

Chefs' Warehouse, Inc.  
Form 10-Q  
November 02, 2016

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 10-Q**

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

**For the quarterly period ended September 23, 2016**

**OR**

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

**For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_**

**Commission file number: 001-35249**

**THE CHEFS' WAREHOUSE, INC.**

**(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)**

<b>Delaware</b>	<b>20-3031526</b>
<b>(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)</b>	<b>(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)</b>

<b>100 East Ridge Road</b>	<b>06877</b>
<b>Ridgefield, Connecticut</b>	
<b>(Address of principal executive offices)</b>	<b>(Zip Code)</b>
<b>Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (203) 894-1345</b>	

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

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

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

Yes ☐ No ☐

Number of shares of common stock, par value \$.01 per share, outstanding at October 28, 2016: 26,254,318

**THE CHEFS' WAREHOUSE, INC.**

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## CAUTION CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Statements in this report regarding the business of The Chefs' Warehouse, Inc. (the "Company") that are not historical facts are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act, Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, that involve risks and uncertainties and are based on current expectations and management estimates; actual results may differ materially. Words such as "anticipates", "expects", "intends", "plans", "believes", "seeks", "estimates" and variations of words and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors, some of which are beyond our control, are difficult to predict and/or could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or forecasted in the forward-looking statements. The risks and uncertainties which could impact these statements include, but are not limited to, the Company's ability to successfully deploy its operational initiatives to achieve synergies from the acquisition of Del Monte Capitol Meat Co. and certain related entities; the Company's and its customers current economic environment, changes in disposable income levels and consumer discretionary spending on food-away-from-home purchases; the Company's sensitivity to general economic conditions, including vulnerability to economic and other developments in the geographic markets in which it operates; the risks of supply chain interruptions due to lack of long-term contracts, severe weather or more prolonged climate change, work stoppages or otherwise; the risk of loss of customers due to the fact the Company does not customarily have long-term contracts with its customers; the risks of loss of revenue or reductions in operating margins in the Company's protein business as a result of competitive pressures within this reporting unit of the Company's business; changes in the availability or cost of the Company's specialty food products; the ability to effectively price the Company's specialty food products and reduce the Company's expenses; the relatively low margins of the foodservice distribution industry and the Company's sensitivity to inflationary and deflationary pressures; the Company's ability to successfully identify, obtain financing for and complete acquisitions of other foodservice distributors and to integrate and realize expected synergies from those acquisitions; the Company's ability to service customers from its Chicago, San Francisco and Las Vegas distribution centers and the expenses associated therewith; increased fuel cost volatility and expectations regarding the use of fuel surcharges; fluctuations in the wholesale prices of beef, poultry and seafood, including increases in these prices as a result of increases in the cost of feeding and caring for livestock; the loss of key members of the Company's management team and the Company's ability to replace such personnel; the strain on the Company's infrastructure and resources caused by its growth; and other risks and uncertainties included under the heading Risk Factors in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed on March 4, 2016 and our Form 10-Q filed on August 3, 2016 with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC").

## PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
THE CHEFS' WAREHOUSE, INC.

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(Amounts in thousands, except share data)

	September 23, 2016 (unaudited)	December 25, 2015
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 26,191	\$2,454
Accounts receivable, net of allowance of \$6,091 in 2016 and \$5,803 in 2015	121,493	124,139
Inventories, net	88,979	92,758
Deferred taxes, net	5,502	5,256
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	23,090	9,164
Total current assets	265,255	233,771
Equipment and leasehold improvements, net	59,275	54,283
Software costs, net	6,337	4,511
Goodwill	163,806	155,816
Intangible assets, net	133,904	132,211
Other assets	3,703	3,089
Total assets	\$ 632,280	\$583,681
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 59,163	\$64,888
Accrued liabilities	22,064	24,258
Accrued compensation	7,968	7,732
Current portion of long-term debt	13,615	6,030
Total current liabilities	102,810	102,908
Long-term debt, net of current portion	319,005	266,207
Deferred taxes, net	9,974	9,316
Other liabilities and deferred credits	16,254	17,286
Total liabilities	448,043	395,717
Commitments and contingencies	—	—
Stockholders' equity:		
Preferred Stock, \$0.01 par value, 5,000,000 shares authorized, no shares issued and outstanding September 23, 2016 and December 25, 2015	—	—
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value, 100,000,000 shares authorized, 26,254,411 and 26,290,675 shares issued and outstanding September 23, 2016 and December 25, 2015, respectively	263	263
Additional paid in capital	126,528	125,170
Cumulative foreign currency translation adjustment	(1,915 )	(2,949 )
Retained earnings	59,361	65,480

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Stockholders' equity	184,237	187,964
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 632,280	\$583,681

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

**THE CHEFS' WAREHOUSE, INC.**

**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

**(Unaudited)**

**(Amounts in thousands, except share and per share amounts)**

	Thirteen Week Period Ended	
	September 23, 2016	September 25, 2015
Net sales	\$297,917	\$276,306
Cost of sales	223,525	206,134
Gross profit	74,392	70,172
Operating expenses	66,106	57,319
Operating income	8,286	12,853
Interest expense	5,947	3,902
Loss on asset disposal	40	8
Income before income taxes	2,299	8,943
Provision for income tax expense	956	3,719
Net income	\$1,343	\$5,224
Other comprehensive loss:		
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(72 )	(914 )
Comprehensive income	\$1,271	\$4,310
Net income per share:		
Basic	\$0.05	\$0.20
Diluted	\$0.05	\$0.20
Weighted average common shares outstanding:		
Basic	25,936,832	25,864,638
Diluted	25,977,171	27,154,770

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.



**THE CHEFS' WAREHOUSE, INC.**

**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE (LOSS) INCOME**

**(Unaudited)**

**(Amounts in thousands, except share and per share amounts)**

	Thirty-Nine Week Period Ended	
	September 23, 2016	September 25, 2015
Net sales	\$849,962	\$753,789
Cost of sales	637,809	562,146
Gross profit	212,153	191,643
Operating expenses	187,318	166,316
Operating income	24,835	25,327
Interest expense	35,271	9,312
Loss (gain) on asset disposal	43	(340 )
(Loss) income before income taxes	(10,479 )	16,355
Provision for income tax (benefit) expense	(4,360 )	6,801
Net (loss) income	\$(6,119 )	\$9,554
Other comprehensive (loss) income:		
Foreign currency translation adjustments	1,034	(1,282 )
Comprehensive (loss) income	\$(5,085 )	\$8,272
Net (loss) income per share:		
Basic	\$(0.24 )	\$0.38
Diluted	\$(0.24 )	\$0.37
Weighted average common shares outstanding:		
Basic	25,911,278	25,419,349
Diluted	25,911,278	26,275,597

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

**THE CHEFS' WAREHOUSE, INC.****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS****(Unaudited)****(Amounts in thousands)**

	Thirty-Nine Week Period Ended	
	September 23, 2016	September 25, 2015
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income (loss)	\$(6,119 )	\$9,554
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	4,966	4,219
Amortization	8,704	6,754
Provision for allowance for doubtful accounts	2,674	2,018
Deferred rent	1,340	475
Deferred taxes	1,169	(1,760 )
Amortization of deferred financing fees	1,209	908
Loss on debt extinguishment	22,310	—
Stock compensation	1,909	2,869
Change in fair value of contingent earn-out liability	(1,601 )	307
Loss (gain) on sale of assets	43	(340 )
Changes in assets and liabilities, net of acquisitions:		
Accounts receivable	4,627	(3,294 )
Inventories	5,638	(6,182 )
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	(15,612 )	563
Accounts payable, accrued liabilities and accrued compensation	(8,424 )	1,124
Other liabilities	(1,186 )	(85 )
Other assets	(439 )	(385 )
Net cash provided by operating activities	21,208	16,745
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Capital expenditures	(11,532 )	(19,247 )
Proceeds from asset disposals	—	16,187
Cash paid for acquisitions, net of cash received	(19,742 )	(123,831)
Net cash used in investing activities	(31,274 )	(126,891)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Payment of debt	(156,655)	(7,351 )
Proceeds from issuance of debt	315,810	25,000
Debt prepayment penalty and other fees	(21,219 )	—
Cash paid for deferred financing fees	(7,691 )	(628 )
Surrender of shares to pay withholding taxes	(552 )	(1,060 )
Cash paid for contingent earn-out liability	(2,660 )	(1,420 )
Borrowings under revolving credit facility	33,200	192,300
Payments under revolving credit facility	(126,582)	(98,300 )

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Net cash provided by financing activities	33,651	108,541
Effect of foreign currency on cash and cash equivalents	152	(238 )
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	23,737	(1,843 )
Cash and cash equivalents-beginning of period	2,454	3,328
Cash and cash equivalents-end of period	\$26,191	\$1,485
See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.		

**THE CHEFS' WAREHOUSE, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**(unaudited)**

**(Amounts in thousands, except share amounts and per share data)**

**Note 1 Operations and Basis of Presentation**

***Description of Business and Basis of Presentation***

The financial statements include the consolidated accounts of The Chefs' Warehouse, Inc. (the "Company"), and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. The Company's quarterly periods end on the thirteenth Friday of each quarter. Every six to seven years the Company will add a fourteenth week to its fourth quarter to more closely align its year end to the calendar year. Fiscal 2016 will include a fourteenth week in the fourth quarter. The Company operates in one reportable segment, food product distribution, which is concentrated on the East and West Coasts of the United States. The Company's customer base consists primarily of menu-driven independent restaurants, fine dining establishments, country clubs, hotels, caterers, culinary schools, bakeries, patisseries, chocolatiers, cruise lines, casinos and specialty food stores.

***Consolidation***

The consolidated financial statements include all the accounts of the Company and its direct and indirect wholly-owned subsidiaries. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated.

***Unaudited Interim Financial Statements***

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and the related interim information contained within the notes to such unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP") and the applicable rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") for interim information and quarterly reports on Form 10-Q. Accordingly, they do not include all the information and disclosures required by GAAP for complete financial statements. These unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and related notes should be read in conjunction with the Company's audited consolidated financial statements and notes thereto for the fiscal year ended December 25, 2015 filed as part of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K, as filed with the SEC on March 4, 2016.

The unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements appearing in this Form 10-Q have been prepared on the same basis as the audited consolidated financial statements included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K, as filed with the SEC on March 4, 2016, and in the opinion of management include all normal recurring adjustments that are necessary for the fair statement of the Company's interim period results. The year-end condensed consolidated balance sheet data was derived from the audited financial statements but does not include all disclosures required by GAAP. Due to seasonal fluctuations and other factors, the results of operations for the thirteen and thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full year.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make significant 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 periods. Actual results could differ from management's estimates.



