

GRACO INC
Form 10-Q
April 25, 2012
Table of Contents

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 **March 30, 2012**

Commission File Number: 001-09249

GRACO INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Minnesota
(State of incorporation)

41-0285640
(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

88 - 11th Avenue N.E.

Minneapolis, Minnesota
(Address of principal executive offices)

55413
(Zip Code)

(612) 623-6000

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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, and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes X 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 during the preceding 12 months (or such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Yes X No

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

Large Accelerated Filer Accelerated Filer
Non-accelerated Filer 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

60,446,000 shares of the Registrant's Common Stock, \$1.00 par value, were outstanding as of April 19, 2012.

Table of Contents**INDEX**

Page Number

PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION

| | | |
|---------|---|----|
| Item 1. | <u>Financial Statements</u> | |
| | <u>Consolidated Statements of Earnings</u> | 3 |
| | <u>Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income</u> | 3 |
| | <u>Consolidated Balance Sheets</u> | 4 |
| | <u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows</u> | 5 |
| | <u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u> | 6 |
| Item 2. | <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial</u> | |
| | <u>Condition and Results of Operations</u> | 15 |
| Item 3. | <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u> | 21 |
| Item 4. | <u>Controls and Procedures</u> | 21 |

PART II OTHER INFORMATION

| | | |
|----------|--|----|
| Item 1A. | <u>Risk Factors</u> | 22 |
| Item 2. | <u>Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u> | 23 |
| Item 5. | <u>Other Information</u> | 23 |
| Item 6. | <u>Exhibits</u> | 24 |

SIGNATURES**EXHIBITS**

Table of Contents**PART I****Item 1.**

GRACO INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EARNINGS

(Unaudited) (In thousands except per share amounts)

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| | Mar 30, 2012 | Apr 1, 2011 |
| Net Sales | \$ 234,122 | \$ 217,679 |
| Cost of products sold | 101,943 | 93,282 |
| Gross Profit | 132,179 | 124,397 |
| Product development | 11,638 | 9,931 |
| Selling, marketing and distribution | 38,026 | 37,483 |
| General and administrative | 24,546 | 19,914 |
| Operating Earnings | 57,969 | 57,069 |
| Interest expense | 3,689 | 616 |
| Other expense, net | 299 | - |
| Earnings Before Income Taxes | 53,981 | 56,453 |
| Income taxes | 18,600 | 19,200 |
| Net Earnings | \$ 35,381 | \$ 37,253 |
| Per Common Share | | |
| Basic net earnings | \$ 0.59 | \$ 0.62 |
| Diluted net earnings | \$ 0.58 | \$ 0.61 |

Cash dividends declared \$ 0.23 \$ 0.21
 See notes to consolidated financial statements.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(Unaudited) (In thousands)

| | september30 Thirteen Weeks Ended Mar 30, 2012 | september30 Thirteen Weeks Ended Apr 1, 2011 |
|---|--|---|
| Net Earnings | \$ 35,381 | \$ 37,253 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) | | |
| Pension and postretirement medical liability adjustment | 2,339 | 1,363 |
| Gain (loss) on interest rate hedge contracts | - | 454 |
| Income taxes | (843) | (666) |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) | 1,496 | 1,151 |
| Comprehensive Income | \$ 36,877 | \$ 38,404 |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

GRACO INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(Unaudited)

(In thousands)

| | Mar 30, 2012 | Dec 30, 2011 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current Assets | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 326,771 | \$ 303,150 |
| Accounts receivable, less allowances of \$5,600 and \$5,500 | 172,158 | 150,912 |
| Inventories | 110,071 | 105,347 |
| Deferred income taxes | 18,917 | 17,674 |
| Other current assets | 4,139 | 5,887 |
| Total current assets | 632,056 | 582,970 |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | | |
| Cost | 363,155 | 358,235 |
| Accumulated depreciation | (224,458) | (219,987) |
| Property, plant and equipment, net | 138,697 | 138,248 |
| Goodwill | 93,400 | 93,400 |
| Other Intangible Assets, net | 15,590 | 18,118 |
| Deferred Income Taxes | 31,762 | 29,752 |
| Other Assets | 14,189 | 11,821 |
| Total Assets | \$ 925,694 | \$ 874,309 |

LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY

| | | |
|---|-----------|----------|
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Notes payable to banks | \$ 10,520 | \$ 8,658 |
| Trade accounts payable | 30,921 | 27,402 |
| Salaries and incentives | 18,781 | 32,181 |
| Dividends payable | 13,495 | 13,445 |
| Other current liabilities | 59,843 | 49,596 |
| Total current liabilities | 133,560 | 131,282 |
| Long-term Debt | 300,000 | 300,000 |
| Retirement Benefits and Deferred Compensation | 121,112 | 120,287 |

Shareholders Equity

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| | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Common stock | 60,408 | 59,747 |
| Additional paid-in-capital | 266,495 | 242,007 |
| Retained earnings | 119,104 | 97,467 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) | (74,985) | (76,481) |
| Total shareholders equity | 371,022 | 322,740 |
| Total Liabilities and Shareholders Equity | \$ 925,694 | \$ 874,309 |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

GRACO INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(Unaudited) (In thousands)

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | |
|--|----------------------|----------------|
| | Mar 30, 2012 | Apr 1, 2011 |
| Cash Flows From Operating Activities | | |
| Net Earnings | \$ 35,381 | \$ 37,253 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash provided by operating activities | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 8,075 | 8,427 |
| Deferred income taxes | (4,097) | (1,795) |
| Share-based compensation | 2,920 | 2,658 |
| Excess tax benefit related to share-based payment arrangements | (1,600) | (1,200) |
| Change in | | |
| Accounts receivable | (20,755) | (27,372) |
| Inventories | (4,655) | (11,037) |
| Trade accounts payable | 5,246 | 9,193 |
| Salaries and incentives | (13,730) | (17,139) |
| Retirement benefits and deferred compensation | 2,975 | 2,025 |
| Other accrued liabilities | 12,287 | 7,853 |
| Other | 1,407 | 5,314 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 23,454 | 14,180 |
| Cash Flows From Investing Activities | | |
| Property, plant and equipment additions | (6,513) | (4,517) |
| Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment | 50 | 143 |
| Capitalized software and other intangible asset additions | (1,407) | - |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (7,870) | (4,374) |
| Cash Flows From Financing Activities | | |
| Borrowings on short-term lines of credit | 6,491 | 7,861 |
| Payments on short-term lines of credit | (4,756) | (5,220) |
| Borrowings on long-term notes and line of credit | - | 252,175 |
| Payments on long-term line of credit | - | (172,430) |
| Payments of debt issuance costs | (1,921) | - |
| Excess tax benefit related to share-based payment arrangements | 1,600 | 1,200 |
| Common stock issued | 20,114 | 12,437 |
| Common stock repurchased | (272) | - |
| Cash dividends paid | (13,451) | (12,612) |

| | | |
|--|------------|------------|
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities | 7,805 | 83,411 |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash | 232 | (299) |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | 23,621 | 92,918 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | | |
| Beginning of year | 303,150 | 9,591 |
| End of period | \$ 326,771 | \$ 102,509 |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

GRACO INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

1. The consolidated balance sheet of Graco Inc. and Subsidiaries (the Company) as of March 30, 2012 and the related statements of earnings for the thirteen weeks ended March 30, 2012 and April 1, 2011, and cash flows for the thirteen weeks ended March 30, 2012 and April 1, 2011 have been prepared by the Company and have not been audited.

In the opinion of management, these consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments (consisting of only normal recurring adjustments) necessary to present fairly the financial position of Graco Inc. and Subsidiaries as of March 30, 2012, and the results of operations and cash flows for all periods presented.

Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles have been condensed or omitted. Therefore, these statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes thereto included in the Company's 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

The results of operations for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of results that will be realized for the full fiscal year.

