

ALEXANDERS J CORP  
Form 10-Q  
November 10, 2004

**Table of Contents**

**FORM 10-Q**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

(Mark One)

☒ QUARTERLY REPORT UNDER SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
For quarterly period ended September 26, 2004

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 1-8766

**J. ALEXANDER S CORPORATION**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Tennessee

62-0854056

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or  
organization)

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

3401 West End Avenue, Suite 260, P.O. Box 24300, Nashville, Tennessee 37202

(Address of principal executive offices)  
(Zip Code)

(615)269-1900

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

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 is an accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934).

Yes ☐ No ☒

Common Stock Outstanding 6,453,199 shares at November 9, 2004.



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**Item 1. Financial Statements**

**Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets**

**Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income**

**Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows**

**Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements**

**Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**

**Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk**

**Item 4. Controls and Procedures**

**PART II. OTHER INFORMATION**

**Item 6. Exhibits**

**SIGNATURES**

**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

**EX-10.1 FORM OF NON-QUALIFIED STOCK OPTION AGREEMENT UNDER 2004 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN**

**EX-10.2 FORM OF DIRECTOR'S NON-QUALIFIED STOCK OPTION AGREEMENT UNDER 2004 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN**

**EX-10.3 FORM OF INCENTIVE STOCK OPTION AGREEMENT UNDER 2004 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN**

**EX-31.1 SECTION 302 CERTIFICATION OF THE CEO**

**EX-31.2 SECTION 302 CERTIFICATION OF THE CFO**

**EX-32.1 SECTION 906 CERTIFICATION OF THE CEO & CFO**

**EX-99.1 RESTATED AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER**

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Table of Contents**PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Item 1. Financial Statements****J. Alexander's Corporation and Subsidiaries****Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets****(Unaudited in thousands, except share and per share amounts)**

	<b>September 26 2004</b>	<b>December 28 2003</b>
		<b>(Restated)</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	<b>\$ 3,487</b>	\$ 1,635
Accounts and notes receivable	<b>57</b>	589
Inventories	<b>1,089</b>	1,068
Deferred income taxes	<b>791</b>	791
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	<b>817</b>	1,050
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>6,241</b>	5,133
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>	<b>1,089</b>	1,009
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b> , at cost, less allowances for depreciation and amortization of \$32,881 and \$29,931 at September 26, 2004, and December 28, 2003, respectively	<b>71,942</b>	73,613
<b>DEFERRED INCOME TAXES</b>	<b>1,884</b>	1,884
<b>DEFERRED CHARGES</b> , less amortization	<b>822</b>	898
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	<b>\$ 81,978</b>	<b>\$ 82,537</b>
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Table of Contents

	September 26 2004	December 28 2003
		(Restated)
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 2,162	\$ 3,194
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	3,638	4,177
Unearned revenue	1,868	2,871
Current portion of long-term debt and obligations under capital leases	774	649
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>8,442</b>	10,891
<b>LONG-TERM DEBT AND OBLIGATIONS UNDER CAPITAL LEASES, net of portion classified as current</b>	<b>24,215</b>	24,642
<b>OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2,978</b>	2,572
<b>STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Common Stock, par value \$.05 per share: Authorized 10,000,000 shares; issued and outstanding 6,453,199 and 6,432,718 shares at September 26, 2004, and December 28, 2003, respectively	323	322
Preferred Stock, no par value: Authorized 1,000,000 shares; none issued		
Additional paid-in capital	34,265	34,197
Retained earnings	12,596	10,807
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	47,184	45,326
Note receivable - Employee Stock Ownership Plan	(370)	(370)
Employee notes receivable - 1999 Loan Program	(471)	(524)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>	<b>46,343</b>	44,432
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	<b>\$ 81,978</b>	\$ 82,537
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See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

**J. Alexander's Corporation and Subsidiaries**  
**Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income**  
(Unaudited in thousands, except per share amounts)

	Quarter Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	Sept. 26 2004	Sept. 28 2003	Sept. 26 2004	Sept. 28 2003
		(Restated)		(Restated)
Net sales	\$28,794	\$25,832	\$89,430	\$78,697
Costs and expenses:				
Cost of sales	9,742	8,418	30,137	25,345
Restaurant labor and related costs	9,374	8,519	28,360	25,751
Depreciation and amortization of restaurant property and equipment	1,162	1,065	3,460	3,201
Other operating expenses	5,662	4,814	16,890	14,332
Total restaurant operating expenses	25,940	22,816	78,847	68,629
General and administrative expenses	1,922	2,175	6,288	6,217
Pre-opening expense		236		526
Operating income	932	605	4,295	3,325
Other income (expense):				
Interest expense, net	(518)	(500)	(1,574)	(1,594)
Other, net	(27)	18	(90)	(19)
Total other expense	(545)	(482)	(1,664)	(1,613)
Income before income taxes	387	123	2,631	1,712
Income tax (provision) benefit	(122)	55	(842)	(510)
Net income	\$ 265	\$ 178	\$ 1,789	\$ 1,202
Earnings per share:				
Basic earnings per share	\$ .04	\$ .03	\$ .28	\$ .18
Diluted earnings per share	\$ .04	\$ .03	\$ .26	\$ .18

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.



**Table of Contents**

**J. Alexander's Corporation and Subsidiaries**  
**Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows**  
**(Unaudited in thousands)**

	<b>Nine Months Ended</b>	
	<b>Sept. 26 2004</b>	<b>Sept. 28 2003</b>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<b>\$ 3,943</b>	\$ 3,309
Net cash used by investing activities:		
Purchase of property and equipment	<b>(1,824)</b>	(6,279)
Other investing activities	<b>(69)</b>	(68)
	<b>(1,893)</b>	(6,347)
Net cash (used) provided by financing activities:		
Payments on debt and obligations under capital leases	<b>(566)</b>	(6,647)
Proceeds from equipment financing note	<b>750</b>	
Proceeds under bank line of credit agreement	<b>408</b>	3,200
Payments under bank line of credit agreement	<b>(894)</b>	(2,700)
Common stock repurchased		(848)
Reduction of employee notes receivable - 1999 Loan Program	<b>53</b>	158
Other	<b>52</b>	92
	<b>(197)</b>	(6,745)
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	<b>1,852</b>	(9,783)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	<b>1,635</b>	10,525
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	<b>\$ 3,487</b>	\$ 742
Supplemental disclosures of non-cash items:		
Property and equipment obligations accrued at beginning of period	<b>\$ 375</b>	\$ 1,020
Property and equipment obligations accrued at end of period	<b>\$ 55</b>	\$ 1,745
Additions to buildings and obligations under capital lease	<b>\$</b>	\$ 375

See notes to condensed consolidated financial statements



**Table of Contents****J. Alexander's Corporation and Subsidiaries****Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)****NOTE A BASIS OF PRESENTATION**

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Rule 10-01 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. Certain reclassifications have been made in the prior year's condensed consolidated financial statements to conform to the 2004 presentation. In the opinion of management, all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring accruals) considered necessary for a fair presentation have been included. Operating results for the quarter and nine months ended September 26, 2004, are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the fiscal year ending January 2, 2005. For further information, refer to the consolidated financial statements and footnotes thereto included in the J. Alexander's Corporation (the Company's) annual report on Form 10-K/A for the fiscal year ended December 28, 2003.

The accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheet at December 28, 2003 has been restated to reflect an increase in additional paid-in capital and a decrease in retained earnings of \$552,000 due to a determination by the Company in 2004 that a stock option grant, which previously had been accounted for as a fixed award, should have been accounted for as a variable award. The accompanying condensed consolidated statements of income for the third quarter and nine months ended September 28, 2003 have been restated to reflect additional general and administrative expense of \$207,000 and \$329,000, respectively, with corresponding decreases in net income, related to this option grant. Diluted earnings per share were reduced by \$.03 for the third quarter and by \$.05 for the first nine months of 2003 as a result of the non-cash compensation expense associated with this option grant. There was no impact on the condensed consolidated statement of cash flows for the nine months ended September 28, 2003 as a result of this change.

Net income and comprehensive income are the same for all periods presented.

**NOTE B EARNINGS PER SHARE**

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted earnings per share:

	<b>Quarter Ended</b>		<b>Nine Months Ended</b>	
	<b>Sept. 26 2004</b>	<b>Sept. 28 2003</b>	<b>Sept. 26 2004</b>	<b>Sept. 28 2003</b>
		<b>(Restated)</b>		<b>(Restated)</b>
<b>(In thousands, except per share amounts)</b>				
<b>Numerator:</b>				
Net income (numerator for basic earnings per share)	<b>\$265</b>	\$ 178	<b>\$1,789</b>	\$ 1,202
Effect of dilutive securities	—	—	—	—
Net income after assumed conversions (numerator for diluted earnings per share)	<b>\$265</b>	\$ 178	<b>\$1,789</b>	\$ 1,202

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**Table of Contents**

	<b>Quarter Ended</b>		<b>Nine Months Ended</b>	
	<b>Sept. 26 2004</b>	<b>Sept. 28 2003</b>	<b>Sept. 26 2004</b>	<b>Sept. 28 2003</b>
		<b>(Restated)</b>		<b>(Restated)</b>
<b>Denominator:</b>				
Weighted average shares (denominator for basic earnings per share)	<b>6,450</b>	6,424	<b>6,443</b>	6,504
Effect of dilutive securities:				
Employee stock options	<b>326</b>	208	<b>341</b>	123
Adjusted weighted average shares and assumed conversions (denominator for diluted earnings per share)	<b>6,776</b>	6,632	<b>6,784</b>	6,627
Basic earnings per share	<b>\$ .04</b>	\$ .03	<b>\$ .28</b>	\$ .18
Diluted earnings per share	<b>\$ .04</b>	\$ .03	<b>\$ .26</b>	\$ .18

In situations where the exercise price of outstanding employee stock options is greater than the average market price of common shares, such options are excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share because of their antidilutive impact. For the quarter ended September 26, 2004, options to purchase 149,000 shares of common stock were excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share due to their antidilutive effect. During the corresponding period of 2003, options to purchase 206,000 shares of common stock were similarly excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share.

For the nine months ended September 26, 2004 and September 28, 2003, respectively, options to purchase 128,000 and 350,000 shares of common stock were excluded from the diluted earnings per share calculation.

**NOTE C INCOME TAXES**

The Company's provisions for income taxes for the third quarters and first nine months are based on estimated effective annual income tax rates which include estimates of both federal alternative minimum tax (AMT) and state income taxes payable. Estimated federal AMT included in the tax rate calculation is computed by applying the AMT rate to the Company's estimated pre-tax accounting income for the year after adding back certain tax preference items, as well as certain permanent differences and timing differences in book and tax income.

Because of current AMT regulations, the Company is presently unable to take full advantage of certain tax carryforward benefits it has accumulated. Also, because the Company maintains a valuation allowance on a portion of its deferred tax assets, no direct benefit is recognized in the income tax provisions with respect to the AMT credit carryforwards or other tax assets generated.

The Company's federal income tax returns for fiscal years 2001 and 2002 are currently under examination by the Internal Revenue Service. Any adjustments resulting from this examination are not expected to have a material effect on the Company's consolidated financial condition.

**Table of Contents****NOTE D LONG-TERM DEBT**

In January 2004, the Company obtained \$750,000 of long-term equipment financing. The note payable related to the financing has an interest rate of 4.97% and is payable in equal monthly installments of principal and interest of approximately \$14,200 through January, 2009. The note payable is secured by restaurant equipment at one of the Company's restaurants.

**NOTE E STOCK BASED COMPENSATION**

The Company accounts for its stock compensation arrangements using the intrinsic value method in accordance with Accounting Principles Board (APB) Opinion No. 25 Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees and, accordingly, typically recognizes no compensation expense for such arrangements. One stock option award, issued to the Company's Chief Executive Officer in 1999 at an initial exercise price equal to the fair market value of the Company's common stock on the date of the award included a provision whereby the exercise price increased annually as long as the option remained unexercised (see Note A). The Company's board of directors fixed the exercise price of this option at \$3.94 on May 25, 2004. As a result, under current accounting rules, no additional compensation expense will be recognized with respect to this option grant. Compensation expense of \$18,000 was recognized in connection with this option in the first nine months of 2004. Compensation expense of \$207,000 was recognized for the third quarter of 2003 and \$329,000 for the first nine months of 2003 in connection with the option.

The following table represents the effect on net income and earnings per share if the Company had applied the fair value based Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation, to stock-based employee compensation:

	<b>Quarter Ended</b>		<b>Nine Months Ended</b>	
	<b>Sept. 26 2004</b>	<b>Sept. 28 2003</b>	<b>Sept. 26 2004</b>	<b>Sept. 28 2003</b>
		<b>(Restated)</b>		<b>(Restated)</b>
<b>(In thousands, except per share amounts)</b>				
Net income, as reported	<b>\$265</b>	\$ 178	<b>\$1,789</b>	\$ 1,202
Add: Compensation expense related to variable stock option award, net of related tax effects		207	<b>18</b>	329
Deduct: Stock-based employee compensation expense determined under a fair value method for all awards, net of related tax effects	<b>(31)</b>	(29)	<b>(82)</b>	(66)
Pro forma net income	<b>\$234</b>	\$ 356	<b>\$1,725</b>	\$ 1,465

Table of Contents

	Quarter Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	Sept. 26 2004	Sept. 28 2003	Sept. 26 2004	Sept. 28 2003
		(Restated)		(Restated)
Net income per share:				
Basic, as reported	\$ .04	\$ .03	\$ .28	\$ .18
Basic, pro forma	\$ .04	\$ .06	\$ .27	\$ .23
Diluted, as reported	\$ .04	\$ .03	\$ .26	\$ .18
Diluted, pro forma	\$ .03	\$ .05	\$ .25	\$ .22
Weighted average shares used in computation:				
Basic	6,450	6,424	6,443	6,504
Diluted	6,776	6,632	6,784	6,627

For purposes of pro forma disclosures, the estimated fair value of stock-based compensation plans and other options is amortized to expense primarily over the vesting period.