**Reclassification**

Changes have been made to the prior period presentation in the condensed consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income to conform to the current period presentation. Amounts previously included in operating expenses are now included in net sales and cost of sales and amounts previously included in sales have been netted against cost of sales. The impact of these reclassifications is included below:

<b>Thirteen weeks ended September 25, 2015</b>	<b>Net Sales</b>	<b>Cost of Sales</b>	<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>Operating Expenses</b>
Previously reported	\$277,516	\$207,056	\$70,460	\$57,607
<i>Income statement reclassifications</i>	(1,210 )	(922 )	(288 )	(288 )
<b>Current presentation</b>	<b>\$276,306</b>	<b>\$206,134</b>	<b>\$70,172</b>	<b>\$57,319</b>

<b>Thirty-nine weeks ended September 25, 2015</b>	<b>Net Sales</b>	<b>Cost of Sales</b>	<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>Operating Expenses</b>
Previously reported	\$759,274	\$566,666	\$192,608	\$167,281
<i>Income statement reclassifications</i>	(5,485 )	(4,520 )	(965 )	(965 )
<b>Current presentation</b>	<b>\$753,789</b>	<b>\$562,146</b>	<b>\$191,643</b>	<b>\$166,316</b>

***New Accounting Pronouncements***

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued guidance to clarify the principles for recognizing revenue. This guidance includes the required steps to achieve the core principle that an entity should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. On August 12, 2015, the FASB voted to defer the effective date by one year to December 15, 2017 for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after that date. Early adoption of ASU 2014-09 is permitted but not before the original effective date (annual periods beginning after December 15, 2016). The Company expects to adopt this guidance when effective and is still evaluating the impact this standard will have on its financial statements.

In July 2015, the FASB issued guidance to simplify the subsequent measurement of inventory. This new guidance provides that inventory should be measured at lower of cost or net realizable value. This guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016 and interim periods within fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017 and is required to be applied on a prospective basis. Early adoption is permitted at the beginning of an interim or annual reporting period. The Company expects to adopt this guidance when effective and adoption is not expected to have a material effect on the financial statements.

In November 2015, the FASB issued guidance to simplify the presentation of deferred income tax assets and liabilities. Current GAAP requires an entity to separate deferred income tax assets and liabilities into current and non-current classifications. This guidance requires that all deferred tax liabilities be classified as non-current. This guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016 and may be applied on a prospective or retrospective basis. Early adoption is permitted as of the beginning of an interim or annual reporting period. The Company expects to adopt this guidance when effective and adoption is not expected to have a material effect on the financial statements.

In February 2016, the FASB issued guidance to increase the transparency and comparability among organizations by recognizing lease assets and lease liabilities on the balance sheet and disclosing key information about leasing arrangements. Current GAAP does not require lessees to recognize assets and liabilities arising from operating leases on the balance sheet. This new guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018. Early

adoption is permitted. The Company expects to adopt this guidance when effective and is evaluating the impact this standard will have on its financial statements.

In March 2016, the FASB issued guidance to simplify the accounting for stock compensation. This guidance requires that all excess tax benefits and deficiencies be recognized as income tax expense in the period in which they occur and that they be reflected as an operating activity in the statement of cash flows. Current GAAP requires excess tax benefits to be recognized as additional paid in capital and as a financing activity in the statement of cash flows. In addition, the guidance gives companies the option of estimating the number of awards that will ultimately vest or accounting for forfeitures as they occur. This guidance is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016. Early adoption is permitted. The Company expects to adopt this guidance when effective and is evaluating the impact this standard will have on its financial statements.

In August 2016, the FASB issued guidance to clarify how companies present and classify certain cash receipts and cash payments in the statement of cash flows, including contingent consideration payments made after a business acquisition and debt extinguishment costs. Specifically, cash payments to settle a contingent consideration liability which are not made soon after the acquisition date should be classified as cash used in financing activities up to the initial amount of contingent consideration recognized with the remaining amount classified as cash flows from operating activities. The guidance will be effective for the Company's annual and interim reporting periods beginning January 1, 2018, and early adoption is permitted. The Company expects to adopt this guidance when effective and adoption is not expected to have a material effect on the financial statements.

**Guidance Adopted in 2016**

*Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs.* In April 2015, the FASB issued guidance on the presentation of debt issuance costs. This guidance requires that debt issuance costs related to a recognized debt liability be presented in the balance sheet as a direct deduction from the carrying amount of that debt liability. We adopted this guidance retrospectively during the first quarter of 2016. As a result of adopting this guidance, total assets and total liabilities as of December 25, 2015 decreased as follows.

	Other Assets	Total assets	Current portion of long-term debt	Total current liabilities	Long-term debt	Total liabilities	Total liabilities and stockholders' equity
Previously reported	\$5,626	\$586,218	\$ 6,266	\$103,144	\$268,508	\$398,254	\$ 586,218
Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs	(2,537)	(2,537 )	(236 )	(236 )	(2,301 )	(2,537 )	(2,537 )
Current presentation	\$3,089	\$583,681	\$ 6,030	\$102,908	\$266,207	\$395,717	\$ 583,681

**Note 2 Earnings (Loss) Per Share**

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted net income (loss) per share:

	Thirteen Weeks Ended		Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended	
	September 23, 2016	September 25, 2015	September 23, 2016	September 25, 2015
Net income (loss) per share:				
Basic	\$0.05	\$0.20	\$(0.24 )	\$0.38
Diluted	\$0.05	\$0.20	\$(0.24 )	\$0.37
Weighted average common shares:				
Basic	25,936,832	25,864,638	25,911,278	25,419,349
Diluted	25,977,171	27,154,770	25,911,278	26,275,597
Reconciliation of net income (loss) per common share:				

	Thirteen Weeks Ended		Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended	
	September 23, 2016	September 25, 2015	September 23, 2016	September 25, 2015
<b>Numerator:</b>				
Net income (loss)	\$1,343	\$5,224	\$(6,119 )	\$9,554
Add effect of dilutive securities:				
Interest on convertible notes, net of tax	—	134	—	268
Adjusted net income (loss)	\$1,343	\$5,358	\$(6,119 )	\$9,822
<b>Denominator:</b>				
Weighted average basic common shares outstanding	25,936,832	25,864,638	25,911,278	25,419,349
Dilutive effect of unvested common shares	40,339	52,758	—	72,125
Dilutive effect of convertible notes	—	1,237,374	—	784,123
Weighted average diluted common shares outstanding	25,977,171	27,154,770	25,911,278	26,275,597



The weighted average shares outstanding for the thirteen and thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016 did not include the impact of 158,539 and 309,922 Restricted Share Awards (RSAs), respectively, or 1,237,374 shares from the convertible subordinated notes issued in connection with our acquisition of Del Monte Capitol Meat Co. and certain related entities ("Del Monte") as they were deemed to be anti-dilutive. The weighted average shares outstanding for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 25, 2015 did not include the impact of 45,106 RSAs as they were deemed to be anti-dilutive.

**Note 3 Fair Value Measurements; Fair Value of Financial Instruments**

We account for certain assets and liabilities at fair value. We categorize each of our fair value measurements in one of the following three levels based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety:

Level 1 - Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets.

Level 2 - Observable inputs other than quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities include the following:

- a) quoted prices for similar assets in active markets;
  - b) quoted prices for identical or similar assets in inactive markets;
  - c) inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset; and
  - d) inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.
- If the asset has a specified (contractual) term, the Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset.

Level 3 - Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable (i.e., supported by little or no market activity) and significant to the fair value measure.

### ***Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value***

As of September 23, 2016, the Company's only assets or liabilities measured at fair value were the contingent earn-out liabilities for the Del Monte and the M.T. Food Service, Inc. ("MT Food") acquisitions. These liabilities were estimated using Level 3 inputs and had fair values of \$13,661 and \$500 at September 23, 2016, respectively. These liabilities are reflected as accrued liabilities and other liabilities and deferred credits on the balance sheet. The fair value of contingent consideration for the Del Monte acquisition was determined based on a probability-based approach which includes projected results, percentage probability of occurrence and the application of a discount rate to present value the payments. A significant change in projected results, discount rate, or probabilities of occurrence could result in a significantly higher or lower fair value measurement. Based on the short duration of the earn-out period, the fair value of the contingent consideration for the MT Food acquisition was determined based on management's assessment of the likelihood of achievement. On July 8, 2016, the Company and the former owners of Allen Brothers, reached an agreement and paid \$2,660 to settle the remaining earn-out payments related to the Allen Brothers acquisition.

On September 30, 2016, the Company made an earn-out payment of \$4,083 to the former owners of Del Monte (see Note 13).

The following table presents the changes in Level 3 contingent consideration liability:

	<b>Del Monte</b>	<b>Allen Brothers</b>	<b>MT Food</b>	<b>Total</b>
Balance December 25, 2015	\$ 13,792	\$4,344	\$—	\$ 18,136
Gain on settlement	—	(1,684 )	—	(1,684 )
MT Food acquisition	—	—	500	500
Cash payments	—	(2,660 )	—	(2,660 )
Changes in fair value	83	—	—	83
Balance September 23, 2016	\$ 13,875	\$—	\$ 500	\$ 14,375

### ***Fair Value of Financial Instruments***

The carrying amounts reported in the Company's consolidated balance sheets for accounts receivable and accounts payable approximate fair value, due to the immediate to short-term maturity of these financial instruments. The fair values of the current and former revolving credit facilities and term loans approximated their book values as of September 23, 2016 and December 25, 2015, as these instruments had variable interest rates that reflected current market rates available to the Company. The carrying amount of the Company's senior secured notes at December 25, 2015 approximates fair value, as the interest rate obtained by the Company approximates the prevailing interest rates

available to the Company for similar instruments. The fair value of these debt instruments were estimated using Level 3 inputs.

The following table presents the carrying value and fair value of the Company's convertible subordinated notes. In estimating the fair value of these convertible secured notes, the Company utilized Level 3 inputs including, prevailing market interest rates to estimate the debt portion of the instrument and a Black Scholes valuation model to estimate the fair value of the conversion option. The Black Scholes model utilizes the market price of the Company's common stock, estimates of the stock's volatility and the prevailing risk free interest rate in calculating the fair value estimate.