Table of Contents

2. The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted earnings per share (in thousands, except per share amounts):

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | |
|--|----------------------|----------------|
| | Mar 30, 2012 | Apr 1, 2011 |
| Net earnings available to common shareholders | \$ 35,381 | \$ 37,253 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding for basic earnings per share | 60,052 | 60,270 |
| Dilutive effect of stock options computed using the treasury stock method and the average market price | 1,286 | 1,090 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding for diluted earnings per share | 61,338 | 61,360 |
| Basic earnings per share | \$ 0.59 | \$ 0.62 |
| Diluted earnings per share | \$ 0.58 | \$ 0.61 |

Stock options to purchase 876,000 and 828,000 shares were not included in the 2012 and 2011 computations of diluted earnings per share, respectively, because they would have been anti-dilutive.

3. Information on option shares outstanding and option activity for the thirteen weeks ended March 30, 2012 is shown below (in thousands, except per share amounts):

| | Option Shares | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Options Exercisable | Weighted Average Exercise Price |
|--------------------------------|------------------|--|------------------------|--|
| Outstanding, December 30, 2011 | 5,478 | \$ 32.12 | 3,211 | \$ 32.27 |
| Granted | 486 | 49.84 | | |
| Exercised | (426) | 27.90 | | |
| Canceled | (26) | 34.65 | | |
| Outstanding, March 30, 2012 | 5,512 | \$ 34.00 | 3,499 | \$ 32.21 |

The Company recognized year-to-date share-based compensation of \$2.9 million in 2012 and \$2.7 million in 2011. As of March 30, 2012, there was \$13.8 million of unrecognized compensation cost related to unvested options, expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 2.2 years.

Table of Contents

The fair value of each option grant is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the following weighted average assumptions and results:

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| | Mar 30, 2012 | Apr 1, 2011 |
| Expected life in years | 6.5 | 6.5 |
| Interest rate | 1.3 % | 2.8 % |
| Volatility | 36.6 % | 33.7 % |
| Dividend yield | 1.8 % | 2.0 % |
| Weighted average fair value per share | \$ 15.44 | \$ 13.21 |

Under the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan, the Company issued 239,000 shares in 2012 and 313,000 shares in 2011. The fair value of the employees' purchase rights under this Plan was estimated on the date of grant. The benefit of the 15 percent discount from the lesser of the fair market value per common share on the first day and the last day of the plan year was added to the fair value of the employees' purchase rights determined using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the following assumptions and results:

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| | Mar 30, 2012 | Apr 1, 2011 |
| Expected life in years | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Interest rate | 0.2 % | 0.3 % |
| Volatility | 40.6 % | 27.8 % |
| Dividend yield | 1.7 % | 2.1 % |
| Weighted average fair value per share | \$ 15.58 | \$ 10.05 |

Table of Contents

4. The components of net periodic benefit cost for retirement benefit plans were as follows (in thousands):

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| | Mar 30, 2012 | Apr 1, 2011 |
| Pension Benefits | | |
| Service cost | \$ 1,290 | \$ 1,233 |
| Interest cost | 3,231 | 3,370 |
| Expected return on assets | (3,825) | (4,000) |
| Amortization and other | 2,446 | 1,481 |
| Net periodic benefit cost | \$ 3,142 | \$ 2,084 |
| Postretirement Medical | | |
| Service cost | \$ 150 | \$ 125 |
| Interest cost | 263 | 325 |
| Amortization | (37) | - |
| Net periodic benefit cost | \$ 376 | \$ 450 |

5. Components of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) were (in thousands):

| | Mar 30, 2012 | Dec 30, 2011 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Pension and postretirement medical liability adjustment | \$ (74,162) | \$ (75,658) |
| Cumulative translation adjustment | (823) | (823) |
| Total | \$ (74,985) | \$ (76,481) |

Table of Contents

6. The Company has three reportable segments: Industrial, Contractor and Lubrication. Sales and operating earnings by segment for the thirteen weeks ended March 30, 2012 and April 1, 2011 were as follows (in thousands):

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| | Mar 30, 2012 | Apr 1, 2011 |
| Net Sales | | |
| Industrial | \$ 134,103 | \$ 122,830 |
| Contractor | 71,986 | 70,205 |
| Lubrication | 28,033 | 24,644 |
| Total | \$ 234,122 | \$ 217,679 |
| Operating Earnings | | |
| Industrial | \$ 48,313 | \$ 45,025 |
| Contractor | 12,539 | 11,115 |
| Lubrication | 6,089 | 5,227 |
| Unallocated corporate (expense) | (8,972) | (4,298) |
| Total | \$ 57,969 | \$ 57,069 |

Unallocated corporate in 2012 includes \$4 million of acquisition-related expenses.