**NOTE F COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**

As a result of the disposition of its Wendy's operations in 1996, the Company remains secondarily liable for certain real property leases with remaining terms of one to twelve years. The total estimated amount of lease payments remaining on these 28 individual leases at September 26, 2004 was approximately \$4.4 million. In connection with the sale of its Mrs. Winner's Chicken & Biscuit restaurant operations in 1989 and certain previous dispositions, the Company also remains secondarily liable for certain real and personal property leases with remaining terms of one to five years. The total estimated amount of lease payments remaining on these 29 individual leases at September 26, 2004, was approximately \$3.3 million. Additionally, in connection with the previous disposition of certain other Wendy's restaurant operations, primarily the southern California restaurants in 1982, the Company remains secondarily liable for certain real property leases with remaining terms of one to five years. The total estimated amount of lease payments remaining on these 11 individual leases as of September 26, 2004, was approximately \$1.5 million.

In September of 2004, a lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee against the Company by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission alleging that under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title I of the Civil Rights Act of 1991 the Company engaged in unlawful employment practices in two of its restaurants by discriminating against male applicants who were denied employment as bartenders based upon their gender. The lawsuit seeks to compensate those applicants who were allegedly harmed by the Company's practices, seeks injunctive relief against the Company to prevent it from engaging in such practices, and requests that the Company implement and carry out policies which provide equal employment opportunities for male applicants for employment so that the alleged unlawful employment practices would be eradicated. In October of 2004 suit was brought in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia by a former employee of the Company who alleged violation of his civil



**Table of Contents**

rights under the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 ( ADA ) for failing to exercise reasonable accommodation for his disability, for terminating and retaliating against him because of his disability and because he exercised his rights under the ADA, and for disclosing his disabilities to others without his consent. The suit seeks compensation and punitive damages for the plaintiff in unspecified amounts, injunctive relief prohibiting the Company from engaging in disability discrimination under the ADA, and an order that the Company institute and carry out policies, practices and programs to provide equal employment opportunity. The Company denies all liability with respect to both of these claims, believes they are without merit and intends to defend them vigorously. The Company has not provided for any potential liability with respect to these claims and it does not currently believe they will have a material adverse effect on its financial condition. However, the Company could incur or accrue expenses relating to these matters which could materially adversely affect its results of operations and there exists the risk that an adverse judgment in these claims, the amount of which cannot be estimated, could have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition or results of operations.

In addition to the litigation described in the preceding paragraph, the Company is from time to time subject to routine litigation incidental to its business. The Company believes that the results of such additional legal proceedings will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition or results of operations.

**NOTE G SHAREHOLDER RIGHTS PLAN**

Effective May 12, 2004, the Company's Board of Directors amended the Company's existing shareholder rights plan by extending the final expiration date to May 16, 2009.

**NOTE H SUBSEQUENT EVENT**

In the fourth quarter of 2004, the Company received payment of \$380,000 as settlement for the taking through condemnation proceedings initiated in 2001 of a portion of the property of one of its restaurant locations. A gain of approximately \$117,000 will be recognized in the fourth quarter of 2004 in connection with this settlement.

**Table of Contents**

**Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**

**RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

**Overview**

J. Alexander's Corporation (the Company) owns and operates high volume, upscale casual dining restaurants which offer a contemporary American menu designed to appeal to a wide variety of tastes. Special emphasis is placed on high quality food, professional service and attractive ambiance. At September 26, 2004, the Company owned and operated 27 J. Alexander's restaurants in 12 states.

Same store sales increase, which excludes the effect of newer restaurants, is a measure commonly used in the restaurant industry and one which the Company's management believes is an important factor in assessing the performance of the Company's restaurant operations. The Company experienced strong same store sales increases throughout the first nine months of 2004, with weekly average same store sales increasing for the third quarter and first nine months of the year by 7.2% and 7.7%, respectively, over the same periods of the previous year. Management attributes these increases to continued emphasis on providing high quality food and professional service, a generally favorable economic and restaurant industry environment and to the effect of menu price increases. Guest counts on a same store basis increased during the first six months of 2004 compared to the same period of 2003, but decreased somewhat in the third quarter.

The Company continued to experience significantly higher costs for food during 2004 due to significant increases in input costs in virtually all categories of food purchases. The Company did not increase menu prices significantly during 2003. However, in order to offset at least a portion of the cost of sales increases the Company is experiencing, menu prices were increased by approximately 3% in March of 2004, by approximately 1.5% in the second quarter of 2004, and by less than 1% in the third quarter of 2004. While there was some moderation in dairy and poultry prices during the third quarter of 2004, management expects input costs for many major food items purchased by the Company to remain higher than in the fourth quarter of 2003. Management is considering additional menu price increases to further offset the effect of higher food costs, but remains sensitive to the possible effect of menu price increases on guest counts. Same store sales increases subsequent to the third quarter have remained positive and the outlook for continued improvement in sales remains generally favorable. However, guest counts on a same store basis remained down in October of 2004 compared to the same period of the previous year and there can be no assurance that this trend will not continue or worsen or that sales will not be negatively affected by menu price increases or other factors.

Sales of the Company's two newest restaurants opened in the fourth quarter of 2003 continue to fall considerably below expectations and, as a result, each posted significant operating losses for each of the first three quarters of 2004. Operating results for these restaurants are not expected to improve appreciably until their sales increase significantly. While management is confident in its ability to build sales in these locations over time, as has generally been the case with the Company's other low volume locations, its current expectation is that this will be a slow process for these restaurants. While no new restaurants are currently under construction or planned to open in 2004, the Company generally intends to maintain a new restaurant development rate of one to two new

**Table of Contents**

restaurants per year to allow management to focus intently on improving sales and profits in all of its restaurants while maintaining its pursuit of operational excellence.

Income before income taxes increased by \$264,000 for the third quarter of 2004 and by \$919,000 for the first nine months compared to the same periods of 2003. Net income increased by \$87,000 for the third quarter and by \$587,000 for the first nine months of 2004 compared to the corresponding 2003 periods. Compensation expense recognized in connection with a stock option grant discussed under general and administrative expenses below was \$207,000 less for the third quarter and \$311,000 less for the first nine months of 2004 than for the corresponding periods of 2003. Also, a reduction in pre-opening expenses aided the comparisons of income before income taxes as the Company incurred \$236,000 and \$526,000 of pre-opening expenses for the third quarter and first nine months of 2003, respectively, but had no pre-opening expense in 2004.

