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LEATHER FACTORY INC
Form 8-K
April 28, 2004

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT PURSUANT
TO SECTION 13 OR 15(D) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): April 21, 2004

The Leather Factory, Inc.
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

1-12368 75-2543540
(Commission File Number) (IRS Employer Identification Number)

3847 East Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, Texas 76119
(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

(817) 496-4414
(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

ITEM 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS

(c) Exhibits.

99.1 Press release dated April 21, 2004, filed pursuant to Item
12 of this form.

ITEM 12. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS AND FINANCIAL CONDITION

The Registrant is furnishing the press release attached as Exhibit 99.1 announcing certain preliminary financial information for the first quarter of 2004. This press release was issued on April 21, 2004.

SIGNATURES

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

THE LEATHER FACTORY, INC.

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Date: April 27, 2004

BY: /s/ Wray Thompson
Wray Thompson, Chairman of the Board
and Chief Executive Officer

EXHIBIT 99.1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 21, 2004

THE LEATHER FACTORY EXPECTS NET INCOME UP 25% FOR FIRST QUARTER 2004

FORT WORTH, TEXAS - The Leather Factory, Inc. (AMEX: TLF) announced today that it expects to report first quarter 2004 consolidated sales of approximately \$12.2 million and net income of approximately \$970,000 for the period. First quarter per share net income is anticipated to be \$0.09 (diluted). These results reflect an estimated 25% growth in net income and other significant increases when compared with the first quarter of 2003.

The Leather Factory, Inc. pointed to the following factors as contributing to first quarter growth:

- The Tandy Leather operating segment (retail) experienced a 70% increase in sales over a year ago;
- Tandy Leather retail stores grew to 29 at the end of the quarter, up from 19 at March 31, 2003;
- Sales rose 3% at the Leather Factory operating segment (wholesale) over the first three months of 2003;
- Sales at the Roberts, Cushman operating segment were up 15% from the first quarter of 2003; and
- The Company repaid \$525,000 of its bank debt, reducing the balance to \$1.3 million at March 31.

All of the anticipated results described here are subject to completion of the quarterly review of our financial statements by the Company's auditors. The Company plans to outline its first quarter 2004 financial results in an announcement to be released before the market opens on Thursday, April 29, 2004. Wray Thompson, CEO, and Shannon Greene, CFO, will hold a conference call that afternoon. Call details will be announced shortly.

The Company's annual meeting of stockholders will be held at 10:00 am (Central) on Wednesday, May 26, 2004 in Arlington, Texas. Proxy materials are expected to be mailed to stockholders by Friday, April 23rd.

The Leather Factory, Inc., (<http://www.leatherfactory.com>), headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas, is a specialty retailer and wholesale distributor of a broad product line including leather, leatherworking tools, buckles and adornments for belts, leather dyes and finishes, shoe repair supplies, saddle and tack hardware, and do-it-yourself kits, and is a manufacturer and distributor of fancy hat trims, leather lacing and kits. The Company distributes its products as The Leather Factory through its warehouse distribution centers and as Tandy Leather Company through its retail stores (<http://www.tandyleather.com>). Its common stock trades on the American Stock Exchange with the symbol "TLF".

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This news release may contain forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements made here or in other news releases issued by The Leather Factory,

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Inc. are based on current expectations as of the date of the release. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause the results of The Leather Factory, Inc. to differ materially from management's current expectations. Many of these risks and uncertainties are detailed from time to time in TLF's reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including its most recent annual report on Form 10-K and the most recent quarterly report on Form 10-Q. Investors are reminded that past performance may not be predictive of future results.