

KAPSTONE PAPER & PACKAGING CORP

Form 10-Q

October 30, 2012

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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

**FORM 10-Q**

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2012

**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: 001-33494

**KapStone Paper and Packaging Corporation**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware

20-2699372

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(State or Other Jurisdiction of  
Incorporation or Organization)

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

**KapStone Paper and Packaging Corporation**

**1101 Skokie Blvd., Suite 300**

**Northbrook, IL 60062**

(Address of Principal Executive Offices, including zip code)

Registrant's Telephone Number, including area code **(847) 239-8800**

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

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

Smaller reporting company

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

There were 46,811,368 shares of the Registrant's Common Stock, \$0.0001 par value, outstanding at October 24, 2012, excluding 40,000 shares held as treasury shares.

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**KAPSTONE PAPER AND PACKAGING CORPORATION**

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Table of Contents**PART 1. FINANCIAL INFORMATION****ITEM 1. - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****KapStone Paper and Packaging Corporation****Consolidated Balance Sheets****(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)**

|   | September 30,<br>2012<br>(Unaudited) | December 31,<br>2011 |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>   |                                      |                      |
| Current assets:   |                                      |                      |
| Cash and cash equivalents   | \$ 36,304                            | \$ 8,062             |
| Trade accounts receivable, less allowances of \$249 in 2012 and \$571 in 2011 | 122,909                              | 108,320              |
| Other receivables   | 7,788                                | 11,247               |
| Inventories   | 105,146                              | 110,054              |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets                                     | 6,873                                | 4,207                |
| Deferred income taxes   | 10,645                               | 10,048               |
| Total current assets  | 289,665                              | 251,938              |
| Plant, property and equipment, net  | 565,758                              | 567,195              |
| Other assets  | 4,692                                | 4,313                |
| Intangible assets, net  | 57,263                               | 63,715               |
| Goodwill  | 230,737                              | 237,193              |
| Total assets  | \$ 1,148,115                         | \$ 1,124,354         |
| <b>Liabilities and Stockholders Equity</b>                                    |                                      |                      |
| Current liabilities:  |                                      |                      |
| Current portion of long-term debt   | \$                                   | \$ 6,094             |
| Other current borrowings  | 622                                  |                      |
| Accounts payable  | 77,354                               | 81,051               |
| Accrued expenses  | 27,462                               | 21,217               |
| Accrued compensation costs  | 23,522                               | 27,445               |
| Total current liabilities   | 128,960                              | 135,807              |
| Other liabilities:  |                                      |                      |
| Long-term debt, net of current portion  | 294,171                              | 335,635              |
| Pension and post-retirement benefits  | 10,521                               | 10,676               |
| Deferred income taxes   | 98,671                               | 84,316               |
| Other liabilities   | 10,662                               | 11,642               |
| Total other liabilities   | 414,025                              | 442,269              |
| Commitments and contingencies   |                                      |                      |
| Stockholders equity:  |                                      |                      |

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Preferred stock \$0.0001 par value; 1,000,000 shares authorized; no shares issued and outstanding

Common stock \$0.0001 par value, 175,000,000 shares authorized; 46,811,368 shares issued and outstanding (excluding 40,000 treasury shares) at September 30, 2012 and 46,449,695 issued and outstanding (excluding 40,000 treasury shares) at December 31, 2011

|  |              |              |
|--|--------------|--------------|
|  | 5            | 5            |
| Additional paid-in capital                 | 236,999      | 230,665      |
| Retained earnings                          | 370,380      | 318,068      |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss       | (2,254)      | (2,460)      |
| Total stockholders' equity                 | 605,130      | 546,278      |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$ 1,148,115 | \$ 1,124,354 |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

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**KAPSTONE PAPER AND PACKAGING CORPORATION**  
**Consolidated Statements of Income and Comprehensive Income**  
(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)

(unaudited)

|   | Three Months Ended September 30, |            | Nine Months Ended September 30, |            |
|---|----------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|------------|
|   | 2012                             | 2011       | 2012                            | 2011       |
| Net sales   | \$ 309,544                       | \$ 215,842 | \$ 915,646                      | \$ 637,366 |
| Cost of sales, excluding depreciation and amortization  | 219,091                          | 146,038    | 646,500                         | 431,832    |
| Depreciation and amortization   | 15,605                           | 11,960     | 46,108                          | 36,529     |
| Freight and distribution expenses   | 27,945                           | 19,319     | 81,624                          | 56,829     |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses  | 16,039                           | 8,720      | 51,047                          | 26,892     |
| Other operating income  | 200                              | 292        | 628                             | 870        |
| Operating income  | 31,064                           | 30,097     | 90,995                          | 86,154     |
| Foreign exchange (loss)   | (11)                             | (456)      | (399)                           | (121)      |
| Interest expense, net   | 2,793                            | 1,036      | 9,265                           | 3,210      |
| Income before provision for income taxes  | 28,260                           | 28,605     | 81,331                          | 82,823     |
| Provision for income taxes  | 9,915                            | 12,110     | 29,019                          | 33,038     |
| Net income  | \$ 18,345                        | \$ 16,495  | \$ 52,312                       | \$ 49,785  |
| Other comprehensive income — pension and post-retirement plan liability adjustments, net of tax | 69                               | 102        | 206                             | 305        |
| Total comprehensive income  | \$ 18,414                        | \$ 16,597  | \$ 52,518                       | \$ 50,090  |
| Weighted-average number of shares outstanding:  |                                  |            |                                 |            |
| Basic   | 46,747,095                       | 46,379,537 | 46,619,692                      | 46,241,251 |
| Diluted   | 47,914,816                       | 47,494,425 | 47,833,592                      | 47,455,133 |
| Net income per share:   |                                  |            |                                 |            |
| Basic   | \$ 0.39                          | \$ 0.36    | \$ 1.12                         | \$ 1.08    |
| Diluted   | \$ 0.38                          | \$ 0.35    | \$ 1.09                         | \$ 1.05    |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**KAPSTONE PAPER AND PACKAGING CORPORATION****Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows****(In thousands)****(unaudited)**