The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, (i) the percentages which the items in the Company's Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income bear to total net sales, and (ii) other selected operating data:

	<b>Quarter Ended</b>		<b>Nine Months Ended</b>	
	<b>Sept. 26 2004</b>	<b>Sept. 28 2003</b>	<b>Sept. 26 2004</b>	<b>Sept. 28 2003</b>
		<b>(Restated)</b>		<b>(Restated)</b>
Net sales	<b>100.0%</b>	100.0%	<b>100.0%</b>	100.0%
Costs and expenses:				
Cost of sales	<b>33.8</b>	32.6	<b>33.7</b>	32.2
Restaurant labor and related costs	<b>32.6</b>	33.0	<b>31.7</b>	32.7
Depreciation and amortization of restaurant property and equipment	<b>4.0</b>	4.1	<b>3.9</b>	4.1
Other operating expenses	<b>19.7</b>	18.6	<b>18.9</b>	18.2
Total restaurant operating expenses	<b>90.1</b>	88.3	<b>88.2</b>	87.2
General and administrative expenses	<b>6.7</b>	8.4	<b>7.0</b>	7.9
Pre-opening expense		0.9		0.7
Operating income	<b>3.2</b>	2.3	<b>4.8</b>	4.2
Other income (expense):				
Interest expense, net	<b>(1.8)</b>	(1.9)	<b>(1.8)</b>	(2.0)
Other, net	<b>(0.1)</b>	0.1	<b>(0.1)</b>	
Total other expense	<b>(1.9)</b>	(1.9)	<b>(1.9)</b>	(2.0)
Income before income taxes	<b>1.3</b>	0.5	<b>2.9</b>	2.2
Income tax (provision) benefit	<b>(0.4)</b>	0.2	<b>(0.9)</b>	(0.6)

Net income	<b>0.9%</b>	0.7%	<b>2.0%</b>	1.5%
	<b>■</b>	<b>■</b>	<b>■</b>	<b>■</b>

*Note: Certain percentage totals do not sum due to rounding.*

Table of Contents

	Quarter Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	Sept. 26 2004	Sept. 28 2003	Sept. 26 2004	Sept. 28 2003
		(Restated)		(Restated)
Restaurants open at end of period	27	25		
Weighted average weekly sales per restaurant:				
All restaurants	<b>\$82,600</b>	\$79,500	<b>\$85,000</b>	\$81,300
Same store restaurants	<b>\$85,400</b>	\$79,700	<b>\$87,800</b>	\$81,500
<b>Net Sales</b>				

Net sales increased by \$2,962,000, or 11.5%, and \$10,733,000, or 13.6%, for the third quarter and first nine months of 2004, respectively, as compared to the same periods of 2003. These increases were attributable to three new restaurants opened in 2003 and to sales increases within the Company's same store restaurant base. The Company estimates that approximately \$300,000 in sales were lost in the third quarter of 2004 due to the hurricanes and severe weather which affected the Southeastern United States during that period.

Same store sales on a base of 24 restaurants averaged \$85,400 and \$87,800 per week during the third quarter and nine months ended September 26, 2004, representing increases of 7.2% and 7.7% compared to the same periods of 2003. The Company's weighted average weekly sales per restaurant are computed by dividing total restaurant sales for the period by the total number of days all restaurants were open for the period to obtain a daily sales average, with the daily sales average then multiplied by seven to arrive at the weekly average sales per restaurant. Days on which restaurants are closed for business for any reason, other than the scheduled closure of all J. Alexander's restaurants on Thanksgiving day and Christmas day of each year, are excluded from this calculation. Weighted average weekly same store sales per restaurant are computed in the same manner as described above except that sales and sales days used in the calculation include only those for restaurants open for more than 18 months. Weighted average weekly sales per restaurant are lower than the same store weekly average per restaurant because of the effect of lower sales volumes of the Company's newer restaurants on the weighted average. Same store sales increases computed without adjustment for the days the Company's restaurants were closed in 2003 and 2004 were 6.3% and 7.5% for the third quarter and first nine months of 2004, respectively.

Management estimates the average check per guest, excluding alcoholic beverage sales, was approximately \$16.97 and \$16.69 for the third quarter and first nine months of 2004, respectively. These amounts represent increases of approximately 7.5% and 5.2% over the same periods of the prior year. Management estimates that menu prices were approximately 6.0% and 4.4% higher for the third quarter and first nine months of 2004 than for the same periods in 2003. The Company estimates that customer traffic (guest counts) on a same store basis, as adjusted for days restaurants were closed, decreased by approximately 1.3% during the third quarter and increased during the first nine months of 2004 by approximately 1.7%, compared to the corresponding periods of 2003.

**Costs and Expenses**

Total restaurant operating expenses increased to 90.1% and 88.2% of sales for the third quarter and first nine months of 2004 compared to 88.3% and 87.2% in the corresponding periods of

**Table of Contents**

2003 due primarily to the impact of higher cost of sales and the effect of higher operating expense percentages experienced in the Company's two newest restaurants opened in the fourth quarter of 2003.

Cost of sales, which includes the cost of food and beverages, increased to 33.8% of sales in the third quarter of 2004 from 32.6% in the third quarter of 2003 and to 33.7% of sales in the first nine months of 2004 from 32.2% in the corresponding period of 2003, as menu price increases did not offset, as a percentage of sales, significantly higher input costs associated with beef, pork, poultry, dairy products and other food commodities. Beef purchases represent the largest component of the Company's cost of sales, comprising approximately 28% of this category. The Company typically enters into an annual pricing agreement covering most of its beef purchases. Due to higher prices in the beef market, prices under the Company's current beef pricing agreement which was effective in March of 2004 increased by an estimated 13% to 14%. These prices will remain in effect until March of 2005.

Restaurant labor and related costs decreased to 32.6% and 31.7% of sales during the third quarter and first nine months of 2004 from 33.0% and 32.7% of sales during the same periods of 2003. Because of the nature of J. Alexander's operations and the Company's emphasis on providing high quality food and outstanding levels of service, much of the labor scheduled for overseeing restaurant operations, for preparing food, and for staffing the service areas of the restaurants is relatively fixed in nature within broad ranges of sales for each restaurant. As a result, increases in sales in the same store restaurant base in 2004 did not result in proportionate increases in labor costs and labor costs as a percentage of sales decreased. The effect of these decreases more than offset high labor costs in new restaurants. A decrease in group medical costs resulting from changes to the Company's group medical plan also contributed to the decreases.

Depreciation and amortization of restaurant property and equipment as a percentage of sales decreased for the 2004 periods primarily due to the effect of higher same store sales volumes which more than offset the effect of higher depreciation expense on the new, lower volume locations opened in the fourth quarter of 2003.

Other operating expenses, which include restaurant level expenses such as supplies, repairs and maintenance, utilities, rent and credit card fees, increased to 19.7% and 18.9% of sales during the third quarter and first nine months of 2004 from 18.6% and 18.2% of sales during the same periods of 2003. These increases were primarily related to increases in rent and other expenses associated with restaurants opened by the Company in 2003. Higher credit card fees, repairs and maintenance expenditures, and linen costs also contributed to the increases.

**General and Administrative Expenses**

General and administrative expenses, which include supervisory costs as well as management training costs and all other costs above the restaurant level, decreased by \$253,000 in the third quarter of 2004 and increased by \$71,000 during the first nine months of 2004 compared to the same periods of 2003.

