

YANKEE CANDLE®

2005 Annual Report



Company Profile

The Yankee Candle Company, Inc. is the nation's leading designer, manufacturer, wholesaler and retailer of premium scented candles, as well as a designer and marketer of proprietary candle accessories, home fragrance products and scented home care items.

We have a proud 36-year history of exceptional fragrance innovation and superior product quality that has enabled our Company to earn the largest share of the premium scented candle market in the United States.

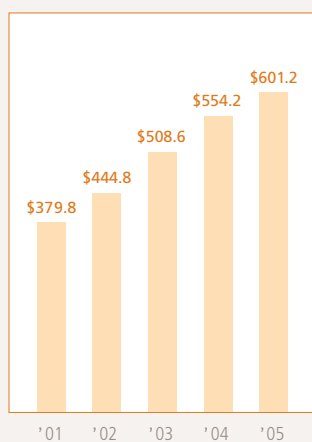
Our success is underpinned by the powerful Yankee Candle® name, which is the most highly recognized brand of any premium scented candle manufacturer. We leverage the value of this brand by maintaining a vertically integrated business model, which provides us with the in-house expertise to design, develop and manufacture innovative, high-quality candles; as well as

the capabilities to market our merchandise through a growing range of image-appropriate distribution channels. As of December 31, 2005, our distribution channels included approximately 16,400 wholesale locations and 390 Company-owned and -operated retail stores in North America; a proprietary Web site at yankeecandle.com; a direct mail catalog channel; and a European wholesale network of approximately 2,200 store locations. Founded in 1969, Yankee Candle is headquartered in South Deerfield, Massachusetts. Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol YCC.

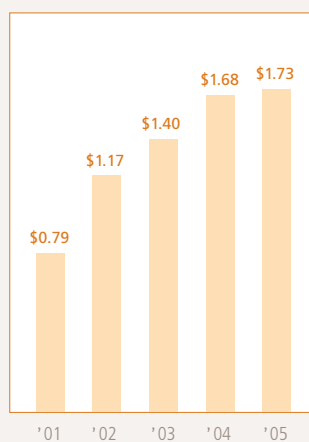


Financial Highlights

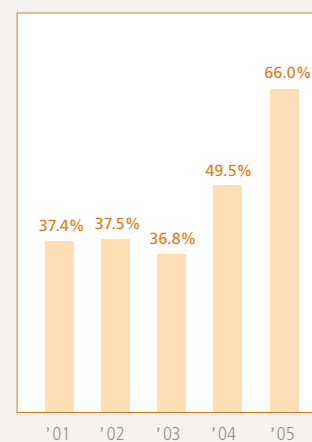
TOTAL NET SALES
(in millions)



EARNINGS PER SHARE
(fully diluted)



RETURN ON EQUITY



2001 2002 2003 2004 2005

Operating Results:

Total Net Sales (dollars in thousands)	\$379,831	\$444,842	\$508,637	\$554,202	\$601,181
Earnings Per Share	\$0.79	\$1.17	\$1.40	\$1.68	\$1.73
Return On Equity	37.4%	37.5%	36.8%	49.5%	66.0%



To Our Shareholders

Often the only difference between a challenge and an opportunity lies in the way that one responds to a given set of circumstances. At Yankee Candle, we believe the strongest companies are those that approach new circumstances with confidence and find ways to turn challenges to their advantage.

In 2005, our Company put this belief to the test. During the year, continued soft economic conditions and diminishing consumer confidence combined to create a tougher operating climate for the entire gift category. As the year progressed, the hurricanes in the Gulf Coast region that disrupted U.S. oil refinery operations and increased nationwide fuel and transportation costs also drove a decrease in the production of petroleum-based wax products, prompting one of our primary suppliers to place us on wax allocation. While Yankee Candle is a well-established player in the gift category, and the recognized leader in the premium scented candle segment, we felt the effects of these conditions, and in the third quarter of the year we missed some of our performance targets.

This was highly disappointing for our management team, but I'm proud to say that we responded quickly and decisively. As a result, we transformed the year's challenges into an opportunity for our Company to evaluate our strategy and ensure that we are firmly positioned for long-term success. Our first directive was to take measures to fuel near-term results. Following a swift but careful assessment, we commenced plans to close a small number of underperforming retail stores and we embarked on a concerted effort to reduce the growth of our selling, general and administrative expenses—measures that resulted in a one-time pre-tax restructuring charge of approximately \$5.5 million. We also tested marketing initiatives that had the potential to drive profitable revenue growth in the fourth quarter. Our actions generated 2005 financial results that, while lower than our historical levels, were still solid within the context

of the softer economic climate. Total sales rose to a record \$601 million, an increase of 8.5 percent compared with 2004. In our wholesale business, including our international wholesale operations, sales grew 9.8 percent to \$297 million. In our retail business, total sales increased 7.3 percent to \$304 million, while in our consumer direct channels of catalog and Internet, we grew sales by 20 percent compared with 2004. These results yielded diluted earnings per share of \$1.73. We also fueled the growth of our distribution network, opening 53 new retail stores, including a second full-scale shopping and entertainment center in Williamsburg, Virginia; expanding our national wholesale program; and gaining increased shelf space with our independent wholesale customers.

This performance clearly reflected the effects of a challenging environment, which we believe will continue to characterize our industry in the coming years. We recognized that to deliver the robust growth rate we have achieved in the past, we needed to take stock of our existing strategy, and to formulate a plan to combat this environment. We initiated this effort by conducting an exhaustive assessment process of our entire organization that tapped the combined wisdom of our senior management team and our Board of Directors. As a result of this process, we developed a new blueprint for Yankee Candle's growth—one that is designed to unlock our full potential and maximize the long-term intrinsic value of our Company.





Defining Our Credentials

They say you need to know who you are before you can determine where you're going, and our first priority was to evaluate precisely who Yankee Candle is within our industry. Our examination reinforced the fact that we are the clear category leader in the premium scented candle segment.

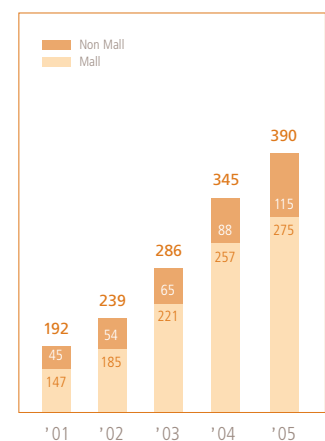
The basis of our leadership lies in our outstanding growth track record—having posted 36 years of consistent revenue growth since we were founded in 1969—as well as in our numerous industry-leading standings. For example, based upon independent market research data, we lead the premium scented candle market, with a 42 percent market share and an estimated four-to-one advantage over the number-two player. Moreover, our market share has risen steadily, increasing by 17 points since 1997. In addition, again based on independent market research, we have the number-one candle brand in the

premium scented candle category and, according to Giftbeat magazine's annual survey, the number-one most profitable product line in the gift channel, and the number-one home fragrance product line in the gift channel.

We back these standings with a number of core strengths that set us apart from competitors: We are an industry leader in the innovation and design of new candle products. We have long-standing expertise in fragrance, backed by a dedicated fragrance committee that is intently focused on quality, newness and reliability. We have a talented national account sales team, supported by category management professionals who are experts in driving profitable volume growth. We have an absolute focus on quality, exemplified by our state-of-the-art candle manufacturing facility, which includes a dedicated test burn laboratory. And we have a wealth of corporate strengths, including a strong balance sheet, a proven and shareholder-focused management team, a robust distribution network, and a powerful, vertically integrated structure.



NUMBER OF STORES



Unlocking Our Potential

With a clear awareness of our market status and strengths, we proceeded to lay out a new growth plan for the future. This plan combines some of the central components of our previous strategy with several new tenets, and it is designed to unlock Yankee Candle's full potential so that we can meet the challenges inherent in our industry.

The essence of our new growth plan is to maximize the potential of our core candle business—which has long been the basis for Yankee's growth and success—as well as to leverage our proven ability to create and build a best-in-class brand. Specifically:

We intend to reenergize our core business of selling premium scented candles, by intensifying our efforts to sell our core Housewarmer® product line. As part of this effort, we are working to integrate our merchandising, product assortment and innovation activities. We are also continuing to capitalize on our fragrance expertise to innovate exciting new scents and candle forms. In 2005, we introduced 35 Housewarmer fragrances and unveiled three new Housewarmer candle forms. We also expanded our selection of Housewarmer pillars and tapers during the year, making a major push into the growing market for these popular candle forms.

We plan to extend our reach to a larger market by targeting additional candle channels outside of premium, such as the “premium mass” channel served by club stores and other select, image-appropriate retailers. We are drawing on our proven brand-building capabilities and exceptional expertise in scented candles to create secondary brands that are tailored for the extensive audience of consumers that shop these channels. We have already established exciting new partnerships with several retailers. In 2005, we introduced the

Mystic Harbor™ brand into BJ's Wholesale Club, and we test-marketed our electric home fragrances and our new line of Clean Scents™ home care products in Staples stores. We also acquired Aroma Naturals, a small line of naturally formulated scented candles sold at spas and premium grocery stores, including national chains such as Whole Foods and Wild Oats. In the first quarter of 2006, we teamed with PetSmart, to roll out a new line of Clean Scents products formulated specifically to neutralize pet odors. We also launched Simply Home™, a new





brand of candles available exclusively at more than 700 Kohl's department store locations nationwide.

We are committed to driving positive comparable sales in both our retail and wholesale channels. In our retail division, we are investing in new talent, and we are exploring initiatives to increase customer traffic and encourage higher ticket sales. These initiatives include taking steps to rationalize our product assortment, such as continuously analyzing our sales numbers so that we can eliminate slower selling merchandise and allocate more shelf space to high-demand products. We are also working to draw more customers into our stores by creating compelling front-window displays and aligning our sales promotions to correspond with naturally higher mall traffic periods, including holidays. We are complementing these efforts by providing improved sales training to our associates, as well as by intensifying our efforts to maintain a solid in-stock position. In our national wholesale business, we are exploring new partnership concepts through which we will create exclusive products for our customers that afford us the ability to leverage their marketing and merchandising resources.

We have already forged such an agreement with Hallmark, and our new product line, Celebrate Home™ was launched at select Hallmark Gold Crown stores in the first quarter of 2006. We also intend to continue to drive the growth of our existing business by employing proven strategies, including creating new products that provide our wholesale customers with differentiated merchandise assortments.



We plan to judiciously evaluate additional marketing efforts so we can selectively increase our expenditures in areas that have the potential to drive overall consumption and increase retail store traffic. We are working toward this goal by continuing to utilize the nine million names in our customer database, test innovative advertising vehicles, invest in catalog circulations, develop in-store collateral pieces, and leverage the marketing campaigns of our national retail partners.

We are embarking on a “big-idea” innovation program, focused on exploring new ways to fuel the growth of our core business. To spearhead this endeavor, we have added new leadership, hiring Richard Ruffolo as Senior Vice President, Brand, Marketing, and Innovation. Rick and his team are diligently working to identify ways to increase our speed-to-market, enhance our internal and external product development capabilities, drive our candle innovation activities, and improve our organizational abilities.

We are focused on continuing to drive total system productivity and efficiency by leveraging our vertically integrated supply chain and our growing sourcing capabilities to increase our profitability and enhance our margins.

Focusing On Returning Value

In addition to these strategies, we are intently focused on becoming a more accountable, results-oriented organization. While Yankee Candle's roots are those of an independent, family business, we have worked hard to build our Company into a large and highly successful publicly held corporation.

Our executive management team fully recognizes that our first commitment is to our shareholders, and we are united in our focus on rewarding their support with steady, profitable growth. To this end, we are instituting new internal processes and protocols that will help us to become a more agile, accountable and results-oriented organization. In conjunction with this objective, we have stepped up our efforts to reinforce the principles of our financial policies across our organization. All of these principles center on building our Company for long-term success, including:

allocating capital on the basis of maximizing the long-term intrinsic value of the Company;

maintaining an optimal mix of debt and equity for our free cash flow generating business model;

delivering the fiduciary excellence that our shareholders expect and deserve; and

employing share repurchases and dividends to efficiently return capital to our shareholders.

In 2005, our Board of Directors underscored our commitment to this final point by authorizing the payment of an annual cash dividend of \$0.25 per share of

outstanding common stock. We made the first semi-annual payment of \$0.125 per share on June 1, 2005, to shareholders of record on May 11, 2005; and the second semi-annual payment of \$0.125 per share on December 1, 2005 to shareholders of record as of November 21, 2005. During 2005, we also repurchased \$185 million of our shares. Together with our dividends, we returned more than \$196 million in cash to our shareholders during the year, representing 146 percent of our 2005 income from operations.



Moving Forward

Yankee Candle has always had a long-term view, and in 2005 we fortified our leadership team through a number of new hires and appointments. Among these was our promotion of Harlan Kent to the position of President and Chief Operating Officer.

In this new role, Harlan will continue to have responsibility for both the wholesale and retail business units, as well as our marketing and innovation activities. In addition we bolstered our executive management ranks by hiring Bruce Besanko as our Senior Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer, and Stephen Farley as the head of our retail division. Meanwhile, we continued the vital process of building our Board of Directors, adding two new members: Vijay Vishwanath, a partner in the global strategy consulting firm of Bain & Company; and Michael Archbold, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer of Saks Fifth Avenue Enterprises.

We move into 2006 with energy and optimism. While we expect that our Company will face continued market challenges in the coming months, we are confident that we have the vision and strengths necessary to meet these challenges and to transform them into new opportunities. Moreover, we firmly believe that our new plan for growth is the right plan for Yankee Candle, and that by faithfully executing it, we will be able to unlock the full power of our Company, and drive strong, sustainable growth for our shareholders.

Sincerely,



Craig W. Rydin
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer





Optimizing Our World-Class Brand

A primary catalyst for Yankee Candle’s success is our world-class brand, which resonates with consumers around the world as a symbol of exceptional quality. The immeasurable value of this asset galvanizes us to continuously develop and promote it through a range of measures that center on quality and innovation.

These measures include employing excellent manufacturing techniques and regularly introducing exciting new fragrances—from authentic, true-to-life aromas to fashion-forward blended scents. Our unwavering attention to these initiatives has enabled us to build Yankee Candle into a brand that elicits extraordinary customer loyalty—a fact that is underscored each year in Giftbeat magazine’s annual survey of leading gift products. In 2005, Giftbeat again distinguished Yankee Candle as a leader within the highly competitive giftware channel:

The Yankee Candle brand was named the leading candle brand in the country for the 14th consecutive year.

The Yankee Candle product line was highlighted as the most profitable gift shop product line for the 5th consecutive year.

The Yankee Candle product line was designated as the nation’s top giftware reorder product line of 2005, marking the 11th time we have earned this distinction in the 13 years that it has been given.

Housewarmer candles were selected as the nation’s number-one selling item in the category of gifts costing more than \$10.

Yankee Car Jars® air fresheners, Tarts® wax potpourri and Samplers® votive candles were all highlighted as top sellers in the category of gifts costing \$5 or less.

Our crowning achievement was to earn the coveted title of Giftbeat’s “Vendor of the Year” for the second consecutive year. We are especially proud of this designation as it demonstrates both the steady pull of the Yankee Candle brand for consumers and the value of our products to our wholesale customers.



SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 10-K

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005

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 001-15023

THE YANKEE CANDLE COMPANY, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Massachusetts

*(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)*

**16 Yankee Candle Way, South Deerfield,
Massachusetts**

(Address of principal executive offices)

04-2591416

*(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)*

01373

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

(413) 665-8306

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

<u>Title of Each Class</u>	<u>Name of Each Exchange Where Registered</u>
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value	New York Stock Exchange, Inc.

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer

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

Based on the closing sale price of \$32.04 per share on July 2, 2005, the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter, the aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant was \$1,416,261,172.

On March 10, 2006 there were outstanding 41,072,071 shares of the Registrant's Common Stock.

Documents incorporated by reference (to the extent indicated herein): Registrant's proxy statement (specified portions) with respect to the annual meeting of stockholders to be held on June 8, 2006 are incorporated into Part III.

This Annual Report on Form 10-K contains a number of forward-looking statements. Any statements contained herein, including without limitation statements to the effect that The Yankee Candle Company, Inc. and its subsidiaries (“Yankee Candle”, the “Company”, “we”, and “us”) or its management “believes”, “expects”, “anticipates”, “plans” and similar expressions that relate to prospective events or developments should be considered forward-looking statements. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date the statement was made. There are a number of important factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those indicated by such forward-looking statements. These factors include, without limitation, those set forth below in “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Future Operating Results.” We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

We are the leading designer, manufacturer and branded marketer of premium scented candles, based on sales, in the giftware industry. We have a 36-year history of offering our distinctive products and marketing them as affordable luxuries and consumable gifts. Our candle products are available in approximately 195 fragrances and include a wide variety of jar candles, Samplers[®] votive candles, Tarts[®] wax potpourri, pillars and other candle products, the vast majority of which are marketed under the Yankee Candle[®] brand. We also sell a wide range of coordinated candle and home décor accessories and have extended our brand into the growing premium home fragrance market segment with products such as our Housewarmer[®] electric home fragrances, Yankee Candle[®] branded potpourri, sachets, room sprays and linen sprays and Yankee Candle Car Jars[®] air fresheners. We have a vertically integrated business model that enables us to manufacture and distribute high quality products, provide excellent customer service and achieve cost efficiencies.

Our multi-channel distribution strategy enables us to offer Yankee Candle[®] products through a wide variety of locations and venues. We sell our products through an extensive and growing wholesale customer network of approximately 16,400 stores in North America, primarily in non-mall locations, and through our growing retail store base located primarily in malls. As of December 31, 2005, we had 390 Company-owned and operated stores in 42 states. We have grown our retail store count at a compounded annual rate of 22% annually over the past five years and opened 53 new retail stores during 2005 including a second 42,000 square foot flagship store in Williamsburg, Virginia. In addition, we own and operate a 90,000 square foot flagship store in South Deerfield, Massachusetts, a major tourist destination in Massachusetts. We also sell our products directly to consumers through our catalogs and our Internet web site at www.yankeecandle.com. Outside North America, we sell our products through international distributors and to an international wholesale customer network of approximately 2,200 store locations (through our distribution center located in Bristol, England).

Since 2000, we have experienced compound annual sales growth of 12% and compound annual pretax income growth of 12%. Each of our distribution channels has contributed to this growth. Retail, which includes our catalog and Internet business, has achieved 12% compound annual sales growth since 2000 and accounted for 51% of our \$601.2 million total sales in 2005. Wholesale, which includes our European operations, has achieved a 13% compound annual sales growth since 2000 and accounted for 49% of total sales in 2005. In 2005, our sales increased 8% over 2004, comprised of a 7% increase in retail sales and a 10% increase in wholesale sales. We believe our growth was primarily based on new retail stores and wholesale distribution, the strength of the Yankee Candle[®] brand, our commitment to product quality and innovation, the efficiency of our vertically integrated manufacturing and logistics operations and the success of our multi-channel distribution strategy.

INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

Yankee Candle operates in the domestic giftware industry. Sub-segments within this industry in which we compete include, among others, the total candle, premium scented candle and home fragrance segments. Based upon the most recent market data currently available from Kline & Company, Inc., an industry-leading international consulting firm, which was published in 2004, we believe that:

- the total domestic market for scented candles has grown at an approximately 1.0% compound annual growth rate from 2000 to 2004 to reach approximately \$3.1 billion in 2004;
- the domestic premium scented candle market has grown at an approximately 3.0% compound annual growth rate from 2000 to 2004 to reach approximately \$1.7 billion;
- the total domestic home fragrance market segment, including candles, has grown at an approximately 4.0% compound annual growth rate from 2000 to 2004 to reach approximately \$5.8 billion;
- the total domestic home fragrance market segment, excluding candles, has grown at an approximately 9.0% compound annual growth rate from 2000 to 2004 to reach approximately \$2.7 billion;

Based upon the above statistical trends, and our own subjective observations and market experience, we expect that in the near term the premium scented candle market is likely to continue to grow more quickly than the total candle market, and the home fragrance market is likely to grow at least as quickly as the premium scented candle market.

PRODUCTS

We offer approximately 2,300 stock-keeping units (SKUs) of Yankee Candle manufactured products. Virtually all of our candle products are marketed as Yankee Candle® branded products.

Our candle products are generally available in a wide range of fragrances, colors and product forms. In addition to being available in our own Company-operated retail stores, the majority of our best-selling products and fragrances are available nationwide to our wholesale customers, together with numerous special editions and seasonal fragrances.