Assets by segment were as follows (in thousands):

| | Mar 30, 2012 | Dec 30, 2011 |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Industrial | \$ 308,666 | \$ 302,805 |
| Contractor | 156,411 | 146,556 |
| Lubrication | 89,717 | 91,137 |
| Unallocated corporate | 370,900 | 333,811 |
| Total | \$ 925,694 | \$ 874,309 |

7. Major components of inventories were as follows (in thousands):

| | Mar 30, 2012 | Dec 30, 2011 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Finished products and components | \$ 57,221 | \$ 51,943 |
| Products and components in various stages of completion | 38,817 | 39,268 |

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| | | |
|--|------------|------------|
| Raw materials and purchased components | 54,734 | 54,561 |
| | 150,772 | 145,772 |
| Reduction to LIFO cost | (40,701) | (40,425) |
| Total | \$ 110,071 | \$ 105,347 |

Table of Contents

8. Information related to other intangible assets follows (dollars in thousands):

| | Estimated Life (years) | Original Cost | Accumulated Amortization | Foreign Currency Translation | Book Value |
|---|------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| March 30, 2012 | | | | | |
| Customer relationships | 2 - 8 | \$ 40,925 | \$ (32,323) | \$ (181) | \$ 8,421 |
| Patents, proprietary technology and product documentation | 3 - 10 | 14,668 | (11,051) | (87) | 3,530 |
| Trademarks, trade names and other | 2 - 3 | 3,860 | (3,401) | - | 459 |
| | | 59,453 | (46,775) | (268) | 12,410 |
| Not Subject to Amortization: | | | | | |
| Brand names | | 3,180 | - | - | 3,180 |
| Total | | \$ 62,633 | \$ (46,775) | \$ (268) | \$ 15,590 |
| December 30, 2011 | | | | | |
| Customer relationships | 2 - 8 | \$ 40,925 | \$ (30,788) | \$ (181) | \$ 9,956 |
| Patents, proprietary technology and product documentation | 3 - 10 | 14,668 | (10,570) | (87) | 4,011 |
| Trademarks, trade names and other | 2 - 3 | 6,140 | (5,169) | - | 971 |
| | | 61,733 | (46,527) | (268) | 14,938 |
| Not Subject to Amortization: | | | | | |
| Brand names | | 3,180 | - | - | 3,180 |
| Total | | \$ 64,913 | \$ (46,527) | \$ (268) | \$ 18,118 |

Amortization of intangibles was \$2.5 million in the first quarter of 2012. Estimated annual amortization expense is as follows: \$9.0 million in 2012, \$4.3 million in 2013, \$0.9 million in 2014, \$0.5 million in 2015 and \$0.2 million in 2016.

Table of Contents

9. Components of other current liabilities were (in thousands):

| | Mar 30, 2012 | Dec 30, 2011 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Accrued self-insurance retentions | \$ 6,633 | \$ 6,563 |
| Accrued warranty and service liabilities | 6,758 | 6,709 |
| Accrued trade promotions | 2,735 | 5,852 |
| Payable for employee stock purchases | 1,374 | 6,607 |
| Income taxes payable | 18,087 | 2,689 |
| Other | 24,256 | 21,176 |
| Total other current liabilities | \$ 59,843 | \$ 49,596 |

A liability is established for estimated future warranty and service claims that relate to current and prior period sales. The Company estimates warranty costs based on historical claim experience and other factors including evaluating specific product warranty issues. Following is a summary of activity in accrued warranty and service liabilities (in thousands):