General and administrative expenses for the third quarter and first nine months of 2003 included \$207,000 and \$329,000, respectively, of non-cash compensation expense recognized in connection with a stock option grant accounted for as a variable plan award. The exercise price of

## **Table of Contents**

this option grant was fixed by the Company's Board of Directors in May of 2004 and, as a result, the Company will not, under current accounting rules, recognize additional compensation expense with respect to the grant after that date. The Company recognized compensation expense of \$18,000 in the first nine months of 2004 in connection with this option due to changes in the price of the Company's common stock prior to the time the option price was fixed.

The decrease in general and administrative expenses for the third quarter of 2004 was due primarily to the inclusion in 2003's third quarter results of the compensation expense in connection with the stock option discussed above. General and administrative expenses for the first nine months of 2004 included increases, as compared to the same period of 2003, in salary expense, including salaries for additional operations supervisory personnel added in connection with the Company's growth, and other personnel related expenses, including higher health insurance costs and higher management relocation costs, and higher corporate governance and American Stock Exchange compliance related expenses. These increases were partially offset by lower compensation expense recognized in connection with the stock option discussed above and the inclusion in 2003's expenses of costs related to the separation from the Company of one of its corporate executives.

As a percentage of sales, general and administrative expenses decreased to 6.7% for the third quarter of 2004 from 8.4% in the same period of 2003 and to 7.0% for the first nine months of 2004 compared to 7.9% for the comparable period in 2003.

## **Pre-Opening Expense**

Pre-opening costs are expensed as incurred. No pre-opening expenses were incurred for the 2004 periods because no new restaurants were opened or under development. Pre-opening expenses of \$236,000 and \$526,000 were incurred in the third quarter and first nine months of 2003, respectively, in connection with new restaurants opened in 2003.

## **Other Income (Expense)**

Net interest expense did not change significantly during the 2004 periods compared to the corresponding periods of 2003.

## **Income Taxes**

The Company's provisions for income taxes for the 2004 and 2003 periods include the estimated effects of federal alternative minimum tax (AMT) and state income taxes payable. AMT is computed by applying the AMT rate to the Company's pre-tax accounting income after adding back certain tax preference items, as well as certain permanent differences and timing differences in book and tax income. Changes in tax estimates and/or future changes in the valuation allowance maintained by the Company on its deferred tax assets can cause volatility in the Company's estimated effective tax rate from quarter to quarter, particularly at the Company's current level of estimated pre-tax income. The Company intends to further evaluate the valuation allowance maintained on its deferred tax assets at the end of fiscal year 2004 in conjunction with its preparation of its annual business plan and financial projections.

Because of current AMT regulations, the Company is presently unable to take full advantage of certain tax carryforward benefits it has accumulated. Also, because the Company maintains a valuation allowance on a portion of its deferred tax assets, no direct benefit is recognized in the income tax provisions with respect to the AMT credit carryforwards or other tax assets generated.

**Table of Contents**

The Company's federal income tax returns for fiscal years 2001 and 2002 are currently under examination by the Internal Revenue Service. Any adjustments resulting from this examination are not expected to have a material effect on the Company's consolidated financial condition.

**LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES**

The Company's capital needs are primarily for the development and construction of new J. Alexander's restaurants, for maintenance of its existing restaurants, and for meeting required debt service obligations. The Company has met its capital needs and maintained liquidity in recent years primarily by use of cash flow from operations, use of bank lines of credit, and through proceeds received in 2002 from a mortgage loan.

The Company had cash flow from operations totaling \$3,943,000 and \$3,309,000 during the first nine months of 2004 and 2003, respectively. Cash and cash equivalents increased to \$3,487,000 at September 26, 2004 from \$1,635,000 at year end 2003.

In May of 2003, the Company entered into a secured bank line of credit agreement which provides up to \$5,000,000 for financing capital expenditures related to the development of new restaurants and for general operating purposes. Credit available under the line, which restricts additional borrowing outside of the line, is currently approximately \$4.6 million and is based on a percentage of the appraised value of the collateral securing the line. The credit line expires on April 30, 2006, unless converted to a term loan prior to March 30, 2006 under the provisions of the agreement. Borrowings outstanding under this credit line were \$486,000 at December 28, 2003. There were no borrowings under the line as of September 26, 2004.

Management believes that current cash balances combined with cash flow from operations and credit available under the line of credit agreement will be adequate to meet its financing needs for 2004 and that its long-term growth plan of one to two restaurants per year will not be constrained due to lack of capital resources. To supplement its capital resources and provide additional funds for future growth, the Company completed a \$750,000 five-year equipment financing in January 2004. Management believes that, if needed, additional financing would be available for future growth through an increase in bank credit, additional mortgage or equipment financing, or the sale and leaseback of some or all of the Company's unencumbered restaurant properties. There can be no assurance, however, that, if needed, such financing could be obtained or that it would be on terms satisfactory to the Company.

The Company currently does not plan to open any new restaurants in 2004. However, management is continually seeking locations for new J. Alexander's restaurants and would consider quickly taking advantage of any attractive opportunities which might arise. Management estimates that capital expenditures for existing restaurants and other corporate needs will be approximately \$2,300,000 for 2004, net of a landlord's contribution of approximately \$500,000 received in the first quarter of 2004 for tenant improvements for a new restaurant opened in the fourth quarter of 2003. Capital expenditures for the development of new restaurants, including any purchase of property and/or construction of restaurants, are dependent upon the timing and success of management's efforts to locate acceptable sites and would be in addition to the amounts above.



**Table of Contents**

The Company has periodically made purchases of its common stock under a repurchase program authorized by the Company's Board of Directors. The total authorized purchases under this program are \$2,000,000. From June 2001 through May 14, 2003, the Company repurchased approximately 535,000 shares at a cost of approximately \$1,555,000. The Company generally does not repurchase shares following the end of a fiscal quarter until after results for the quarter have been publicly announced.

While a working capital deficit of \$2,201,000 was present as of September 26, 2004, the Company does not believe this deficit impairs the overall financial condition of the Company. Many companies in the restaurant industry operate with a working capital deficit because guests pay for their purchases with cash or cash equivalents at the time of sale while trade payables for food and beverage purchases and other obligations related to restaurant operations are not typically due for some time after the sale takes place. Since requirements for funding accounts receivable and inventories are relatively insignificant, virtually all cash generated by operations is available to meet current obligations.

Provisions of the Company's mortgage loan agreement require that a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio of 1.25 to 1 be maintained for the businesses operated at the properties included under the mortgage and that a funded debt to EBITDA (as defined in the loan agreement) ratio of 6 to 1 be maintained for the Company and its subsidiaries. The Company's secured bank line of credit requires that the Company maintain a fixed charge coverage ratio of at least 1.5 to 1 and a maximum adjusted debt to EBITDAR (as defined in the loan agreement) ratio of 4.15 to 1. The bank loan agreement also provides that defaults which permit acceleration of debt under other loan agreements constitute a default under the bank agreement. The Company was in compliance with the financial covenants of its debt agreements as of September 26, 2004. Should the Company fail to comply with these covenants, management would likely request waivers of the covenants, attempt to renegotiate them or seek other sources of financing. However, if these efforts were not successful, amounts outstanding under these credit facilities could become immediately due and payable, and there could be a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition and operations.