In addition to our core candle business, we have successfully extended the Yankee Candle® brand into the growing home fragrance segment and other fragrance-based product categories. Examples of our non-candle product portfolio include our Housewarmer® electric home fragrances; our Yankee Candle® branded line of potpourri, sachets, room sprays, linen sprays and passive diffusers; and Yankee Candle® Car Jars® air fresheners. In 2005 we continued to expand our home fragrance offerings, adding a number of new fragrances and styles to our electric home fragrances and other product lines, an enhanced version of our electric home fragrances and introducing new products to our portfolio. We plan to further leverage our brand and increase our offerings in this segment in 2006.

We also offer a wide array of coordinated candle-related and home décor accessories in dozens of exclusive patterns, colors and styles, and numerous giftsets. In addition to our “everyday” product offerings, we also offer numerous seasonally appropriate holiday and novelty products and collections.

We seek to maintain a moderate price for almost all of our products in order to reinforce our customers’ perception of our products as affordable. As a result, our retail prices for our core candle products generally range from \$1.59 for a Tarts® wax potpourri to \$21.99 for a 22 oz. Housewarmer® jar candle.

RETAIL OPERATIONS

Retail Stores

Our retail operations include retail stores, catalog and Internet operations and Chandler’s restaurant (located at our South Deerfield, MA flagship store). All of our retail stores are Company-owned and operated; none are franchised. From 2000 to 2005, sales from our retail division have grown at a compound annual growth rate of 12% from \$175.3 million in 2000 to \$304.1 million in 2005 and changed from 52% to 51% of our total sales. Moreover, in 2005 our retail stores that were open for the full year, excluding the South Deerfield flagship store, achieved average sales per selling square foot of \$575.

We opened 53 new retail stores during 2005, including a new 42,000 square foot flagship store in Williamsburg, VA, closed eight underperforming stores, and ended the year with 390 retail stores in 42 states. These 390 stores include 12 stores that were closed in the first quarter of fiscal 2006 in connection with the restructuring plan initiated in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2005 and discussed in footnote 3 to the financial statements. In addition, we are also testing certain outlet locations on a temporary basis to determine long-term viability. In opening new stores, we target high traffic retail locations in malls and non-mall locations, including lifestyle centers and tourist destinations. Of our 390 retail stores, 273 are located in malls. We plan to open approximately 25 additional stores during 2006.

The non-mall store count includes our South Deerfield, MA and Williamsburg, VA flagship stores, which are unique stores. We believe that our flagship stores are the world’s largest candle and holiday-themed stores with approximately 90,000 square feet of retail and entertainment space in South Deerfield, MA and 42,000 square feet in Williamsburg, VA. These stores promote Yankee Candle’s brand image and culture and are a testing ground for our new product introductions.

The South Deerfield flagship store carries approximately 24,000 SKUs of gift items and generates approximately 52% of its revenues from the sale of Yankee Candle manufactured products. The store is a major tourist destination and provides visitors with a total shopping and entertainment experience including the Yankee Candlemaking Museum and a 240-seat restaurant. The flagship store also includes our Yankee Candle™ Home “store within a store”, which showcases home goods, accessories, furnishings and decorative accents in sophisticated country décor settings.

The Williamsburg flagship store opened in November 2005 and carries approximately 9,000 SKUs of gift items. The store is our first shopping entertainment center outside the South Deerfield flagship store. The Williamsburg flagship store features candle dipping, candle-making demonstrations, animated musical entertainment and an old-time photo studio.

Excluding the South Deerfield and Williamsburg flagship stores, the average store size for our 388 retail stores at the end of 2005 was 1,661 square feet. Our retail stores other than the South Deerfield and Williamsburg flagship stores typically offer Yankee Candle products in approximately 195 fragrances and carry approximately 900 SKUs of candles and approximately 750 SKUs of candle accessories.

Outstanding customer service and a knowledgeable employee base are key elements of our retail strategy. We emphasize formal employee training, particularly with respect to product quality, candle manufacturing and the heritage of Yankee Candle. We also have a well-developed, eleven-day training program for managers and assistant managers and an in-store training program for sales associates. Our high customer service standards are an integral part of our ongoing success. Each store is responsible for implementing and maintaining these customer service standards.

Consumer Direct: Catalog and Internet

As part of our retail division we market our products through our catalogs and Internet web site. Our catalog and Internet business generated \$20.7 million of sales in 2005, an increase of approximately 20.0% from 2004. Our catalogs feature a wide selection of our most popular products, together with additional products and offerings exclusive to our catalog channel. We believe there are continuing opportunities to grow our catalog and Internet businesses by adding additional products and accessories, new concepts and expanding our mailing lists. We further believe that the catalog constitutes an important marketing tool, serving to increase the awareness and strength of the Yankee Candle® brand and driving sales to our retail stores and Internet web site.

Our web site, www.yankeecandle.com, provides our on-line customers with an easy and convenient way to purchase a wide variety of our most popular products. This web site also offers features designed to promote sales and provide enhanced customer service and convenience, including personalized guest registration, gift cards and other gift giving programs, a store locator, decorating ideas, sites dedicated to corporate gifts, weddings and other customized purchasing opportunities and a personalized candle configuring capability that enables users to design and purchase their own custom-labeled Samplers® votive candles to commemorate special events such as weddings. In addition to our consumer-oriented web site, we have a separate business-to-business web site dedicated to our wholesale customers that offers such features as on-line ordering, order status information, purchase history and an enhanced dealer locator program. We continually upgrade our web site in order to better serve our retail and wholesale customers.

WHOLESALE OPERATIONS

Our wholesale strategy focuses on home décor, gift and other image appropriate retailers. The wholesale business is an integral part of our growth strategy and, together with our other distribution channels, helps to further build our brand awareness. From 2000 to 2005, sales from our wholesale accounts have grown at a compound annual growth rate of 13% from \$163.5 million in 2000 to \$297.1 million in 2005 and increased from 48% to 49% of our total sales. Our wholesale customers have approximately 16,400 locations in North America. We believe that as a result of our strong brand name, the popularity and profitability of our products and our emphasis on customer service, our wholesale customers are extremely loyal, with approximately 55% of them having been customers for over five years. No customer accounted for more than 9%, 7% and 6% of our total company sales in 2005, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

The strength of our brand, the profitability and quality of our products, and our successful in-store merchandising and display system have made us the top selling brand for many of our wholesale customers. Since 1993, we have been continuously ranked first in gift store sales in the domestic candle category and have consistently been ranked either first or second in product reorders across all giftware categories by Giftbeat, a giftware industry publication. In addition, we have consistently been ranked as the most profitable product line across all giftware categories since Giftbeat introduced that survey category several years ago and were named Giftbeat's vendor of the year in 2004 and 2005, the first two years of the award.

We actively seek to increase wholesale sales through our innovative product display systems, promotional programs, new products and telemarketing initiatives. We promote a "Shop Within A Shop" display system to our wholesale customers which presents our products in a distinctive wood hutch. We recommend that dealers invest in a minimum of an 8-to 12-foot display system which enhances Yankee Candle's brand recognition in the marketplace and we believe positively impacts our wholesale sales. We have also introduced new products and implemented a number of promotional programs to increase the square footage dedicated to Yankee Candle® products as well as the breadth of Yankee Candle® products offered by our wholesale customers. In addition, we provide category management expertise and advise our wholesale customers on an ongoing basis regarding product knowledge, display suggestions, promotional ideas and geographical consumer preferences. As one example, we operate Yankee Candle University, a training program with in-depth courses on Yankee Candle product information, sales tactics and marketing techniques. We have also established a Wholesale Advisory Council made up of wholesale customers from across the country, which provides us with a forum for receiving invaluable feedback from our wholesale customers while also allowing us to work jointly with them to develop "best practices" and innovative ideas. We have a selective dealer approval process, designed to apply consistent nationwide standards for all Yankee Candle authorized retailers.

We use a dedicated in-house direct telemarketing sales force to service our wholesale customers. In addition, we have several account managers located in field offices across the United States to help us service our larger accounts. This provides us with greater control over the sales process, and allows us to provide customers with better and more accurate information, faster order turn-around and improved customer service, to create more consistent merchandising nationwide and to reduce costs.

International Operations

Revenues from our International operations were approximately \$23.0 million, \$17.4 million and \$13.6 million for fiscal years 2005, 2004 and 2003, respectively. We sell our products in Europe and elsewhere utilizing our distribution center in the United Kingdom. As of December 31, 2005, this distribution center was selling our products to approximately 2,200 direct accounts and 23 distributors covering 24 countries. Revenues from our international operations outside of North America have accounted for less than 4% of our total revenues in each of the last three years.

Recent Acquisitions

Our wholesale operations also include our GBI fundraising division, acquired in 2004, and Aroma Naturals, Inc., our wholly-owned subsidiary specializing in a line of wellness candles fragranced with essential oils and acquired in 2005, neither of which are material to our operations.

NEW PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

We have a long history as a product innovator in the premium candle segment of the giftware industry. We have a strong and experienced in-house product design and development team comprised of artists, fragrance specialists, designers, packagers and buyers who work collaboratively to design new products that are attractive to customers and can be manufactured cost-effectively.

Our innovation team focuses on several different areas of new product development. Each year we introduce a number of in-line extensions of our core candle lines, such as new Housewarmer® fragrances and the development of exclusive fragrances and special products for one or both of our retail and wholesale channels. In addition to new fragrances in our core Housewarmer® line, our new product development efforts focus on the addition of new candle

lines and offerings. In 2005, this included a re-stage of our YC™ Home line, the development of new proprietary wholesale brands and new product forms and styles in our Housewarmer® line.

Beyond candles, our innovation team continually works to broaden our product portfolio and continue to extend our brand into the home fragrancing market segment and other fragrance-related categories. In 2005, these efforts included the roll-out of our Clean Scents™ premium home cleaning line, continued expansion of our electric home fragrances product line, the introduction of new home fragrance product forms and the development of numerous gift sets.

In 2006, we plan to continue to focus on broadening our product portfolio in both the candle and home fragrancing segments.

MANUFACTURING

Approximately 74% of our sales in 2005 were generated by products manufactured at our 294,000 square foot facility in Whatley, Massachusetts. As a vertically integrated manufacturer, we are able to closely monitor the quality of our products, more effectively manage inventory and control our production costs. We believe this is an important competitive advantage that enables us to ensure high quality products, maintain affordable pricing and provide reliable customer service.

Our products are manufactured using filled, molded, extruded, compressed and dipped manufacturing methods. The majority of our products are filled products which are produced by pouring colored, scented liquid wax into a glass container with a wick. Pillars are made by extrusion, in which wax is pressed around a wick through a die. Tapers are produced through a dipping process and Tarts® wax potpourri and Samplers® votive candles are made by compression.

Yankee Candle uses high quality fragrances, premium grade, highly refined paraffin waxes, and superior wicks and dyes to create premium quality products. Our manufacturing processes are designed to ensure the highest quality and quantity of candle fragrance, wick quality and placement, color, fill level, shelf life and burn rate. We are continuously engaged in efforts to further improve our quality and lower our costs by using efficient production and distribution methods and technological advancements.

SUPPLIERS

We maintain strong relationships with our principal fragrance and wax suppliers. We believe we use the highest-quality suppliers in our industry. We have been in the business of manufacturing premium scented candles for many years and are therefore knowledgeable about the different levels of quality of raw materials used in manufacturing candles. As a result, we have developed, jointly with our suppliers, proprietary fragrances which are exclusive to Yankee Candle. Most raw materials used in the manufacturing process, including glassware, wick and packaging materials, are readily available from alternative sources at comparable prices. In 2005, no single supplier represented more than 9% of our total cost of goods sold.

In 2005, due to the 2005 hurricanes in the Gulf Coast region and the closing and disruption of oil refineries located there, one of our primary wax suppliers placed us on allocation, whereby our wax purchases were allocated at the rate of seventy percent of 2004 purchases for at least the near term. While we took steps to manage this issue and mitigate any impacts, in 2005 the wax allocation had a negative impact on our ability to fulfill customer orders and our costs of production. Any prolonged interruption or reduction in wax supplies could negatively impact our operations, sales and earnings.

ORDER PROCESSING AND DISTRIBUTION

Our systems allow us to maintain efficient order processing from the time an order enters the system through shipping and ultimate payment collection from customers. We operate uniform computer and communication software systems allowing for online information access between our headquarters and retail stores. We use a software package that allows us to forecast demand for our products and efficiently plan our production schedules. We also utilize a pick-to-light system which allows Yankee Candle employees at our distribution center to receive information directly from the order collection center and quickly identify, by way of blinking lights, the products

and quantity necessary for a particular order. To accurately track shipments and provide better service to customers we also use handheld optical scanners and bar coded labels. Our platform of manufacturing and distribution software enables us to further enhance our inventory management and customer service capabilities and also support a larger infrastructure. We believe that our systems for the processing and shipment of orders from the distribution center have enabled us to improve our overall customer service through enhanced order accuracy and reduced turnaround time.

The products we sell in the United States are generally shipped by various national small-parcel carriers or other freight carriers. Our products are shipped to our retail stores on a fluctuating schedule, with the frequency of deliveries based upon a store's sales volume and seasonal variances in demand. We ship to wholesale customers as orders are received. We believe that our timely and accurate distribution is an important differentiating factor for our wholesale customers. This belief is based on numerous conversations between our management and sales force, on the one hand, and our wholesale customers, on the other hand.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Yankee Candle has 58 U.S. registered trademarks, several of which are the subject of multiple registrations, including Yankee® (for candles), Yankee Candle®, Housewarmer®, Stripes®, Country Kitchen®, Samplers®, Tarts®, Car Jars® and Aroma Naturals®, and has pending several additional trademark applications with respect to its products. We also register certain of our trademarks in various foreign countries. Trademark registrations allow us to use those trademarks on an exclusive basis in connection with our products. If we continue to use our trademarks and make all required filings and payments these trademarks can continue in perpetuity. These registrations are in addition to various copyright registrations and patents held by us, and all trademark, copyright and other intellectual property rights of Yankee Candle under statutory and common law. Our intellectual property further includes various proprietary product formulas, business methods and manufacturing and design "know how," as well as intellectual property associated with our acquisitions of GBI Marketing and Aroma Naturals, including tradenames used in each business.

We believe that our trademarks and intellectual property rights are valuable assets and we intend to maintain and renew our trademarks and their registrations and to vigorously defend them and all of our intellectual property rights against infringement.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

We are subject to various federal, state, local and foreign laws and regulations governing the generation, storage, use, emission, discharge, transportation and disposal of hazardous materials and the health and safety of our employees. In addition, we are subject to environmental laws which may require investigation and cleanup of any contamination at facilities we own or operate or at third party waste disposal sites we use. These laws could impose liability even if we did not know of, or were not responsible for, the contamination.

We have in the past and will in the future incur costs to comply with environmental laws. We are not, however, currently aware of any costs or liabilities relating to environmental matters, including any claims or actions under environmental laws or obligations to perform any cleanups at any of our facilities or any third party waste disposal sites, that are expected to have a material adverse effect on our operations, cash flow or financial condition. It is possible, however, that such costs or liabilities may arise in the future.

COMPETITION

We compete generally for the disposable income of consumers with other manufacturers and retailers in the giftware industry. The giftware industry is highly competitive with a large number of both large and small participants. Our products compete with other scented and unscented candle, home fragrance, personal care and other fragrance-inspired products and with other gifts within a comparable price range, like boxes of candy, flowers, wine, fine soap and related merchandise. Our competitors distribute their products through independent gift retailers, department stores, mass market stores and mail order houses and some of our competitors are part of large, diversified companies having greater financial resources and a wider range of product offerings than us.

In the premium scented candle segment of the market, in which we primarily compete, our manufacturing competitors include Blyth Industries, Inc., as well as many smaller branded manufacturers and private label manufacturers. There has been some consolidation in 2005 in the manufacturing segment of the candle market and based on our current knowledge and understanding of the industry we expect that this trend may continue.

Our retail stores compete primarily with specialty candle retailers and a variety of other retailers including department stores, gift stores and national specialty retailers that carry candles along with personal care items, giftware and houseware. In addition, while we focus primarily on the premium scented candle segment, candles are also sold outside of that segment by a variety of retailers including mass merchandisers.

EMPLOYEES

At December 31, 2005, we employed approximately 2,100 full-time employees and 2,000 part-time employees. We are not subject to any collective bargaining agreements, and we believe that our relations with our employees are good. We also use seasonal and temporary workers, as necessary, to supplement our labor force during peak selling or manufacturing seasons.

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

Our Internet address is www.yankeecandle.com. We make available free of charge through our web site our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to these reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such materials with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We are not including the information contained on our web site as a part of, or incorporating it by reference into, this Annual Report on Form 10-K. We also include on our web site the Corporate Governance Guidelines adopted by our Board of Directors, our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and the charters for each of the major committees of our Board of Directors. In addition, we intend to disclose on our web site any amendments to, or waivers from, our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that are required to be publicly disclosed pursuant to rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the New York Stock Exchange.

CEO REPORT

In June 2005 our Chief Executive Officer filed with the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") the required CEO Certification with respect to our prior fiscal year, which certified, without qualification, as to our compliance with the Corporate Governance Listing Standards established by the NYSE. This year's filing will be made within thirty days following our 2006 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, as required by the NYSE.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

There are a number of factors that might cause our actual results to differ significantly from the results reflected by the forward-looking statements contained herein. In addition to factors generally affecting the political, economic and competitive conditions in the United States and abroad, such factors include those set forth below. Investors should consider the following factors before investing in our common stock.

If we fail to grow our business as planned, our future operating results may suffer. As we grow, it will be difficult to maintain our historical growth rates.

We intend to continue to pursue a business strategy of increasing sales and earnings by expanding our retail and wholesale operations both in the United States and internationally. Because our ability to implement our growth strategy successfully will be dependent in part on factors beyond our control, including consumer preferences, macro-economic conditions, the competitive environment in the markets in which we compete and other factors, we may not be able to achieve our planned growth or sustain our financial performance. Our ability to anticipate changes in the candle, home fragrance and giftware industries, and identify industry trends, will be critical factors in our ability to grow as planned and remain competitive.

We expect that, as we continue to grow, it will become more difficult to maintain our historical growth rate, which could negatively impact our operating margins and results of operations. New stores typically generate lower operating margin contributions than mature stores because fixed costs, as a percentage of sales, are higher and because pre-opening costs are fully expensed in the year of opening. In addition, our retail sales generate lower margins than our wholesale sales. Our wholesale business has grown by increasing sales to existing customers and by adding new customers. If we are not able to continue this, our sales growth and profitability could be adversely affected. In addition, as we expand our wholesale business into new channels of trade that we believe to be appropriate, sales in some of these new channels may, for competitive reasons within the channels, generate lower margins than do our existing wholesale sales. Similarly, as we continue to broaden our product offerings in order to meet consumer demand, we may do so in part by adding products that, while still very profitable, have lower product margins than those of our extremely profitable core candle products. We cannot assure you that we will continue to grow at a rate comparable to our historic growth rate or that our historic financial performance will continue as we grow.

We may be unable to continue to open new stores successfully.

Our retail growth strategy depends in large part on our ability to successfully open new stores in both existing and new geographic markets. For our growth strategy to be successful, we must identify and lease favorable store sites on favorable economic terms, hire and train managers and associates and adapt management and operational systems to meet the needs of our expanded operations. These tasks may be difficult to accomplish successfully and any changes in the availability of suitable real estate locations on acceptable terms could adversely impact our retail growth. If we are unable to open new stores as quickly as planned, then our future sales and profits could be materially adversely affected. Even if we succeed in opening new stores, these new stores may not achieve the same sales or profit levels as our existing stores. Also, our retail growth strategy includes opening new stores in markets where we already have a presence so we can take advantage of economies of scale in marketing, distribution and supervision costs, or the opening of new malls or centers in the market. However, these new stores may result in the loss of sales in existing stores in nearby areas, thereby negatively impacting our comparable store sales. A continued decrease in our retail comparable store sales will have an adverse impact on our cash flows and earnings. This is due to the fact that a significant portion of our expenses are comprised of fixed costs, such as lease payments, and our ability to decrease expenses in response to negative comparable store sales is limited in the short term. If comparable store sales continue to decline it will negatively impact earnings. However, we do not believe that it will significantly impact our working capital, our ability to exist as a going concern or our compliance with bank covenant requirements in the near future. Our retail growth strategy also depends upon our ability to successfully renew the expiring leases of our profitable existing stores. If we are unable to do so at planned levels and upon favorable economic terms, then our future sales and profits could be negatively affected.

We face significant competition in the giftware industry. This competition could cause our revenues or margins to fall short of expectations which could adversely affect our future operating results, financial condition and liquidity and our ability to continue to grow our business.