|   | <b>Nine Months Ended September 30,</b> |             |
|---|--|-------------|
|   | <b>2012</b>                            | <b>2011</b> |
| <b>Operating activities</b>   |  |             |
| Net income  | \$ 52,312                              | \$ 49,785   |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: |  |             |
| Depreciation and amortization   | 46,108                                 | 36,529      |
| Stock-based compensation expense  | 4,322                                  | 3,226       |
| Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation                                 | (1,878)                                | (1,181)     |
| Amortization of debt issuance costs   | 2,739                                  | 1,266       |
| Loss on disposal of fixed assets  | 873                                    | 623         |
| Deferred income taxes   | 22,579                                 | 30,215      |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities:                                      |  |             |
| Trade accounts receivable, net  | (14,213)                               | (12,036)    |
| Other receivables   | 3,459                                  | (1,332)     |
| Inventories   | 4,564                                  | (4,500)     |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets   | (2,666)                                | (640)       |
| Other assets  | (475)                                  | (349)       |
| Accounts payable  | (3,089)                                | 1,645       |
| Accrued expenses and other  | 6,475                                  | (2,965)     |
| Accrued compensation costs  | (3,658)                                | 1,051       |
| Accrued income taxes  |  | 2,707       |
| Net cash provided by operating activities   | 117,452                                | 104,044     |
| <b>Investing activities</b>   |  |             |
| USC acquisition   | (314)                                  |             |
| KPB acquisition earn-out payment  |  | (49,700)    |
| Restricted cash   |  | (15,000)    |
| Capital expenditures  | (41,399)                               | (26,262)    |
| Net cash used in investing activities   | (41,713)                               | (90,962)    |
| <b>Financing activities</b>   |  |             |
| Proceeds from revolving credit facility   | 79,400                                 | 7,600       |
| Repayments on revolving credit facility   | (79,400)                               | (7,600)     |
| Repayments of long-term debt  | (50,000)                               | (14,127)    |
| Proceeds from other current borrowings  | 3,398                                  | 2,273       |
| Repayments on other current borrowings  | (2,776)                                | (1,650)     |
| Payment of withholding taxes on vested restricted stock awards                    | (1,179)                                | (952)       |
| Proceeds from the exercises of stock options                                      | 1,073                                  | 1,017       |
| Proceeds from issuance of shares to ESPP  | 241                                    | 192         |
| Loan amendment costs  | (132)                                  | (244)       |
| Debt issuance costs for new credit agreement                                      |  | (788)       |
| Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation                                 | 1,878                                  | 1,181       |
| Net cash used in financing activities   | (47,497)                               | (13,098)    |

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|  |           |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | 28,242    | (16)      |
| Cash and cash equivalents-beginning of period        | 8,062     | 67,358    |
| Cash and cash equivalents-end of period              | \$ 36,304 | \$ 67,342 |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.



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**KAPSTONE PAPER AND PACKAGING CORPORATION  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)**

**(unaudited)**

**1. Financial Statements**

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements of KapStone Paper and Packaging Corporation (the Company, we, us, our or KapStone ) have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ( GAAP ) for interim financial information, the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by GAAP for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments (consisting of a normal recurring nature) considered necessary for a fair presentation have been included. Operating results for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2012. For further information, refer to the consolidated financial statements and related footnotes included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011.

**2. Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

***Intangibles Goodwill and Other***

In September 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2011-08, *Intangibles Goodwill and Other*. This guidance provides an entity the option to first assess qualitative factors to determine whether the existence of events or circumstances leads to a determination that it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount. If, after assessing the totality of events or circumstances, an entity determines it is not more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount, then performing the two-step impairment test is unnecessary. However, if an entity concludes otherwise, then it is required to perform the first step of the two-step impairment test by calculating the fair value of the reporting unit and comparing the fair value with the carrying amount of the reporting unit, as described in paragraph 350-20-35-4. This guidance is effective for annual and interim goodwill impairment tests performed for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2011. The Company will adopt the provisions of this guidance in conjunction with its annual impairment testing in the fourth quarter of 2012.

***Comprehensive Income***

In June 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-05, *Presentation of Comprehensive Income*, which revises the manner in which entities should present comprehensive income in their financial statements. The new guidance requires entities to report components of comprehensive income

in either (1) a continuous statement of comprehensive income or (2) two separate but consecutive statements. This guidance is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2011. The Company adopted the provisions of this guidance in using the continuous statement approach in 2012 on a retrospective basis for all periods presented.

***Fair Value Measurements***

In May 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-04, Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and IFRS. This ASU is the result of joint efforts by the FASB and International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) to develop converged guidance on how to measure fair value and what disclosures to provide about fair value measurements. The ASU is largely consistent with existing fair value measurement principles in U.S. GAAP; however, it expands existing disclosure requirements for fair value measurements and makes other amendments, many of which eliminate unnecessary wording differences between U.S. GAAP and IFRS. This ASU is effective for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011. The application of the requirements of this guidance did not have a material effect on the consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**3. USC Acquisition**

On October 31, 2011, the Company consummated the acquisition of U.S. Corrugated Inc. ( USC ) from its stockholders by merger for \$330.0 million in cash plus \$1.6 million of working capital adjustments. On March 9, 2012, KapStone reached an agreement with USC on the final calculation of Merger Consideration and paid an additional \$0.3 million for the final working capital adjustment which was allocated to acquisition consideration.

The following table summarizes the acquisition consideration:

|                                      |    |         |
|--------------------------------------|----|---------|
| Purchase price, net of cash acquired | \$ | 330,000 |
| Working capital adjustments          |    | 1,946   |
| Total acquisition consideration      | \$ | 331,946 |

The USC acquisition was accounted for in accordance with the provisions of ASC 805, *Business Combinations*, and the accompanying consolidated financial statements include the results of USC since October 31, 2011. The Company estimated the fair value of the assets and liabilities of USC at the time of acquisition and used third-party appraisals to determine the fair market value for tangible and intangible assets. The excess of the purchase price over the aggregate estimated fair value of net assets acquired was allocated to goodwill. The allocation is not final as the review of the fair value of deferred income tax assets and liabilities and certain other acquired assets and liabilities is in process.

The following table summarizes the preliminary allocation of acquisition consideration to the fair value of the assets acquired and the liabilities assumed at the date of acquisition:

|   |    |          |
|---|----|----------|
| Trade accounts receivable                 | \$ | 38,377   |
| Other receivables                         |    | 5,745    |
| Inventories                               |    | 32,859   |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets |    | 754      |
| Plant, property and equipment             |    | 106,082  |
| Other assets                              |    | 634      |
| Intangible assets                         |    | 45,000   |
| Goodwill                                  |    | 176,226  |
| Deferred income tax asset                 |    | 4,765    |
| Accounts payable                          |    | (33,918) |
| Accrued expenses                          |    | (3,660)  |
| Accrued compensation costs                |    | (5,526)  |
| Deferred income tax liability             |    | (31,285) |
| Other liabilities                         |    | (4,107)  |
| Total acquisition consideration           | \$ | 331,946  |

In the quarter ended September 30, 2012, the Company reduced the purchase price allocated to deferred income tax liability by \$4.8 million reflecting the filing of the 2011 income tax returns for USC. The offset to this was a reduction to goodwill.