As of November 10, 2004, the Company had no financing transactions, arrangements or other relationships with any unconsolidated affiliated entities or related parties. Additionally, the Company is not a party to any financing arrangements involving synthetic leases or trading activities involving commodity contracts.

**CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS**

In the ordinary course of business, the Company routinely executes contractual agreements for cleaning services, linen usage, trash removal and similar type services. Whenever possible, these agreements are limited to a term of one year or less and often contain a provision allowing the Company to terminate the agreement upon providing a 30 day written notice. Subsequent to December 28, 2003, there have been a number of agreements of the nature described above executed by the Company. None of them, individually or collectively, would be considered material to the Company's financial position or results of operations in the event of termination prior to the scheduled term.

**Table of Contents**

The following agreements represent contractual obligations entered into during the first nine months of 2004 that are considered significant to the Company:

*Long-term Debt:* In January 2004, the Company obtained \$750,000 of long-term equipment financing. The note payable related to the financing has an interest rate of 4.97% and is payable in equal monthly installments of principal and interest of approximately \$14,200 through January, 2009.

*Purchase Obligations:* The Company's annual beef pricing agreement was renewed effective March 8, 2004. Under terms of the agreement, if the Company's supplier has contracted for specific products, the Company is obligated to purchase such products. As of September 26, 2004, the Company's supplier was under contract to purchase approximately \$4.5 million of beef related to the Company's annual pricing agreement which expires March 7, 2005.

In January 2004, the Company executed an agreement for a term of five years which obligates the Company to spend approximately \$400,000 annually on food products.

*Other Long-term Obligations:* Effective January 1, 2004, the Company's obligations under its Salary Continuation Plan increased \$127,000.

Aside from the items referenced above, there were no other material contractual obligations incurred during the nine months ended September 26, 2004.

From 1975 through 1996, the Company operated restaurants in the quick-service restaurant industry. The discontinuation of these quick-service restaurant operations included disposals of restaurants that were subject to lease agreements which typically contained initial lease terms of 20 years plus two additional option periods of five years each. In connection with certain of these dispositions, the Company remains secondarily liable for ensuring financial performance as set forth in the original lease agreements. The Company can only estimate its contingent liability relative to these leases, as any changes to the contractual arrangements between the current tenant and the landlord subsequent to the assignment are not required to be disclosed to the Company. A summary of the Company's estimated contingent liability as of September 26, 2004, is as follows:

Wendy's restaurants (39 leases)	\$5,900,000
Mrs. Winner's Chicken & Biscuits restaurants (29 leases)	3,300,000
	<hr/>
Total contingent liability to assigned leases	\$9,200,000
	<hr/>

There have been no payments by the Company of such contingent liabilities in the history of the Company.

**CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The preparation of the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, requires management to make estimates and assumptions 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 periods. On an



**Table of Contents**

ongoing basis, management evaluates its estimates and judgments, including those related to its accounting for income taxes, property and equipment, impairment of long-lived assets, 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 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.

Critical accounting policies are defined as those that are reflective of significant judgments and uncertainties, and potentially result in materially different results under different assumptions and conditions. Management believes the following critical accounting policies are those which involve the more significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of its consolidated financial statements.

**Income Taxes:** The Company had \$6,422,000 of gross deferred tax assets at December 28, 2003, consisting principally of \$4,738,000 of tax credit carryforwards. Generally accepted accounting principles require that the Company record a valuation allowance against its deferred tax assets unless it is more likely than not that such assets will ultimately be realized.

Due to losses incurred by the Company from 1997 through 1999 and because a significant portion of the Company's costs are fixed or semi-fixed in nature, management was unable to conclude from 1997 through 2001 that it was more likely than not that its existing deferred tax assets would be realized; therefore, the Company maintained a valuation allowance for 100% of its deferred tax assets, net of deferred tax liabilities, for those years.

In 2002, the Company completed its third consecutive profitable year, with pre-tax income increasing significantly over the previous year. In addition the Company had recorded significant increases in operating income in four of the five years from 1998 to 2002 and had reached a size and experience level which management believed made it less likely that an unsuccessful new restaurant would have a significant effect on consolidated operating results. Because of these factors, management further assessed the likelihood of realization of its deferred tax assets, using as its principal basis its forecast of future taxable income adjusted by applying varying probability factors to the achievement of this forecast. As the result of this assessment, the beginning of the year valuation allowance was reduced by \$1,200,000 in the fourth quarter of 2002, with a corresponding credit to deferred income tax expense. Management completed a similar assessment in 2003 and concluded that the valuation allowance should be reduced by an additional \$1,475,000. As a result, the beginning of the year valuation allowance was reduced by that amount in the fourth quarter of 2003, with a corresponding credit to deferred income tax expense. The valuation allowance at December 28, 2003 was \$3,551,000.

Failure to achieve taxable income in the future, as so assessed, could affect the ultimate realization of the net deferred tax assets. Because of the uncertainties discussed above, there can be no assurance that management's assessment of taxable income will be achieved and that there could not be an increase in the valuation allowance in the future. It is also possible that the Company could generate profitability and taxable income levels in the future which

## **Table of Contents**

would cause management to conclude that it is more likely than not that the Company will realize all, or an additional portion of, its net deferred tax assets.

The Company will continue to evaluate the likelihood of realization of its net deferred tax assets and upon reaching any different conclusion as to the appropriate carrying value of these assets, management will adjust them to their estimated net realizable value. Any such revisions to the estimated net realizable value of the net deferred tax assets could cause the Company's provision for income taxes to vary significantly from period to period, although its cash tax payments would remain unaffected until the benefits of the various carryforwards were fully utilized. Management currently anticipates continuing to perform its most intensive assessment of the realizability of the Company's deferred tax assets during the fourth quarter in connection with the Company's annual budgeting process. Management believes this is most consistent with the earnings forecast model it uses to estimate the amount of deferred tax assets that are more likely than not to be realized.

In addition, certain other components of the Company's provision for income taxes must be estimated. These items include, but are not limited to, effective state income tax rates, allowable tax credits for items such as FICA taxes paid on reported tip income, and estimates related to depreciation expense allowable for tax purposes. These estimates are made based on the best available information at the time the tax provision is prepared. Income tax returns are generally not filed, however, until several months after year-end. All tax returns are subject to audit by federal and state governments, usually years after the returns are filed, and could be subject to differing interpretations of the tax laws.

**Property and Equipment:** Property and equipment are recorded at cost and depreciated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the lesser of the asset's estimated useful life or the expected lease term, generally including renewal options. Improvements are capitalized while repairs and maintenance costs are expensed as incurred. Because significant judgments are required in estimating useful lives, which are not ultimately known until the passage of time and may be dependent on proper asset maintenance, and in the determination of what constitutes a capitalized cost versus a repair or maintenance expense, changes in circumstances or use of different assumptions could result in materially different results from those determined based on the Company's estimates.