We compete generally for the disposable income of consumers with other producers and retailers in the giftware industry. The giftware industry is highly competitive with a large number of both large and small participants and relatively low barriers to entry. Our products compete with other scented and unscented candle, home fragrance and personal care products and with other gifts within a comparable price range, like boxes of candy, flowers, wine, fine soap and related merchandise. Our retail stores compete primarily with specialty candle retailers and a variety of other retailers including department stores, gift stores and national specialty retailers that carry candles along with personal care items, giftware and houseware. In addition, while we focus primarily on the premium scented candle segment, scented and unscented candles are also sold outside of that segment by a variety of retailers including mass merchandisers. In our wholesale business, we compete with numerous manufacturers and importers of candles, home fragrance products and other home décor and gift items for the limited space available in our wholesale customer locations for the display and sale of such products to consumers. Some of our competitors are part of large, diversified companies which have greater financial resources and a wider range of product offerings than we do. Many of our competitors source their products from low cost manufacturers outside of

the United States. This competitive environment could adversely affect our future revenues and profits, financial condition and liquidity and our ability to continue to grow our business.

A material decline in consumers' discretionary income could cause our sales and income to decline.

Our results depend on consumer spending, which is influenced by general economic conditions and the availability of discretionary income. Accordingly, we may experience declines in sales during economic downturns or during periods of uncertainty like that which followed the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States or which result from the threat of war or the possibility of further terrorist attacks. Any material decline in the amount of discretionary spending could have a material adverse effect on our sales and income.

Because we are not a diversified company and are effectively dependent upon one industry, we have less flexibility in reacting to unfavorable consumer trends, adverse economic conditions or business cycles.

We rely primarily on the sale of premium scented candles and related products in the giftware industry. In the event that sales of these products decline or do not meet our expectations, we cannot rely on the sales of other products to offset such a shortfall. As a significant portion of our expenses is comprised of fixed costs, such as lease payments, our ability to decrease expenses in response to adverse business conditions is limited in the short term. As a result, unfavorable consumer trends, adverse economic conditions or changes in the business cycle could have a material and adverse impact on our earnings.

If we lose our senior executive officers, or are unable to attract and retain the talent required for our business, our business could be disrupted and our financial performance could suffer.

Our success is in part dependent upon the retention of our senior executive officers. If our senior executive officers become unable or unwilling to participate in our business, our future business and financial performance could be materially affected. In addition, as our business grows in size and complexity we must be able to continue to attract, develop and retain qualified personnel sufficient to allow us to adequately manage and grow our business. If we are unable to do so, our operating results could be negatively impacted. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to attract and retain personnel as and when necessary in the future.

Many aspects of our manufacturing and distribution facilities are customized for our business; as a result, the loss of one of these facilities would disrupt our operations.

Approximately 74% of our sales in 2005 were generated by products we manufacture at our manufacturing facility in Whately, Massachusetts and we rely primarily on our distribution facilities in South Deerfield, Massachusetts to distribute our products. Because most of our machinery is designed or customized by us to manufacture our products, and because we have strict quality control standards for our products, the loss of our manufacturing facility, due to natural disaster or otherwise, would materially affect our operations. Similarly, our distribution facilities rely upon customized machinery, systems and operations, the loss of which would materially affect our operations. Although our manufacturing and distribution facilities are adequately insured, we believe it would take up to twelve months to resume operations at a level equivalent to current operations.

Seasonal, quarterly and other fluctuations in our business, and general industry and market conditions, could affect the market for our common stock.

Our sales and operating results vary from quarter to quarter. We have historically realized higher sales and operating income in our fourth quarter, particularly in our retail business, which accounts for a larger portion of our sales. We believe that this has been due primarily to an increase in giftware industry sales during the holiday season of the fourth quarter. As a result of this seasonality, we believe that quarter to quarter comparisons of our operating results are not necessarily meaningful and that these comparisons cannot be relied upon as indicators of future performance. In addition, we may also experience quarterly fluctuations in our sales and income depending on various factors, including, among other things, the number of new retail stores we open in a particular quarter, changes in the ordering patterns of our wholesale customers during a particular quarter, pricing and promotional activities of our competitors, and the mix of products sold. Most of our operating expenses, such as rent expense,

advertising and promotional expense and employee wages and salaries, do not vary directly with sales and are difficult to adjust in the short term. As a result, if sales for a particular quarter are below our expectations, we might not be able to proportionately reduce operating expenses for that quarter, and therefore a sales shortfall could have a disproportionate effect on our operating results for that quarter. Further, our comparable store sales from our retail business in a particular quarter could be adversely affected by competition, the opening nearby of new retail stores or wholesale locations, economic or other general conditions or our inability to execute a particular business strategy. As a result of these factors, we may report in the future sales, operating results or comparable store sales that do not match the expectations of market analysts and investors. This could cause the trading price of our common stock to decline. In addition, broad market and industry fluctuations may adversely affect the price of our common stock, regardless of our operating performance.

Sustained interruptions in the supply of products from overseas may affect our operating results.

We source various accessories and other products from East Asia. A sustained interruption of the operations of our suppliers, as a result of the impact of health epidemics, natural disasters such as the 2004 tsunami or other factors, could have an adverse effect on our ability to receive timely shipments of certain of our products, which might in turn negatively impact our operating results.

Provisions in our corporate documents and Massachusetts law could delay or prevent a change in control of Yankee Candle.

Our Articles of Organization and By-Laws may discourage, delay or prevent a merger or acquisition involving Yankee Candle that our stockholders may consider favorable, by:

- authorizing the issuance of preferred stock, the terms of which may be determined at the sole discretion of the board of directors,
- providing for a classified board of directors, with staggered three-year terms, and
- establishing advance notice requirements for nominations for election to the board of directors or for proposing matters that can be acted on by stockholders at meetings.

Massachusetts law may also discourage, delay or prevent someone from acquiring or merging with us.

We are subject to a class action lawsuit in California.

A class action lawsuit has been filed against us for alleged violations of certain California state wage and hour and employment laws with respect to certain employees in our California retail stores. The discovery phase of the litigation has not yet begun. Procedural motions are currently pending in the applicable California courts. While we intend to vigorously defend ourselves against the allegations, pending any rulings on the outstanding procedural motions, it is too early in the litigation process for us to fully evaluate or predict the outcome of the litigation. An adverse outcome could potentially negatively impact our financial and operating results.

Further increases in oil prices will negatively impact our cost of goods sold and margins. Any shortages in refined oil supplies could impact our wax supply. Further increases in wax prices above the rate of inflation may also negatively impact our cost of goods sold and margins.

In 2004 and 2005 significant increases in the price of crude oil have negatively impacted our transportation and freight costs and have contributed to significant increases in the cost of various raw materials. This in turn negatively impacts our cost of goods sold and margins. In addition, we believe that rising oil prices and corresponding increases in raw materials and transportation costs negatively impact not only our business but consumer sentiment and the economy at large. Continued weakness in consumer confidence and the macro-economic environment could negatively impact our sales and earnings.

Wax is a petroleum-based product. Therefore, any shortages in refined oil supplies may impact our wax supply. In 2005, due to the 2005 hurricanes in the Gulf Coast region and the closing and disruption of oil refineries located there, one of our primary wax suppliers placed us on allocation, whereby our wax purchases were allocated at the

rate of seventy percent of 2004 purchases for at least the near term future. While we took steps to manage this issue and mitigate any impacts, in 2005 the wax allocation had a negative impact on our ability to fulfill customer orders and our costs of production. Any prolonged interruption or reduction in wax supplies could negatively impact our operations, sales and earnings.

Historically, the market price of wax has generally moved with inflation. However, in 2004 and 2005 the price of wax increased at a rate significantly above the rate of inflation. Future significant increases in wax prices could have an adverse affect on our cost of goods sold and could lower our margins.

Other factors may also cause our actual results to differ materially from our estimates and projections.

In addition to the foregoing, there are other factors which may cause our actual results to differ materially from our estimates and projections. Such factors include the following:

- a) changes in levels of competition from our current competitors and potential new competition from both retail stores and alternative methods or channels of distribution;
- b) loss of a significant vendor or prolonged disruption of product supply;
- c) the successful introduction of new products and technologies in our product categories, including the frequency of such introductions, the level of consumer acceptance of new products and technologies, and their impact on demand for existing products and technologies;
- d) the impact of changes in pricing and profit margins associated with our sourced products or raw materials;
- e) changes in income tax laws or regulations, or in interpretations of existing income tax laws or regulations;
- f) changes in the general economic conditions in the United States including, but not limited to, consumer debt levels, financial market performance, interest rates, consumer sentiment, inflation, commodity prices, unemployment and other factors that impact consumer confidence and spending;
- g) changes in availability and cost of working capital financing from vendors and lending institutions, including the availability and cost of long-term financing to support our businesses;
- h) adverse outcomes from significant litigation matters;
- i) the imposition of additional restrictions or regulations regarding the sale of products we offer;
- j) changes in our ability to attract, retain and develop highly-qualified employees or changes in the cost or availability of a sufficient labor force to manage and support our operations;
- k) changes in our ability to meet objectives with regard to business acquisitions or new business ventures;
- l) the occurrence of severe weather events prohibiting or discouraging consumers from traveling to retail or wholesale locations;
- m) the disruption of global, national or regional transportation systems;
- n) the occurrence of certain material events including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, the outbreak of war or other significant national or international events;
- o) our ability to react in a timely manner and maintain our critical business processes and information systems capabilities in a disaster recovery situation; and
- p) changes in our ability to manage our existing computer systems and technology infrastructures, and our ability to implement successfully new computer systems and technology infrastructures.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

Not applicable

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

We own or lease several facilities located in South Deerfield, Whately and Greenfield, Massachusetts, Irvine, California and Bristol England, as described in the table below:

<u>Type of Facility</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Size</u>
Manufacturing	Whately, Mass.	294,000 sq.ft.
Distribution center(1)(2)	South Deerfield, Mass	256,000 sq ft.
Flagship retail store and restaurant(3)	South Deerfield, Mass.	90,000 sq.ft.
Corporate offices(1)(4)	South Deerfield, Mass.	75,000 sq.ft.
Distribution center(1)	Bristol, England	62,000 sq.ft.
Distribution center	South Deerfield, Mass.	60,000 sq.ft.
Distribution center(5)	Greenfield, Mass.	60,000 sq.ft.
Flagship retail store(6)	Williamsburg, Virginia	42,000 sq.ft.
Manufacturing and distribution center(7)	Irvine, California	15,000 sq.ft.
Employee health and fitness center	South Deerfield, Mass.	12,000 sq.ft.

Notes:

- (1) Leased facility.
- (2) We have the right under the lease to expand this facility from time to time. We believe that the facility has the capacity to be expanded by up to an additional 105,000 sq. ft.
- (3) This building includes an additional 11,000 sq. ft. of office space.
- (4) We have the right under the lease to expand this facility from time to time. We believe that the facility has the capacity to be expanded by up to an additional 30,000 square feet.
- (5) As a result of the acquisition of GBI Marketing, Inc., we entered into a lease of this facility in 2004.
- (6) This building includes an additional 23,000 sq. ft. of mezzanine space.
- (7) As a result of the acquisition of Aroma Naturals, Inc., we entered into a lease of this facility in 2005.

We believe these facilities are suitable and adequate to meet our current needs. In addition to the foregoing facilities, and the retail stores referenced below, we own various other properties in the Deerfield/Whately area, none of which are material to our operations.

Other than the South Deerfield and Williamsburg flagship stores and three smaller retail locations, we lease our retail stores. Initial store leases for mall locations typically range from eight to ten years. For non-mall locations, most leases are five years, with a five-year renewal option.

Our retail stores were located in the following 42 states as of December 31, 2005:

<u>State</u>	<u>Store Count</u>		
	<u>Mall</u>	<u>Non-Mall</u>	<u>Total</u>
ALABAMA	2	—	2
ARIZONA	4	1	5
ARKANSAS	1	—	1
CALIFORNIA	14	2	16
COLORADO	5	4	9
CONNECTICUT	7	4	11
DELAWARE	2	—	2
FLORIDA	21	7	28
GEORGIA	11	2	13
ILLINOIS	13	9	22
INDIANA	8	5	13
IOWA	4	—	4

<u>State</u>	<u>Store Count</u>		
	<u>Mall</u>	<u>Non-Mall</u>	<u>Total</u>
KANSAS	3	2	5
KENTUCKY	3	2	5
LOUISIANA	1	1	2
MAINE	1	3	4
MARYLAND	7	8	15
MASSACHUSETTS	15	13	28
MICHIGAN	13	3	16
MINNESOTA	6	1	7
MISSISSIPPI	1	1	2
MISSOURI	5	1	6
NEBRASKA	1	2	3
NEVADA	2	—	2
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5	1	6
NEW JERSEY	8	4	12
NEW YORK	22	7	29
NORTH CAROLINA	12	1	13
NORTH DAKOTA	1	—	1
OHIO	14	5	19
OKLAHOMA	2	—	2
PENNSYLVANIA	15	2	17
RHODE ISLAND	1	3	4
SOUTH CAROLINA	4	5	9
SOUTH DAKOTA	1	—	1
TENNESSEE	8	1	9
TEXAS	13	7	20
VERMONT	—	3	3
VIRGINIA	8	6	14
WASHINGTON	2	—	2
WEST VIRGINIA	2	—	2
WISCONSIN	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>
TOTALS	<u>273</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>390</u>

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

We are involved from time to time in routine legal proceedings relating to our business.

We believe that none of these legal proceedings will have a material adverse impact on our results of operations, cash flow or financial condition.

ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS

Our annual meeting of stockholders will be held on June 8, 2006. No matter was submitted to a vote of security holders in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005.

Executive Officers of the Registrant

The following table sets forth the names, ages and positions of our executive officers as of March 10, 2006:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Position</u>
Craig W. Rydin	54	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer
Harlan M. Kent	43	President and Chief Operating Officer
Bruce H. Besanko	47	Senior Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer
Stephen Farley	51	Senior Vice President, Retail
Paul J. Hill	51	Senior Vice President, Supply Chain
Martha S. LaCroix	40	Senior Vice President, Human Resources
James A. Perley	43	Senior Vice President, General Counsel
Richard R. Ruffolo	38	Senior Vice President, Brand Marketing and Innovation

CRAIG W. RYDIN is the Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer. Prior to joining Yankee Candle in April 2001, Mr. Rydin was the President of the Away From Home food services division of Campbell Soup Company since 1998, and President of the Godiva Chocolatier division of Campbell from 1996 to 1998. Prior to Godiva, Mr. Rydin held a number of senior management positions at Pepperidge Farm, Inc., also a part of Campbell.

HARLAN M. KENT is the President and Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Kent joined Yankee Candle in June 2001 as Senior Vice President, Wholesale. He was promoted to President in July 2004 and was promoted to his current position in December 2005. Prior to joining Yankee Candle, Mr. Kent was Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Wholesale Division of Totes Isotoner Corporation from 1997 to 2001, and Vice President of Global Sales and Marketing for the Winchester Division of Olin Corporation from 1995 to 1997. Mr. Kent has also held a number of senior marketing and strategic planning positions at both the Campbell Soup Company and its Pepperidge Farm Division.

BRUCE H. BESANKO is the Senior Vice President, Finance and Chief Operating Officer. Prior to joining Yankee Candle in April 2005, Mr. Besanko served as Vice President, Finance for Best Buy, Inc. from 2002-2005. Prior to joining Best Buy in 2002, Mr. Besanko held several financial leadership positions of increasing responsibility for Sears, Roebuck and Co. from 1996-2002. Prior to joining Sears, Mr. Besanko held various finance, accounting and treasury positions with the Atlantic Richfield Company from 1992-1996. He also served in the United States Air Force, holding a variety of leadership roles for more than eight years.

STEPHEN FARLEY is the Senior Vice President, Retail. Prior to joining Yankee Candle in January 2005, Mr. Farley served as Executive Vice President, Marketing and Merchandising for The Bombay Company, a leading specialty retailer of home accessories and home décor. Prior to joining The Bombay Company in 2002, he served as Chief Marketing Officer for J.C. Penney, one of America's largest department store, catalog and e-commerce retailers. Mr. Farley also previously held various senior leadership positions with Payless Shoe Source, Inc., Pizza Hut and the leading marketing and advertising agencies of Earle Palmer Brown and Saatchi & Saatchi.

PAUL J. HILL is the Senior Vice President, Supply Chain. Prior to joining Yankee Candle in October 2000, Mr. Hill was employed by Kraft Foods, Inc. from 1987 to 2000. At Kraft, Mr. Hill held various supply chain and strategy positions. His last assignment with Kraft, from 1997 to 2000, was as the Plant Manager at one of the largest plants in Kraft's system.

MARTHA S. LACROIX is the Senior Vice President, Human Resources. Ms. LaCroix joined Yankee Candle in February 1993 as Director of Employee Relations and has since held various positions of increasing responsibility in the Company's Human Resources Department. Ms. LaCroix was appointed Vice President, Human Resources in December 2000 and promoted to her current position in 2003.

JAMES A. PERLEY is the Senior Vice President, General Counsel of the Company. Prior to joining Yankee Candle in September 1999, Mr. Perley was Vice President and General Counsel of Star Markets Company, Inc.,

where he served from 1997 to 1999. From 1987 to 1997, Mr. Perley was a member of the Boston-based law firm of Hale and Dorr LLP, where he served as an Associate from 1987-1992 and as a Junior Partner from 1992-1997.

RICHARD R. RUFFOLO is the Senior Vice President of Brand Marketing and Innovation. Prior to joining Yankee Candle in September 2005, Mr. Ruffolo held various senior leadership positions with the Bath & Body Works Division of Limited Brands, Inc. from 1998-2005, where he most recently served as Vice President and Category Leader of their True Blue SPA and American Girl realbeauty businesses. Prior to joining Bath & Body Works in 1998 he served as Category Director, Glade Candles for S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc. Mr. Ruffolo also previously held brand management positions with The Procter & Gamble Company and Ralston-Purina Company.

There are no family relationships among any of the executive officers.

PART II

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR THE REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Market Information

Our common stock has been traded on the New York Stock Exchange since July 1, 1999 under the symbol "YCC". For the fiscal periods indicated, the high and low sales prices per share of the common stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange — Composite Transaction Reporting System were as follows:

	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
Fifty-two Weeks Ended December 31, 2005		
First Quarter	\$34.64	\$28.05
Second Quarter	33.15	27.65
Third Quarter	33.95	24.01
Fourth Quarter	26.88	21.20
	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
Fifty-two Weeks Ended January 1, 2005		
First Quarter	\$29.50	\$26.15
Second Quarter	31.06	25.90
Third Quarter	30.42	26.42
Fourth Quarter	34.02	27.11

On March 10, 2006, the closing sale price as reported on the New York Stock Exchange-Composite Transaction Reporting System for our common stock was \$28.21 per share. As of March 10, 2006, there were 577 holders of record of our common stock. This does not include the number of persons whose stock is in nominee or "street name" accounts through brokers.

Dividends

On February 14, 2005 we announced that our Board of Directors authorized us to initiate an annual cash dividend at the annual rate of \$0.25 per share of outstanding common stock. The first semi-annual payment of \$0.125 per share was paid on June 1, 2005, to shareholders of record on May 11, 2005. The second semi-annual payment of \$0.125 per share was paid on December 1, 2005 to shareholders of record on November 21, 2005. Under the terms of the First Amendment to Revolving Credit Agreement ("Amended Credit Facility"), we may not declare or pay dividends on common stock unless our Consolidated Net Worth (as defined in the Amended Credit Facility) is more than one dollar. As of December 31, 2005, our Consolidated Net Worth was approximately \$68.1 million. Our Board of Directors has further authorized the first semi-annual payment of \$0.125 per share with respect to 2006, to be made on June 1, 2006 to shareholders of record as of May 11, 2006. While it is our current intention to

pay annual cash dividends in 2006 and future years, any decision to pay future cash dividends will be made by our Board of Directors and will depend upon our earnings, financial condition and other factors.