	September 23, 2016		<b>December 25, 2015</b>	
	Carrying Value	Fair Value	Carrying Value	Fair Value
Convertible Secured Notes	\$36,750	\$32,918	\$36,750	\$34,300

#### Note 4 Acquisitions

The Company accounts for acquisitions in accordance with ASC 805 *Business Combinations*. Assets acquired and liabilities assumed are recorded in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet at their estimated fair values as of the acquisition date. Results of operations are included in the Company's financial statements from the date of acquisition. For the acquisitions noted below, the Company used the income approach to determine the fair value of the customer relationships, the relief from royalty method to determine the fair value of trademarks and the comparison of economic income using the with/without approach to determine the fair value of non-compete agreements.

On June 26, 2016, the Company acquired substantially all of the assets of MT Food, based in Chicago, Illinois. Founded in the mid 1990's, MT Food is a wholesale distributor of dairy, produce, specialty and grocery items in the metro Chicago area. The purchase price for the transaction was \$21,500, of which, \$21,000 was paid in cash at closing with an additional \$500 payable eighteen months after the closing date. The aggregate purchase price paid by the Company was paid through cash-on-hand and the proceeds from a draw down on its delayed draw term loan facility (see Note 8). The final purchase price is subject to a customary working capital true-up. The Company will also pay additional contingent consideration, if earned, in the form of an earn-out amount which totals \$500 to MT Food; the payment of the earn-out liability is subject to certain conditions, including the successful achievement of Gross Profit targets for the MT Food entity during the period between the acquisition date and the date the MT Food operations are transferred to the Company's existing Chicago facility, not to exceed one year. As of the acquisition date, the Company estimated that this contingent consideration would be fully met and established a \$500 contingent consideration liability. This contingent liability will be adjusted to fair value on a quarterly basis and is estimated to be \$500 at September 23, 2016. The Company is in the process of finalizing a valuation of the tangible and intangible assets of MT Food as of the acquisition date. These assets will be valued at fair value using Level 3 inputs. Other intangible assets are expected to be amortized over 5-15 years. Goodwill for the MT Food acquisition will be amortized over 15 years for tax purposes. For the thirteen weeks ended September 23, 2016, the Company reflected net revenues and income before taxes of \$15,620 and \$992, respectively for MT Food in its condensed consolidated statement of operations.

On April 6, 2015, the Company acquired substantially all the equity interests of Del Monte Capitol Meat Co. and substantially all the assets of certain of its affiliated companies (collectively "Del Monte"). Del Monte supplies high quality USDA inspected beef, pork, lamb, veal, poultry and seafood products to Northern California. The aggregate purchase price paid by the Company was approximately \$184,074. Approximately \$123,893 was paid in cash initially, through cash-on-hand, the proceeds from the issuance of additional senior secured notes and additional borrowings under the revolving portion of the Amended and Restated Credit Agreement (as defined below). The remaining approximately \$61,439 consisted of (i) approximately 1.1 million shares of the Company's common stock totaling approximately \$24,689 and (ii) \$36,750 in aggregate principal amounts of convertible subordinated notes with a six-year maturity bearing interest at 2.5% with a conversion price of \$29.70 per share issued to certain of the Del Monte entities. The Company will also pay additional contingent consideration, if earned, in the form of an earn-out amount which could total approximately \$24,500 to certain of the Del Monte entities; the payment of the earn-out liability is subject to certain conditions, including the successful achievement of Adjusted EBITDA targets for the Del Monte entities and improvements in certain operating metrics for the Company's existing protein business and the business of any protein companies subsequently acquired by the Company over the six years following the closing of the Del Monte acquisition. At April 6, 2015, the Company estimated the fair value of this contingent earn-out liability to be \$13,139. This contingent liability is adjusted to fair value on a quarterly basis and is estimated to be \$13,661 at September 23, 2016. The Company expensed \$1,546 of professional fees and \$3,000 of transaction bonuses in operating expenses related to the Del Monte acquisition during the fiscal year ended December 25, 2015. The Company has finalized a valuation of the tangible and intangible assets of Del Monte as of the acquisition date. These assets are being valued at fair value using Level 3 inputs. Customer lists are being amortized over 15 years and trademarks are being amortized over 20 years. Goodwill for the Del Monte acquisition will be amortized over 15 years

for tax purposes. During the second quarter of fiscal 2016, the Company finalized the net working capital adjustment as included in the initial purchase agreement and in July 2016, the Company received \$1,258 out of escrow, in final settlement of the net working capital true-up.

	Del Monte
Current assets (includes cash acquired)	\$31,509
Customer Relationships	62,246
Trademarks	29,261
Goodwill	76,892
Fixed assets	5,652
Other assets	137
Earn-out liability	(13,139 )
Deferred tax liability	(361 )
Convertible subordinated notes	(36,750 )
Issuance of common shares	(24,689 )
Current liabilities	(8,123 )
Cash purchase price	\$122,635

### Note 5 Inventory

Inventory consists of finished product. Our different entities record inventory using a mixture of first-in, first-out and average cost, which we believe approximates first-in, first-out. Inventory is reflected net of reserves for shrinkage and obsolescence totaling \$1,983 and \$1,956 at September 23, 2016 and December 25, 2015, respectively.

### Note 6 Equipment and Leasehold Improvements

Equipment and leasehold improvements consisted of the following:

	Useful Lives	As of September 23, 2016	December 25, 2015
Land	Indefinite	\$1,571	\$1,571
Buildings	20 years	2,802	2,740
Machinery and equipment	5-10 years	12,931	10,739
Computers, data processing and other equipment	3-7 years	8,453	7,598
Leasehold improvements	7-22 years	45,693	41,653
Furniture and fixtures	7 years	2,782	1,488
Vehicles	5-7 years	2,300	2,077
Other	7 years	95	95
Construction-in-process		8,910	8,884
		85,537	76,845
Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization		(26,262)	(22,562)
Equipment and leasehold improvements, net		\$59,275	\$54,283

Construction-in-process at September 23, 2016 related primarily to the implementation of the Company's Enterprise Resource Planning ("ERP") system. The rollout of its ERP system will continue throughout fiscal 2016 and 2017. Construction-in-process at December 25, 2015 related primarily to the build out of the Company's new distribution facility in San Francisco, CA and the implementation of its ERP system.

At September 23, 2016 and December 25, 2015, the Company had \$506 of equipment and vehicles financed by capital leases. The Company recorded depreciation on equipment under capital leases of \$15 and \$24 on these assets during the thirteen weeks ended September 23, 2016 and September 25, 2015, respectively, and \$58 and \$72 on these assets

during the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016 and September 25, 2015, respectively.

Depreciation expense on equipment and leasehold improvements was \$1,577 and \$1,323 for the thirteen weeks ended September 23, 2016 and September 25, 2015, respectively and \$3,753 and \$3,348 for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016 and September 25, 2015, respectively.

Capitalized software is recorded net of accumulated amortization of \$4,906 and \$3,751 at September 23, 2016 and December 25, 2015, respectively, and has an estimated useful life of three to seven years. Depreciation expense on software was \$437 and \$278 for the thirteen weeks ended September 23, 2016 and September 25, 2015, respectively and \$1,155 and \$799 for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016 and September 25, 2015, respectively.

During the thirty-nine weeks ended September 25, 2015, the Company capitalized interest expense of \$739 related to the build outs of the new distribution facilities in Bronx, NY and Las Vegas, NV. No interest was capitalized during the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016.

#### Note 7 Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

The changes in the carrying amount of goodwill are presented as follows:

Carrying amount as of December 25, 2015	\$155,816
Goodwill adjustments	(614 )
MT Food acquisition	8,559
Foreign currency translation	45
Carrying amount as of September 23, 2016	\$163,806

The goodwill adjustment is from the settlement of the Del Monte working capital adjustment and the finalization of the Del Monte opening balance sheet.

Other intangible assets consist of customer relationships being amortized over a period ranging from four to twenty years, trademarks being amortized over a period of one to forty years, and non-compete agreements being amortized over a period of two to six years. Other intangible assets consisted of the following at September 23, 2016 and December 25, 2015:

	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net Amount
September 23, 2016:			
Customer relationships	\$104,464	(18,559 )	\$85,905
Non-compete agreements	7,165	(5,276 )	1,889
Trademarks	52,598	(6,488 )	46,110
Total	\$164,227	(30,323 )	\$133,904
December 25, 2015:			
Customer relationships	\$94,097	(12,755 )	\$81,342
Non-compete agreements	7,166	(4,213 )	2,953
Trademarks	52,549	(4,633 )	47,916
Total	\$153,812	(21,601 )	\$132,211

Amortization expense for other intangibles was \$3,137 and \$2,165 for the thirteen weeks ended September 23, 2016 and September 25, 2015, respectively, and \$8,704 and \$6,754 for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016 and September 25, 2015, respectively.

Estimated amortization expense for other intangibles for the fiscal year ending December 30, 2016 and each of the next four fiscal years and thereafter is as follows:

2016	\$11,478
2017	11,443
2018	10,304
2019	10,027
2020	9,754



Thereafter	89,602
Total	\$ 142,608

**Note 8 Debt Obligations**

Debt obligations as of September 23, 2016 and December 25, 2015 consisted of the following:

	September 23, 2016	December 25, 2015
Senior secured term loan	\$293,202	\$ —
Convertible subordinated notes	36,750	36,750
New Markets Tax Credit loan	11,000	11,000
Capital leases and financed software	2,774	3,961
Senior secured notes	—	125,000
Revolving credit facility	—	93,382
Term loan	—	4,681
Deferred finance fees and original issue discount	(11,106 )	(2,537 )
Total debt obligations	332,620	272,237
Less: current installments	(13,615 )	(6,030 )
Total debt obligations excluding current installments	\$319,005	\$ 266,207

On June 22, 2016, the Company refinanced its debt structure by entering into a new senior secured term loan. The Company used the proceeds to pay down its revolving credit facility of \$96,400, its previous term loan of \$1,681 and its senior secured notes of \$125,000. The revolving credit facility and previous term loan were originally due in April 2017. The senior secured notes had maturities of \$50,000 in April 2018, \$25,000 in October 2020 and \$50,000 in April 2023. The Company was required to pay the senior note holders make-whole payments totaling \$21,144 for the early retirement of these notes. In addition, the Company wrote off deferred financing fees totaling \$1,091 relating to the senior secured notes, term loan, and revolving credit facility. The refinancing met the requirements of a debt extinguishment for accounting purposes and the loss on extinguishment of debt of \$22,310, inclusive of the make-whole payments and write-off of deferred financing fees, is reflected in interest expense.