**Impairment of Long-Lived Assets:** When events and circumstances indicate that long-lived assets—most typically assets associated with a specific restaurant—might be impaired, management compares the carrying value of such assets to the undiscounted cash flows it expects that restaurant to generate over its remaining useful life. In calculating its estimate of such undiscounted cash flows, management is required to make assumptions, which are subject to a high degree of judgment, relative to the restaurant's future period of operation, sales performance, cost of sales, labor and operating expenses. The resulting forecast of undiscounted cash flows represents management's estimate based on both historical results and management's expectation of future operations for that particular restaurant. To date, all of the Company's long-lived assets have been determined to be recoverable based on management's estimates of future cash flows.

## **Table of Contents**

**Self Insurance Accrual:** At September 26, 2004 and December 28, 2003, the Company's accruals for self-insured group medical obligations totaled \$92,000 and \$127,000, respectively, and were included in the balance sheet caption Accrued expenses and other current liabilities. The liability for claims incurred but not paid, which includes claims incurred but not reported and claims reported but not paid, is an undiscounted amount calculated by applying a factor to the total of all claims incurred and paid during a particular calendar year. The factor is based primarily on the Company's historical experience relative to actual claims paid in years following the year in which the claim was incurred.

The above listing is not intended to be a comprehensive listing of all of the Company's accounting policies. In many cases, the accounting treatment of a particular transaction is specifically dictated by generally accepted accounting principles, with no need for management's judgment in their application. There are also areas in which management's judgment in selecting any available alternative would not produce a materially different result. For further information, refer to the Company's audited Consolidated Financial Statements and notes thereto included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the fiscal year ended December 28, 2003, which contain accounting policies and other disclosures required by generally accepted accounting principles.

## **RISK FACTORS**

In connection with the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, the Company is including the following cautionary statements identifying important factors that could cause the Company's actual results to differ materially from those projected in forward looking statements of the Company made by, or on behalf of, the Company.

*The Company Faces Challenges in Opening New Restaurants.* The Company's continued growth depends on its ability to open new J. Alexander's restaurants and to operate them profitably, which will depend on a number of factors, including the selection and availability of suitable locations, the hiring and training of sufficiently skilled management and other personnel and other factors, some of which are beyond the control of the Company. The Company's growth strategy includes opening restaurants in markets where it has little or no meaningful operating experience and in which potential customers may not be familiar with its restaurants. The success of these new restaurants may be affected by different competitive conditions, consumer tastes and discretionary spending patterns, and the Company's ability to generate market awareness and acceptance of J. Alexander's. As a result, costs incurred related to the opening, operation and promotion of these new restaurants may be greater than those incurred in other areas. In addition, it has been the Company's experience that new restaurants generate operating losses while they build sales levels to maturity. The Company currently operates twenty-seven J. Alexander's restaurants, of which four have been open for less than three years. Because of the Company's relatively small J. Alexander's restaurant base, an unsuccessful new restaurant could have a more adverse effect on the Company's results of operations than would be the case in a restaurant company with a greater number of restaurants.

*The Company Faces Intense Competition.* The restaurant industry is intensely competitive with respect to price, service, location and food quality, and there are many well-established competitors with substantially greater financial and other resources than the Company. Some of the Company's competitors have been in existence for a substantially longer period than the Company

## **Table of Contents**

and may be better established in markets where the Company's restaurants are or may be located. The restaurant business is often affected by changes in consumer tastes, national, regional or local economic conditions, demographic trends, traffic patterns and the type, number and location of competing restaurants.

*The Company May Experience Fluctuations in Quarterly Results.* The Company's quarterly results of operations are affected by timing of the opening of new J. Alexander's restaurants, and fluctuations in the cost of food, labor, employee benefits, and similar costs over which the Company has limited or no control. The Company's business may also be affected by inflation. In the past, management has attempted to anticipate and avoid material adverse effects on the Company's profitability due to increasing costs through its purchasing practices and menu price adjustments, but there can be no assurance that it will be able to do so in the future.

*Changes in General Economic and Political Conditions Affect Consumer Spending and May Harm Revenues and Operating Results.* Weak general economic conditions could decrease discretionary spending by consumers and could impact the frequency with which the Company's customers choose to dine out or the amount they spend on meals while dining out, thereby decreasing the Company's net sales. Additionally, possible future terrorist attacks and other military conflict could lead to a weakening of the economy. Adverse economic conditions and any related decrease in discretionary spending by the Company's customers could have an adverse effect on net sales and operating results.

*The Company's Operating Strategy is Dependent on Providing Exceptional Food Quality and Outstanding Service.* The Company's success depends largely upon its ability to attract, train, motivate and retain a sufficient number of qualified employees, including restaurant managers, kitchen staff and servers who can meet the high standards necessary to deliver the levels of food quality and service on which the J. Alexander's concept is based. Qualified individuals of the caliber and number needed to fill these positions are in short supply in some areas and competition for qualified employees could require the Company to pay higher wages to attract sufficient employees. Also, increases in employee turnover could have an adverse effect on food quality and guest service resulting in an adverse effect on net sales and results of operations.

*Significant Capital is Required to Develop New Restaurants.* The Company's capital investment in its restaurants is relatively high as compared to some other casual dining companies. Failure of a new restaurant to generate satisfactory net sales and profits in relation to its investment could result in failure of the Company to achieve the desired financial return on the restaurant. Also, the Company has typically required capital beyond the cash flow provided from operations in order to expand, resulting in a significant amount of long-term debt and interest expense.

*Changes In Food Costs and Product Availability Could Negatively Impact The Company's Net Sales and Results of Operations.* The Company's profitability is dependent in part on its ability to purchase food commodities which meet its specifications and to anticipate and react to changes in food costs and product availability. The Company has experienced rising food costs in recent periods and expects the trend to continue. Ingredients are purchased from suppliers on terms and conditions that management believes are generally consistent with those available to similarly situated restaurant companies. Although alternative distribution sources are believed to be available for most products, increases in food prices, failure to perform by suppliers or distributors or limited

## **Table of Contents**

availability of products at reasonable prices could cause the Company's food costs to fluctuate and/or cause the Company to make adjustments to its menu offerings. Additional factors beyond the Company's control, including adverse weather conditions and governmental regulation, may also affect food costs and product availability. The Company may not be able to anticipate and react to changing food costs or product availability issues through its purchasing practices and menu price adjustments in the future, and failure to do so could negatively impact the Company's net sales and results of operations.

*Litigation Could Have a Material Adverse Effect on the Company's Business.* From time to time the Company is the subject of complaints or litigation from guests alleging food-borne illness, injury or other food quality or operational concerns. The Company is also subject to complaints or allegations from current, former or prospective employees based on, among other things, wage discrimination, harassment or wrongful termination. Any claims may be expensive to defend and could divert resources which would otherwise be used to improve the performance of the Company. A lawsuit or claim could also result in an adverse decision against the Company that could have a materially adverse effect on the Company's business.