Stock Repurchases

On December 7, 2004 we announced that our Board of Directors had approved a stock repurchase program authorizing us to repurchase up to \$100.0 million of Yankee Candle common stock commencing in fiscal 2005. Upon completion of this program in the second quarter of 2005, we announced on July 27, 2005 that our Board of Directors had approved a new stock repurchase program authorizing us to repurchase up to \$150.0 million of Yankee Candle common stock commencing in the third quarter of fiscal 2005. During fiscal 2005, under these authorizations of the Board of Directors, we purchased a total of 6,543,234 shares of common stock for an aggregate purchase price of \$185.0 million at an average price per share of approximately \$28.27. Share repurchase during fiscal 2005 was completed as follows:

<u>Period</u>	<u>Total Number of Shares Purchased (1)</u>	<u>Average Price Paid per Share</u>	<u>Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs (2)(3)</u>	<u>Approximate Dollar Value of Shares That May yet be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs</u>
1/1/05 - 2/5/05	—	\$ —	—	\$100,000,000
2/6/05 - 3/5/05	871,475	30.92	871,475	\$ 73,053,993
3/6/05 - 4/2/05	415,000	31.23	415,000	\$ 60,093,543
4/3/05 - 5/7/05	1,949,300	30.45	1,949,300	\$ 737,358
5/8/05 - 6/4/05	22,811	32.32	22,811	\$ —
6/5/05 - 7/2/05	—	—	—	\$ —
				\$150,000,000
7/3/05 - 8/6/05	525,000	29.77	525,000	\$134,370,750
8/7/05 - 9/3/05	148,798	29.38	148,798	\$129,999,065
9/4/05 - 10/1/05	—	—	—	\$129,999,065
10/2/05 - 11/5/05	—	—	—	\$129,999,065
11/6/05 - 12/3/05	1,647,700	24.28	1,647,700	\$ 89,992,909
12/4/05 - 12/31/05	<u>963,150</u>	<u>25.96</u>	<u>963,150</u>	\$ 64,989,535
Total	<u>6,543,234</u>	<u>\$28.27</u>	<u>6,543,234</u>	

- (1) All repurchases by us of our common stock during fiscal 2005 were done pursuant to the repurchase programs that we publicly announced on December 7, 2004 and July 27, 2005.
- (2) Our Board of Directors approved the repurchase of up to \$100 million of our common stock pursuant to the stock repurchase program announced on December 7, 2004. There was no expiration date for the Program, and it expired when we reached the \$100 million threshold.
- (3) Our Board of Directors approved the repurchase of up to \$150 million of our common stock pursuant to the stock repurchase program announced on July 27, 2005. There is currently no expiration date for this stock repurchase program. Unless terminated earlier by resolution of our Board of Directors, this stock repurchase program will expire when we have reached the \$150 million threshold.

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The selected historical consolidated financial and other data that follows should be read in conjunction with the “Consolidated Financial Statements”, the accompanying notes thereto and “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. The historical financial data as of December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2005 and for the fifty-two weeks ended December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2005 and the fifty-three weeks ended January 3, 2004 has been derived from the audited consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes included in this document at Item 8.

The historical financial data as of January 3, 2004, December 28, 2002 and December 29, 2001 and for the fifty-two weeks ended December 28, 2002 and December 29, 2001 has been derived from audited financial statements for the corresponding periods, which are not contained in this document.

The selected historical financial data may not be indicative of our future performance.

	<u>Fifty-Two Weeks Ended</u>		<u>Fifty-Three Weeks Ended</u>	<u>Fifty-Two Weeks Ended</u>	
	<u>December 31, 2005</u>	<u>January 1, 2005</u>	<u>January 3, 2004</u>	<u>December 28, 2002</u>	<u>December 29, 2001</u>
	(In thousands, except per share data)				
Statement of Income Data:					
Sales	\$601,181	\$554,202	\$508,637	\$444,842	\$379,831
Cost of sales	<u>257,455</u>	<u>230,519</u>	<u>215,316</u>	<u>194,748</u>	<u>174,107</u>
Gross profit	343,726	323,683	293,321	250,094	205,724
Selling expenses	146,055	131,333	115,777	96,714	77,348
General and administrative expenses	57,366	53,023	50,561	43,549	38,515
Restructuring charge	<u>5,546</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>8,000</u>
Income from operations	134,759	139,327	126,983	109,831	81,861
Net other expense	<u>6,725</u>	<u>2,651</u>	<u>3,370</u>	<u>4,415</u>	<u>10,902</u>
Income before provision for income taxes	128,034	136,676	123,613	105,416	70,959
Provision for income taxes	<u>49,933</u>	<u>53,987</u>	<u>48,827</u>	<u>41,437</u>	<u>27,674</u>
Net income	<u>\$ 78,101</u>	<u>\$ 82,689</u>	<u>\$ 74,786</u>	<u>\$ 63,979</u>	<u>\$ 43,285</u>
Basic earnings per share	<u>\$ 1.75</u>	<u>\$ 1.70</u>	<u>\$ 1.41</u>	<u>\$ 1.19</u>	<u>\$ 0.81</u>
Diluted earnings per share	<u>\$ 1.73</u>	<u>\$ 1.68</u>	<u>\$ 1.40</u>	<u>\$ 1.17</u>	<u>\$ 0.79</u>
Dividends per share	<u>\$ 0.25</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>
Weighted average basic shares outstanding	44,622	48,749	53,024	53,896	53,537
Weighted average diluted shares outstanding	45,053	49,136	53,419	54,686	54,643
Balance Sheet Data (as of end of period):					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 12,655	\$ 36,424	\$ 40,730	\$ 43,689	\$ 30,531
Working capital	35,982	44,107	(22,165)	17,182	(1,307)
Total assets	355,134	346,359	334,681	340,643	321,284
Total debt	178,000	75,000	65,000	60,600	115,000
Total stockholders’ equity	68,144	179,663	190,273	212,912	148,104

	<u>Fifty-Two Weeks Ended</u>		<u>Fifty-Three Weeks Ended</u>	<u>Fifty-Two Weeks Ended</u>	
	<u>December 31, 2005</u>	<u>January 1, 2005</u>	<u>January 3, 2004</u>	<u>December 28, 2002</u>	<u>December 29, 2001</u>

(In thousands, except per share data)

Other Data:

Number of retail stores (at end of period) . . .	390	345	286	239	192
Comparable store sales	(3.8)%	(1.8)%	(4.2)%	(6.3)%	(1.7)%
Comparable sales including Consumer					
Direct	(2.3)%	(2.0)%	(3.8)%	(4.4)%	2.0%
Gross profit margin	57.2%	58.4%	57.7%	56.2%	54.2%
Depreciation and amortization	\$ 24,788	\$ 21,850	\$ 19,440	\$ 17,347	\$ 14,347
Capital expenditures	39,180	28,908	22,023	25,867	26,844
EBITDA	159,615	161,584	145,724	126,484	94,716

Cash Flow Data:

Net cash flows from operating activities . . .	\$106,543	\$122,061	\$113,697	\$ 91,815	\$ 86,962
Net cash flows from investing activities . . .	(39,656)	(39,753)	(21,764)	(24,153)	(26,428)
Net cash flows from financing activities . . .	(90,491)	(85,875)	(94,435)	(54,565)	(43,256)

Other Data — EBITDA

Management presents EBITDA, which is a non-GAAP liquidity measure, because we believe that it is a useful tool for us and our investors to measure our ability to meet debt service, capital expenditure and working capital requirements. In addition, the Company's debt covenants in the credit agreement relating to our Amended Credit Facility contain ratios based on an EBITDA measure as defined in footnote 9 to the financial statements. EBITDA, as presented, may not be comparable to similarly titled measures reported by other companies since not all companies necessarily calculate EBITDA in an identical manner and therefore is not necessarily an accurate means of comparison between companies. EBITDA is not intended to represent cash flows for the period or funds available for management's discretionary use nor has it been represented as an alternative to operating income as an indicator of operating performance and should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for measures of performance prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. In order to compensate for differences in the calculation of EBITDA across companies, EBITDA should be evaluated in conjunction with GAAP measures such as operating income, net income, cash flow from operations and other measures of equal importance.

A reconciliation of EBITDA to cash flows provided by operations is as follows:

	<u>Fifty-Two Weeks Ended December 31, 2005</u>	<u>Fifty-Two Weeks Ended January 1, 2005</u>	<u>Fifty-Three Weeks Ended January 3, 2004</u>	<u>Fifty-Two Weeks Ended December 28, 2002</u>	<u>Fifty-Two Weeks Ended December 29, 2001</u>
EBITDA	\$159,615	\$161,584	\$145,724	\$126,484	\$ 94,716
Income taxes	(49,933)	(53,987)	(48,827)	(41,437)	(27,674)
Interest expense, net	(7,227)	(4,139)	(3,795)	(4,835)	(10,524)
Amortization of deferred financing costs	434	1,081	1,124	1,114	1,114
Other non-cash items	13,416	16,816	12,867	16,131	13,975
Net changes in assets and liabilities	<u>(9,762)</u>	<u>706</u>	<u>6,604</u>	<u>(5,642)</u>	<u>15,355</u>
Cash flows from operating activities	<u>\$106,543</u>	<u>\$122,061</u>	<u>\$113,697</u>	<u>\$ 91,815</u>	<u>\$ 86,962</u>

ITEM 7. *MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS*

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

“Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” discusses our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. On an on-going basis, management evaluates its estimates and judgments, including those related to inventories, restructuring costs, bad debts, intangible assets, income taxes, promotional allowances, sales returns, self-insurance, debt service and contingencies and litigation. Management bases its estimates and judgments on historical experience and on various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about operating results and the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions. Management believes the following critical accounting policies, among others, involve its more significant estimates and judgments and are therefore particularly important to an understanding of our results of operations and financial position.

SALES/RECEIVABLES

We sell our products both directly to retail customers and through wholesale channels. Merchandise sales are recognized upon transfer of ownership, including passage of title to the customer and transfer of the risk of loss related to those goods. In our wholesale segment, products are shipped “free on board” shipping point; however revenue is recognized at the time the product is received by the customer due to our practice of absorbing risk of loss in the event of damaged or lost shipments. In our retail segment, transfer of title takes place at the point of sale (i.e., at our retail stores). There are no situations, either in our wholesale or retail segments, where legal risk of loss does not transfer immediately upon receipt by our customers. Although we do not provide a contractual right of return, in the course of arriving at practical business solutions to various claims, we have allowed sales returns and allowances. In these situations, customer claims for credit or return due to damage, defect, shortage or other reason must be pre-approved by us before credit is issued or such product is accepted for return. Such returns have not precluded sales recognition because we have a long history with such returns, which we use in constructing a reserve. This reserve, however, is subject to change. In our wholesale segment, we have included a reserve in our financial statements representing our estimated obligation related to promotional marketing activities. In addition to returns, we bear credit risk relative to our wholesale customers. We have provided a reserve for bad debts in our financial statements based on our estimates of the creditworthiness of our customers. However, this reserve is also subject to change. Changes in these reserves could affect our operating results.

INVENTORY

We write down our inventory for estimated obsolescence or unmarketable inventory in an amount equal to the difference between the cost of inventory and the estimated market value, based upon assumptions about future demand and market conditions. If actual future demand or market conditions are less favorable than those projected by management, additional inventory write-downs may be required. In addition, our inventory is stated at the lower of cost or market on a last-in first-out (“LIFO”) basis. Fluctuations in inventory levels along with the cost of raw materials could impact the carrying value of our inventory. Changes in the carrying value of inventory could affect our operating results.

TAXES

We have a significant net deferred tax asset recorded on our financial statements. This asset arose at the time of our recapitalization in 1998 and is a future tax deduction for us. The recoverability of this future tax deduction is dependent upon our future profitability. We have made an assessment that this asset is likely to be recovered and is appropriately reflected on the balance sheet. Should we find that we are not able to utilize this deduction in the

future we would have to record a reserve for all or a part of this asset, which would adversely affect our operating results and cash flows.

VALUE OF LONG-LIVED ASSETS, INCLUDING INTANGIBLES

Long-lived assets on our balance sheet consist primarily of property, plant and equipment, customer lists, tradenames, goodwill and trademarks. We periodically review the carrying value of all of these assets based, in part, upon our projections of anticipated undiscounted future cash flows. We undertake this review when facts and circumstances suggest that cash flows emanating from those assets may be diminished and at least annually in the case of tradenames and goodwill. Any impairment charge that we record reduces our earnings. At December 31, 2005, goodwill was \$6,035 and tradenames was \$2,520. While we believe that our future estimates are reasonable, different assumptions regarding items such as future cash flows and the volatility inherent in markets which we serve could affect our evaluations and result in impairment charges against the carrying value of those assets.

STOCK BASED COMPENSATION

Effective in 2003, we adopted the fair value recognition provisions of SFAS No. 123 "Accounting for Stock Based Compensation." Under the prospective transition method selected by us, as described in SFAS No. 148, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation-Transition and Disclosure, an amendment of SFAS No. 123," all stock option grants beginning with grants made in fiscal 2003 are being expensed over the vesting period, based on the fair value at the date of the grant. Fair value is determined based on a variety of factors, all of which are estimates subject to judgment. Changes in estimated lives of options, risk free interest rates or exercise patterns could impact our results of operations. We recorded a charge of approximately \$3.4 million, \$1.6 million and \$0.7 million for the fifty-two weeks ended December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2005, and the fifty-three weeks ended January 3, 2004, respectively. In the first quarter of fiscal 2006 in accordance with SFAS No. 123(R), "Share-Based Payment," we will be required to record the fair value of stock options for all unvested options granted prior to 2003. We estimate that this will result in additional stock compensation expense of approximately \$0.3 million during fiscal 2006.

SELF-INSURANCE

We are self-insured for certain losses related to health insurance and worker's compensation, although we maintain stop-loss coverage with third-party insurers to limit our liability exposure. Liabilities associated with these losses are estimated in part by considering historical claims experience, industry factors, severity factors and other actuarial assumptions. To date, our actual costs have not differed materially from our estimates.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

We measure the performance of our retail and wholesale segments through a segment profit calculation, which specifically identifies not only gross profit on the sales of products through the two channels but also selling costs and expenses specifically related to each segment.

FLUCTUATIONS IN QUARTERLY OPERATING RESULTS

We have experienced, and may experience in the future, fluctuations in our quarterly operating results. There are numerous factors that can contribute to these fluctuations; however, the principal factors are seasonality, new store openings and the addition of new wholesale accounts.

Seasonality. We have historically realized higher revenues and operating income in our fourth quarter, particularly in our retail business. This has been primarily due to increased sales in the giftware industry during the holiday season of the fourth quarter.

New Store Openings. The timing of our new store openings may also have an impact on our quarterly results. First, we incur certain one-time expenses related to opening each new store. These expenses, which consist primarily of occupancy, salaries, supplies and marketing costs, are expensed as incurred. Second, most store expenses vary proportionately with sales, but there is a fixed cost component. This typically results in lower store profitability when a new store opens because new stores generally have lower sales than mature stores. Due to both

of these factors, during periods when new store openings as a percentage of the base are higher, operating profit may decline in dollars and/or as a percentage of sales. As the overall store base matures, the fixed cost component of selling expenses is spread over an increased level of sales, assuming sales increase as stores age, resulting in a decrease in selling and other expenses as a percentage of sales.

New Wholesale Accounts. The timing of new wholesale accounts may have an impact on our quarterly results due to the size of initial opening orders.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In fiscal 2005 net sales increased 8.5% to \$601.2 million from \$554.2 million for 2004. We reported net earnings of \$78.1 million and diluted earnings per share of \$1.73 in fiscal 2005 compared to net earnings of \$82.7 million and diluted earnings per share of \$1.68 for fiscal 2004.
- During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2005, we initiated a restructuring plan designed to close 17 underperforming stores and re-invest in talent and other strategic growth initiatives. In connection with this restructuring plan, a charge of approximately \$5.5 million was recorded. Included in the restructuring charge was approximately \$2.4 million related to lease termination costs, approximately \$2.5 million related to non-cash fixed assets write-offs and approximately \$0.6 million in employee related and other costs. As of December 31, 2005, five of the 17 underperforming stores had been closed. We have closed the remaining 12 locations in the first quarter of fiscal 2006. The Company anticipates no further charges related to this restructuring.
- We enhanced our business by continuing to introduce innovative new products through our retail and wholesale channels, continuing investments in the modernization of existing stores and the introduction of new stores, and investing in information systems and supply chain operations.
- We opened 53 new retail stores during 2005 and closed eight underperforming stores, bringing our total retail store count to 390. These 390 stores include 12 stores that were closed in the first quarter of fiscal 2006 in connection with the restructuring plan discussed above. We added approximately 760 net new wholesale locations during 2005, bringing our total wholesale location count to approximately 18,600 including our European operations.
- We ended fiscal 2005 with \$178.0 million of outstanding borrowings under our Amended Credit Facility as compared to \$75.0 million at the end of fiscal 2004. The increase was primarily due to using the Amended Credit Facility to fund share repurchases, capital expenditures and our seasonal borrowing requirements. Borrowing availability totaled \$68.9 million at December 31, 2005.

FIFTY-TWO WEEKS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005 (“2005”) COMPARED TO FIFTY-TWO WEEKS ENDED JANUARY 1, 2005 (“2004”)

GENERAL

The fiscal years ended December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2005 consisted of 52 weeks.

SALES

Sales increased 8.5% to \$601.2 million in 2005 from \$554.2 million in 2004.

Retail Sales

Retail sales increased 7.3% to \$304.1 million in 2005 from \$283.5 million for 2004. There were 390 retail stores open as of December 31, 2005 compared to 345 stores open at January 1, 2005. The increase in retail sales was achieved primarily through the addition of 53 new stores opened in 2005 which increased sales by approximately \$18.1 million, increased sales in the 60 stores opened in 2004 (which in 2004 were open for only part of the fiscal year reported) of approximately \$7.7 million, increased sales in our catalog and Internet operations of approximately \$3.5 million, approximately \$1.0 million of revenue related to gift card breakage, offset in part by the decrease in retail comparable store sales of approximately \$9.8 million. Comparable store and catalog and Internet

sales in 2005 decreased 2% compared to 2004. Retail comparable store sales in 2005 decreased 4% compared to 2004. The primary factor contributing to the decrease in comparable store sales was a decline in our retail store traffic. Comparable store sales represent a comparison of sales during the corresponding fiscal periods on stores in our comparable stores sales base. A store first enters our comparable store sales base in the fourteenth fiscal month of operation. There were 335 stores included in the comparable store base at the end of 2005, and 57 of these stores were included for less than a full year. The Company has relocated only one store and had only seven store expansions or remodels over the last five years. In these instances, the stores were not excluded from our comparable store calculation due to the short period of time that the stores were closed. Permanently closed stores are excluded from the comparable store calculation beginning in the month in which the store closes. A continued decrease in our retail comparable store sales will have an adverse impact on our cash flows and earnings. This is due to the fact that a significant portion of our expenses are comprised of fixed costs, such as lease payments, and our ability to decrease expenses in response to negative comparable store sales is limited in the short term. If comparable store sales continue to decline, this will negatively impact earnings. However, we do not believe that it will significantly impact our working capital or our compliance with bank covenant requirements in the near future.

Wholesale Sales

Wholesale sales, including European operations, increased 9.8% to \$297.1 million in 2005 from \$270.7 million for 2004. This growth was achieved primarily from increased sales to wholesale locations opened during the last 12 months of approximately \$6.9 million, increased sales to wholesale locations in operation prior to January 1, 2005 of approximately \$6.8 million, increased sales in our GBI fundraising division that was acquired in June 2004 of approximately \$6.6 million and increased sales in our European operations of approximately \$5.4 million.

GROSS PROFIT

Gross profit is sales less cost of sales. Included within cost of sales are the cost of the merchandise we sell through our retail and wholesale segments, inbound and outbound freight costs, the operational costs of our distribution facilities, which include receiving costs, inspection and warehousing costs, and salaries and expenses incurred by the Company's buying and merchandising operations.

Gross profit increased 6.2% to \$343.7 million in 2005 from \$323.7 million in 2004. As a percentage of sales, gross profit decreased to 57.2% in 2005 from 58.4% in 2004.

Retail Gross Profit

Retail gross profit dollars increased 5.0% to \$202.4 million in 2005 from \$192.8 million in 2004. Retail sales increased \$20.6 million, which contributed approximately \$9.6 million in gross profit dollars. As a percentage of sales, retail gross profit decreased to 66.6% in 2005 from 68.0% in 2004. The decrease in retail gross profit rate was primarily the result of decreased productivity in our manufacturing and distribution units ("supply chain operations") of 2.1% which was primarily due to increased freight and wax costs and wax allocation issues, and increased marketing and promotional activity to increase customer traffic of 1.2%, offset in part by improvement in the merchandise mix of 1.9% over the prior year.

Wholesale Gross Profit

Wholesale gross profit increased 8.0% to \$141.3 million in 2005 from \$130.9 million in 2004. Wholesale sales increased \$26.4 million, which contributed \$10.5 million in gross profit dollars. As a percentage of sales, wholesale gross profit decreased to 47.6% in 2005 from 48.3% in 2004. The decrease in wholesale gross profit rate was primarily the result of decreased productivity in supply chain operations of 2.1% which was primarily due to increased freight and wax costs and wax allocation issues, and increased marketing and promotional activity of 0.7%, offset by improvement in the merchandise mix of 2.2% over the prior year.

SELLING EXPENSES

Selling expenses increased 11.2% to \$146.1 million in 2005 from \$131.3 million in 2004. These expenses are related to both wholesale and retail operations and consist of payroll, occupancy, advertising and other operating

costs, as well as preopening costs, which are expensed as incurred. As a percentage of sales, selling expenses were 24.3% in 2005 and 23.7% in 2004.