**Senior Secured Term Loan Credit Facility**

On June 22, 2016, the Company entered into a credit agreement (the “Term Loan Credit Agreement”) with a group of lenders for which Jefferies Finance LLC (“Jefferies”) acts as administrative agent and collateral agent. The Term Loan Credit Agreement provides for a senior secured term loan B facility (the “Term Loan Facility”) in an aggregate amount of \$305,000 with a \$50,000 six-month delayed draw term loan facility (the “DDTL”; the loans outstanding under the Term Loan Facility (including the DDTL), the “Term Loans”). Additionally, the Term Loan Facility includes an accordion which permits the Company to request that the lenders extend additional Term Loans in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$50,000 (less the aggregate amount of certain indebtedness incurred to finance acquisitions) plus an unlimited amount subject to the Company’s Total Leverage Ratio not exceeding 4.90:1.00 on a pro forma basis. Borrowings under the Term Loan Facility were used to repay the Company’s senior secured notes, as well as the prior term loan and revolving credit facility. Remaining funds will be used for capital expenditures, permitted acquisitions, working capital and general corporate purposes of the Company. On June 27, 2016, the Company drew \$14,000 from the DDTL to help pay for the MT Food acquisition. On September 14, 2016, the Company entered into an amendment to the Term Loan Credit Agreement under which the remaining portion of the DDTL was terminated, the Company’s interest rate schedule was modified and the Company repaid \$25,000 of the outstanding balance of the Term Loans. The interest rate on this facility at September 23, 2016 was 6.75%.

The final maturity of the Term Loan Facility is June 22, 2022. Subject to adjustment for prepayments, the Company is required to make quarterly amortization payments on the Term Loans in an amount equal to 0.25% of the aggregate principal amount of the Term Loans.

The interest rates per annum applicable to Term Loans, will be, at the co-borrowers' option, equal to either a base rate or an adjusted LIBO rate for one, two, three, six or (if consented to by the lenders) twelve-month interest periods chosen by the Company, in each case plus an applicable margin percentage. A commitment fee is payable in respect of the amount of the undrawn DDTL commitments during the period the DDTL is available, equal to a percentage equal to 50% of the interest rate with respect to Term Loans accruing interest based on the adjusted LIBO rate.

The Term Loan Facility contains customary affirmative covenants, negative covenants (including restrictions, subject to customary exceptions, on incurring debt or liens, paying dividends, repaying payment subordinated and junior lien debt, disposing assets, and making investments and acquisitions), and events of default for a term loan B facility of this type, as more particularly described in the Term Loan Credit Agreement.

### Asset Based Loan Facility

On June 22, 2016, the Company entered into a credit agreement (the “ABL Credit Agreement”) with a group of lenders for which JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., acts as administrative agent and collateral agent. The ABL Credit Agreement provides for an asset based loan facility (the “ABL Facility”) in the aggregate amount of up to \$75,000. Availability under the ABL Facility will be limited to a borrowing base consisting of the difference of (a) the lesser of: (i) the aggregate amount of commitments or (ii) the sum of specified percentages of eligible receivables and eligible inventory, minus certain availability reserves minus (b) outstanding borrowings. The co-borrowers under the ABL Facility are entitled on one or more occasions, subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, to request an increase in the commitments under the ABL Facility in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$25,000. The ABL Facility matures on June 22, 2021.

The interest rates per annum applicable to loans, other than swingline loans, under the ABL Credit Facility will be, at the co-borrowers' option, equal to either a base rate or an adjusted LIBO rate for one, two, three, six or (if consented to by the lenders) twelve-month, interest periods chosen by the Company, in each case plus an applicable margin percentage. The Company will pay certain recurring fees with respect to the ABL Facility, including fees on the unused commitments of the lenders.

The ABL Facility contains customary affirmative covenants, negative covenants and events of default as more particularly described in the ABL Credit Agreement. The ABL Facility will require compliance with a minimum consolidated fixed charge coverage ratio of 1:1 if the amount of availability under the ABL Facility falls below a specified dollar amount or percentage of the borrowing base.

There were no outstanding balances under the ABL as of September 23, 2016. Borrowings under the ABL Facility will be used, and are expected to be used, for capital expenditures, permitted acquisitions, working capital and general corporate purposes of the Company. As of September 23, 2016, the Company was in compliance with all debt covenants and the Company had reserved \$7,670 of the ABL facility for the issuance of letters of credit. As of September 23, 2016, funds totaling \$67,330 were available for borrowing under the ABL facility.

### **Note 9 Stockholders' Equity**

During the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016, the Company granted 186,969 restricted stock awards (“RSAs”) to its employees and independent directors at a weighted average grant date fair value of \$18.47 each. These awards are a mix of time and performance based grants which will vest over periods of two to four years. During the thirteen and thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016, the Company recognized expense totaling \$110 and \$357 on these RSAs, and \$309 and \$1,160 of expense for RSAs issued in prior years.

During March 2016, the Company granted 259,577 non-qualified stock options with market condition provisions to its employees at a weighted average grant date fair value of \$9.44 each. These awards vest over a period of three years and require the Company's stock to trade at or above \$30 per share for 20 consecutive days within four years of issuance to meet the market condition threshold. During the thirteen and thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016, the Company recognized expense totaling \$120 and \$392 on these options, respectively.

At September 23, 2016, the Company had 309,922 unvested RSAs outstanding. At September 23, 2016, the total unrecognized compensation cost for these unvested RSAs was \$4,921 and the weighted-average remaining useful life was approximately 20 months. Of this total, \$3,596 related to RSAs with time-based vesting provisions and \$1,325 related to RSAs with performance-based vesting provisions. At September 23, 2016, the weighted-average remaining useful lives for time-based vesting RSAs and performance-based vesting RSAs were both approximately 20 months. No compensation expense related to the Company's RSAs has been capitalized.

As of September 23, 2016, there were 603,789 shares available for grant under the Company's 2011 Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan.

**Note 10      Related  
Parties**

The Company previously leased two warehouse facilities from related parties. These facilities are 100% owned by entities controlled by certain of the Company's current and former directors and officers and current stockholders and are deemed to be affiliates of those individuals. Expenses related to these facilities totaled \$133 and \$233, respectively, during the thirteen weeks ended September 23, 2016 and September 25, 2015 and \$481 and \$1,147, respectively, during the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016 and September 25, 2015. One of the facilities is a distribution facility leased by Chefs' Warehouse Mid-Atlantic, LLC for which the Company recently extended the lease expiration date to September 30, 2019. The other facility is a distribution facility which one of the Company's subsidiaries, Dairyland, sublet from TCW Leasing Co., LLC ("Leasing"), an entity controlled by the Company's founders. The Company exited this facility on February 29, 2016 and is no longer required to pay rent.

Each of Christopher Pappas, CEO, John Pappas, Vice Chairman and Dean Facatselis (the brother-in-law of Messrs. Pappas) owns 8.33% of a New York City-based restaurant customer of the Company and its subsidiaries that purchased approximately \$22 and \$27, respectively, of products from the Company during the thirteen weeks ended September 23, 2016 and September 25, 2015 and approximately \$77 and \$86, respectively, of products from the Company during the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016 and September 25, 2015. Messrs. Pappas and Facatselis have no other interest in the restaurant other than these equity interests and are not involved in the day-to-day operation or management of this restaurant.

An entity owned 50% by John Couri, a director of the Company, and of which Messrs. C. Pappas and S. Hanson (also directors of the Company) previously held ownership interests, owns an interest in an aircraft that the Company uses for business purposes in the course of its operations. Mr. Couri paid for his ownership interest in the aircraft himself and bears his share of all operating, personnel and maintenance costs associated with the operation of this aircraft. The Company made payments of \$0 and \$27, respectively, for the thirteen weeks ended September 23, 2016 and September 25, 2015 and \$7 and \$158, respectively, for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016 and September 25, 2015 for use of such aircraft. All payments were paid directly to an entity that manages the aircraft in which Mr. Couri has a *de minimis* indirect ownership interest.

The Company paid \$67 and \$157 to Architexture Studios, Inc. for interior decorating and design including the purchase of furniture and leasehold improvements primarily for its Las Vegas, San Francisco and Chicago facilities during the thirteen weeks ended September 23, 2016 and September 25, 2015, respectively, and \$214 and \$582 during the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016 and September 25, 2015, respectively. This entity is owned by Julie Hardridge, the sister-in-law of Christopher Pappas.

The Company purchases products from ConAgra Foods, Inc. of which Steve Goldstone, a Director of the Company, is the Chairman. Mr. Goldstone became a director of the Company on March 7, 2016. During the thirteen and thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016 the Company purchased approximately \$249 and \$632, respectively, worth of products from ConAgra Foods, Inc.

With the acquisition of Del Monte, the Company acquired two warehouse facility leases that the Company leases from certain prior owners of Del Monte. Two of the owners are current employees, one of whom, John DeBenedetti, serves on the Company's board of directors. The first property is located in American Canyon, CA and is owned by TJ Management Co. LLC, an entity owned 50% by John DeBenedetti and 50% by Theresa Lincoln, John DeBenedetti's sister. The Company paid rent on this facility totaling \$53 and \$52, respectively, for the thirteen weeks ended September 23, 2016 and September 25, 2015 and \$158 and \$104, respectively, for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016 and September 25, 2015. The second property is located in West Sacramento, CA and is owned by David DeBenedetti and Victoria DeBenedetti, the parents of John DeBenedetti. The Company paid rent on this facility totaling \$57 and \$56, respectively, for the thirteen weeks ended September 23, 2016 and September 25, 2015 and \$169 and \$111, respectively, for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016 and September 25, 2015. John DeBenedetti and Victoria DeBenedetti are employees of a subsidiary of the Company.

John DeBenedetti and Theresa Lincoln, indirectly through TJ Investments, LLC, own a 16.67% ownership interest in Old World Provisions, which supplies products to the Company following the Del Monte acquisition. The Company purchased approximately \$169 and \$249, respectively, of products during the thirteen weeks ended September 23, 2016 and September 25, 2015, and approximately \$306 and \$482, respectively, of products during the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016 and September 25, 2015. Neither Mr. J. DeBenedetti nor Ms. Lincoln is involved in the day-to-day management of Old World Provisions.