The Company is also subject to state dram shop laws and regulations, which generally provide that a person injured by an intoxicated person may seek to recover damages from an establishment that wrongfully served alcoholic beverages to such person. While the Company carries liquor liability coverage as part of its existing comprehensive general liability insurance, the Company could be subject to a judgment in excess of its insurance coverage and might not be able to obtain or continue to maintain such insurance coverage at reasonable costs, or at all.

*Nutrition and Health Concerns Could Have an Adverse Effect on the Company.* Nutrition and health concerns are receiving increased attention from the media and government as well as from the health and academic communities. Food served by restaurants has sometimes been suggested as the cause of obesity and related health disorders. Certain restaurant foods have also been argued to be unsafe because of possible allergic reactions to them which may be experienced by guests, or because of alleged high toxin levels. Some restaurant companies have been the target of consumer lawsuits, including class action suits, claiming that the restaurants were liable for health problems experienced by their guests. Continued focus on these concerns by activist groups could result in a perception by consumers that food served in restaurants is unhealthy, or unsafe, and is the cause of a significant health crisis. Additional food labeling and disclosures could also be mandated by government regulators. Adverse publicity, the cost of any litigation against the Company, and the cost of compliance with new regulations related to food nutritional and safety concerns could have an adverse effect on the Company's net sales and operating costs.

*The Company's Current Insurance Policies May Not Provide Adequate Levels of Coverage Against All Claims.* The Company currently maintains insurance coverage that management believes is customary for businesses of its size and type. However, there are types of losses the Company may incur that cannot be insured against or that management believes are not commercially reasonable to insure. These losses, if they occur, could have a material and adverse effect on the Company's business and results of operations.

*Expanding the Company's Restaurant Base By Opening New Restaurants in Existing Markets Could Reduce the Business of its Existing Restaurants.* The Company's growth strategy



## **Table of Contents**

includes opening restaurants in markets in which it already has existing restaurants. The Company may be unable to attract enough guests to the new restaurants for them to operate at a profit. Even if enough guests are attracted to the new restaurants for them to operate at a profit, those guests may be former guests of one of the Company's existing restaurants in that market and the opening of new restaurants in the existing market could reduce the net sales of its existing restaurants in that market.

*Government Regulation and Licensing May Delay New Restaurant Openings or Affect Operations.* The restaurant industry is subject to extensive state and local government regulation relating to the sale of food and alcoholic beverages, and sanitation, fire and building codes. Termination of the liquor license for any J. Alexander's restaurant would adversely affect the net sales for the restaurant. Restaurant operating costs are also affected by other government actions that are beyond the Company's control, which may include increases in the minimum hourly wage requirements, workers' compensation insurance rates and unemployment and other taxes. If the Company experiences difficulties in obtaining or fails to obtain required licensing or other regulatory approvals, this delay or failure could delay or prevent the opening of a new J. Alexander's restaurant. The suspension of, or inability to renew, a license could interrupt operations at an existing restaurant, and the inability to retain or renew such licenses would adversely affect the operations of the restaurant.

*Future Changes in Financial Accounting Standards May Cause Adverse Unexpected Operating Results and Affect the Company's Reported Results of Operations.* A change in accounting standards can have a significant effect on the Company's reported results and may affect the reporting of transactions completed before the change is effective. As an example, changes have recently been proposed to the accounting model for stock-based compensation. If adopted, the Company would recognize compensation expense in the statement of income for employee stock options using the fair value method, which could have a significant negative effect on the Company's reported results. New pronouncements and varying interpretations of pronouncements have occurred and may occur in the future. Changes to the existing rules or differing interpretations with respect to the Company's current practices may adversely affect its reported financial results.

*Compliance With Changing Regulation of Corporate Governance and Public Disclosure May Result in Additional Expenses.* Keeping abreast of, and in compliance with, changing laws, regulations and standards relating to corporate governance and public disclosure, including the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, new SEC regulations and American Stock Exchange rules, has required an increased amount of management attention and external resources. The Company remains committed to maintaining high standards of corporate governance and public disclosure and intends to invest all reasonably necessary resources to comply with evolving standards. This investment may result in increased general and administrative expenses and a diversion of management time and attention from revenue-generating activities to compliance activities.

## **FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

In connection with the safe harbor established under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, the Company cautions investors that certain information contained in this Form 10-Q, particularly information regarding future economic performance and finances, development plans, and objectives of management is forward-looking information that involves risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by

**Table of Contents**

forward-looking statements. The Company disclaims any intent or obligation to update these forward-looking statements. Factors which could affect actual results include, but are not limited to, the Company's ability to increase sales in certain of its restaurants, especially two of the newer restaurants that are not performing at satisfactory levels; changes in business or economic conditions, including rising food costs and product shortages; the number and timing of new restaurant openings and the Company's ability to operate them profitably; competition within the casual dining industry, which is very intense; competition by new restaurants opened by the Company with its existing restaurants in the same vicinity; changes in consumer spending, consumer tastes, and consumer attitudes toward nutrition and health; expenses incurred if the Company is the subject of claims or litigation or increased governmental regulation; changes in accounting standards, which may affect the Company's reported results of operations; and expenses the Company may incur in order to comply with changing corporate governance and public disclosure requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the American Stock Exchange. See "Risk Factors" included in this report for a description of a number of risks and uncertainties which could affect actual results.

**Table of Contents**

**Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk**

There have been no material changes in the disclosures set forth in Item 7a of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 28, 2003.

**Item 4. Controls and Procedures**

- (a) *Evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures.* The Company's principal executive officer and principal financial officer have conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) as of the end of the period covered by this quarterly report. Based on that evaluation, the Company's principal executive officer and principal financial officer concluded that, as of the end of the period covered by this quarterly report, the Company's disclosure controls and procedures effectively and timely provide them with material information relating to the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries required to be disclosed in the reports the Company files or submits under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.
- (b) *Changes in internal controls.* There were no significant changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the period covered by this report that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

**Table of Contents**

**PART II. OTHER INFORMATION**

**Item 6. Exhibits**

(a) Exhibits:

Exhibit 10.1	Form of Non-qualified Stock Option Agreement under the 2004 Equity Incentive Plan.
Exhibit 10.2	Form of Director's Non-qualified Stock Option Agreement under the 2004 Equity Incentive Plan.
Exhibit 10.3	Form of Incentive Stock Option Agreement under the 2004 Equity Incentive Plan.
Exhibit 31.1	Certification of the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
Exhibit 31.2	Certification of the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
Exhibit 32.1	Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
Exhibit 99.1	Restated Audit Committee Charter.

**Table of Contents**

**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 thereunto duly authorized.

**J. ALEXANDER S CORPORATION**

Date: November 10, 2004

/s/ Lonnie J. Stout II

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Lonnie J. Stout II  
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer  
(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: November 10, 2004

/s/ R. Gregory Lewis

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R. Gregory Lewis  
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial Officer)

**Table of Contents**

**J. ALEXANDER S CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES  
INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

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