**4. Annual Planned Maintenance Outage**

Cost of sales for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 included approximately \$0.5 million and \$4.0 million, respectively, for annual planned maintenance outages. In addition, cost of sales for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 included approximately \$5.1 million and \$7.5 million, respectively, for annual planned maintenance outages. Two outages which occurred in the third quarter of 2011 at a cost of \$3.8 million are expected to occur in the fourth quarter of 2012.

Table of Contents**5. Inventories**

Inventories consist of the following at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively:

|                                | (Unaudited)<br>September 30,<br>2012 | December 31,<br>2011 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Raw materials                  | \$ 40,575                            | \$ 46,926            |
| Work in process                | 2,780                                | 1,780                |
| Finished goods                 | 35,720                               | 36,747               |
| Replacement parts and supplies | 26,071                               | 24,601               |
| Inventories                    | \$ 105,146                           | \$ 110,054           |

**6. Debt*****Amendment to Credit Agreement***

On May 10, 2012, the Company entered into a First Amendment to Credit Agreement (the "First Amendment"), by and among Kapstone Kraft Paper Corporation, as Borrower (the "Borrower"), the Company and certain subsidiaries of the Company as Guarantors, the lenders party thereto, and Bank of America N.A., as Administrative Agent, which amends the Credit Agreement, dated as of October 31, 2011 (collectively, the "Credit Agreement"). The First Amendment, among other things, expands the "accordion" feature under the Credit Agreement, removes certain mandatory prepayment events, and modifies the calculation methodology of the financial covenants. The "accordion" feature in the Credit Agreement now permits KapStone, subject to certain terms and conditions, to request an increase in the revolving commitments and/or additional term loans in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$450.0 million.

***Voluntary Prepayment***

On June 29, 2012, the Company made a \$50.0 million voluntary prepayment on its term loan under the Credit Agreement using cash generated from operations.

***Debt Covenants***

The Company's Credit Agreement contains, among other provisions, covenants with which we must comply while the agreement is in force. The covenants limit our ability to, among other things, incur indebtedness, create additional liens on our assets, make investments, engage in mergers and acquisitions, pay dividends and sell any assets outside the normal course of business. As of September 30, 2012, the Company was in compliance with all applicable covenants in the Credit Agreement.

***Other Current Borrowings***

In 2012 and 2011, the Company entered into financing agreements of \$3.4 million and \$2.3 million, respectively, at an annual interest rate of 2.00 and 1.75 percent, respectively, for its annual property insurance premiums. The agreements required the Company to pay consecutive monthly payments through the term of each financing agreement ending on December 1st. As of September 30, 2012, there was \$0.6 million outstanding under the current agreement which is included in Other current borrowings on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

***Interest Paid***

Interest paid was \$1.8 million and \$0.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively. In addition, interest paid was \$6.5 million and \$2.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively. The increase in interest paid reflects a higher term loan balance resulting from the USC acquisition.

***Fair Value of Debt***

At September 30, 2012 the fair value of the Company's debt approximates the carrying value of \$294.2 million as the variable interest rates re-price frequently at current market rates. The debt was valued using Level 2 inputs in the fair value hierarchy which are significant observable inputs including quoted prices for debt of similar terms and maturities.

Table of Contents**7. Income Taxes**

The Company's effective tax rate for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 was 35.7 percent and 39.9 percent, respectively. The effective tax rate decreased in 2012 due to a higher expected benefit from the domestic manufacturing deduction. The differences between the effective tax rate and the federal statutory tax rate for the periods ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 are due to the impact of state tax, net of the federal benefit and the domestic manufacturing deduction.

The gross unrecognized tax benefits, including interest, as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011 were \$5.0 million. Unrecognized tax benefits of \$5.0 million are included in Other liabilities on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

In the normal course of business, the Company is subject to examination by taxing authorities. The Company's 2010 and 2011 tax years are open for examination by the Internal Revenue Service. U.S. Corrugated Inc., acquired by the Company on October 31, 2011, is currently under examination by the Internal Revenue Service for tax year 2009.

Income taxes paid net of refunds were \$2.0 million and (\$0.1) million for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively. In addition, income taxes paid net of refunds were \$6.3 million and \$0.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

**8. Net Income Per Share**

Basic and diluted net income per share is calculated as follows:

|   | Three Months Ended September 30, |            | Nine Months Ended September 30, |            |
|---|----------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|------------|
|   | 2012                             | 2011       | 2012                            | 2011       |
| Net income as reported  | \$ 18,345                        | \$ 16,495  | \$ 52,312                       | \$ 49,785  |
| Weighted-average number of common shares for basic net income per share | 46,747,095                       | 46,379,537 | 46,619,692                      | 46,241,251 |
| Incremental effect of dilutive common stock equivalents:                |                                  |            |                                 |            |
| Unexercised stock options   | 921,056                          | 836,954    | 922,553                         | 884,590    |
| Unvested restricted stock awards  | 246,665                          | 277,934    | 291,347                         | 329,292    |
| Weighted-average number of shares for diluted net income per share      | 47,914,816                       | 47,494,425 | 47,833,592                      | 47,455,133 |
| Net income per share - basic  | \$ 0.39                          | \$ 0.36    | \$ 1.12                         | \$ 1.08    |
| Net income per share - diluted  | \$ 0.38                          | \$ 0.35    | \$ 1.09                         | \$ 1.05    |

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Unexercised stock options to purchase a total of 0.3 million shares were outstanding during both the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, but were not included in the computation of diluted earnings per share because the options were anti-dilutive.

### 9. Pension Plan and Post-Retirement Benefits

#### *Defined Benefit Pension Plan*

The KapStone Paper and Packaging Corporation Defined Benefit Pension Plan (the Pension Plan) provides benefits for approximately 1,000 union employees.

Net pension cost recognized for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 for the Pension Plan is as follows:

|  | Three Months Ended September 30, |                 | Nine Months Ended September 30, |                 |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
|  | 2012                             | 2011            | 2012                            | 2011            |
| Service cost for benefits earned during the period | \$ 1,023                         | \$ 844          | \$ 3,070                        | \$ 2,531        |
| Interest cost on projected benefit obligation      | 252                              | 203             | 755                             | 611             |
| Expected return on plan assets                     | (234)                            | (185)           | (701)                           | (555)           |
| Amortization of net loss                           | 53                               |                 | 161                             |                 |
| Amortization of prior service cost                 | 93                               | 141             | 277                             | 423             |
| Net pension cost - other multi-employer plan       | 19                               |                 | 53                              |                 |
| <b>Total net pension cost</b>                      | <b>\$ 1,206</b>                  | <b>\$ 1,003</b> | <b>\$ 3,615</b>                 | <b>\$ 3,010</b> |



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KapStone funds the Pension Plan according to IRS funding requirements. Based on those requirements, KapStone funded \$3.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and expects to fund an additional \$0.1 million to the Pension Plan in 2012.