#### **Note 11 Supplemental Disclosures of Cash Flow Information**

**Thirty-Nine Week  
Period Ended  
September  
23, 2016      25,  
2015**

Supplemental cash flow disclosures:

Cash paid for income taxes	\$7,976	\$ 8,797
Cash paid for interest, net of loss on debt extinguishment	\$10,759	\$ 8,226

Non-cash investing activity:

Convertible notes issued for acquisitions	\$—	\$ 36,750
Contingent earn-out liabilities for acquisitions	\$500	\$ 13,139
Acquisition purchase price payable	\$500	\$ —
Common stock issued for acquisitions	\$—	\$ 24,689

**Note 12 Commitments and Contingencies**

Until February 29, 2016, the Company sublet a distribution facility from Leasing (an entity controlled by the Company's founders). Leasing leases the distribution center from the New York City Industrial Development Agency. In connection with this sublease arrangement and Leasing's obligations under a related mortgage to its mortgage lender, the Company, Dairyland and another of the Company's subsidiaries initially were required to act as guarantors of Leasing's mortgage obligation on the distribution center. The mortgage payoff date is December 2029 and the potential obligation under this guarantee totaled \$5,362 at September 23, 2016. By agreement dated July 1, 2005, the lender released the Company and its subsidiaries from their guaranty obligations, provided the sublease between Dairyland and Leasing remained in full force and effect. As of February 29, 2016, Dairyland exited the sublease arrangement with Leasing, triggering the guarantee obligation. The Company believes that the fair value of the building securing the mortgage more than offsets any potential obligation. In addition, Leasing is in the process of refinancing its mortgage with another lender. The Company, upon completion of the refinancing, expects that the Company and its subsidiaries will be unconditionally and fully released from any guaranty of Leasing's mortgage loan.

**Note 13 Subsequent Events**

On September 30, 2016, the Company paid \$4,083 to the former owners of Del Monte in consideration for Del Monte achieving its year-one EBITDA target.

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

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations ("MD&A") is provided as a supplement to the accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements and footnotes to help provide an understanding of our financial condition, changes in our financial condition and results of operations. The following discussion should be read in conjunction with information included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") on March 4, 2016. Unless otherwise indicated, the terms Company, Chefs' Warehouse, we, us and our refer to The Chefs' Warehouse, Inc. and its subsidiaries. All dollar amounts are in thousands.

### **OVERVIEW**

We are a premier distributor of specialty foods in eight of the leading culinary markets in the United States. We offer more than 35,000 SKUs, ranging from high-quality specialty foods and ingredients to basic ingredients and staples and center-of-the-plate proteins. We serve more than 26,500 customer locations, primarily located in our 15 geographic markets across the United States and Canada, and the majority of our customers are independent restaurants and fine dining establishments. As a result of our acquisition of Allen Brothers, we also sell certain of our center-of-the-plate products directly to consumers.

We believe several key differentiating factors of our business model have enabled us to execute our strategy consistently and profitably across our expanding customer base. These factors consist of a portfolio of distinctive and hard-to-find specialty food products, an extensive selection of center-of-the-plate proteins, a highly trained and motivated sales force, strong sourcing capabilities, a fully integrated warehouse management system, a highly sophisticated distribution and logistics platform and a focused, seasoned management team.

In recent years, our sales to existing and new customers have increased through the continued growth in demand for specialty food products and center-of-the-plate products in general; increased market share driven by our large percentage of sophisticated and experienced sales professionals, our high-quality customer service and our extensive breadth and depth of product offerings, including, as a result of our acquisitions of Michael's in August 2012, Allen Brothers in December 2013 and Del Monte in April 2015, meat, seafood and other center-of-the-plate products, and, as a result of our acquisition of Qzina in May 2013, gourmet chocolate, pastries and dessert; the acquisition of other specialty food and center-of-the-plate distributors; the expansion of our existing distribution centers; our entry into new distribution centers, including the construction of a new distribution center and our acquisition of MT Food in Chicago; and the import and sale of our proprietary brands. Through these efforts, we believe that we have been able to expand our customer base, enhance and diversify our product selections, broaden our geographic penetration and increase our market share.

### **RECENT ACQUISITIONS**

On June 27, 2016 the Company acquired substantially all the assets of M.T. Foodservice, Inc. ("MT Food"), a specialty food distributor based out of Chicago, IL. The purchase price for the transaction was \$21,500 of which \$21,000 was paid in cash at closing and an additional \$500 payable eighteen months after the closing date. The selling price may be increased by an additional \$500 provided certain performance metrics are met in the post-acquisition period. The final purchase price is subject to a customary working capital true-up.

On April 6, 2015, we acquired substantially all the equity interests of Del Monte Capitol Meat Co. and substantially all the assets of certain of its affiliated companies (collectively, "Del Monte") for an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$184,074. Founded in 1926, Del Monte supplies high quality, USDA inspected beef, pork, lamb, veal,



poultry and seafood products to Northern California. The funding of the acquisition consisted of the following:

\$123,893 was paid in cash initially, through cash-on-hand, borrowings under the revolving credit facility portion of our senior secured credit facilities and the issuance of \$25,000 of additional senior secured notes. During the second quarter of fiscal 2016, the Company finalized the net working capital adjustment as included in the initial purchase agreement and in July 2016 received \$1,258 out of escrow; approximately 1.1 million shares of our common stock (valued at \$22.17 per share); and \$36,750 in convertible subordinated notes issued to certain entities affiliated with Del Monte with a six-year maturity bearing interest at 2.50% with a conversion price of \$29.70 per share.

In addition, we have agreed to pay additional contingent consideration of up to \$24,500 upon the successful achievement of Adjusted EBITDA targets for the Del Monte entities and improvements in certain operating metrics for our existing protein business and the business of any protein companies subsequently acquired by the Company over the six years following the closing. On September 30, 2016, the Company paid \$4,083 to the former owners of Del Monte in consideration for Del Monte achieving its year-one EBITDA target.

### ***Our Growth Strategies and Outlook***

We continue to invest in our people, facilities and technology in an effort to achieve the following objectives and maintain our premier position within the specialty foodservice distribution market:

- sales and service territory expansion;
- operational excellence and high customer service levels;
- expanded purchasing programs and improved buying power;
- product innovation and new product category introduction;
- operational efficiencies through system enhancements; and
- operating expense reduction through the centralization of general and administrative functions.

Our growth has allowed us to improve upon our organization's infrastructure, open new distribution facilities and pursue selective acquisitions. Over the last several years, we have increased our distribution capacity to approximately 1.2 million square feet in 22 distribution facilities at September 23, 2016. From the second half of fiscal 2013 through the first nine months of fiscal 2016, we have invested significantly in acquisitions, infrastructure and management.

### ***Key Factors Affecting Our Performance***

Due to our focus on menu-driven independent restaurants, fine dining establishments, country clubs, hotels, caterers, culinary schools, bakeries, patisseries, chocolatiers, cruise lines, casinos and specialty food stores, our results of operations are materially impacted by the success of the food-away-from-home industry in the United States and Canada, which is materially impacted by general economic conditions, weather, discretionary spending levels and consumer confidence. When economic conditions deteriorate, our customers businesses are negatively impacted as fewer people eat away-from-home and those who do spend less money. As economic conditions begin to improve, our customers' businesses historically have likewise improved, which contributes to improvements in our business. Likewise, the direct to consumer business of our Allen Brothers subsidiary is significantly dependent on consumers' discretionary spending habits, and weakness or uncertainty in the economy could lead to consumers buying less from Allen Brothers.

Volatile food costs may have a direct impact upon our profitability. Prolonged periods of product cost inflation may have a negative impact on our profit margins and results of operations to the extent we are unable to pass on all or a portion of such product cost increases to our customers. In addition, product cost inflation may negatively impact consumer discretionary spending decisions within our customers' establishments, which could adversely impact our sales. Conversely, our profit levels may be negatively impacted during periods of product cost deflation even though our gross profit as a percentage of sales may remain relatively constant. However, some of our products, particularly certain of our protein items, are priced on a cost plus a dollar markup, which helps mitigate the negative impact of deflation.

Given our wide selection of product categories, as well as the continuous introduction of new products, we can experience shifts in product sales mix that have an impact on net sales and gross profit margins. This mix shift is most significantly impacted by the introduction of new categories of products in markets that we have more recently entered, the shift in product mix resulting from acquisitions, as well as the continued growth in item penetration on higher velocity items such as dairy products.

The foodservice distribution industry is fragmented but consolidating, and we have supplemented our internal growth through selective strategic acquisitions. We believe that the consolidation trends in the foodservice distribution industry will continue to present acquisition opportunities for us, which may allow us to grow our business at a faster pace than we would otherwise be able to grow the business organically.

On June 22, 2016, the Company refinanced its debt structure by entering into a new senior secured term loan. The Company used the proceeds to pay down the revolving credit facility of \$96,400, the previous term loan of \$1,681 and the senior secured notes of \$125,000. The revolving credit facility and previous term loan were originally due in April 2017. The senior secured notes had maturities of \$50,000 in April 2018, \$25,000 in October 2020 and \$50,000 in April 2023. The Company was required to pay the senior note holders make-whole payments totaling \$21,144 for the early retirement of these notes. In addition, the Company wrote off deferred financing fees totaling \$1,091 relating to the senior secured notes, term loan, and revolving credit facility. The refinancing met the requirements of a debt extinguishment for accounting purposes and the loss on extinguishment of debt of \$22,310, inclusive of the make-whole payments and write-off of deferred financing fees, is reflected in interest expense.

**RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The following table presents, for the periods indicated, certain income and expense items expressed as a percentage of net sales:

	Thirteen Weeks Ended September 23, 2016		Thirteen Weeks Ended September 25, 2015		Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended September 23, 2016		Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended September 25, 2015	
Net sales	100.0 %		100.0 %		100.0 %		100.0 %	
Cost of sales	75.0 %		74.6 %		75.0 %		74.6 %	
Gross profit	25.0 %		25.4 %		25.0 %		25.4 %	
Operating expenses	22.2 %		20.7 %		22.0 %		22.0 %	
Operating income	2.8 %		4.7 %		3.0 %		3.4 %	
Interest expense and gain on sale of asset	2.0 %		1.4 %		4.2 %		1.2 %	
Income (loss) before income tax expense	0.8 %		3.3 %		(1.2 %)		2.2 %	
Provision for income taxes	0.3 %		1.4 %		(0.5 %)		0.9 %	
Net income (loss)	0.5 %		1.9 %		(0.7 %)		1.3 %	

Management evaluates the results of operations and cash flows using a variety of key performance indicators, including net sales compared to prior periods and internal forecasts, costs of our products and results of our cost-control initiatives, and use of operating cash. These indicators are discussed throughout the Results of Operations and Liquidity and Capital Resources sections of this MD&A.