Retail Selling Expenses

Retail selling expenses increased 9.2% to \$126.8 million in 2005 from \$116.1 million in 2004. These expenses relate to payroll, occupancy, advertising and other store operating costs, as well as pre-opening costs, which are expensed as incurred. As a percentage of retail sales, retail selling expenses were 41.7% in 2005 and 41.0% in 2004. The increase in retail selling expenses in dollars was primarily related to the 53 new retail stores opened in 2005 and the 60 new retail stores opened in 2004. The 2005 store class had selling expenses equal to 43.3% of sales and the 2004 store class had selling expenses equal to 46.3% of sales. The increase in retail selling expense as a percentage of retail sales was primarily attributable to the decrease in comparable store sales and to a lesser extent the 53 new stores opened in 2005 and the 60 new retail stores opened in 2004. These two store classes are considered immature stores, which are generally stores that are less than three years old. Immature stores typically generate higher selling expenses as a percentage of sales than stores that have been open for more than three years since fixed costs, as a percent of sales, are higher in the early sales maturation period.

Wholesale Selling Expenses

Wholesale selling expenses increased 26.2% to \$19.2 million in 2005 from \$15.2 million in 2004. These expenses relate to payroll, advertising and other operating costs. As a percentage of wholesale sales, wholesale selling expenses were 6.5% in 2005 and 5.6% in 2004. The increase in wholesale selling expenses in dollars was primarily the result of \$1.6 million of increased costs associated with our GBI fundraising division (acquired in June 2004) which were included for the full year in 2005 but only for part of 2004, \$0.8 million of increased selling expenses related to our European operations, \$0.8 million associated with sales commissions to internal and external sales groups and to a lesser extent \$0.3 million of expenses associated with Aroma Naturals, Inc. (acquired in November 2005). The increase in wholesale selling expense as a percentage of wholesale sales was primarily attributable to the increased costs associated with our GBI fundraising division which has a higher selling expense structure than our core wholesale business.

SEGMENT PROFITABILITY

Segment profitability is sales less cost of sales and selling expenses.

Retail Operations

Segment profitability for our retail operations was \$75.5 million or 24.9% of retail sales in 2005 compared to \$76.7 million or 27.1% of retail sales in 2004. The decrease in retail segment profitability in dollars was primarily due to decreased retail comparable store sales. The decrease in retail segment profitability as a percentage of sales was primarily attributable to candle related promotional activity which negatively impacted retail segment profitability by 1.5% and to a decrease in retail comparable store sales which negatively impacted rate by 1.1%.

Wholesale Operations

Segment profitability for our wholesale operations, including Europe, was \$122.1 million or 41.1% of wholesale sales in 2005 compared to \$115.6 million or 42.7% of wholesale sales in 2004. The increase in wholesale segment profitability in dollars was primarily attributable to increased profitability in our European operations of approximately \$3.3 million, improved profitability in our GBI fundraising operations of approximately \$2.5 million and increased profitability within our domestic wholesale operations, excluding GBI, of approximately \$0.7 million. The decrease in wholesale segment profitability rate was primarily the result of decreased productivity in supply chain operations of 2.1% which was primarily the result of increased freight and wax costs and wax allocation issues, increased marketing and promotional activity of 0.7%, increased costs of 1.0% associated with our GBI fundraising division (acquired in June 2004) which has a higher selling expense structure than our core wholesale business and increased sales commissions in our core wholesale business, offset in part by improvement in the merchandise mix of 2.2% over the prior year.

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

General and administrative expenses, which consist primarily of personnel-related costs including senior management, accounting, information systems, management incentive programs and costs that are not readily allocable to either the retail or wholesale operations, increased 8.2% to \$57.4 million in 2005 from \$53.0 million in 2004. As a percentage of sales, general and administrative expenses decreased to 9.5% from 9.6%. The increase in general and administrative expense in dollars in 2005 compared to 2004 was primarily attributable to an increase in stock-based compensation expense in 2005 compared to 2004 of \$1.9 million, labor costs associated with new hires made during 2005 of \$1.8 million and increased information systems consulting costs of \$1.2 million. The decrease in general and administrative expense as a percentage of sales for 2005 compared to 2004 was primarily due to the Company's leveraging of these expenses over a larger sales base.

RESTRUCTURING CHARGE

During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2005, we initiated a restructuring plan designed to close 17 underperforming stores and re-invest in talent and other strategic growth initiatives. We continue to have a presence in the areas of the closed stores through other retail locations, wholesale locations and the Company's catalog and Internet operations. Accordingly, the results of operations for the proposed closed stores are included in continuing operations. In connection with this restructuring plan, a charge of approximately \$5.5 million was recorded in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2005. Included in the restructuring charge was approximately \$2.4 million related to lease termination costs, approximately \$2.5 million related to non-cash fixed assets write-offs and other costs, and approximately \$0.6 million in employee related costs. As of December 31, 2005, five of the 17 underperforming stores had been closed. We expect to close the remaining 12 locations in the first quarter of fiscal 2006, pursuant to agreements that were entered into in 2005.

The following is a summary of restructuring charge activity for the fifty two weeks ended December 31, 2005 (dollars in thousands):

	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Costs Paid During the Fifty-Two Weeks Ended December 31, 2005</u>	<u>Non-Cash Charges</u>	<u>Accrued as of December 31, 2005</u>
Occupancy	\$2,404	\$1,254	\$ —	\$1,150
Fixed asset impairment and other	2,559	—	2,475	84
Employee related	<u>583</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>473</u>
Total	<u>\$5,546</u>	<u>\$1,364</u>	<u>\$2,475</u>	<u>\$1,707</u>

NET OTHER EXPENSE

Net other expense was \$6.7 million in 2005 compared to \$2.7 million in 2004. The primary component of this expense was interest expense, which was \$7.2 million in 2005 compared to \$4.2 million in 2004. The increase in interest expense was primarily due to an increase in our borrowing rates as a result of an increase in bank lending rates and to a lesser extent the increase in our average daily debt outstanding primarily due to borrowings associated with repurchases of our common stock.

INCOME TAXES

The income tax provision for 2005 was \$49.9 million compared to \$54.0 million for 2004. The effective tax rates for 2005 and 2004 were 39.0% and 39.5%, respectively. The decrease from 39.5% is due to the deduction for domestic production activities available to us under the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004. We have provided and expect to continue to provide in 2006 a valuation allowance against the deferred tax asset for our international operations. As a result, it is anticipated that our effective tax rate for 2006 will be approximately 39.0%. We re-evaluate our effective tax rate on a quarterly basis.

FIFTY-TWO WEEKS ENDED JANUARY 1, 2005 (“2004”) COMPARED TO FIFTY-THREE WEEKS ENDED JANUARY 3, 2004 (“2003”)

GENERAL

The fiscal year ended January 1, 2005 consisted of 52 weeks and the fiscal year ended January 3, 2004 consisted of 53 weeks.

SALES

Sales increased 9.0% to \$554.2 million in 2004 from \$508.6 million in 2003. Wholesale sales, including international operations, increased 11.9% to \$270.7 million in 2004 from \$242.0 million for 2003. This growth was achieved primarily by increasing the number of wholesale locations and to a lesser extent by increasing sales to existing locations.

Retail sales increased 6.3% to \$283.5 million in 2004 from \$266.6 million for 2003. There were 345 retail stores open as of January 1, 2005 compared to 286 stores open at January 3, 2004. The increase in retail sales was achieved primarily through the addition of 60 new stores in 2004 and to a lesser extent increased sales in the 49 stores opened in 2003 (which in 2003 were open for less than a full year), partially offset by a decrease in comparable store sales. Comparable store and catalog and Internet sales in 2004 decreased 2% compared to 2003. Retail comparable store sales in 2004 decreased 2% compared to 2003. The primary factor contributing to the decrease in comparable store sales was a decline in our retail store traffic. There were 285 stores included in the comparable store base at the end of 2004, and 49 of these stores were included for less than a full year.

GROSS PROFIT

Gross profit increased 10.4% to \$323.7 million in 2004 from \$293.3 million in 2003. As a percentage of sales, gross profit increased to 58.4% in 2004 from 57.7% in 2003.

Retail gross profit increased 7.2% to \$192.8 million in 2004 from \$179.8 million in 2003. Retail sales increased \$16.9 million, which contributed approximately \$11.4 million in gross profit dollars. As a percentage of sales, retail gross profit improved to 68.0% in 2004 from 67.4% in 2003. The improvement in retail gross profit rate was primarily the result of productivity improvements in supply chain operations and the benefit of cost reduction initiatives of \$1.6 million.

Wholesale gross profit increased 15.3% to \$130.9 million in 2004 from \$113.5 million in 2003. Wholesale sales increased \$28.7 million, which contributed \$13.5 million in gross profit dollars. As a percentage of sales, wholesale gross profit improved to 48.3% in 2004 from 46.9% in 2003. The improvement in wholesale gross profit rate was primarily the result of productivity improvements in supply chain operations and the benefit of cost reduction initiatives of \$3.9 million.

SELLING EXPENSES

Selling expenses increased 13.4% to \$131.3 million in 2004 from \$115.8 million in 2003. As a percentage of sales, selling expenses were 23.7% in 2004 and 22.8% in 2003.

Retail selling expenses increased 11.8% to \$116.1 million in 2004 from \$103.9 million in 2003. As a percentage of retail sales, retail selling expenses were 41.0% in 2004 and 39.0% in 2003. The increase in retail selling expenses in dollars was primarily related to the 60 new retail stores opened in 2004 and the 49 new retail stores opened in 2003. These two store classes are considered immature stores, which are generally stores that are less than three years old. Immature stores typically generate higher selling expenses as a percentage of sales than stores that have been open for more than three years since fixed costs, as a percent of sales, are higher in the early sales maturation period. The 2004 store class had selling expenses equal to 41.4% of sales and the 2003 store class had selling expenses equal to 42.6% of sales. The increase in retail selling expense as a percentage of retail sales was primarily attributable to the decrease in comparable store sales and to a lesser extent the 60 new stores opened in 2004 and the 49 new retail stores opened in 2003.

Wholesale selling expenses increased 27.7% to \$15.2 million in 2004 from \$11.9 million in 2003. As a percentage of wholesale sales, wholesale selling expenses were 5.6% in 2004 and 4.9% in 2003. The increase in wholesale selling expenses in dollars was primarily the result of the GBI acquisition, which contributed \$2.0 million of selling expenses in 2004 that did not exist in 2003. Excluding these expenses, wholesale selling expenses would have been flat as a percentage of sales in 2004 when compared to 2003.

SEGMENT PROFITABILITY

Segment profitability is sales less cost of sales and selling expenses. Segment profitability for our wholesale operations, including international operations, was \$115.6 million or 42.7% of wholesale sales in 2004 compared to \$101.6 million or 42.0% of wholesale sales in 2003. Segment profitability for our retail operations was \$76.7 million or 27.1% of retail sales in 2004 compared to \$76.0 million or 28.5% of retail sales in 2003. The increase in wholesale segment profitability was primarily attributable to increased wholesale sales and increased wholesale gross profit dollars and rate. The increase in retail segment profitability in dollars was primarily attributable to increased retail sales and increased gross profit dollars and rate. The decrease in retail segment profitability as a percentage of retail sales was primarily attributable to decreased profitability in our catalog and Internet operations and to a lesser extent decreased profitability in our 90,000 square foot South Deerfield, Massachusetts flagship store.

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

General and administrative expenses increased 4.9% to \$53.0 million in 2004 from \$50.6 million in 2003. As a percentage of sales, general and administrative expenses decreased to 9.6% from 9.9%. The increase in general and administrative expense in dollars in 2004 compared to 2003 was primarily attributable to labor costs associated with new hires made during 2004 and to an increase in stock-based compensation expense in 2004 compared to 2003. The decrease in general and administrative expense as a percentage of sales for 2004 compared to 2003 was primarily due to the Company's leveraging of these expenses over a larger sales base.

NET OTHER EXPENSE

Net other expense was \$2.7 million in 2004 compared to \$3.4 million in 2003. The primary component of this expense was interest expense, which was \$4.2 million in 2004 compared to \$3.8 million in 2003. The average daily debt outstanding increased in 2004 compared to 2003 primarily due to borrowings associated with repurchases of our common stock. The impact of the higher average debt outstanding was offset in part by a reduction in borrowing rates under our credit facility. In 2004, the Company also reduced certain non-income tax related reserves that had been recorded in 2003 within other (income) expense.

INCOME TAXES

The income tax provision for 2004 was \$54.0 million compared to \$48.8 million for 2003. The 2004 and 2003 tax provisions resulted in an effective tax rate of 39.5%. We have provided and expect to provide in 2005 a valuation allowance against the deferred tax asset for our international operations. As a result, it is anticipated that our effective tax rate for 2005 will be approximately 39.5%. We re-evaluate our effective tax rate on a quarterly basis.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

We have consistently generated positive cash flow from operations. Specifically, over the last three fiscal years we have generated a total cash flow from operations of approximately \$342 million, including approximately \$107 million in 2005. These amounts have exceeded net income in all the fiscal years presented due primarily to two factors. First, we have incurred non-cash charges for depreciation and amortization. Second, income tax expense has significantly exceeded taxes actually paid owing to the tax deduction that we continue to utilize that arose from the 1998 recapitalization. This tax deduction is expected to continue to provide an annual cash benefit for the next nine years. On an annual basis, this results in tax savings of approximately \$11.7 million per year through 2013 assuming sufficient income to realize the full benefit of this deduction.

These internally generated cash flows have been sufficient to fund necessary capital expenditures for our expansion plans. Capital expenditures in 2005 were \$39.2 million and were primarily related to the capital requirements to open 53 new stores, including a second flagship store in Williamsburg, VA and investments in systems, manufacturing and logistics operations. Capital expenditures were approximately \$28.9 million in 2004 and primarily related to new store openings and investments in manufacturing and logistics operations. We anticipate that capital expenditures in 2006 will total approximately \$22.0 million and is expected to be spent in a similar manner as in 2005 (excluding the flagship store). We plan to open approximately 25 new stores in 2006.

On November 7, 2005, we acquired substantially all of the assets of Aroma Naturals, Inc., a privately owned and operated company specializing in developing plant and flower aromas into aromatherapy products. The total cash purchase price was approximately \$4.2 million.

Our Amended Credit Facility has a single \$250 million line which expires on May 18, 2010. Amounts outstanding under the Amended Credit Facility bear interest at a rate equal to, at our option, Citizens Bank prime rate or a Eurodollar rate that ranges from 0.50% to 0.85% above LIBOR. We are required to pay the lenders a quarterly commitment fee on the unused revolving loan commitment amount which ranges from 0.125% to 0.20%.

The Amended Credit Facility requires that we comply with several financial and other covenants, including requirements that we maintain at the end of each fiscal quarter the following financial ratios as set forth in the Amended Credit Facility:

- a consolidated total debt to consolidated EBITDA ratio for the trailing twelve months of no more than 2.25 to 1.00 (at December 31, 2005 this ratio was 1.12 to 1.00).
- a fixed charge coverage ratio (the ratio of the sum of consolidated EBITDA plus rent expense, less taxes paid and capital expenditures to the sum of consolidated cash interest expense plus rent expense and dividends for the trailing twelve months) of no less than 2.00 to 1.00 for fiscal 2005; and no less than 2.25 to 1.00 during fiscal 2006 and thereafter (at December 31, 2005 this ratio was 2.32 to 1.00).

The Amended Credit Facility defines EBITDA as consolidated net income for the trailing twelve months, plus the amount of net interest expense, depreciation and amortization, income taxes, and certain non-cash compensation expenses.

As of December 31, 2005, \$178.0 million was outstanding under the Amended Credit Facility and \$3.1 million was outstanding for letters of credit, leaving \$68.9 million in availability. As of December 31, 2005, we were in compliance with all covenants under the Amended Credit Facility.

In addition to obligations to repay our debt obligations, we lease the majority of our retail stores under operating leases. The following table summarizes our contractual commitments including both our debt and lease obligations:

<u>Contractual Obligations</u>	<u>Payments Due by Period</u>						
	<u>Total</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>Thereafter</u>
	(In thousands)						
Debt obligations(1)	\$178,000	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$178,000	\$ —
Operating leases	177,999	27,232	26,139	25,388	23,812	20,400	55,028
Purchase commitments(2)	4,271	4,271	—	—	—	—	—
Estimated interest payments(3) . . .	40,834	9,327	9,327	9,327	9,327	3,526	—
Total contractual cash obligations	<u>\$401,104</u>	<u>\$40,830</u>	<u>\$35,466</u>	<u>\$34,715</u>	<u>\$33,139</u>	<u>\$201,926</u>	<u>\$55,028</u>

(1) Assumed to be outstanding through its maturity date of May 18, 2010.

(2) Includes open purchase orders for goods purchased in the ordinary course of our business, whether or not we are able to cancel such purchase orders.

- (3) Estimated interest payments are based on the outstanding debt balance of \$178.0 million at 12/31/2005, assumed to be outstanding through May 18, 2010, at an estimated interest rate of 5.24% (the rate in effect at December 31, 2005).

On December 7, 2004 we announced that our Board of Directors had approved a stock repurchase program authorizing us to repurchase up to \$100.0 million of Yankee Candle common stock commencing in fiscal 2005. Upon completion of this program in the second quarter of 2005, we announced on July 27, 2005 that our Board of Directors had approved a new stock repurchase program authorizing us to repurchase up to \$150.0 million of Yankee Candle common stock commencing in the third quarter of fiscal 2005. During fiscal 2005, under these authorizations of the Board of Directors, we purchased a total of 6,543,234 shares of common stock for an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$185.0 million. As of December 31, 2005 we had approximately \$65 million remaining under the authorization announced on July 27, 2005. Our repurchase activities were funded from cash flow from operations and borrowings under our existing Amended Credit Facility.

On February 14, 2005 we announced that our Board of Directors authorized us to initiate an annual cash dividend at the annual rate of \$0.25 per share of outstanding common stock. The first semi-annual payment of \$0.125 per share was paid on June 1, 2005, to shareholders of record on May 11, 2005. The second semi-annual payment of \$0.125 per share was paid on December 1, 2005 to shareholders of record on November 21, 2005. Under the terms of our Amended Credit Facility, we may not declare or pay dividends on common stock unless our Consolidated Net Worth (as defined in the Amended Credit Facility) is more than one dollar. As of December 31, 2005, our Consolidated Net Worth was approximately \$68.1 million. Our Board of Directors has further authorized the first semi-annual payment of \$0.125 per share with respect to 2006, to be made on June 1, 2006 to shareholders of record as of May 11, 2006. While it is our current intention to pay annual cash dividends in 2006 and future years, any decision to pay future cash dividends will be made by our Board of Directors and will depend upon our earnings, financial condition and other factors.

We expect that the principal sources of funding for our planned store openings and other working capital needs, capital expenditures, debt service obligations and stock repurchase program will be a combination of our available cash and cash equivalents, cash generated from operations, and borrowings under our Amended Credit Facility. We believe that our current cash and cash equivalents and sources of cash will be sufficient to fund our liquidity needs for at least the next 12 months. However, there are a number of factors that may negatively impact our available sources of cash. The amount of cash generated from operations will be dependent upon factors such as the successful execution of our business plan and worldwide economic conditions. In addition, borrowings under our Amended Credit Facility are dependent upon our continued compliance with the financial and other covenants contained therein.

RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

In October 2005, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position No. 13-1 (“FSP 13-1”), “Accounting for Rental Costs Incurred during a Construction Period”. FSP 13-1 requires rental costs associated with ground or building operating leases that are incurred during a construction period to be recognized as rental expense. FSP 13-1 is effective for the first reporting period beginning after December 15, 2005. In fiscal 2006, we will be required to record rental costs incurred during the construction period as rental expense. We estimate that this will result in additional rent expense of approximately \$0.2 million during fiscal 2006.

ITEM 7A. *QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK*

Our market risks relate primarily to changes in interest rates. We bear this risk in two specific ways. First, we have debt outstanding. At December 31, 2005, we had \$178 million outstanding under our Amended Credit Facility, which bears interest at variable rates. For the year-ended December 31, 2005, the weighted-average interest rate on outstanding borrowings was 4.5%. This facility is intended to fund operating needs and stock repurchases if necessary. Because this facility carries a variable interest rate pegged to market indices, our results of operations and cash flows will be exposed to changes in interest rates. Based on December 31, 2005 borrowing levels, a 1.00% increase or decrease in current market interest rates would have the effect of causing an approximately \$1.8 million additional annual pre-tax charge or credit to the statement of income.

The second component of interest rate risk involves the short-term investment of excess cash. This risk impacts fair values, earnings and cash flows. Excess cash is primarily invested in interest bearing accounts that fluctuate with market interest rates. Based on December 31, 2005 cash equivalents, a 1.00% increase or decrease in current market interest rates would have the effect of causing an approximately \$0.1 million additional pre-tax credit or charge to the statement of income.

We buy a variety of raw materials for inclusion in our products. The only raw material that is considered to be of a commodity nature is wax. Wax is a petroleum-based product. Its market price has not historically fluctuated with the movement of oil prices and has instead generally moved with inflation. However, in 2004 and 2005 the price of wax increased at a rate significantly above the rate of inflation. Future significant increases in wax prices could have an adverse affect on our cost of goods sold and could lower our margins.