***Defined Contribution Plan***

The KapStone Defined Contribution Plan (the Contribution Plan) covers all eligible employees. The Company's monthly contributions to the Contribution Plan are based on the matching of employee contributions. For the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, the Company recognized expense of \$2.6 million and \$1.6 million, respectively. In addition, for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, the Company recognized expense of \$8.0 million and \$5.3 million, respectively. Effective October 31, 2011, employees who joined the Company as part of the USC acquisition are included in the Contribution Plan.

**10. Stock-Based Compensation**

In 2012, the Compensation Committee of the board of directors approved stock awards to executive officers, certain employees and directors. The 2012 awards included 312,971 stock option grants and 125,191 restricted stock units.

The Company accounts for stock awards in accordance with ASC 718, *Compensation - Stock Compensation*, which requires that the cost resulting from all share-based payment transactions be recognized as compensation cost over the vesting period based on the fair value of the instrument on the date of grant.

Total stock-based compensation expense related to the stock option and restricted stock unit grants for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 is as follows:

|  | Three Months Ended |        | Nine Months Ended |          |
|--|--------------------|--------|-------------------|----------|
|  | September 30,      |        | September 30,     |          |
|  | 2012               | 2011   | 2012              | 2011     |
| Stock option compensation expense          | \$ 423             | \$ 403 | \$ 2,448          | \$ 1,802 |
| Restricted stock unit compensation expense | 322                | 302    | 1,874             | 1,424    |
| Total stock-based compensation expense     | \$ 745             | \$ 705 | \$ 4,322          | \$ 3,226 |

Total unrecognized stock-based compensation cost related to the stock option grants and restricted stock units as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011 is as follows:

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|   | September 30,<br>2012 |    | December 31,<br>2011 |
|---|-----------------------|----|----------------------|
| Unrecognized stock option compensation cost     | \$ 2,343              | \$ | 1,648                |
| Unrecognized restricted stock compensation cost | 2,190                 |    | 1,687                |
| Total stock-based compensation cost             | \$ 4,533              | \$ | 3,335                |

As of September 30, 2012, total unrecognized compensation cost related to non-vested stock options and restricted stock units is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 1.7 years and 2.0 years, respectively.

***Stock Options***

Stock option awards vest as follows: 50% after two years and the remaining 50% after three years or upon the retirement of a grantee of such stock options who has reached the age 65. The stock options awarded in 2012 have a contractual term of ten years and are subject to forfeiture should the recipient terminate his or her employment with the Company for certain reasons prior to vesting in his or her awards, or the occurrence of certain other events such as termination with cause. The exercise price of these stock options is based on the closing market price of our common stock on the date of grant (\$19.75 for the 2012 awards described above) and compensation expense is recorded on an accelerated basis over the awards' vesting periods.

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The weighted average fair value of the KapStone stock options granted in 2012 was \$10.38. The fair value was calculated using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model based on the market price at the grant date and the weighted average assumptions specific to the underlying options. The Company uses the simplified method, defined in SEC Staff Accounting Bulletin (SAB) No. 107, to determine the expected life assumption for all of its options. The Company uses the simplified method, as permitted by SAB No. 110, as it does not have sufficient historical exercise data to provide a reasonable basis upon which to estimate expected life due to the limited time its equity shares have been publicly traded. The expected volatility assumption is based on the volatility of KapStone stock from the same time period as the expected term of the stock options. The risk-free interest rate was selected based upon yields of U.S. Treasury issues with a term similar to the expected life of the stock options.

The assumptions utilized for calculating the fair value of stock options during the periods are as follows:

|  | Nine Months Ended September 30, |        |
|--|---------------------------------|--------|
|  | 2012                            | 2011   |
| KapStone Stock Options Black-Scholes assumptions (weighted average): |                                 |        |
| Expected volatility  | 56.47%                          | 45.24% |
| Expected life (years)  | 5.99                            | 5.94   |
| Risk-free interest rate  | 1.10%                           | 2.47%  |
| Expected dividend yield  | %                               | %      |

The following table summarizes stock options amounts and activity:

|  | Options   |    | Weighted<br>Average<br>Exercise<br>Price |  | Weighted<br>Average<br>Remaining<br>Life (Years) |    | Intrinsic<br>Value |
|--|-----------|----|--|--|--|----|--------------------|
| <b>Outstanding at January 1, 2012</b>    | 2,473,874 | \$ | 7.86                                     |  | 6.7  | \$ | 19,742             |
| Granted                                  | 312,971   |    | 19.75                                    |  | 9.6  |    |                    |
| Exercised                                | (197,809) |    | 5.42                                     |  |  |    | 2,760              |
| Forfeited                                | (9,012)   |    | 16.08                                    |  |  |    |                    |
| <b>Outstanding at September 30, 2012</b> | 2,580,024 | \$ | 9.46                                     |  | 6.3  | \$ | 33,357             |
| <b>Exercisable at September 30, 2012</b> | 1,770,055 | \$ | 6.29                                     |  | 5.3  | \$ | 28,506             |

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2012, exercises of employee stock options totaled 97,431 shares and 197,809 shares, respectively, with cash proceeds to the Company of \$0.6 million and \$1.1 million, respectively.

**Restricted Stock**

Restricted stock units are restricted as to transferability until they vest three years from the grant date or upon the retirement of the grantee who has reached the age 65. These restricted stock units are subject to forfeiture should the employee terminate employment with the Company for certain reasons prior to vesting in their award, or upon the occurrence of certain other events. The value of these restricted stock units is based on the closing market price of our common stock on the date of grant and compensation expense is recorded on a straight-line basis over the awards vesting periods.

The following table summarizes restricted stock units amounts and activity:

|  | Units     |    | Weighted<br>Average<br>Grant<br>Price |
|--|-----------|----|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Outstanding at January 1, 2012</b>    | 496,395   | \$ | 9.22                                  |
| Granted                                  | 125,191   |    | 19.75                                 |
| Vested                                   | (216,784) |    | 3.70                                  |
| Forfeited                                | (4,516)   |    | 15.13                                 |
| <b>Outstanding at September 30, 2012</b> | 400,286   | \$ | 15.44                                 |

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**11. Contingencies**

We are subject to various legal proceedings arising from our operations. We are party to a legal proceeding arising from an accident which occurred during our 2009 annual planned maintenance outage at our paper mill in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. We establish reserves for claims and proceedings when it is probable that liabilities exist and where reasonable estimates can be made. Based on our assessment of the facts and circumstances now known, we do not believe there is a reasonable possibility that this matter will have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial position or cash flows. However, actual outcomes may be different from those expected and could have a material effect on our results of operations or cash flows in a particular period.