**Thirteen Weeks Ended September 23, 2016 Compared to Thirteen Weeks Ended September 25, 2015*****Net Sales***

Our net sales for the thirteen weeks ended September 23, 2016 increased approximately 7.8%, or \$21,611, to \$297,917 from \$276,306 for the thirteen weeks ended September 25, 2015. Organic growth contributed \$5,992, or 2.2% to sales growth in the quarter. The remaining sales growth of \$15,619, or 5.7% resulted from the acquisition of MT Food on June 27, 2016. Compared to the third quarter of 2015, the Company's case count grew approximately 7.5%, while the number of unique customers and placements grew 5.2% and 5.6%, respectively, in the core specialty business in the third quarter of 2016. Pounds sold in our protein division decreased 1.8% for the third quarter of 2016 compared to the prior year quarter. Internally calculated deflation was approximately 2.2% during the quarter, consisting of 1.6% deflation in our specialty division and deflation of 3.2% in our protein division.

***Gross Profit***

Gross profit increased approximately 6.0%, or \$4,220, to \$74,392 for the thirteen weeks ended September 23, 2016, from \$70,172 for the thirteen weeks ended September 25, 2015. Gross profit margin decreased approximately 43 basis points to 25.0% from 25.4%. Gross profit margins increased approximately 11 basis points in the Company's specialty division. Gross profit margins decreased approximately 191 basis points in the protein division due to challenges passing through beef prices as well as continued integration challenges at Del Monte.

***Operating Expenses***

Total operating expenses increased by approximately 15.3%, or \$8,787, to \$66,106 for the thirteen weeks ended September 23, 2016 from \$57,319 for the thirteen weeks ended September 25, 2015. As a percentage of net sales,

operating expenses were 22.2% in the third quarter of 2016 compared to 20.7% in the third quarter of 2015. The increase in the Company's operating expense ratio is largely attributable to the acquisition of MT Food, \$2,481, as well as increased warehouse salary of \$1,261 and occupancy costs of \$620 related to the Company's expanded warehouse capacity, higher delivery labor costs of \$648, higher fleet related expenses of \$738 and additional amortization expense of \$855.

### ***Operating Income***

Operating income for the thirteen weeks ended September 23, 2016 was \$8,286 compared to \$12,853 for the thirteen weeks ended September 25, 2015. As a percentage of net sales, operating income was 2.8% for the thirteen weeks ended September 23, 2016 compared to 4.7% for the thirteen weeks ended September 25, 2015. The decrease in operating income was driven primarily from the higher operating expenses discussed above partially offset by higher gross profit.

### ***Interest Expense***

Total interest expense increased to \$5,947 for the thirteen weeks ended September 23, 2016 compared to \$3,902 for the thirteen weeks ended September 25, 2015 due to higher levels of debt as a result of the Company's previously disclosed refinancing completed on June 22, 2016.

### ***Provision for Income Taxes***

For the thirteen weeks ended September 23, 2016, we recorded an effective income tax rate of 41.6%. For the thirteen weeks ended September 25, 2015, our effective income tax rate was 41.6%.

### ***Net Income***

Reflecting the factors described above, net income was \$1,343 for the thirteen weeks ended September 23, 2016, compared to net income of \$5,224 for the thirteen weeks ended September 25, 2015.

### **Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended September 23, 2016 Compared to Thirty-nine Weeks Ended September 25, 2015**

#### ***Net Sales***

Our net sales for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016 increased approximately 12.8%, or \$96,173, to \$849,962 from \$753,789 for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 25, 2015. The increase in net sales was primarily the result of the Del Monte acquisition on April 6, 2015, the MT Food acquisition on June 27, 2016 and organic sales growth. Del Monte contributed approximately \$48,219, or 6.4%, and MT Food contributed \$15,619, or 2.1%, to net sales growth for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016. Organic growth contributed the remaining approximately \$32,335, or 4.3%, of total net sales growth.

#### ***Gross Profit***

Gross profit increased approximately 10.7%, or \$20,510, to \$212,153 for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016, from \$191,643 for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 25, 2015. Gross profit margin decreased approximately 46 basis points to 25.0% in the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016 from 25.4% in the thirty-nine weeks ended September 25, 2015. The decrease was primarily related to the higher mix of protein sales in fiscal 2016 due to the acquisition of Del Monte in the second quarter of 2015. Gross profit margins decreased approximately 14 basis points in the Company's specialty division and 84 basis points in the protein division compared to strong margins in the thirty-nine weeks ended September 25, 2015.

#### ***Operating Expenses***

Total operating expenses increased by approximately 12.6%, or \$21,002, to \$187,318 for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016 from \$166,316 for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 25, 2015. As a percentage of net sales, operating expenses were 22.0% in the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016 compared to 22.1% in the thirty-nine weeks ended September 25, 2015. The increase in the Company's operating expenses is largely attributable to the acquisitions of Del Monte and MT Food which accounted for year-on-year increases of \$10,573 and \$2,481, respectively, and increased amortization expense of \$1,950.

#### ***Operating Income***

Operating income was \$24,835 for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016 compared to \$25,327 for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 25, 2015. As a percentage of net sales, operating income was 3.0% for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016 compared to 3.4% for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 25, 2015. The decrease in operating income as a percentage of net sales was driven primarily from the reduction in gross profit margin as a percentage of sales discussed above.

***Interest Expense***

Total interest expense increased \$25,929 to \$35,271 for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016 from \$9,312 for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 25, 2015. The increase was primarily due to the refinancing of the Company's debt on June 22, 2016. As part of the refinancing, the Company retired its previous revolving credit facility, term loan and senior secured notes. The Company was required to pay the senior note holders make-whole payments totaling \$21,144 for the early retirement of these notes. In addition, the Company wrote off deferred financing fees totaling \$1,091 relating to the senior secured notes, term loan, and revolving credit facility. This retirement was accounted for as a debt extinguishment and the loss on debt extinguishment of \$22,310, inclusive of the make-whole payments and write-off of deferred financing fees is reflected in interest expense in the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016. In addition, the Company had higher overall debt levels in fiscal 2016 as a result of financing the Del Monte acquisition in the second quarter of fiscal 2015.

***Provision for Income Taxes***

For the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016, we recorded an effective income tax rate of 41.6%. For the thirty-nine weeks ended September 25, 2015, our effective income tax rate was 41.6%.

***Net (Loss) Income***

Reflecting the factors described above, net income decreased \$15,673 to \$(6,119) for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016, compared to net income of \$9,554 for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 25, 2015.

## Product Category Sales Mix

The sales mix for the principal product categories for thirteen and thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016 and September 25, 2015 is as follows (dollars in thousands):

	Thirteen Weeks Ended			September 25,			Thirty-Nine Weeks Ended			September 25,		
	September 23,			September 23,			September 23,			September 25,		
	2016			2015			2016			2015		
Center of the Plate	\$146,552	49	%	\$136,932	49	%	\$416,327	49	%	\$344,317	46	%
Dry Goods	49,488	17	%	45,434	17	%	142,961	17	%	134,209	18	%
Pastry	38,938	13	%	35,094	13	%	112,732	13	%	107,814	14	%
Cheese	23,838	8	%	22,357	8	%	66,774	8	%	64,948	9	%
Dairy	17,926	6	%	17,061	6	%	51,935	5	%	46,440	6	%
Oils and Vinegar	16,211	5	%	14,995	5	%	45,508	6	%	43,294	6	%
Kitchen Supplies	4,964	2	%	4,433	2	%	13,725	2	%	12,767	2	%
Total	\$297,917	100	%	\$276,306	100	%	\$849,962	100	%	\$753,789	100	%

## LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

We finance our day-to-day operations and growth primarily with cash flows from operations, borrowings under our senior secured credit facilities, operating leases, trade payables and bank indebtedness.

On June 22, 2016, the Company refinanced its debt structure by entering into a new senior secured term loan. The Company used the proceeds to pay down the revolving credit facility of \$96,400, the previous term loan of \$1,681 and the senior secured notes of \$125,000. The revolving credit facility and previous term loan were originally due in April 2017. The senior secured notes had maturities of \$50,000 in April 2018, \$25,000 in October 2020 and \$50,000 in April 2023. The Company was required to pay the senior note holders make-whole payments totaling \$21,144 for the early retirement of these notes. In addition, the Company wrote off deferred financing fees totaling \$1,091 relating to the senior secured notes, term loan, and revolving credit facility. The refinancing met the requirements of a debt extinguishment for accounting purposes and the loss on extinguishment of debt of \$22,310, inclusive of the make-whole payments and write-off of deferred financing fees, is reflected in interest expense.

### Senior Secured Term Loan Credit Facility

On June 22, 2016, Chefs' Warehouse Parent, LLC ("CW Parent") and Dairyland USA Corporation ("Dairyland"), as co-borrowers, and The Chefs' Warehouse, Inc. (the "Company") and certain other subsidiaries of the Company, as guarantors, entered into a credit agreement (the "Term Loan Credit Agreement") with a group of lenders for which Jefferies Finance LLC ("Jefferies") acts as administrative agent and collateral agent. The Term Loan Credit Agreement provides for a senior secured term loan B facility (the "Term Loan Facility") in an aggregate amount of \$305,000 with a \$50,000 six-month delayed draw term loan facility (the "DDTL"; the loans outstanding under the Term Loan Facility (including the DDTL), the "Term Loans"). On June 27, 2016, the Company drew \$14,000 from the DDTL to help pay for the MT Food acquisition. On September 14, 2016, the Company entered into an amendment to the Term Loan Credit Agreement under which the remaining portion of the DDTL was terminated, the Company's interest rate schedule was modified and the Company repaid \$25,000 of the outstanding balance of the Term Loan Credit Agreement. The interest rate on this facility at September 23, 2016 was 6.75%.

Additionally, the co-borrowers under the Term Loan Facility includes an accordion which permits the co-borrowers to request that the lenders extend additional Term Loans in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$50,000 (less the



aggregate amount of certain indebtedness incurred to finance acquisitions) plus an unlimited amount subject to the Company's Total Leverage Ratio not exceeding 4.90:1.00 on a pro forma basis.

The final maturity of the Term Loan Facility is June 22, 2022. Subject to adjustment for prepayments, the Company is required to make quarterly amortization payments on the Term Loans in an amount equal to 0.25% of the aggregate principal amount of the Term Loans.

All of the indebtedness outstanding under the Term Loan Facility is guaranteed by the Company and the current and future domestic subsidiaries of CW Parent and Dairyland (other than Dairyland HP, LLC). In addition, the Term Loan Facility is secured by a pledge of the equity interests of the Company's current and future domestic subsidiaries (other than Dairyland HP, LLC) and by a first priority security interest (subject to certain permitted liens) in substantially all of the personal property and other assets of the Company and its current and future domestic subsidiaries (other than Dairyland HP, LLC), other than the assets and property securing the ABL Facility on a first priority basis described above under "Asset-Based Loan Facility" (which assets secure the Term Loan Facility on a second priority basis).