At this point in time, operations outside of the United States are immaterial. Accordingly, we are not exposed to substantial risks arising from foreign currency exchange rates.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM ON THE
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Board of Directors and Stockholders
The Yankee Candle Company, Inc.
South Deerfield, Massachusetts

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of The Yankee Candle Company, Inc. and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2005, and the related consolidated statements of income, stockholders' equity and cash flows for the fifty-two weeks ended December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2005 and the fifty-three weeks ended January 3, 2004. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

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

In our opinion, such consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Yankee Candle Company, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2005, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for the fifty-two weeks ended December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2005 and the fifty-three weeks ended January 3, 2004 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2005, based on the criteria established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated March 14, 2006 expressed an unqualified opinion on management's assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting and an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche LLP

Boston, Massachusetts
March 14, 2006

THE YANKEE CANDLE COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

	<u>December 31,</u> <u>2005</u>	<u>January 1,</u> <u>2005</u>
(In thousands)		
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 12,655	\$ 36,424
Accounts receivable less allowance of \$1,087 at December 31, 2005 and \$765 at January 1, 2005	42,546	28,231
Inventory	55,528	46,901
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	9,060	8,112
Deferred tax assets	<u>6,734</u>	<u>3,876</u>
Total current assets	126,523	123,544
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT — NET	139,089	126,365
MARKETABLE SECURITIES	2,223	1,499
DEFERRED TAX ASSETS	73,975	84,697
GOODWILL	6,035	3,939
INTANGIBLE ASSETS	6,849	5,860
OTHER ASSETS	<u>440</u>	<u>455</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$355,134</u>	<u>\$346,359</u>
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable	\$ 21,068	\$ 20,246
Accrued payroll	14,319	14,492
Accrued income taxes	20,828	26,264
Accrued purchases of property and equipment	5,944	2,084
Accrued repurchases of common stock	5,463	—
Other accrued liabilities	<u>22,919</u>	<u>16,351</u>
Total current liabilities	90,541	79,437
DEFERRED COMPENSATION OBLIGATION	2,418	1,659
LONG-TERM DEBT	178,000	75,000
DEFERRED RENT	16,031	10,600
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (Note 14)		
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY:		
Common stock, \$.01 par value; 1,800,000 shares authorized; 40,963 and 47,309 issued and outstanding at December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2005, respectively . .	410	473
Additional paid-in capital	96,132	105,737
(Accumulated deficit) retained earnings	(27,536)	73,447
Accumulated other comprehensive (loss) income	<u>(862)</u>	<u>6</u>
Total stockholders' equity	<u>68,144</u>	<u>179,663</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	<u>\$355,134</u>	<u>\$346,359</u>

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

THE YANKEE CANDLE COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

	Fifty-Two Weeks Ended December 31, 2005	Fifty-Two Weeks Ended January 1, 2005	Fifty-Three Weeks Ended January 3, 2004
	(In thousands, except per share data)		
SALES	\$601,181	\$554,202	\$508,637
COST OF SALES	<u>257,455</u>	<u>230,519</u>	<u>215,316</u>
GROSS PROFIT	<u>343,726</u>	<u>323,683</u>	<u>293,321</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES:			
Selling expenses	146,055	131,333	115,777
General and administrative expenses	57,366	53,023	50,561
Restructuring charge	<u>5,546</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>208,967</u>	<u>184,356</u>	<u>166,338</u>
INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	<u>134,759</u>	<u>139,327</u>	<u>126,983</u>
OTHER (INCOME) EXPENSE:			
Interest income	(23)	(13)	(31)
Interest expense	7,250	4,152	3,826
Other income	<u>(502)</u>	<u>(1,488)</u>	<u>(425)</u>
Total other expense	<u>6,725</u>	<u>2,651</u>	<u>3,370</u>
INCOME BEFORE PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES	128,034	136,676	123,613
PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES	<u>49,933</u>	<u>53,987</u>	<u>48,827</u>
NET INCOME	<u>\$ 78,101</u>	<u>\$ 82,689</u>	<u>\$ 74,786</u>
BASIC EARNINGS PER SHARE	<u>\$ 1.75</u>	<u>\$ 1.70</u>	<u>\$ 1.41</u>
DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE	<u>\$ 1.73</u>	<u>\$ 1.68</u>	<u>\$ 1.40</u>
DIVIDENDS PER SHARE	<u>\$ 0.25</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>
WEIGHTED-AVERAGE BASIC SHARES OUTSTANDING	<u>44,622</u>	<u>48,749</u>	<u>53,024</u>
WEIGHTED-AVERAGE DILUTED SHARES OUTSTANDING	<u>45,053</u>	<u>49,136</u>	<u>53,419</u>

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

THE YANKEE CANDLE COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

	Common Stock		Additional Paid in Capital	Treasury Stock	Retained Earnings (Accumulated Deficit)	Unearned Stock Compensation	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Comprehensive Income	Total
	Shares	Amount							
(In thousands)									
BALANCE, DECEMBER 28, 2002	104,188	\$1,042	\$ 224,815	\$(213,883)	\$ 201,004	\$(88)	\$ 22		\$ 212,912
Issuance of common stock and option exercises, including related tax benefits of \$537.	209	2	2,673	—	—	—	—	—	2,675
Costs of 2003 issuance of common stock.	—	—	(976)	—	—	—	—	—	(976)
Stock compensation expense	—	—	633	—	—	88	—	—	721
Payments for the redemption of common stock.	—	—	—	(99,997)	—	—	—	—	(99,997)
Comprehensive income:									
Net income.	—	—	—	—	74,786	—	—	74,786	74,786
Foreign currency translation	—	—	—	—	—	—	152	152	152
Comprehensive income	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<u>\$74,938</u>	—
BALANCE, JANUARY 3, 2004	104,397	1,044	227,145	(313,880)	275,790	—	174		190,273
Issuance of common stock and option exercises, including related tax benefits of \$1,183	305	3	5,305	—	—	—	—	—	5,308
Stock compensation expense	—	—	1,561	—	—	—	—	—	1,561
Payments for the redemption of common stock.	—	—	—	(100,000)	—	—	—	—	(100,000)
Retirement of treasury shares	(57,393)	(574)	(128,274)	413,880	(285,032)	—	—	—	—
Comprehensive income:									
Net income.	—	—	—	—	82,689	—	—	82,689	82,689
Foreign currency translation	—	—	—	—	—	—	(168)	(168)	(168)
Comprehensive income	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<u>\$82,521</u>	—
BALANCE, JANUARY 1, 2005	47,309	473	105,737	—	73,447	—	6		179,663
Issuance of common stock and option exercises, including related tax benefits of \$978.	197	1	4,006	—	—	—	—	—	4,007
Stock compensation expense	—	—	3,418	—	—	—	—	—	3,418
Payments for the redemption of common stock.	(6,543)	(64)	(17,029)	—	(167,902)	—	—	—	(184,995)
Payments for dividends	—	—	—	—	(11,182)	—	—	—	(11,182)
Comprehensive income:									
Net income.	—	—	—	—	78,101	—	—	78,101	78,101
Foreign currency translation	—	—	—	—	—	—	(868)	(868)	(868)
Comprehensive income	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<u>\$77,233</u>	—
BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 2005	<u>40,963</u>	<u>\$ 410</u>	<u>\$ 96,132</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ (27,536)</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$(862)</u>		<u>\$ 68,144</u>

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

THE YANKEE CANDLE COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	Fifty-Two Weeks Ended December 31, 2005	Fifty-Two Weeks Ended January 1, 2005	Fifty-Three Weeks Ended January 3, 2004
	(In thousands)		
CASH FLOWS PROVIDED BY (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Net income	\$ 78,101	\$ 82,689	\$ 74,786
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	24,788	21,850	19,440
Unrealized gain on marketable securities	(5)	(177)	(365)
Stock-based compensation expense	3,418	1,561	721
Deferred taxes	7,864	14,901	12,105
Loss on disposal and impairments of property and equipment	2,858	977	692
Investments in marketable securities	(719)	(446)	(286)
Changes in assets and liabilities			
Accounts receivable, net	(14,861)	(3,703)	1,380
Inventory	(8,609)	(3,107)	(7,359)
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(1,079)	(2,200)	(178)
Accounts payable	891	(3,308)	2,899
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	13,896	13,024	9,862
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	<u>106,543</u>	<u>122,061</u>	<u>113,697</u>
CASH FLOWS (USED IN) PROVIDED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Purchase of property and equipment	(35,320)	(28,908)	(22,023)
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment	448	—	259
Proceeds from sale of marketable securities	—	729	—
Purchase of intangible assets	(604)	—	—
Cash paid for business acquisitions	(4,180)	(11,574)	—
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES	<u>(39,656)</u>	<u>(39,753)</u>	<u>(21,764)</u>
CASH FLOWS (USED IN) PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Repurchases of common stock	(184,995)	(100,000)	(99,997)
Net proceeds from issuance of common stock	3,029	4,125	1,162
Payments for dividends	(11,182)	—	—
Deferred financing costs	(343)	—	—
Net borrowings under bank credit agreements	103,000	10,000	4,400
NET CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES	<u>(90,491)</u>	<u>(85,875)</u>	<u>(94,435)</u>
EFFECT OF EXCHANGE RATE CHANGES ON CASH	(165)	(739)	(457)
NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	<u>(23,769)</u>	<u>(4,306)</u>	<u>(2,959)</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>36,424</u>	<u>40,730</u>	<u>43,689</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 12,655</u>	<u>\$ 36,424</u>	<u>\$ 40,730</u>
SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION:			
Cash paid during the year for:			
Interest	\$ 6,962	\$ 2,925	\$ 2,111
Income taxes	\$ 46,528	\$ 33,666	\$ 31,532
Net change in accrued purchases of property and equipment	\$ 3,860	\$ —	\$ —

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

THE YANKEE CANDLE COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FIFTY-TWO WEEKS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND JANUARY 1, 2005 AND THE FIFTY-THREE WEEKS ENDED JANUARY 3, 2004

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

1. NATURE OF BUSINESS

The Yankee Candle Company, Inc. and subsidiaries (“Yankee Candle” or “the Company”) is the leading designer, manufacturer and branded marketer of premium scented candles in the giftware industry. The Company has a 36-year history of offering its distinctive products and marketing them as affordable luxuries and consumable gifts. Yankee Candle products include a wide variety of jar candles, Samplers[®] votive candles, Tarts[®] wax potpourri, pillars and other candle products, the vast majority of which are marketed under the Yankee Candle[®] brand. The Company also sells a wide range of coordinated candle and home décor accessories and has extended its brand into the growing premium home fragrance market segment with products such as Housewarmer[®] electric home fragrances, Yankee Candle[®] branded potpourri, sachets, room sprays and linen sprays and Yankee Candle Car Jars[®] air fresheners. The Company sells its products through several channels including wholesale customers who operate approximately 16,400 stores in North America, 390 Company-owned and operated retail stores in 42 states as of December 31, 2005, direct mail catalogs, its Internet web site (www.yankeecandle.com), international distributors and to an international wholesale customer network of approximately 2,200 store locations (through a distribution center located in Bristol, England).

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PRESENTATION — The fiscal year is the fifty-two or fifty-three weeks ending the Saturday closest to December 31. The fifty-two weeks ended December 31, 2005, the fifty-two weeks ended January 1, 2005 and the fifty-three weeks ended January 3, 2004 are sometimes referred to as fiscal 2005, fiscal 2004, and fiscal 2003, respectively.

PRINCIPLES OF CONSOLIDATION — The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries. All intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated.

ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES — The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

SALES RECOGNITION — The Company sells its products both directly to retail customers and through wholesale channels. Merchandise sales are recognized upon transfer of ownership, including passage of title to the customer and transfer of the risk of loss related to those goods. In the wholesale segment, products are shipped “free on board” shipping point, however revenue is recognized at the time the product is received by the customer due to the Company’s practice of absorbing risk of loss in the event of damaged or lost shipments. In the retail segment, transfer of title takes place at the point of sale (i.e., at our retail stores). There are no situations, either in the wholesale or retail segments, where legal risk of loss does not transfer immediately upon receipt by customers. Although the Company does not provide a contractual right of return, in the course of arriving at practical business solutions to various claims, the Company has allowed sales returns and allowances. In these situations, customer claims for credit or return due to damage, defect, shortage or other reason must be pre-approved by the Company before credit is issued or such product is accepted for return. Such returns have not precluded sales recognition because the Company has a long history with such returns, which is used in constructing a reserve. This reserve, however, is subject to change. In the wholesale segment, the Company has included a reserve in its financial statements representing its estimated obligation related to promotional marketing activities. In addition to returns, the Company bears credit risk relative to wholesale customers. The Company has provided a reserve for bad debts in the financial statements based on estimates of the creditworthiness of customers. However, this reserve is also

THE YANKEE CANDLE COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

subject to change. Changes in these reserves could affect operating results. The Company sells gift cards to customers in retail stores and through catalog and Internet operations. The gift cards do not have an expiration date. At the point of sale of a gift card, the Company records a deferred liability. The Company recognizes income from gift cards when the gift card is redeemed by the customer. Gift card breakage income is recorded based on the Company's historical redemption pattern (which is subject to change if or when actual patterns of redemptions change). Based on historical information, the Company determined that redemptions decreased to a de minimis amount 36 months after issuance and that approximately 8% of the gift card's value will never be redeemed. Gift card breakage income is recorded monthly in proportion to the actual redemption of gift cards in that month based on the Company's historical redemption pattern. Gift card breakage income is included in sales in the consolidated statements of income.

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS — The Company considers all short-term interest-bearing investments with original maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents. Such investments are classified by the Company as "held to maturity" securities under the provisions of Statement of Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 115, "Accounting for Certain Investments in Debt and Equity Securities." These securities are stated at cost, adjusted for amortization of discounts and premiums to maturity.

MARKETABLE SECURITIES — The Company classifies the marketable securities held in its deferred compensation plan as "trading" securities under SFAS No. 115. In accordance with the provisions of this statement, the investment balance is stated at fair market value, based on quoted market prices. Unrealized gains and losses are reflected in earnings; realized gains and losses are also reflected in earnings and are computed using the specific-identification method. As the assets held in the deferred compensation plan reflect amounts due to employees, but available for general creditors of the Company in the event the Company becomes insolvent, the Company has recorded the investment balance as a noncurrent asset and has established a corresponding other long-term liability entitled "deferred compensation obligation" on the balance sheet.

The marketable securities held in this plan consist of investments in mutual funds at December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2005. Unrealized gains (losses) included in earnings during the fifty-two weeks ended December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2005 and the fifty-three weeks ended January 3, 2004 were \$5, \$74, and \$365, respectively. Realized gains of \$159 were realized during the fifty-two weeks ended January 1, 2005. There were no realized gains for the fifty-two weeks ended December 31, 2005 or the fifty-three weeks ended January 3, 2004.

INVENTORIES — Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market on a last-in, first-out ("LIFO") basis. Inventory quantities on hand are regularly reviewed, and where necessary provisions for excess and obsolete inventory are recorded based primarily on the Company's forecast of product demand and production requirements.

PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT — Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost and are depreciated on the straight-line method based on the estimated useful lives of the various assets. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Buildings and improvements	5 to 40 years
Computer equipment	2 to 6 years
Furniture and fixtures	5 to 10 years
Equipment	10 years
Vehicles	5 years

Leasehold improvements are amortized using the straight-line method over the lesser of the estimated life of the improvement or the remaining life of the lease. Expenditures for normal maintenance and repairs are charged to expense as incurred.

GOODWILL AND INTANGIBLE ASSETS — The Company accounts for goodwill and intangible assets in accordance with SFAS No. 142, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets". Under SFAS No. 142, goodwill and certain intangible assets are not amortized but are subject to an annual impairment test. Changes in the cost of

THE YANKEE CANDLE COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

goodwill, tradenames, customer lists and non-competes during the year ended December 31, 2005 were due to the acquisition of Aroma Naturals, Inc. (see Note 5). At December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2005, goodwill, all of which is included in the wholesale segment, totaled \$6,035 and \$3,939, respectively.

The Company amortizes deferred financing costs related to its indebtedness using the straight-line method over the life of the related debt. On May 18, 2005, the Company entered into a First Amendment to Revolving Credit Agreement (“Amended Credit Facility”) which amended certain terms of the Revolving Credit Agreement dated as of May 19, 2004 (“Credit Facility”) among the Company, Citizens Bank of Massachusetts (“Citizens Bank”) and the other lending institutions named therein. As a result of this transaction, \$343 of new financing costs was recorded during fiscal 2005.

IMPAIRMENT OF LONG-LIVED ASSETS — The Company reviews the recoverability of its long-lived assets (property, plant and equipment, customer lists, tradenames, goodwill and trademarks) when events or changes in circumstances occur that indicate that the carrying value of the assets may not be recoverable and at least annually in the case of tradenames and goodwill. This review is based on the Company’s ability to recover the carrying value of the assets from expected undiscounted future cash flows. If an impairment is indicated, the Company measures the loss based on the fair value of the asset using various valuation techniques. If an impairment loss exists, the amount of the loss will be recorded in the consolidated statements of income. The Company recorded \$2,474 in fixed asset and other impairments related to the restructuring discussed in footnote 3 to the financial statements. It is possible that future events or circumstances could cause these estimates to change.

ADVERTISING — The Company expenses advertising costs as they are incurred. Advertising expense was \$13,057, \$13,036 and \$12,227 for the fifty-two weeks ended December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2005 and the fifty-three weeks ended January 3, 2004, respectively.

INCOME TAXES — The Company recognizes deferred tax liabilities and assets for the expected future tax consequences of temporary differences between the carrying amounts and the tax basis of assets and liabilities using expected tax rates in effect in the years in which the differences are expected to reverse. Valuation allowances are established when necessary to reduce deferred tax assets to the amount that is more likely than not to be realized. The provision for income taxes in the consolidated statements of income is the actual computed tax obligation or receivable for the period, plus or minus the change during the period in deferred income tax assets and liabilities.

FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS — At December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2005, the estimated fair values of all financial instruments approximate their carrying amounts in the consolidated balance sheets due to (i) the short-term maturity of certain instruments or (ii) the variable interest rate associated with certain instruments which have the effect of repricing such instruments regularly.

EARNINGS PER SHARE — Basic earnings per share is computed by dividing income available to common stockholders (the numerator) by the weighted-average number of common shares (the denominator) for the period. The computation of diluted earnings per share is similar to basic earnings per share, except that the denominator is increased to include the number of additional common shares that would have been outstanding if the potentially dilutive common shares had been issued. The denominator in the calculation is based on the following weighted-average number of common shares:

	<u>December 31, 2005</u>	<u>January 1, 2005</u>	<u>January 3, 2004</u>
Basic	44,622,000	48,749,000	53,024,000
Add:			
Shares issuable pursuant to option grants	<u>431,000</u>	<u>387,000</u>	<u>395,000</u>
Diluted	<u>45,053,000</u>	<u>49,136,000</u>	<u>53,419,000</u>

THE YANKEE CANDLE COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

At December 31, 2005, January 1, 2005 and January 3, 2004, approximately 259,000, 17,000 and 13,000 shares, respectively, issuable pursuant to option grants were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share due to their anti-dilutive effect.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS — Assets and liabilities of foreign operations are translated into U.S. dollars at the exchange rate on the balance sheet date. The results of foreign subsidiary operations are translated using average rates of exchange during each reporting period. Gains and losses upon translation are deferred and reported as a component of other comprehensive income. Foreign currency transaction gains or losses, whether realized or unrealized, are recorded directly in the statements of income.

STOCK COMPENSATION EXPENSE — The Company sponsors certain stock option plans. Prior to the third quarter of 2003, the Company accounted for employee options or share awards under the intrinsic-value method prescribed by Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 25 “Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees.” Compensation expense, if any, was recognized based on the difference between the fair value of the common stock and the exercise price of the option on the measurement date, as defined by Opinion No. 25. Pro forma disclosures of net earnings and earnings per share had been provided supplementally, as if the fair value method of accounting defined in SFAS No. 123 “Accounting for Stock Based Compensation” had been applied. Effective September 27, 2003, the Company adopted the fair value recognition provisions of SFAS No. 123 using the prospective transition method provided by SFAS No. 148 “Accounting for Stock Based Compensation-Transition and Disclosure, an amendment of SFAS No. 123.” Under the prospective transition method, the Company has valued all stock option grants beginning with grants made in fiscal 2003. These are being expensed over the vesting period based on the fair value at the date of the grant. The use of the fair value method of accounting for stock-based compensation resulted in a charge of \$3,418, \$1,561 and \$633 for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2005, January 1, 2005 and January 3, 2004, respectively.