**12. Subsequent Event**

The Company's paper mill in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina completed its annual planned maintenance outage in October 2012. The outage lasted approximately 9 days with an estimated cost of \$11.0 million and a 10,400 reduction in tons produced. In October 2011, the annual planned maintenance outage lasted 11 days with a cost of \$7.9 million and a 12,000 reduction in tons produced. Costs were higher in 2012 as the turbine generator and power boiler required more extensive work than in 2011.

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## ITEM 2.

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

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. We have based these forward-looking statements on our current expectations and projections about future events. These forward-looking statements are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and assumptions about us that may cause our actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as may, should, could, would, expect, plan, anticipate, believe, estimate, the negative of such terms or other similar expressions. Factors that might cause or contribute to such a discrepancy include, but are not limited to, those described in Part I Item 1A of our Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011 and in our other Securities and Exchange Commission filings. The information contained in this Form 10-Q represents our best judgment at the date of this report based on information currently available. In providing forward-looking statements, KapStone does not intend, and does not undertake any duty or obligations, to update its statements as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

The Company has one reportable segment as of September 30, 2012. The Company manufactures and sells unbleached kraft paper and corrugated products.

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with our Consolidated Financial Statements and related Notes thereto included elsewhere in this report.

**Comparison of Results of Operations for the Three Months Ended September 30, 2012 and 2011**

| (in thousands):  | Three Months Ended Sept. 30, |            | Increase/<br>(Decrease) |
|--|------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|
|  | 2012                         | 2011       |                         |
| Net sales  | \$ 309,544                   | \$ 215,842 | \$ 93,702               |
| Cost of sales, excluding depreciation and amortization | 219,091                      | 146,038    | 73,053                  |
| Depreciation and amortization                          | 15,605                       | 11,960     | 3,645                   |
| Freight and distribution expenses                      | 27,945                       | 19,319     | 8,626                   |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses           | 16,039                       | 8,720      | 7,319                   |
| Other operating income                                 | 200                          | 292        | (92)                    |
| Operating income                                       | 31,064                       | 30,097     | 967                     |
| Foreign exchange (loss)                                | (11)                         | (456)      | (445)                   |
| Interest expense, net                                  | 2,793                        | 1,036      | 1,757                   |
| Income before provision for income taxes               | 28,260                       | 28,605     | (345)                   |
| Provision for income taxes                             | 9,915                        | 12,110     | (2,195)                 |
| Net income   | \$ 18,345                    | \$ 16,495  | \$ 1,850                |

Net sales for the quarter ended September 30, 2012 were \$309.5 million compared to \$215.8 million for the third quarter of 2011, an increase of \$93.7 million or 43.4 percent. The increase in net sales was driven by the U.S. Corrugated Inc. ( USC ) acquisition which accounted for \$99.1

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million. Excluding the acquisition, net sales decreased by \$5.4 million due to \$3.1 million of lower average selling prices, \$1.5 million of unfavorable exchange rate effects due to a stronger US dollar, as certain sales to European customers are invoiced in euros, and \$3.6 million mainly due to a less favorable product mix, partially offset by \$2.8 million of higher lumber and other sales. Average selling price per ton for the quarter ended September 30, 2012 was \$625 compared to \$639 for the prior year's quarter. Average selling prices decreased primarily due to lower export containerboard prices and product mix partially offset by the partial realization of the \$50 per ton kraft paper price increase announced in 2011.

The Company announced a \$50 per ton selling price increase for domestic containerboard in August 2012 and an 8 and 10 percent increase for corrugated packaging boxes and sheets, respectively, in September 2012. These price increases will be partially realized during the fourth quarter of 2012 and is estimated to increase net sales by approximately \$7.0 to \$8.0 million.

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The following represents the Company's tons of paper sold by product line:

| Product Line (in tons): | Three Months Ended September 30, |         | Increase/<br>(Decrease) | %      |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|--------|
|                         | 2012                             | 2011    |                         |        |
| Domestic containerboard | 131,722                          | 104,934 | 26,788                  | 25.5   |
| Export containerboard   | 35,234                           | 57,089  | (21,855)                | (38.3) |
| Kraft paper             | 69,712                           | 69,824  | (112)                   | (0.2)  |
| DuraSorb®               | 65,432                           | 70,994  | (5,562)                 | (7.8)  |
| Kraftpak ®              | 26,831                           | 24,368  | 2,463                   | 10.0   |
| Tons of paper sold      | 328,931                          | 327,209 | 1,722                   | 0.5    |

Tons of paper sold for the quarter ended September 30, 2012 was 328,931 tons compared to 327,209 tons for the quarter ended September 30, 2011, an increase of 1,722 tons or 0.5 percent. Domestic containerboard sales increased 25.5 percent reflecting the impact of the acquisition and higher sales of lightweight containerboard. Export containerboard sales decreased 38.3 percent as the Company shipped more tons to domestic customers. Durasorb® sales decreased 7.8 percent due to lower shipments to Japan, Korea and Southeast Asia as demand was lower in the copper clad laminate markets and in Europe due to lower demand for high pressure laminates.

Corrugated product sales for the quarter ended September 30, 2012 totaled 1.6 billion square feet compared to none for the quarter ended September 30, 2011. The Company's corrugated product sales began with the USC acquisition which closed in the fourth quarter of 2011.

The following represents a summary of tons of paper sold and produced by the Company:

|                                       | Three Months Ended September 30, |         | Increase/<br>(Decrease) | %       |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|---------|
|                                       | 2012                             | 2011    |                         |         |
| Tons of paper sold to third parties   | 328,931                          | 327,209 | 1,722                   | 0.5     |
| Tons transferred to converting plants | 65,306                           |         | 65,306                  | 100.0   |
| Inventory change                      | (5,398)                          | 1,478   | (6,876)                 | (465.2) |
| Tons of paper produced                | 388,839                          | 328,687 | 60,152                  | 18.3    |

The 60,152 increase in tons of production in the third quarter of 2012 includes 59,927 tons from the USC acquisition.

Cost of sales, excluding depreciation and amortization expense, for the quarter ended September 30, 2012 was \$219.1 million compared to \$146.0 million for the third quarter of 2011, an increase of \$73.1 million, or 50.1 percent. The increase in cost of sales was mainly due to the \$75.4 million impact of the acquisition. Excluding the acquisition cost of sales decreased by \$2.3 million due to \$3.5 million of lower annual planned maintenance outages as two outages which occurred in the third quarter of 2011 are currently planned for the fourth quarter of 2012. This was partially offset by \$1.3 million of higher repairs and maintenance costs at the Roanoke Rapids paper mill due to a flash flood which occurred on August 25th. The mill received 11 inches of rain in less than six hours and resulted in a loss of 707 tons of production. Annual planned maintenance outages in the quarters ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 totaled \$0.5 million and \$4.0 million, respectively.