The interest rates per annum applicable to Term Loans, will be, at the co-borrowers' option, equal to either a base rate or an adjusted LIBO rate for one, two, three, six or (if consented to by the lenders) twelve-month, interest periods chosen by the Company, in each case plus an applicable margin percentage.

The Term Loan Facility contains customary affirmative covenants, negative covenants (including restrictions, subject to customary exceptions, on incurring debt or liens, paying dividends, repaying payment subordinated and junior lien debt, disposing assets, and making investments and acquisitions), and events of default for a term loan B facility of this type, as more particularly described in the Term Loan Credit Agreement.

#### Asset Based Loan Facility

On June 22, 2016, CW Parent and Dairyland, as co-borrowers, and the Company, The Chefs' Warehouse Mid-Atlantic, LLC, Bel Canto Foods, LLC, The Chefs' Warehouse West Coast, LLC, The Chefs' Warehouse Of Florida, LLC, Michael's Finer Meats, LLC, Michael's Finer Meats Holdings, LLC, The Chefs' Warehouse Midwest, LLC, and certain other subsidiaries of the Company, as guarantors, entered into a credit agreement (the "ABL Credit Agreement") with a group of lenders for which JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., acts as administrative agent and collateral agent.

The ABL Credit Agreement provides for an asset based loan facility (the "ABL Facility") in the aggregate amount of \$75,000 of which up to \$15,000 is available for letters of credit and up to \$10,000 is available for short-term borrowings on a swingline basis. Availability under the ABL Facility will be limited to a borrowing base consisting of the difference of (a) the lesser of: (i) the aggregate amount of commitments or (ii) the sum of specified percentages of eligible receivables and eligible inventory, minus certain availability reserves minus (b) outstanding borrowings. The co-borrowers under the ABL Facility are entitled on one or more occasions, subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, to request an increase in the commitments under the ABL Facility in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$25,000. The ABL Facility matures on June 22, 2021.

All of the indebtedness outstanding under the ABL Facility is guaranteed by the Company and the current and future domestic subsidiaries of CW Parent and Dairyland (other than Dairyland HP, LLC). In addition, the ABL Facility is secured by a first priority security interest (subject to certain permitted liens) in certain property and assets, including accounts, inventory, deposit accounts, securities accounts and other personal property relating to the accounts and inventory, of the Company and its current and future domestic subsidiaries (other than Dairyland HP, LLC), and by a second priority security interest (ranking behind the security interest securing the Term Loan Facility and subject to certain permitted liens) in substantially all of the other personal property and assets of the Company and such subsidiaries.

The interest rates per annum applicable to loans, other than swingline loans, under the ABL Credit Facility will be, at the co-borrowers' option, equal to either a base rate or an adjusted LIBO rate for one, two, three, six or (if consented to by the lenders) 12-month, interest periods chosen by the Company, in each case plus an applicable margin percentage. The co-borrowers will pay certain recurring fees with respect to the ABL Facility, including fees on the unused commitments of the lenders.

The ABL Facility contains customary affirmative covenants, negative covenants and events of default as more particularly described in the ABL Credit Agreement. The ABL Facility will require compliance with a minimum consolidated fixed charge coverage ratio if the amount of availability under the ABL Facility falls below a specified

dollar amount or percentage of the borrowing base.

***New Markets Tax Credit Loan***

On April 26, 2012, Dairyland HP LLC (“DHP”), an indirectly wholly-owned subsidiary of ours, entered into a financing arrangement under the New Markets Tax Credit (“NMTC”) program under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, pursuant to which a subsidiary of Chase, provided to DHP an \$11,000 construction loan (the “NMTC Loan”) to help fund DHP’s expansion and build-out of our Bronx, New York facility and the rail shed located at that facility, which construction is required under the facility lease agreement. Borrowings under the NMTC Loan are secured by a first priority secured lien on DHPs leasehold interest in our Bronx, New York facility, including all improvements made on the premises, as well as, among other things, a lien on all fixtures incorporated into the project improvements.

Under the NMTC Loan, DHP is obligated to pay (i) monthly interest payments on the principal balance then outstanding and (ii) the entire unpaid principal balance then due and owing on April 26, 2017. So long as DHP is not in default, interest accrues on borrowings at 1.00% per annum. We may prepay the NMTC Loan, in whole or in part, in \$100 increments.

As of September 23, 2016, DHP was in compliance with all debt covenants under the NMTC Loan.

***Convertible Subordinated Notes***

On April 6, 2015, the Company issued \$36,750 principal amount of convertible subordinated notes with a six-year maturity bearing interest at 2.5% and a conversion price of \$29.70 per share (the “Convertible Subordinated Notes”) to certain of the Del Monte entities as partial consideration in the Del Monte acquisition. The holders of the Convertible Subordinated Notes may, in certain instances beginning one year after issuance, redeem the Convertible Subordinated Notes for cash or shares of the Company’s common stock. Moreover, the Company may pay the outstanding principal amount due and owing under the Convertible Subordinated Notes at maturity in either cash or shares of the Company’s common stock. Interest is payable annually in cash with the first interest payment due on April 6, 2016. The Convertible Subordinated Notes, which are subordinate to the Company’s and its subsidiaries’ senior debt, are convertible into shares of the Company’s common stock by the holders at any time at a conversion price of \$29.70.

## Liquidity

We believe our capital expenditures, excluding cash paid for acquisitions, for fiscal 2016 will be approximately \$14,000. The significant decrease from \$21,656 in fiscal 2015 in projected capital expenditures in fiscal 2016 as compared to fiscal 2015 is the result of the completion of the renovation and expansion of our new Bronx, NY and Las Vegas, NV distribution facilities. Recurring capital expenditures will be financed with cash generated from operations and borrowings under our ABL Facility. Our planned capital projects will provide both new and expanded facilities and improvements to our technology that we believe will produce increased efficiency and the capacity to continue to support the growth of our customer base. Future investments and acquisitions will be financed through either internally generated cash flow, borrowings under our credit facilities in place at the time of the potential investment or acquisition or through the issuance of equity or debt securities, including, but not limited to, longer-term, fixed-rate debt securities and shares of our common stock.

On June 27, 2016, the Company acquired substantially all the assets of MT Food, a specialty food distributor based out of Chicago, IL. The purchase price for the transaction was \$21,500, of which, \$21,000 was paid in cash at closing and an additional \$500 payable eighteen months after the closing date. The selling price may be increased by an additional \$500 provided certain performance metrics are met in the post-acquisition period. The acquisition was paid for with cash on hand and drawdown of our delayed draw term loan facility.

In July 2015, we closed on a sale-leaseback transaction of our new Las Vegas, NV distribution facility. The property was sold for \$14,645, which approximated its cost. The related on-going lease will be accounted for as an operating lease.

Net cash provided by operations was \$21,208 for thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016, an increase of \$4,463 from the \$16,745 provided by operations for thirty-nine weeks ended September 25, 2015. The primary reasons for the increase in net cash provided by operations was increased cash generated through net income from operations partially offset by cash used in working capital changes. During the first thirty-nine weeks of fiscal 2016 net income decreased by \$15,673. The primary cause for this decrease in net income was a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$22,310, partially offset by the related tax impact on the loss of approximately \$9,281. Exclusive of the net impact of the loss on extinguishment, which is a cash flow from financing activities, net income from operations decreased by \$2,644. Embedded within the net income from operations decrease, non-cash charges increased by \$4,963, representing an overall increase of cash provided by operations through net income of \$2,319. The primary cause for this increase was the Company's organic growth as well as the cash generating impacts of the Del Monte and MT Food acquisitions. The decrease in cash provided by changes in working capital was primarily due to an increase in cash used for accounts payable changes of \$9,548 and an increase in cash used for prepaid expenses and other current assets changes of \$6,894 (exclusive of the tax impact of the loss on debt extinguishment, a financing activity), offset by increases in cash provided by inventory changes of \$11,820 and accounts receivable changes of \$7,921.

Net cash used in investing activities was \$31,274 for thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016, a decrease of \$95,617 from the net cash used in investing activities of \$126,891 for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 25, 2015. The decrease in net cash used was primarily due to lower cash paid for acquisitions, resulting from the Del Monte acquisition in 2015 partially offset by the cash paid for the MT Food acquisition in 2016, and lower capital expenditures the result of completing construction of our Bronx, NY and Las Vegas, NV distribution facilities offset, in part, by the sale of one of our owned facilities in the thirty-nine weeks ended September 25, 2015.

Net cash provided by financing activities was \$33,651 for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016, a decrease of \$74,890 from the \$108,541 provided by financing activities for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 25, 2015. This decrease was primarily due to the debt issued in 2015 to pay for the Del Monte acquisition and payments made to

pay down our revolving credit facility in the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016, the result of improved cash flow from operations and lower capital expenditures.

***Seasonality***

Excluding our direct-to-consumer business, we generally do not experience any material seasonality. However, our sales and operating results may vary from quarter to quarter due to factors such as changes in our operating expenses, management's ability to execute our operating and growth strategies, personnel changes, demand for our products, supply shortages, weather patterns and general economic conditions.

Our direct-to-consumer business is subject to seasonal fluctuations, with direct-to-consumer center-of-the-plate protein sales typically higher during the holiday season in our fourth quarter; accordingly, a disproportionate amount of operating cash flows from this portion of our business is generated by our direct-to-consumer business in the fourth quarter of our fiscal year. Despite a significant portion of these sales occurring in the fourth quarter, there are operating expenses, principally advertising and promotional expenses, throughout the year.

### ***Inflation***

Our profitability is dependent on, among other things, our ability to anticipate and react to changes in the costs of key operating resources, including food and other raw materials, labor, energy and other supplies and services. Substantial increases in costs and expenses could impact our operating results to the extent that such increases cannot be passed along to our customers. The impact of inflation and deflation on food, labor, energy and occupancy costs can significantly affect the profitability of our operations.

### ***Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements***

As of September 23, 2016, we did not have any off-balance sheet arrangements, as defined in Item 303(a)(4)(ii) of Regulation S-K.

### ***Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates***

The preparation of the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements requires it to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. The SEC has defined critical accounting policies as those that are both most important to the portrayal of the Company's financial condition and results and require its most difficult, complex or subjective judgments or estimates. Based on this definition, we believe our critical accounting policies include the following: (i) determining the allowance for doubtful accounts, (ii) inventory valuation, with regard to determining the reserve for excess and obsolete inventory, (iii) valuing goodwill and intangible assets, (iv) vendor rebates and other promotional incentives, (v) self-insurance reserves, (vi) accounting for income taxes and (vii) contingent earn-out liabilities. For all financial statement periods presented, there have been no material modifications to the application of these critical accounting policies.