Awards under the Company’s option plan vest, in general, over a four year period. Therefore, the cost related to stock-based employee compensation included in the determination of net income for all periods presented in the Company’s historical consolidated statements of income is less than that which would have been recognized if the fair value based method had been applied to all awards since the original effective date of SFAS No. 123.

The following table illustrates the effect on net income and earnings per share if the fair value based method had been applied to all outstanding and unvested awards in each period.

	<u>December 31, 2005</u>	<u>January 1, 2005</u>	<u>January 3, 2004</u>
Net income, as reported	\$ 78,101	\$ 82,689	\$ 74,786
Add: Stock-based compensation expense included in reported net income, net of related tax effects	2,086	944	436
Deduct: Total stock-based compensation expense determined under fair value based method for all awards, net of related tax effects	<u>(2,603)</u>	<u>(2,073)</u>	<u>(1,831)</u>
Pro forma net income	<u>\$ 77,584</u>	<u>\$ 81,560</u>	<u>\$ 73,391</u>
Earnings per share:			
Basic-as reported	\$ 1.75	\$ 1.70	\$ 1.41
Basic-pro forma	\$ 1.74	\$ 1.67	\$ 1.38
Weighted-average basic shares outstanding	44,622,000	48,749,000	53,024,000
Diluted-as reported	\$ 1.73	\$ 1.68	\$ 1.40
Diluted-pro forma	\$ 1.72	\$ 1.66	\$ 1.37
Weighted-average diluted shares outstanding	45,053,000	49,136,000	53,419,000

THE YANKEE CANDLE COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

The following weighted-average assumptions were used to compute the stock-based compensation expense that was recorded in the Statement of Income in fiscal 2005, 2004 and 2003:

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Volatility	33%	36%	44%
Dividend yield	0%	0%	0%
Risk free interest rate	3.33%	3.00%	2.85%
Expected lives	4 years	4 years	4 years

RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS — In October 2005, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position No. 13-1 (“FSP 13-1”), “Accounting for Rental Costs Incurred during a Construction Period”. FSP 13-1 requires rental costs associated with ground or building operating leases that are incurred during a construction period to be recognized as rental expense. FSP 13-1 is effective for the first reporting period beginning after December 15, 2005. In fiscal 2006, the Company will be required to record rental costs incurred during the construction period as rental expense. The Company estimates that this will result in additional rent expense of approximately \$0.2 million during fiscal 2006.

3. RESTRUCTURING CHARGES

During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2005, the Company initiated a restructuring plan designed to close 17 underperforming stores and re-invest in talent and other strategic growth initiatives. The Company continues to have a presence in the areas of the closed stores through other retail locations, wholesale locations and through the Company’s catalog and Internet operations. Accordingly, the results of operations for the proposed closed stores are included in continuing operations. In connection with this restructuring plan, a charge of approximately \$5.5 million was recorded in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2005. Included in the restructuring charge was approximately \$2.4 million related to lease termination costs, approximately \$2.5 million related to non-cash fixed assets write-offs and other costs, and approximately \$0.6 million in employee related costs. As of December 31, 2005, five of the 17 underperforming stores had been closed. The Company has since closed the remaining 12 locations in the first quarter of fiscal 2006. The Company anticipates no further charges related to this restructuring.

In accounting for the restructuring charges, the Company complied with SFAS No. 146, “Accounting for Costs Associated with Exit or Disposal Activities”, which requires that a liability for costs associated with an exit or disposal activity be recognized and measured initially at fair value when the liability is incurred.

The following is a summary of restructuring charge activity for the fifty two weeks ended December 31, 2005:

	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Costs Paid During the Fifty-Two Weeks Ended December 31, 2005</u>	<u>Non-Cash Charges</u>	<u>Accrued as of December 31, 2005</u>
Occupancy	\$2,404	\$1,254	\$ —	\$1,150
Fixed asset impairment and other	2,559	—	2,475	84
Employee related	<u>583</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>473</u>
Total	<u>\$5,546</u>	<u>\$1,364</u>	<u>\$2,475</u>	<u>\$1,707</u>

THE YANKEE CANDLE COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

4. INVENTORIES

The components of inventory were as follows:

	<u>December 31, 2005</u>	<u>January 1, 2005</u>
Finished goods	\$52,164	\$41,227
Work-in-process	1	284
Raw materials and packaging	<u>5,918</u>	<u>7,165</u>
	58,083	48,676
Less LIFO adjustment	<u>(2,555)</u>	<u>(1,775)</u>
	<u>\$55,528</u>	<u>\$46,901</u>

5. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

The components of property, plant and equipment were as follows:

	<u>December 31, 2005</u>	<u>January 1, 2005</u>
Land and improvements	\$ 6,285	\$ 6,705
Buildings and improvements	109,031	91,264
Computer equipment	45,425	38,024
Furniture and fixtures	44,263	38,627
Equipment	33,475	32,498
Vehicles	465	524
Construction in progress	<u>9,480</u>	<u>8,084</u>
Total	248,424	215,726
Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization	<u>(109,335)</u>	<u>(89,361)</u>
	<u>\$ 139,089</u>	<u>\$126,365</u>

Depreciation and amortization expense related to property, plant and equipment was \$23,325, \$20,341 and \$18,118 for the fifty-two weeks ended December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2005 and the fifty-three weeks ended January 3, 2004, respectively. \$336, \$81 and \$68 of interest was capitalized in the fifty-two weeks ended December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2005 and the fifty-three weeks ended January 3, 2004, respectively.

THE YANKEE CANDLE COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

6. BUSINESS ACQUISITIONS

On June 7, 2004, the Company acquired substantially all of the assets of GBI Marketing, Inc. (“GBI”), a privately owned and operated distributor of selected gift products, including Yankee Candle® products, to fundraising organizations. The total purchase price was approximately \$14.6 million, \$3.0 million of which is contingent and will be recorded as additional goodwill upon the achievement of certain performance objectives over the three years following the acquisition. The following table provides an allocation of the purchase price for the acquired assets of GBI:

Cash purchase price	\$11,574
Assets acquired:	
Property, plant and equipment	251
Non-compete agreements	790
Inventory	1,474
Customer list	3,160
Tradename	1,960
Goodwill	<u>3,939</u>
Total allocation	<u>\$11,574</u>

The customer list asset is being amortized over its estimated useful life of four years. The Company is operating a fundraising division using the name GBI Marketing (the “GBI Division”) and, accordingly, the tradename is deemed to have an indefinite life and will not be amortized. The goodwill is tax deductible over a 15 year period. For segment reporting purposes, the GBI Division is included in the Wholesale segment. The GBI Division’s results of operations were immaterial to the Company’s operations during the fifty-two weeks ended January 1, 2005. Historical pro forma results of operations have not been provided due to immateriality.

On November 7, 2005, the Company acquired substantially all of the assets of Aroma Naturals, Inc. (“Aroma Naturals”), a privately owned and operated company specializing in developing plant and flower aromas into aromatherapy products. The total cash purchase price was approximately \$4.2 million. The cash purchase price was borrowed under the Company’s \$250 million unsecured Credit Facility. The following table provides an allocation of the purchase price for the acquired assets of Aroma Naturals:

Cash purchase price	\$4,180
Assets acquired:	
Property, plant and equipment	25
Non-compete agreements	160
Inventory	619
Customer list	720
Tradename	560
Goodwill	<u>2,096</u>
Total allocation	<u>\$4,180</u>

The customer list and non-compete assets are being amortized over their estimated useful lives of four years. The Company plans to continue to sell the Aroma Naturals branded products and, accordingly, the tradename is deemed to have an indefinite life and will not be amortized. The goodwill is tax deductible over a 15 year period. For segment reporting purposes, Aroma Naturals is included in the Wholesale segment. Aroma Naturals results of operations were immaterial to the Company’s operations during the fifty-two weeks ended December 31, 2005. Historical pro forma results of operations have not been provided due to immateriality.

THE YANKEE CANDLE COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

7. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

The following sets forth the intangible assets, excluding goodwill, by major category:

	Average Useful Life (In Years)	December 31, 2005			January 1, 2005		
		Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value
Indefinite life:							
Tradename	N/A	\$2,520	\$ —	\$2,520	\$1,960	\$ —	\$1,960
Finite life:							
Deferred financing costs	5	987	(393)	594	644	(193)	451
Customer list	4	3,880	(1,283)	2,597	3,160	(456)	2,704
Non-competes	3 — 4	1,123	(361)	762	790	(114)	676
Trademarks	15	231	(178)	53	231	(162)	69
Formulas	3	431	(108)	323	—	—	—
		<u>6,652</u>	<u>(2,323)</u>	<u>4,329</u>	<u>4,825</u>	<u>(925)</u>	<u>3,900</u>
Total intangible assets		<u>\$9,172</u>	<u>\$(2,323)</u>	<u>\$6,849</u>	<u>\$6,785</u>	<u>\$(925)</u>	<u>\$5,860</u>

Total amortization expense from finite-lived intangible assets was \$1,398, \$1,366 and \$1,129 for fiscal years 2005, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

Aggregate amortization expense related to intangible assets at December 31, 2005 in each of the next five fiscal years is expected to be as follows:

2006	\$1,557
2007	1,557
2008	837
2009	327
2010	<u>51</u>
Total	<u>\$4,329</u>

8. CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

The Company maintains cash balances at several financial institutions. Accounts at each institution are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation up to \$100. Uninsured balances aggregated \$9,467 and \$33,832 at December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2005, respectively. The Company extends credit to its wholesale customers. For the fifty-two weeks ended December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2005 and the fifty-three weeks ended January 3, 2004, no single customer accounted for more than 9%, 7.0% and 6.0% of total sales, respectively.

9. LONG-TERM DEBT

The Company's Amended Credit Facility has a single \$250 million line which expires on May 18, 2010. Amounts outstanding under the Amended Credit Facility bear interest at a rate equal to, at the Company's option, Citizens Bank prime rate or a Eurodollar rate that ranges from 0.50% to 0.85% above LIBOR. The Company is required to pay the lenders a quarterly commitment fee on the unused revolving loan commitment amount which ranges from 0.125% to 0.20%.

THE YANKEE CANDLE COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

The Amended Credit Facility requires that the Company comply with several financial and other covenants, including requirements that the Company maintain at the end of each fiscal quarter the following financial ratios as set forth in the Amended Credit Facility:

- a consolidated total debt to consolidated EBITDA ratio for the trailing twelve months of no more than 2.25 to 1.00 (at December 31, 2005 this ratio was 1.12 to 1.00).
- a fixed charge coverage ratio (the ratio of the sum of consolidated EBITDA plus rent expense, less taxes paid and capital expenditures to the sum of consolidated cash interest expense plus rent expense and dividends for the trailing twelve months) of no less than 2.00 to 1.00 for fiscal 2005; and no less than 2.25 to 1.00 during fiscal 2006 and thereafter (at December 31, 2005 this ratio was 2.32 to 1.00).

The Amended Credit Facility defines EBITDA as consolidated net income for the trailing twelve months, plus the amount of net interest expense, depreciation and amortization, income taxes, and certain non-cash compensation expenses.

As of December 31, 2005, \$178.0 million was outstanding under the Amended Credit Facility and \$3.1 million was outstanding for letters of credit, leaving \$68.9 million in availability. As of December 31, 2005, the Company was in compliance with all covenants under the Amended Credit Facility.

10. PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES

Income tax expense, exclusive of that relating to extraordinary items, consists of the following:

	<u>Fifty-Two Weeks Ended December 31, 2005</u>	<u>Fifty-Two Weeks Ended January 1, 2005</u>	<u>Fifty-Three Weeks Ended January 3, 2004</u>
Federal:			
Current	\$37,699	\$34,721	\$32,956
Deferred	<u>7,222</u>	<u>13,237</u>	<u>10,863</u>
Total federal	<u>44,921</u>	<u>47,958</u>	<u>43,819</u>
State:			
Current	4,370	4,365	3,766
Deferred	<u>642</u>	<u>1,664</u>	<u>1,242</u>
Total state	<u>5,012</u>	<u>6,029</u>	<u>5,008</u>
Total income tax provision	<u>\$49,933</u>	<u>\$53,987</u>	<u>\$48,827</u>

In connection with the recapitalization of the Company in 1998, an election was made for federal and state income tax purposes to value the assets and liabilities of the Company at fair value. As a result of such election, there is a difference between the financial reporting and tax bases of the Company's assets and liabilities. This difference was accounted for by recording a deferred tax asset of approximately \$175,700 with a corresponding credit to additional paid-in capital. The deferred tax asset is being realized as these differences, including tax goodwill, are deducted, principally over a period of 15 years. In the opinion of management, the Company will have sufficient profits in the future to realize the deferred tax asset.

THE YANKEE CANDLE COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

The tax effect of significant items comprising the Company's net deferred tax assets (liabilities) are as follows:

	<u>December 31, 2005</u>		<u>January 1, 2005</u>	
	<u>Current</u>	<u>Non-Current</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Non-Current</u>
Deferred tax assets:				
Basis differential as a result of a basis step-up for tax	\$ —	\$ 85,824	\$ —	\$ 97,134
Foreign net operating loss carryforwards	—	1,025	—	2,898
Deferred compensation arrangements, including stock-based compensation	946	1,150	647	801
Employee benefits	2,206	—	1,620	—
Restructuring accrual	1,515	—	212	—
Other	2,067	3,082	1,397	2,170
Valuation allowance	—	(1,025)	—	(2,898)
Deferred tax liabilities — fixed assets	—	(16,081)	—	(15,408)
	<u>\$6,734</u>	<u>\$ 73,975</u>	<u>\$3,876</u>	<u>\$ 84,697</u>

A reconciliation of the statutory federal income tax rate and the effective rate of the provision for income taxes consists of the following:

	<u>Fifty-Two Weeks Ended December 31, 2005</u>	<u>Fifty-Two Weeks Ended January 1, 2005</u>	<u>Fifty-Three Weeks Ended January 3, 2004</u>
Statutory federal income tax rate	35.0%	35.0%	35.0%
Domestic production activities deduction	(0.7)	—	—
State income taxes net of federal benefit	3.9	4.4	4.0
Other, including increase in valuation allowance	<u>0.8</u>	<u>0.1</u>	<u>0.5</u>
	<u>39.0%</u>	<u>39.5%</u>	<u>39.5%</u>

During the fourth quarter of 2005, the Company reached an agreement with the UK Inland Revenue regarding an inquiry through the 2004 taxable year. This agreement reduced available net operating loss carryforwards by approximately \$6,391. At December 31, 2005, the Company had foreign net operating loss carryforwards totaling approximately \$3,417 with no expiration date. A valuation allowance has been established for these net operating losses.

11. PROFIT SHARING PLAN

The Company maintains a profit sharing plan (the "Plan") under section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code. Under the terms of the Plan the Company may make discretionary matching contributions in an amount, if any, to be determined annually based on a percentage of the employee's pretax contributions. Matching contributions, if made, are subject to a cap based on a percentage of the employee's eligible earnings, as defined in the Plan. Employer matching contributions amounted to \$1,215, \$996 and \$815 for fiscal 2005, 2004 and 2003, respectively. The Company, at its discretion, may also make annual profit sharing contributions to the Plan. For the fifty-two weeks ended January 1, 2005 and the fifty-three weeks ended January 3, 2004, the Company incurred \$350 and \$500, respectively, for profit sharing contributions. The Company did not incur any profit sharing contributions for the fifty-two weeks ended December 31, 2005.

THE YANKEE CANDLE COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

12. DEFERRED COMPENSATION

The Company has a deferred compensation agreement with certain key employees. Under this agreement, the Company at its election may match certain elective salary deferrals of eligible employees' compensation up to a maximum of \$20 per employee per year. Employer contributions amounted to \$200, \$160 and \$135 for fiscal 2005, 2004 and 2003, respectively. Benefits under the plan will be paid in a lump sum upon termination of the plan or six months following termination of employment. Benefits paid to retired or terminated employees during fiscal 2004 were \$450. There were no benefits paid in fiscal 2005 or 2003.

13. STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

As of December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2005, the Company had 40,963,000 and 47,309,000 shares of common stock (par value \$.01) issued, respectively. Pursuant to a stock repurchase program adopted May 9, 2003, the Company repurchased a total of 4,084,200 shares for an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$100,000. These shares were held in treasury. On February 12, 2004, the Board of Directors authorized a new stock repurchase program for the repurchase of up to \$100,000 of outstanding shares. Under this stock repurchase program, the Company repurchased a total of 3,480,149 shares for an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$100,000.

Effective July 1, 2004, companies incorporated in Massachusetts became subject to the Massachusetts Business Corporation Act, Chapter 156D. Chapter 156D eliminates the concept of treasury shares and provides that shares reacquired by a company are to be treated as authorized but unissued shares of common stock. Accordingly, as of July 1, 2004, the Company redesignated its existing treasury shares, as authorized but unissued shares and has allocated this amount to the common stock's par value, additional paid-in capital and retained earnings and continues to do so for each successive stock repurchase.

On December 7, 2004 the Company announced that the Board of Directors had approved a stock repurchase program authorizing the Company to repurchase up to \$100,000 of Yankee Candle common stock commencing in fiscal 2005. Upon completion of this program in the second quarter of 2005, the Company announced on July 27, 2005 that the Board of Directors had approved a new stock repurchase program authorizing the Company to repurchase up to \$150,000 of Yankee Candle common stock commencing in the third quarter of fiscal 2005. During fiscal 2005, under these authorizations of the Board of Directors, the Company purchased a total of 6,543,234 shares of common stock for an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$185,000.

Options to purchase common stock were granted to key employees and directors of the Company in 1998 (the "1998 Plan"). The options granted under the 1998 Plan were "nonqualified" for tax purposes. For financial reporting purposes, the award of the right to purchase stock and the grant of options, in certain cases, were considered to be below the fair value of the stock at the time of grant. The fair value was determined based on an appraisal conducted by an independent appraisal firm as of the relevant dates. The differences between fair value and the purchase price or the exercise price was being charged to compensation expense over the relevant vesting period — generally between three and five years. In the fifty-three weeks ended January 3, 2004, such expense aggregated \$88. There was no expense recorded in the fifty-two weeks ended December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2005.

In addition to the options granted above, the Company adopted the 1999 Employee Stock Option and Award Plan in June 1999 (the "1999 Plan") and the 2005 Employee Stock Option Award Plan in June 2005 (the "2005 Plan"). In connection with the 2005 Plan, an additional 1,500,000 shares were authorized for issuance by the Board of Directors. The 1999 and 2005 Plans provide for the grant of both incentive stock options intended to qualify under Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code and nonqualified options. Options, granted to date under both the 1999 and 2005 Plans generally have an exercise price equal to the fair market value of the stock on the date of grant, are non-qualified and expire after 10 years. Options granted under the 1999 and 2005 Plans vest ratably over four years.

THE YANKEE CANDLE COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

A summary of the status of option grants and changes during the period ending on that date are presented below:

	<u>Options</u>	<u>Range of Exercise Prices</u>	<u>Weighted Average Exercise Price per Share</u>	<u>Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value</u>
Outstanding at December 28, 2002	1,501,349	4.25-21.30	13.89	
Granted	555,000	16.05-28.53	21.45	8.01
Exercised	(209,108)	4.25-21.13	7.09	
Forfeited	<u>(10,750)</u>	<u>21.125-21.30</u>	<u>18.18</u>	
Outstanding at January 3, 2004	1,836,491	4.25-28.53	16.93	
Granted	373,250	27.11-29.75	27.42	6.99
Exercised	(304,854)	4.25-21.30	13.38	
Forfeited	<u>(33,000)</u>	<u>21.15-21.30</u>	<u>21.18</u>	
Outstanding at January 1, 2005	1,871,887	4.25-29.75	19.52	
Granted	477,950	22.59-32.81	31.08	8.41
Exercised	(196,857)	4.25-23.22	15.41	
Forfeited	<u>(98,900)</u>	<u>17.92-32.21</u>	<u>24.88</u>	
Outstanding at December 31, 2005	<u>2,054,080</u>	<u>\$ 4.25-\$32.81</u>	<u>\$22.35</u>	

During fiscal 2004, the Company granted 68,650 performance share awards when the market price of the Company's stock was \$27.99 per share. During fiscal 2005, the Company granted 124,575 performance share awards when the market price of the Company's stock was \$33.84. These awards were granted under the 1999 Plan and are not included in the table above. The performance share grants were initially valued on the grant date by multiplying the number of performance shares covered by the awards by the Yankee Candle closing stock price on the grant date. The cost is recognized within the statements of income (with an offset to Additional Paid-In Capital) on a straight line basis over the period specified in the award (generally three years for each grant). Performance share awards entitle recipients to receive shares of the Company's common stock without payment of any purchase price, with the number of shares actually received, if any, contingent upon the Company satisfying specified financial performance metrics (such as earnings per share) over the time period specified in the award, all as pre-approved by the Compensation Committee of the Company's Board of Directors.