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Depreciation and amortization expense for the quarter ended September 30, 2012 totaled \$15.6 million compared to \$12.0 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2011. The increase of \$3.6 million was primarily due to \$3.2 million from the acquisition, \$0.6 million of which is amortization of identified intangibles. Excluding the acquisition, depreciation and amortization expense increased \$0.4 million in the quarter ended September 30, 2012 due to higher capital expenditures.

Freight and distribution expenses for the quarter ended September 30, 2012 totaled \$27.9 million compared to \$19.3 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2011. The increase of \$8.6 million was primarily due to \$7.8 million from the acquisition. Excluding the acquisition, freight and distribution expenses increased \$0.8 million due to \$0.7 million relating to product mix reflecting a higher percentage of domestic containerboard shipments where the Company pays for freight.

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Selling, general and administrative expenses for the quarter ended September 30, 2012 totaled \$16.0 million compared to \$8.7 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2011. The increase of \$7.3 million was primarily due to \$6.9 million from the acquisition. Excluding the acquisition, selling, general and administrative expenses increased \$0.4 million due to \$0.6 million of acquisition related expenses. For the quarter ended September 30, 2012, selling, general and administrative expenses as a percentage of net sales increased to 5.2 percent from 4.0 percent in the quarter ended September 30, 2011.

Foreign exchange loss for the quarter ended September 30, 2012 was less than \$0.1 million compared to \$0.5 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2011. The change reflects the impact of the euro strengthening by 3.2 percent in 2012 quarter compared to the euro weakening by 5.6 percent in 2011 quarter.

Net interest expense for the quarters ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 was \$2.8 million and \$1.0 million, respectively. Interest expense reflects interest on the Company's Credit Agreement and amortization of debt issuance costs. Interest expense was \$1.8 million higher in the quarter ended September 30, 2012 primarily due to a higher term loan balance to fund the USC acquisition.

Provision for income taxes for the quarters ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 was \$9.9 million and \$12.1 million, respectively, reflecting an effective tax rate of 35.1 percent for the quarter ended September 30, 2012 compared to 42.3 percent for the similar period in 2011. The lower provision for income taxes in 2012 primarily reflects a lower effective tax rate due to a higher expected benefit from the domestic manufacturing deduction and \$0.6 million of favorable discrete tax adjustments.

**Comparison of Results of Operations for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012 and 2011**

| (in thousands):  | Nine Months Ended September |     |         | Increase/<br>(Decrease) |
|--|-----------------------------|-----|---------|-------------------------|
|  | 2012                        | 30, | 2011    |                         |
| Net sales  | \$ 915,646                  | \$  | 637,366 | \$ 278,280              |
| Cost of sales, excluding depreciation and amortization | 646,500                     |     | 431,832 | 214,668                 |
| Depreciation and amortization                          | 46,108                      |     | 36,529  | 9,579                   |
| Freight and distribution expenses                      | 81,624                      |     | 56,829  | 24,795                  |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses           | 51,047                      |     | 26,892  | 24,155                  |
| Other operating income                                 | 628                         |     | 870     | (242)                   |
| Operating income                                       | 90,995                      |     | 86,154  | 4,841                   |
| Foreign exchange (loss)                                | (399)                       |     | (121)   | 278                     |
| Interest expense, net                                  | 9,265                       |     | 3,210   | 6,055                   |
| Income before provision for income taxes               | 81,331                      |     | 82,823  | (1,492)                 |
| Provision for income taxes                             | 29,019                      |     | 33,038  | (4,019)                 |
| Net income   | \$ 52,312                   | \$  | 49,785  | \$ 2,527                |

Net sales for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 were \$915.6 million compared to \$637.4 million for the first nine months of 2011, an increase of \$278.2 million or 43.6 percent. The increase in net sales was driven by the USC acquisition which accounted for \$290.9 million. Excluding the acquisition, net sales decreased by \$12.7 million due to \$7.5 million of lower volume as the Company transferred more tons of production to its corrugating plants rather than selling to third parties, \$7.3 million in lower average selling prices, \$3.5 million due to the unfavorable exchange rate effect of a stronger US dollar and \$3.0 million due to a less favorable product mix, partially offset by \$8.6 million of higher lumber and other sales. Average selling price per ton for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 was \$619 compared to \$630 for the

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prior year period Average selling prices decreased primarily due to a \$68 per ton reduction in export containerboard prices and product mix.

The Company announced a \$50 per ton selling price increase for domestic containerboard in August 2012 and an 8 and 10 percent increase for corrugated packaging boxes and sheets, respectively, in September 2012. These price increases will be partially realized during the fourth quarter of 2012 and is estimated to increase net sales by approximately \$7.0 to \$8.0 million.

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The following represents the Company's tons of paper sold by product line:

| Product Line (in tons): | Nine Months Ended September 30, |         | Increase/<br>(Decrease) | %      |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|--------|
|                         | 2012                            | 2011    |                         |        |
| Domestic containerboard | 355,778                         | 305,830 | 49,948                  | 16.3   |
| Export containerboard   | 159,686                         | 188,065 | (28,379)                | (15.1) |
| Kraft paper             | 197,446                         | 211,201 | (13,755)                | (6.5)  |
| DuraSorb®               | 194,613                         | 199,441 | (4,828)                 | (2.4)  |
| Kraftpak ®              | 74,523                          | 75,126  | (603)                   | (0.8)  |
| Tons of paper sold      | 982,046                         | 979,663 | 2,383                   | 0.2    |

Tons of paper sold for the first nine months of 2012 was 982,046 tons compared to 979,663 tons for the first nine months of 2011, an increase of 2,383 tons or 0.2 percent. Domestic containerboard sales increased 16.3 percent reflecting the impact of the acquisition and higher demand for lightweight containerboard grades. Export containerboard sales decreased 15.1 percent as more containerboard volume was shipped domestically. Kraft paper sales decreased 6.5 percent reflecting an overall decrease in demand in the industry and a transfer of volumes to lightweight containerboard grades. Durasorb® sales declined 2.4 percent due to lower demand in copper clad laminate markets in Japan, Korea and Southeast Asia and in Europe due to lower demand for high pressure laminates.

Corrugated product sales for the first nine months of 2012 totaled 4.7 billion square feet compared to none for the first nine months of 2011. The Company's corrugated product sales began with the USC acquisition which closed in the fourth quarter of 2011.

The following represents a summary of tons of paper sold and produced by the Company:

|                                       | Nine Months Ended September 30, |         | Increase/<br>(Decrease) | %       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|---------|
|                                       | 2012                            | 2011    |                         |         |
| Tons of paper sold to third parties   | 982,046                         | 979,663 | 2,383                   | 0.2     |
| Tons transferred to converting plants | 198,153                         |         | 198,153                 | 100.0   |
| Inventory change                      | (6,211)                         | 2,190   | (8,401)                 | (383.6) |
| Tons of paper produced                | 1,173,988                       | 981,853 | 192,135                 | 19.6    |

The 192,135 increase in tons of production in the first nine months of 2012 includes 181,219 tons from the USC acquisition and 10,916 tons from higher production rates and one extra day of production.

