2013

/s/ John R. Howe

John R. Howe
Executive Vice President
Chief Financial Officer

CERTIFICATION OF PERIODIC REPORT

I, John P. D. Cato, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Cato Corporation, certify, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, that on the date of this Certification:

1. the Annual Report on Form 10-K of the Company for the annual period ended February 2, 2013 (the "Report") fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
2. the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Dated: April 2, 2013

/s/ John P. D. Cato

John P. D. Cato

Chairman, President and
Chief Executive Officer

CERTIFICATION OF PERIODIC REPORT

I, John R. Howe, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer of The Cato Corporation, certify, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, that on the date of this Certification:

1. the Annual Report on Form 10-K of the Company for the annual period ended February 2, 2013 (the "Report") fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
2. the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Dated: April 2, 2013

/s/ John R. Howe

John R. Howe

Executive Vice President

Chief Financial Officer

VALUATION AND QUALIFYING ACCOUNTS

	Allowance for Doubtful Accounts(a)	Self Insurance Reserves(b)
Balance at January 30, 2010	\$ 3,274	\$ 4,921
Additions charged to costs and expenses	2,827	6,607
Additions (reductions) charged to other accounts	646 (c)	(940)
Deductions	<u>(3,762)(d)</u>	<u>(4,069)</u>
Balance at January 29, 2011	2,985	6,519
Additions charged to costs and expenses	1,723	5,062
Additions (reductions) charged to other accounts	609 (c)	(961)
Deductions	<u>(2,955)(d)</u>	<u>(4,288)</u>
Balance at January 28, 2012	\$ 2,362	\$ 6,332
Additions charged to costs and expenses	1,259	3,525
Additions (reductions) charged to other accounts	756 (c)	1,974
Deductions	<u>(2,324)(d)</u>	<u>(3,744)</u>
Balance at February 2, 2013	<u>\$ 2,053</u>	<u>\$ 8,087</u>

(a) Deducted from trade accounts receivable.

(b) Reserve for Workers' Compensation and General Liability.

(c) Recoveries of amounts previously written off.

(d) Uncollectible accounts written off.



Corporate Information

A copy of the Company's Annual Report to the Securities and Exchange Commission (Form 10-K) for the fiscal year ended February 2, 2013 is available to shareholders without charge upon written request to:

Mr. John R. Howe

*Executive Vice President,
Chief Financial Officer*

The Cato Corporation
P.O. Box 34216
Charlotte, North Carolina 28234

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

The Cato Corporation
8100 Denmark Road
Charlotte, North Carolina 28273-5975
(704) 554-8510

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 34216
Charlotte, North Carolina 28234

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

CORPORATE COUNSEL

Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson, P.A.
Charlotte, North Carolina 28246

TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR

American Stock Transfer
Securities Transfer Department, CMG-5
Charlotte, North Carolina 28288

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders
Thursday, May 23, 2013 – 11:00 a.m.
Corporate Office
8100 Denmark Road
Charlotte, NC 28273-5975

MARKET & DIVIDEND NOTICE

The Company's Class A Common Stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") under the symbol CATO. Below is the market range and dividend information for the four quarters of fiscal 2012 and 2011.

2012	PRICE		DIVIDEND
	HIGH	LOW	
First quarter	\$ 29.19	\$ 25.93	\$.230
Second quarter	31.71	27.50	.250
Third quarter	31.75	27.50	.250
Fourth quarter	29.99	26.08	2.250

2011	PRICE		DIVIDEND
	HIGH	LOW	
First quarter	\$ 25.64	\$ 23.03	\$.185
Second quarter	30.74	25.11	.230
Third quarter	28.19	21.98	.230
Fourth quarter	26.95	22.83	.230

As of April 2, 2013 the approximate number of record holders of the Company's Class A Common Stock was 5,000, and there were 2 record holders of the Company's Class B Common Stock.



8100 DENMARK ROAD CHARLOTTE, NC 28273-5975 CATOCORP.COM