Under the existing stock option and award plans, there are 1,450,251 shares available for future grants at December 31, 2005. Options were exercisable for 1,061,492, 836,512 and 716,118 shares of common stock at a weighted average exercise price of \$17.60, \$15.93 and \$13.88 per share at December 31, 2005, January 1, 2005, and January 3, 2004, respectively.

THE YANKEE CANDLE COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

The following table summarizes information about the Company's stock options outstanding at December 31, 2005:

<u>Range of Exercise Prices</u>	<u>Options Outstanding</u>	<u>Options Exercisable</u>	<u>Average Remaining Life (Years)</u>
\$ 4.25	16,498	16,498	2.6
11.88 - 16.20	472,500	462,500	5.3
16.80 - 18.00	185,907	181,532	4.6
21.13 - 29.75	985,225	400,962	7.8
31.12 - 32.81	393,950	0	9.4
<u>\$ 4.25 - \$ 32.81</u>	<u>2,054,080</u>	<u>1,061,492</u>	<u>7.2</u>

14. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The Company leases most store locations, its corporate office building, a distribution facility and a number of vehicles. The operating leases, which expire in various years through 2016, contain renewal options ranging from six months to five years and provide for base rentals plus contingent rentals thereafter, which are a function of sales volume. In addition, the Company is required to pay real estate taxes, maintenance and other operating expenses applicable to the leased premises. Furthermore, several facility leases contain rent escalation clauses.

The aggregate annual future minimum lease commitments under operating leases as of December 31, 2005 are as follows:

	<u>Operating Leases</u>
2006	\$ 27,232
2007	26,139
2008	25,388
2009	23,812
2010	20,400
Thereafter	<u>55,028</u>
Total minimum lease payments	<u>\$177,999</u>

Rent expense, including contingent rentals, for the fifty-two weeks ended December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2005 and the fifty-three weeks ended January 3, 2004 was approximately \$26,694, \$25,109 and \$22,282, respectively. Included in rent expense were contingent rental payments of approximately \$427, \$623 and \$802, for the fifty-two weeks ended December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2005 and the fifty-three weeks ended January 3, 2004, respectively.

The Company is engaged in various lawsuits, either as plaintiff or defendant. In the opinion of management, the ultimate outcome of these lawsuits will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

15. SEGMENTS OF ENTERPRISE AND RELATED INFORMATION

The Company has segmented its operations in a manner that reflects how its chief operating decision-maker (the "CEO") reviews the results of the Company and its subsidiaries' businesses. The Company has two reportable segments — retail and wholesale. The identification of these segments results from management's recognition that while the product produced is similar, the type of customer for the product and services and the methods used to distribute the product are different.

THE YANKEE CANDLE COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

The CEO evaluates both its retail and wholesale operations based on an “operating earnings” measure. Such measure gives recognition to specifically identifiable operating costs such as cost of sales and selling expenses. Administrative charges are generally not allocated to specific operating segments and are accordingly reflected in the unallocated/corporate/other category. Other components of the statement of income, which are classified below operating income, are also not allocated by segments. The Company does not account for or report assets, capital expenditures or depreciation and amortization by segment to the CEO.

The following are the relevant data for the fifty-two weeks ended December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2005 and the fifty-three weeks ended January 3, 2004:

	<u>Retail</u>	<u>Wholesale</u>	<u>Unallocated/ Corporate/ Other</u>	<u>Balance per Consolidated Statements of Income</u>
Fifty-Two Weeks Ended December 31, 2005				
Sales	\$304,057	\$297,124	\$ —	\$601,181
Gross Profit	202,384	141,342	—	343,726
Selling expenses	126,838	19,217	—	146,055
Operating Margin	75,546	122,125	(62,912)	134,759
Other income (expense)	—	—	(6,725)	(6,725)
Income before provision for income taxes	—	—	—	128,034
Fifty-Two Weeks Ended January 1, 2005				
Sales	\$283,482	\$270,720	\$ —	\$554,202
Gross Profit	192,821	130,862	—	323,683
Selling expenses	116,101	15,232	—	131,333
Operating Margin	76,720	115,630	(53,023)	139,327
Other income (expense)	—	—	(2,651)	(2,651)
Income before provision for income taxes	—	—	—	136,676
Fifty-Three Weeks Ended January 3, 2004				
Sales	\$266,649	\$241,988	\$ —	\$508,637
Gross Profit	179,826	113,495	—	293,321
Selling expenses	103,858	11,919	—	115,777
Operating Margin	75,968	101,576	(50,561)	126,983
Other income (expense)	—	—	(3,370)	(3,370)
Income before provision for income taxes	—	—	—	123,613

Revenues from the Company’s International operations were approximately \$23,013, \$17,429 and \$13,637 for fiscal years 2005, 2004 and 2003, respectively. Long lived assets of the Company’s International operations were approximately \$840, \$1,068 and \$473 as of December 31, 2005, January 1, 2005 and January 3, 2004, respectively.

THE YANKEE CANDLE COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

16. VALUATION AND QUALIFYING ACCOUNTS

<u>Allowance for Doubtful Accounts</u>	<u>Balance at Beginning of Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Charged to Costs and Expenses</u>	<u>Deductions From Reserves</u>	<u>Balance at End of Fiscal Year</u>
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005:				
Allowance for doubtful accounts	\$ 765	\$ 724	\$(402)	\$1,087
YEAR ENDED JANUARY 1, 2005:				
Allowance for doubtful accounts	\$1,332	\$ 240	\$(807)	\$ 765
YEAR ENDED JANUARY 3, 2004:				
Allowance for doubtful accounts	\$ 325	\$1,316	\$(309)	\$1,332

Amounts charged to deductions from reserves represent the write-off of uncollectible balances.

17. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL DATA (UNAUDITED)

	<u>Fifty-Two Weeks Ended December 31, 2005</u>			
	<u>April 2</u>	<u>July 2</u>	<u>October 1</u>	<u>December 31</u>
	(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)			
Sales	\$119,255	\$108,548	\$136,500	\$236,878
Cost of sales	54,424	46,694	60,368	95,969
Gross profit	64,831	61,854	76,132	140,909
Selling expenses	32,493	32,122	34,767	46,673
General and administrative expenses	13,532	13,742	14,689	15,403
Restructuring Charge	—	—	—	5,546
Income from operations	18,806	15,990	26,676	73,287
Interest income	(6)	(6)	(5)	(6)
Interest expense	936	1,526	2,347	2,441
Other (income) expense	218	479	(897)	(302)
Income before provision for income taxes	17,658	13,991	25,231	71,154
Provision for income taxes	6,887	5,457	9,840	27,750
Net income	<u>\$ 10,771</u>	<u>\$ 8,534</u>	<u>\$ 15,391</u>	<u>\$ 43,404</u>
BASIC EARNINGS PER SHARE	<u>\$ 0.23</u>	<u>\$ 0.19</u>	<u>\$ 0.35</u>	<u>\$ 1.01</u>
DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE	<u>\$ 0.23</u>	<u>\$ 0.19</u>	<u>\$ 0.35</u>	<u>\$ 1.01</u>

THE YANKEE CANDLE COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

	Fifty-Two Weeks Ended January 1, 2005			
	<u>April 3</u>	<u>July 3</u>	<u>October 2</u>	<u>January 1</u>
	(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)			
Sales	\$106,519	\$100,908	\$127,913	\$218,862
Cost of sales	<u>47,372</u>	<u>43,895</u>	<u>54,906</u>	<u>84,346</u>
Gross profit	59,147	57,013	73,007	134,516
Selling expenses	27,852	29,763	31,814	41,905
General and administrative expenses	<u>13,240</u>	<u>12,312</u>	<u>13,862</u>	<u>13,609</u>
Income from operations	18,055	14,938	27,331	79,002
Interest income	(5)	(4)	—	(4)
Interest expense	809	1,159	1,093	1,091
Other (income) expense	<u>(92)</u>	<u>(134)</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>(1,380)</u>
Income before provision for income taxes	17,343	13,917	26,120	79,295
Provision for income taxes	<u>6,850</u>	<u>5,497</u>	<u>10,317</u>	<u>31,322</u>
Net income	<u>\$ 10,493</u>	<u>\$ 8,420</u>	<u>\$ 15,803</u>	<u>\$ 47,973</u>
BASIC EARNINGS PER SHARE	<u>\$ 0.21</u>	<u>\$ 0.17</u>	<u>\$ 0.33</u>	<u>\$ 1.01</u>
DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE	<u>\$ 0.21</u>	<u>\$ 0.17</u>	<u>\$ 0.33</u>	<u>\$ 1.00</u>

ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

Not applicable.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

1. 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 as of December 31, 2005. The term “disclosure controls and procedures,” as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act, means controls and other procedures of a company that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by a company in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the SEC’s rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by a company in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to the company’s management, including its principal executive and principal financial officers, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. Management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving their objectives and management necessarily applies its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of possible controls and procedures. Based on the evaluation of our disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2005, our chief executive officer and chief financial officer concluded that, as of such date, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level.

2. Internal Control over Financial Reporting

(a) Management’s Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. Internal control over financial reporting is defined in Rule 13a-15(f) or 15d-15(f) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as a process designed by, or under the supervision of, a company’s principal executive and principal financial officers and effected by the company’s board of directors, management and other personnel, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and includes those policies and procedures that:

- Pertain to the maintenance of records that in reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflect the transaction and dispositions of the assets of the company;
- Provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and
- Provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of the company’s assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Management assessed the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2005. In making this assessment, our management used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in its Internal Control-Integrated Framework.

Based on our assessment, management believes that, as of December 31, 2005 our internal control over financial reporting is effective based on the above criteria.

Deloitte & Touche LLP, our independent auditors, have issued an audit report on our assessment of our internal control over financial reporting. This report appears on page 54 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting, no matter how well designed, may not prevent or detect all material misstatements. Projections of any current evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate, or other such factors.

(b) Attestation Report of Independent Auditor

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Board of Directors and Stockholders
The Yankee Candle Company, Inc.
South Deerfield, Massachusetts

We have audited management's assessment, included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting included in Item 9A of Form 10-K, that The Yankee Candle Company, Inc. and subsidiaries (the "Company") maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2005, based on criteria established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on management's assessment and an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

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

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

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

In our opinion, management's assessment that the Company maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2005, is fairly stated, in all material respects, based on the criteria established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Also in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2005, based on the criteria established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated financial statements as of and for the fifty-two weeks ended December 31, 2005 of the Company and our report dated March 14, 2006 expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche LLP

Boston, Massachusetts
March 14, 2006

(c) Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

No change in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) occurred during the fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2005 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

ITEM 9B. *OTHER INFORMATION*

Not applicable.

PART III

Certain information required by Part III is omitted from this Annual Report on Form 10-K and incorporated herein by reference to the definitive proxy statement with respect to our 2006 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on June 8, 2006 (the "Proxy Statement"), which we will file with the Securities and Exchange Commission not later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this Report.

ITEM 10. *DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT*

The information required by this item is incorporated by reference from the information under the captions "Election of Directors", "Board of Directors and Corporate Governance Information" and "Report of the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors" contained in the Proxy Statement and the caption "Executive Officers of the Registrant" in Part I of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

ITEM 11. *EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION*

The information required by this item is incorporated by reference from the information under the captions "Compensation of Directors," "Compensation of Executive Officers," "Employment Contracts, Termination of Employment and Change-in-Control Arrangements," and "Report of the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors" contained in the Proxy Statement.

ITEM 12. *SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS*

The information required by this item is incorporated by reference from the information under the captions "Equity Compensation Plans" and "Stock Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management" contained in the Proxy Statement.

ITEM 13. *CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS*

The information required by this item is incorporated by reference from the information under the caption "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions" contained in the Proxy Statement.

ITEM 14. *PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES*

The information required by this item is incorporated by reference from the information under the caption "Principal Accountant Fees and Services" contained in the Proxy Statement.

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a) *Consolidated Financial Statements*

The consolidated financial statements listed below are included in this document under Item 8.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm on the Consolidated Financial Statements	32
Consolidated Balance Sheets	33
Consolidated Statements of Income	34
Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity	35
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows	36
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	37

(b) *Exhibits*

See the exhibit index accompanying this filing.

(c) *Financial Statement Schedules*

All schedules for which provision is made in the applicable regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission have been omitted because the information is disclosed in the Consolidated Financial Statements or because such schedules are not required or not applicable.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 of 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 March 10, 2006.

The Yankee Candle Company, Inc.

By /s/ CRAIG W. RYDIN
 Craig W. Rydin
 Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates noted.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ CRAIG W. RYDIN</u> Craig W. Rydin	Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)	March 10, 2006
<u>/s/ BRUCE H. BESANKO</u> Bruce H. Besanko	Senior Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	March 10, 2006
<u>/s/ MICHAEL ARCHBOLD</u> Michael Archbold	Director	March 10, 2006
<u>/s/ DALE F. FREY</u> Dale F. Frey	Director	March 10, 2006
<u>/s/ MICHAEL F. HINES</u> Michael F. Hines	Director	March 10, 2006
<u>/s/ SANDRA J. HORBACH</u> Sandra J. Horbach	Director	March 10, 2006
<u>/s/ CAROL M. MEYROWITZ</u> Carol M. Meyrowitz	Director	March 10, 2006
<u>/s/ MICHAEL B. POLK</u> Michael B. Polk	Director	March 10, 2006
<u>/s/ RONALD L. SARGENT</u> Ronald L. Sargent	Director	March 10, 2006
<u>/s/ VIJAY VISHWANATH</u> Vijay Vishwanath	Director	March 10, 2006
<u>/s/ DOREEN A. WRIGHT</u> Doreen A. Wright	Director	March 10, 2006

EXHIBIT INDEX

- 3.1 Form of Restated Articles of Organization of The Yankee Candle Company, Inc.(1)
- 3.2 Form of Amended and Restated By-Laws of The Yankee Candle Company, Inc.(9)
- 4.1 Form of Common Stock Certificate.(1)
- 10.1 Form of outside director Stock Option Agreement.(1)+
- 10.2 Form of outside director Stockholder's Agreement.(1)+
- 10.3 Form of Employee Stockholder's Agreement.(1)+
- 10.4 The Yankee Candle Company Inc. Employee Stock Option Plan and form of Stock Option Agreement.(1)+
- 10.5 The Yankee Candle Company, Inc. 1999 Stock Option and Award Plan.(1)+
- 10.6 Form of Stockholder's Agreement between The Yankee Candle Company, Inc. and employees.(1)+
- 10.7 Form of Indemnification Agreement between The Yankee Candle Company, Inc. and its directors and executive officers.(9)
- 10.8 Employment Letter Agreement dated March 31, 2001 between The Yankee Candle Company, Inc. and Craig W. Rydin.(2)+
- 10.9 Employment Letter Agreement dated August 31, 2000 between The Yankee Candle Company, Inc. and Paul J. Hill(3)+
- 10.10 Employment Letter Agreement dated May 2, 2001 between The Yankee Candle Company, Inc. and Harlan Kent.(3)+
- 10.11 Form of Credit Agreement among The Yankee Candle Company, Inc., Citizens Bank of Massachusetts, as sole administrative agent, and other banks and financial institutions party thereto.(4)
- 10.12 Management Incentive Plan for the 2005 Fiscal Year(5)+
- 10.13 Form of Award of Performance Shares Agreement(6)+
- 10.14 2005 Director Compensation Plan (as amended) (12)+
- 10.15 Employment Letter Agreement dated March 23, 2005 between The Yankee Candle Company, Inc. and Bruce H. Besanko(7)+
- 10.16 Form of the First Amendment to Credit Agreement dated as of May 18, 2005 among The Yankee Candle Company, Inc., Citizens Bank of Massachusetts and other lending institutions named therein(8)
- 10.17 The Yankee Candle Company, Inc. 2005 Stock Option and Award Plan(9)+
- 10.18 Employment Letter Agreement dated August 12, 2005 between The Yankee Candle Company, Inc. and Richard Ruffolo(10)+
- 10.19 Management Incentive Plan for 2006 Fiscal Year(11)+
- 10.20 2006 Director Compensation Plan(11)+
- 10.21 Form of Restricted Stock Agreement (executives)(12)+
- 10.22 Form of Restricted Stock Agreement (directors)(12)+
- 23.1 Consent of Deloitte and Touche LLP(13)
- 31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.(13)
- 31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.(13)
- 32.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) or 15d-14(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.(13)
- 32.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) or 15d-14(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.(13)

(1) Incorporated by reference from the Company's Registration Statements on Form S-1 (File No. 333-76397).

(2) Incorporated by reference from the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the first quarter of fiscal 2001.

- (3) Incorporated by reference from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal 2001.
- (4) Incorporated by reference from the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the second quarter of fiscal 2004.
- (5) Incorporated by reference from the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated February 14, 2005.
- (6) Incorporated by reference from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal 2004.
- (7) Incorporated by reference from the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 29, 2005.
- (8) Incorporated by reference from the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 24, 2005.
- (9) Incorporated by reference from the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated June 8, 2005.
- (10) Incorporated by reference from the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated September 9, 2005.
- (11) Incorporated by reference from the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 2, 2005.
- (12) Incorporated by reference from the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 14, 2006.
- (13) Filed herewith.
 - + Compensation contract/plan affecting Company's Management and/or Board of Directors.

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Corporate Information

Chairman Emeritus

Michael J. Kittredge
Founder
The Yankee Candle Company, Inc.

Directors

Michael Archbold
Executive Vice President,
Chief Financial and Administrative Officer
Saks Fifth Avenue Enterprises

Dale F. Frey
Retired Chairman and President
General Electric Investment Corp.

Michael F. Hines
Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer
Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc.

Sandra J. Horbach
Managing Director, Global Partner
The Carlyle Group

Carol M. Meyrowitz
President,
The TJX Companies, Inc.

Michael B. Polk
Group Vice President
Unilever United States

Craig W. Rydin
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
The Yankee Candle Company, Inc.

Ronald L. Sargent
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Staples, Inc.

Vijay Vishwanath
Partner
Bain & Company, Inc.

Doreen A. Wright
Senior Vice President, Chief Information Officer
Campbell Soup Company

Executive Officers

Craig W. Rydin
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Harlan M. Kent
President and Chief Operating Officer

Bruce H. Besanko
Senior Vice President, Finance
and Chief Financial Officer

Stephen Farley
Senior Vice President, Retail

Paul J. Hill
Senior Vice President, Supply Chain

Martha S. Lacroix
Senior Vice President, Human Resources

James A. Perley
Senior Vice President, General Counsel

Richard R. Ruffolo
Senior Vice President, Brand, Marketing,
and Innovation

Operating Officers

Ronald J. Bohonowicz
Vice President, Quality and New Products

Douglas G. Higginbotham
Vice President, Distribution, Transportation
and Purchasing

G. Patrick Howard
Vice President, Wholesale Planning

Deborah H. Lynch
Vice President, Retail Finance
and Planning

Gerald F. Lynch
Vice President, Investor Relations

Hope A. Margala Klein
Vice President, General Merchandise Manager

Edward R. Medina
Vice President, Finance and Controller

Danilo H. Purugganan
Vice President, Business Decision Support

Thomas J. Regan
Vice President, Retail Operations

Arthur F. Rubeck
Vice President, Manufacturing

Dennis M. Shockro
Vice President, Chief Information Officer

John M. Staib
Vice President, Wholesale Sales

Robert J. Stetzel
Vice President, Information Systems

Anthony P. Villani
Vice President, Real Estate

Shareholder Information

Corporate Offices

The Yankee Candle Company, Inc.
16 Yankee Candle Way
South Deerfield, Massachusetts 01373
Telephone: (413) 665-8306
Internet address: www.yankeecandle.com

Transfer Agent and Registrar

Computershare Trust Company, N.A. is the Transfer Agent and Registrar for the Company's Common Stock and maintains shareholder accounting records. The Transfer Agent should be contacted directly concerning changes in address, name or ownership, lost certificates and to consolidate multiple accounts. When corresponding with the Transfer Agent, shareholders should reference the exact name(s) in which Yankee Candle stock is registered as well as the certificate number.

Computershare Trust Company, N.A.
P.O. Box 43078
Providence, Rhode Island 02940-3078
Telephone: (877) 282-1168
Internet address: www.computershare.com

Financial Information

A copy of Yankee Candle's annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is available on the Company's Web site, www.yankeecandle.com, or by written request to the Office of Investor Relations at our corporate address.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of The Yankee Candle Company, Inc. will be held on June 8, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at The Yankee Candle Employee Health and Fitness Center, 25 Greenfield Road, South Deerfield, Massachusetts 01373.

Designed by BigBad, Inc. www.bigbad.com

YANKEE CANDLE

The Yankee Candle Company
16 Yankee Candle Way
South Deerfield, Massachusetts 01373