Cost of sales, excluding depreciation and amortization expense, for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 was \$646.5 million compared to \$431.8 million for the first nine months of 2011, an increase of \$214.7 million, or 49.7 percent. The increase in cost of sales was mainly due to the \$219.6 million impact of the acquisition. Excluding the acquisition, cost of sales decreased by \$4.9 million due to \$6.6 million of lower sales volume, \$4.9 million of productivity gains and \$2.4 million due to the timing of annual planned maintenance outages, partially offset by \$7.5 million of inflation on labor, benefits and input costs. Other costs increased approximately \$1.4 million due to higher lumber sales and by \$1.3 million due to repairs and maintenance costs at the Roanoke Rapids paper mill due to a flood which occurred on August 25th. Annual planned maintenance outages during the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 totaled \$5.1 million and \$7.5 million, respectively.

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Depreciation and amortization expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 totaled \$46.1 million compared to \$36.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. The increase of \$9.6 million was primarily due to \$9.5 million from the acquisition, \$1.9 million of which is amortization of identified intangibles. Excluding the acquisition, depreciation and amortization expense increased \$0.1 million.

Freight and distribution expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 totaled \$81.6 million compared to \$56.8 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. The increase of \$24.8 million was primarily due to \$22.8 million from the acquisition. Excluding the acquisition, freight and distribution expenses increased \$2.0 million primarily due to inflation on fuel costs and product mix reflecting a higher percentage of domestic containerboard shipments where the Company pays for freight.

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Selling, general and administrative expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 totaled \$51.0 million compared to \$26.9 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. The increase of \$24.1 million was primarily due to \$21.8 million from the acquisition. Excluding the acquisition, selling, general and administrative expenses increased \$2.3 million due to the higher compensation related expenses and acquisition related expenses. For the nine months ended September 30, 2012, selling, general and administrative expenses as a percentage of net sales increased to 5.6 percent from 4.2 percent in the first nine months of 2011.

Foreign exchange loss for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 was \$0.4 million compared to \$0.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. The change reflects the strengthening of the U.S. dollar compared to the euro in the first nine months of 2012.

Net interest expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 was \$9.3 million and \$3.2 million, respectively. Interest expense reflects interest on the Company's Credit Agreement and amortization of debt issuance costs. Interest expense was \$6.1 million higher in the first nine months of 2012 due to a higher term loan balance to fund the USC acquisition.

Provision for income taxes for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 was \$29.0 million and \$33.0 million, respectively, reflecting an effective tax rate of 35.7 percent for the first nine months of 2012 compared to 39.9 percent for the similar period in 2011. The lower provision for income taxes in 2012 primarily reflects a lower effective tax rate due to a higher expected benefit from the domestic manufacturing deduction and \$0.6 million of favorable discrete tax adjustments.

**Liquidity and Capital Resources**

***Amendment to Credit Agreement***

On May 10, 2012, the Company entered into a First Amendment to Credit Agreement (the "First Amendment"), by and among Kapstone Kraft Paper Corporation, as Borrower (the "Borrower"), the Company and certain subsidiaries of the Company as Guarantors, the lenders party thereto, and Bank of America N.A., as Administrative Agent, which amends the Credit Agreement, dated as of October 31, 2011 (collectively, the "Credit Agreement"). The First Amendment, among other things, expands the "accordion" feature under the Credit Agreement, removes certain mandatory prepayment events, and modifies the calculation methodology of the financial covenants. The "accordion" feature in the Credit Agreement now permits KapStone, subject to certain terms and conditions, to request an increase in the revolving commitments and/or additional term loans in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$450.0 million.

***Voluntary Prepayment***

During the first nine months of 2012, the Company made a \$50.0 million voluntary prepayment on its term loan under the Credit Agreement using cash flow from operations.

*Debt Covenants*

Under the financial covenants of the Credit Agreement, KapStone must comply on a quarterly basis with a maximum permitted leverage ratio. The leverage ratio is calculated by dividing KapStone's debt by its rolling twelve month total earnings before interest expense, taxes, depreciation and amortization and allowable adjustments. The maximum permitted leverage ratio declines over the life of the Credit Agreement. On September 30, 2012, the maximum permitted leverage ratio was 3.50 to 1.00. On September 30, 2012, KapStone was in compliance with the Credit Agreement with a leverage ratio of 1.68 to 1.00.

The Credit Agreement also includes a financial covenant requiring a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio. This ratio is calculated by dividing KapStone's twelve month total earnings before interest expense, taxes, depreciation and amortization and allowable adjustments less cash payments for income taxes and capital expenditures by the sum of our cash interest and required principal payments during the twelve month period. From the closing date of the Credit Agreement through the quarter ending September 30, 2012, the fixed charge coverage ratio was required to be at least 1.25 to 1.00. On September 30, 2012, KapStone was in compliance with the Credit Agreement with a fixed charge coverage ratio of 9.46 to 1.00.

As of September 30, 2012, KapStone was in compliance with all applicable covenants in the Credit Agreement.

Table of Contents***Other Current Borrowings***

In 2012, the Company entered into a financing agreement of \$3.4 million at an annual interest rate of 2.00 percent, for the annual property insurance premium. The agreement required the Company to make consecutive monthly repayments through the term of the financing agreement ending on December 1. As of September 30, 2012, there was \$0.6 million outstanding under the current agreement.

***Income taxes***

The Company's effective tax rate for 2012 is projected at 35.8 percent. The cash tax rate for 2012 is projected at 10.0 percent reflecting utilization of federal net operating losses and the cellulosic biofuel producer's credit.

Income taxes paid, net of refunds, totaled \$6.3 million and \$0.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

***Sources and Uses of Cash***

| Nine months ended September 30 (in thousands) | 2012 |          | 2011 |          |
|---|------|----------|------|----------|
| Operating activities                          | \$   | 117,452  | \$   | 104,044  |
| Investing activities                          |      | (41,713) |      | (90,962) |
| Financing activities                          |      | (47,497) |      | (13,098) |

Cash and cash equivalents increased by \$28.2 million from December 31, 2011, reflecting \$117.5 million of net cash provided by operating activities, \$41.7 million of net cash used in investing activities and \$47.5 million of net cash used in financing activities.

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$117.5 million primarily due to net income of \$52.3 million for the first nine months of 2012 and \$74.7 million of non-cash charges. Changes in operating assets and liabilities used \$9.6 million of cash. Net cash provided by operating activities increased by \$13.4 million in the first nine months of 2012 compared to the same period in 2011 due to operating assets and liabilities using \$6.8 million of less cash, \$4.1 million of higher non-cash charges and \$2.5 million of higher net income in the first nine months of 2012 than the first nine months of 2011.