#### ***Allowance for Doubtful Accounts***

We analyze customer creditworthiness, accounts receivable balances, payment history, payment terms and historical bad debt levels when evaluating the adequacy of our allowance for doubtful accounts. In instances where a reserve has been recorded for a particular customer, future sales to the customer are either conducted using cash-on-delivery terms or the account is closely monitored so that agreed-upon payments are received prior to orders being released. A failure to pay results in held or cancelled orders. Our accounts receivable balance was \$121,493 and \$124,139, net of the allowance for doubtful accounts of \$6,091 and \$5,803, as of September 23, 2016 and December 25, 2015, respectively.

#### ***Inventory Valuation***

We maintain reserves for slow-moving and obsolete inventories. These reserves are primarily based upon inventory age plus specifically identified inventory items and overall economic conditions. A sudden and unexpected change in consumer preferences or change in overall economic conditions could result in a significant change in the reserve balance and could require a corresponding charge to earnings. We actively manage our inventory levels as we seek to minimize the risk of loss and have consistently achieved a relatively high level of inventory turnover.

#### ***Valuation of Goodwill and Intangible Assets***

We are required to test goodwill for impairment at least annually and between annual tests if events occur or circumstances change that would more likely than not reduce the fair value of a reporting unit below its carrying

amount. We have elected to perform our annual tests for indications of goodwill impairment during the fourth quarter of each fiscal year. We test for goodwill impairment at the reporting unit level, as we aggregate our component units into two reporting units, Protein and Specialty, based on a discounted cash flow approach. The goodwill impairment analysis is a two-step test. The first step, used to identify potential impairment, involves comparing our estimated fair value to our carrying value, including goodwill. If our estimated fair value exceeds our carrying value, goodwill is considered not to be impaired. If the carrying value exceeds estimated fair value, there is an indication of potential impairment and the second step is performed to measure the amount of impairment. If required, the second step involves calculating an implied fair value of our goodwill. The implied fair value of goodwill is determined in a manner similar to the amount of goodwill calculated in a business combination, by measuring the excess of the estimated fair value, as determined in the first step, over the aggregate estimated fair values of the individual assets, liabilities and identifiable intangibles as if we were being acquired in a business combination. If the implied fair value of our goodwill exceeds the carrying value of our goodwill, there is no impairment. If the carrying value of our goodwill exceeds the implied fair value of our goodwill, an impairment charge is recorded for the excess.

When analyzing whether to aggregate the business components into single reporting units, the Company considers whether each component has similar economic characteristics. The Company has evaluated the economic characteristics of its different geographic markets, including its recently acquired businesses, along with the similarity of the operations and margins, nature of the products, type of customer and methods of distribution of products and the regulatory environment in which the Company operates and concluded that the business components can be combined into two reporting units, Protein and Specialty.

In fiscal 2015, our annual assessment indicated that we are not at risk of failing step one of the goodwill impairment test and no impairment of goodwill existed, as the fair value of each reporting unit exceeded their carrying value. We have noted no indicators of impairment during the thirty-nine weeks ended September 23, 2016. Total goodwill as of September 23, 2016 and December 25, 2015 was \$167,016 and \$155,816, respectively.

Intangible assets with finite lives are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. Cash flows expected to be generated by the related assets are estimated over the assets useful lives based on updated projections. If the evaluation indicates that the carrying amount of the asset may not be recoverable, the potential impairment is measured based on a projected discounted cash flow model. There have been no events or changes in circumstances during 2016 or 2015 indicating that the carrying value of our finite-lived intangible assets are not recoverable. Total finite-lived intangible assets as of September 23, 2016 and December 25, 2015 were \$130,694 and \$132,211, respectively.

The assessment of the recoverability of goodwill and intangible assets will be impacted if estimated future cash flows are not achieved.

#### ***Vendor Rebates and Other Promotional Incentives***

We participate in various rebate and promotional incentives with our suppliers, including volume and growth rebates, annual incentives and promotional programs. In accounting for vendor rebates, we follow the guidance in ASC 605-50 (Emerging Issues Task Force, or EITF, No. 02-16, *Accounting by a Customer (Including a Reseller) for Certain Consideration Received from a Vendor* and EITF No. 03-10, *Application of Issue No. 02-16 by Resellers to Sales Incentives Offered to Consumers by Manufacturers*).

We generally record consideration received under these incentives as a reduction of cost of goods sold; however, in certain circumstances, we record marketing-related consideration as a reduction of marketing costs incurred. We may receive consideration in the form of cash and/or invoice deductions.

We record consideration that we receive for volume and growth rebates and annual incentives as a reduction of cost of goods sold. We systematically and rationally allocate the consideration for those incentives to each of the underlying transactions that results in progress by us toward earning the incentives. If the incentives are not probable and reasonably estimable, we record the incentives as the underlying objectives or milestones are achieved. We record annual incentives when we earn them, generally over the agreement period. We record consideration received to promote and sell the suppliers' products as a reduction of our costs, as the consideration is typically a reimbursement of costs incurred by us. If we received consideration from the suppliers in excess of our costs, we record any excess as a reduction of cost of goods sold.

#### ***Self-Insurance Reserves***

Effective October 1, 2011, we began maintaining a self-insured group medical program. The program contains individual stop loss thresholds of \$125 per incident and aggregate stop loss thresholds based upon the average number of employees enrolled in the program throughout the year. The amount in excess of the self-insured levels is fully insured by third party insurers. Liabilities associated with this program are estimated in part by considering historical claims experience and medical cost trends. Projections of future loss expenses are inherently uncertain because of the random nature of insurance claims occurrences and could be significantly affected if future occurrences and claims differ from these assumptions and historical trends.

Effective August 1, 2012, we became self-insured for workers' compensation and automobile liability to deductibles or self-insured retentions of \$350 for workers compensation and \$250 for automobile liability per occurrence. The amounts in excess of our deductibles are fully insured by third party insurers. Liabilities associated with this program are estimated in part by considering historical claims experience and cost trends. Projections of future loss expenses are inherently uncertain because of the random nature of insurance claims occurrences and could be significantly affected if future occurrences and claims differ from these assumptions and historical trends.



### ***Income Taxes***

The determination of our provision for income taxes requires significant judgment, the use of estimates and the interpretation and application of complex tax laws. Our provision for income taxes primarily reflects a combination of income earned and taxed in the various U.S. federal and state jurisdictions. Jurisdictional tax law changes, increases or decreases in permanent differences between book and tax items, accruals or adjustments of accruals for unrecognized tax benefits, and our change in the mix of earnings from these taxing jurisdictions all affect the overall effective tax rate.

### ***Contingent Earn-out Liabilities***

We account for contingent consideration relating to business combinations as a liability and an increase to goodwill at the date of the acquisition and continually re-measure the liability at each balance sheet date by recording changes in the fair value through our Consolidated Statements of Operations. We determine the fair value of contingent consideration based on future operating projections under various potential scenarios, including the use of Monte Carlo simulations, and weight the probability of these outcomes. The ultimate settlement of contingent earn-out liabilities relating to business combinations may be for amounts which are materially different from the amounts initially recorded and may cause volatility in our results of operations.

Management has discussed the development and selection of these critical accounting policies with our Audit Committee, and the Audit Committee has reviewed the above disclosure. Our condensed consolidated financial statements contain other items that require estimation, but are not as critical as those discussed above. These other items include our calculations for bonus accruals, depreciation and amortization. Changes in estimates and assumptions used in these and other items could have an effect on our condensed consolidated financial statements.

### **ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

#### ***Interest Rate Risk***

As of September 23, 2016, we had \$293,202 million of indebtedness outstanding under the Senior Secured Term Loan and \$2,774 million outstanding under a software financing agreement that bore interest at variable rates. A 100 basis point increase in market interest rates would decrease our after tax earnings by approximately \$1,729 per annum, holding other variables constant.

### **ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

#### ***Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures***

Our management, with the participation of our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Rule 13a-15 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), as of the end of the period covered by this Form 10-Q. The evaluation included certain internal control areas in which we have made and are continuing to make changes to improve and enhance controls. In designing and evaluating the disclosure controls and procedures, management recognized that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives. In addition, the design of disclosure controls and procedures must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints and that management is required to apply its judgment in evaluating the benefits of possible controls and procedures relative to their costs.

Based on that evaluation, our chief executive officer and chief financial officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the end of the period covered by this Form 10-Q to provide reasonable assurance that information we are required to disclose in reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in SEC rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

#### ***Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting***

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the most recent fiscal period that may have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting. As of September 23, 2016, the Company has transitioned five of the six divisions of Del Monte from the legacy Del Monte ERP system to the Company's protein group ERP system. The Company plans to complete the Del Monte system transition during fiscal 2016. Additionally, the Company plans to transition MT Food's ERP system to the specialty group ERP in the first quarter of fiscal 2017, when the operations are combined with the Company's existing Chicago distribution center.

**PART II. OTHER INFORMATION****ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

We are involved in legal proceedings, claims and litigation arising out of the ordinary conduct of our business. Although we cannot assure the outcome, management presently believes that the result of such legal proceedings, either individually or in the aggregate, will not have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial statements, and no material amounts have been accrued in our consolidated financial statements with respect to these matters.

**ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS**

There has been no material changes with respect to the risk factors disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 4, 2016 or our Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on August 3, 2016.

**ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS**

	<b>Total Number of Shares Repurchased<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Average Price Paid Per Share</b>	<b>Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs</b>	<b>Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares That May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs</b>
June 25, 2016 to July 22, 2016	7,441	\$ 15.81	—	—
July 23, 2016 to August 19, 2016	955	\$ 10.51	—	—
August 20, 2016 to September 23, 2016	2,532	\$ 11.89	—	—
Total	10,928	\$ 14.48	—	—

During the thirteen weeks ended September 23, 2016, we withheld 10,928 shares to satisfy tax withholding (1) requirements upon the vesting of restricted shares of our common stock awarded to our officers and key employees.

**ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES**

None.

**ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES**

None.

**ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION**

None.

**ITEM 6. EXHIBITS**

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
31.1	<u>Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.</u>
31.2	<u>Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.</u>
32.1	<u>Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.</u>
32.2	<u>Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.</u>
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

**SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized on November 2, 2016.

**THE CHEFS' WAREHOUSE, INC.**  
**(Registrant)**

<u>November 2, 2016</u>	/s/ John D. Austin
<b>Date</b>	<b>John D. Austin</b> Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)