Net cash used in investing activities was \$41.7 million reflecting \$41.4 million of capital expenditures. For the nine months ended September 30, 2012, capital expenditures for legacy operations were \$28.1 million related to spending on equipment upgrades and replacements at the paper mills. In addition, there were \$11.6 million of capital expenditures related to the acquisition, primarily related to investments in information technology. Net cash used in investing activities decreased by \$49.2 million in the first nine months of 2012 compared to the same period in 2011 mainly due to the \$49.7 million KPB acquisition contingent earn-out payment in 2011, partially offset by \$15.1 million of higher capital expenditures in the first nine months of 2012.



Net cash used in financing activities was \$47.5 million reflecting the \$50.0 million voluntary prepayment on the term loan in June 2012, partially offset by \$0.6 million of net proceeds from other current borrowings and \$1.3 million of proceeds from share transactions. Net cash used in financing activities increased by \$34.3 million for the first nine months of 2012 compared to the same period in 2011 primarily due to a higher amount of debt repayments in 2012.

*Future Cash Needs*

We expect that cash generated from operating activities, and if needed, the ability to draw from our revolving credit facility under our Credit Agreement, which has a current availability of \$142.8 million, will be sufficient to meet anticipated 2012 operating cash needs. The Company expects to spend approximately \$23.0 million on capital expenditures in the fourth quarter of 2012.

Capital expenditures are expected to increase to approximately \$70 million in 2013 as the Company announced a plan to invest \$29 million over a three year period at its Charleston, South Carolina paper mill. The investment includes improvements to paper machine No. 3 in producing Ultra High Performance lightweight

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linerboard grades by replacing a section of the press as well as improvements in the fiber and utility areas to support increased production.

**Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

We have not entered into any off-balance sheet financing arrangements and have not established any special purpose entities. We have not guaranteed any debt or commitments of other entities or entered into any options on non-financial assets.

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**ITEM 3.**

**QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

Market risk is the sensitivity of income to changes in interest rates, commodity prices, equity prices, and other market-driven rates or prices.

Under KapStone's Credit Agreement, at September 30, 2012, we have an outstanding credit facility consisting of a term loan and revolving credit facility totaling \$455.3 million. The initial term loan and the revolving credit facility have a maturity date of October 31, 2016. Under the terms of the Credit Agreement, the company has the option to pay interest at a rate equal to an applicable margin plus either the current Eurodollar rate or a base rate. The applicable margin is determined by reference to a pricing grid based upon the Company's total leverage ratio. Under such pricing grid, the applicable margins for the credit facility will range from 1.50% to 2.50% for Eurodollar loans and from 0.50% to 1.50% for base rate loans. The applicable margin in effect at September 30, 2012 was 1.75% for the Company's Eurodollar term loan.

Historically, in order to minimize the amount of interest paid, the Company has chosen to keep the term loan in one month Eurodollar loans. At September 30, 2012 the Eurodollar term loan had an interest rate of 1.9655%. Borrowings under the revolving credit facility, which are extremely short term in nature, are typically made as base rate loans. The base rate is calculated to be the greatest of (x) the prime rate, (y) the federal funds effective rate plus 0.5% or (z) one-month LIBOR plus 1.00%. Historically, base rate loans have been at the prime rate plus the applicable margin which is currently 0.75%. The base rate at September 30, 2012 was 4.0%. No borrowings were outstanding on the revolving credit facility on September 30, 2012.

Changes in market rates may impact the base rate in our Credit Agreement. For instance, if the bank's LIBOR rate was to increase or decrease by one percentage point (1.0%), our annual interest expense would change by approximately \$3.1 million based upon our expected future monthly loan balances per our existing repayment schedule.

We are exposed to price fluctuations of certain commodities used in production. Key raw materials and energy used in the production process include roundwood and woodchips, OCC, fuel oil, electricity and caustic soda. We purchase these raw materials and energy at market prices, and do not use forward contracts or other financial instruments to hedge our exposure to price risk related to these commodities. We have three contracts to purchase coal at fixed prices with all expiring on December 31, 2012.

We are exposed to price fluctuations in the price of our finished goods. The prices we charge for our products are primarily based on market conditions.

We are exposed to currency fluctuations as we invoice certain European customers in Euros. The Company did not use forward contracts to reduce the impact of currency fluctuations during the quarter ended September 30, 2012. No such contracts were outstanding at September 30, 2012.

**ITEM 4.**

**CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

As of the end of the period covered by this report, our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer carried out an evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures, as required by Rule 13a-15(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Based upon that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of September 30, 2012.

In the quarter ended September 30, 2012 the Company migrated the paper mill and two corrugating manufacturing plants acquired as part of the USC acquisition to a new ERP system. The remaining 12 corrugating manufacturing plants acquired as part of the USC acquisition migrated to the new ERP system on October 1, 2012.

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**PART II. OTHER INFORMATION**

**ITEM 1.**

**LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

We are subject to various legal proceedings arising from our operations. We are party to a legal proceeding arising from an accident which occurred during our 2009 annual planned maintenance outage at our mill in Roanoke Rapids, NC. We establish reserves for claims and proceedings when it is probable that liabilities exist and where reasonable estimates can be made. Based on our assessment of the facts and circumstances now known, we do not believe there is a reasonable possibility that this matter will have a material adverse effect on our financial position. However, actual outcomes may be different from those expected and could have a material effect on our results of operations or cash flows in a particular period.

**ITEM 1A.**

**RISK FACTORS**

There have been no material changes from the Risk Factors described in our Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011.

**ITEM 2.**

**UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS**

None.

**ITEM 3.**

**DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES**

None.

**ITEM 4.**

**MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES**

None.

**ITEM 5.**  
**OTHER INFORMATION**

None.

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**ITEM 6.**

**EXHIBITS**

The following Exhibits are filed as part of this report.

| <b>Exhibit No.</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|--------------------|--|
| 31.1               | Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 31.2               | Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 32.1               | Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.                                   |
| 32.2               | Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.                                   |
| 101.INS            | XBRL Instance Document.  |
| 101.SCH            | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema.  |
| 101.CAL            | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase.  |
| 101.DEF            | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase.   |
| 101.LAB            | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase.  |
| 101.PRE            | XBRL Extension Presentation Linkbase.  |

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**SIGNATURE**

In accordance with the requirements of the Exchange Act, the registrant caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

KAPSTONE PAPER AND PACKAGING CORPORATION

October 30, 2012

By:

/s/ Andrea K. Tarbox

Andrea K. Tarbox

Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

(duly authorized officer and principal financial  
officer)