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended Mar 30, 2012 | Year Ended Dec 30 2011 |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Balance, beginning of year | \$ 6,709 | \$ 6,862 |
| Charged to expense | 1,294 | 5,110 |
| Margin on parts sales reversed | 830 | 2,676 |
| Reductions for claims settled | (2,075) | (7,939) |
| Balance, end of period | \$ 6,758 | \$ 6,709 |

10. The Company accounts for all derivatives, including those embedded in other contracts, as either assets or liabilities and measures those financial instruments at fair value. The accounting for changes in the fair value of derivatives depends on their intended use and designation.

As part of its risk management program, the Company may periodically use forward exchange contracts and interest rate swaps to manage known market exposures. Terms of derivative instruments are structured to match the terms of the risk being managed and are generally held to maturity. The Company does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for trading purposes. All other contracts that contain provisions meeting the definition of a derivative also meet the requirements of, and have been designated as, normal purchases or sales. The Company's policy is to not enter into contracts with terms that cannot be designated as normal purchases or sales.

The Company periodically evaluates its monetary asset and liability positions denominated in foreign currencies. The Company enters into forward contracts or options, or borrows in various currencies, in order to hedge its net monetary positions. These instruments are recorded at current market values and the gains and losses are included in other expense (income), net. The notional amount of contracts outstanding

Table of Contents

as of March 30, 2012, totaled \$21 million. The Company believes it uses strong financial counterparts in these transactions and that the resulting credit risk under these hedging strategies is not significant.

The Company uses significant other observable inputs to value the derivative instruments used to hedge interest rate volatility and net monetary positions, including reference to market prices and financial models that incorporate relevant market assumptions. The fair market value and balance sheet classification of such instruments follows (in thousands):

| | Balance Sheet Classification | Mar 30, 2012 | Dec 30, 2011 |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Gain (loss) on foreign currency forward contracts | | | |
| Gains | | \$ 206 | \$ 218 |
| Losses | | (71) | (120) |
| Net | Accounts receivable | \$ 135 | \$ 98 |

11. In April 2011, the Company entered into a definitive agreement to purchase the finishing business operations of Illinois Tool Works Inc. (ITW) in a \$650 million cash transaction. In May 2011, the Company entered into a credit agreement, providing for a \$450 million unsecured revolving credit facility that would be available to the Company upon closing of the transaction. The transaction was completed on April 2, 2012, with funding provided by available cash balances and borrowings of \$350 million under the new credit agreement. On March 27, 2012, the Company's \$250 million credit agreement was terminated in connection with the execution of the new \$450 million credit agreement.

The new credit agreement is with a syndicate of lenders and expires in March 2017. It provides up to \$450 million of committed credit, available for general corporate purposes, working capital needs, share repurchases and acquisitions. The Company may borrow up to \$50 million under the swingline portion of the facility for daily working capital needs. Loans denominated in U.S. Dollars bear interest, at the Company's option, at either a base rate or a LIBOR-based rate. Loans denominated in currencies other than U.S. Dollars bear interest at a LIBOR-based rate. The base rate is an annual rate equal to a margin ranging from 0% to 1%, depending on the Company's cash flow leverage ratio (debt to earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortization and extraordinary, non-operating or non-cash charges and expenses), plus the highest of (i) the bank's prime rate, (ii) the federal funds rate plus 0.5%, or (iii) one-month LIBOR plus 1.5%. In general, LIBOR-based loans bear interest at LIBOR plus 1% to 2%, depending on the Company's cash flow leverage ratio. The Company is also required to pay a fee on the undrawn amount of the loan commitment at an annual rate ranging from 0.15 percent to 0.40 percent, depending on the Company's cash flow leverage ratio.

In 2011, the Company entered into a note agreement and sold \$300 million of unsecured notes with maturities ranging from 2018 to 2026. The notes have a carrying amount of \$300 million and an estimated fair value of \$330 million as of March 30, 2012. Estimated fair value is based on the present value of future cash flows and rates that would be available for issuance of debt with similar terms and remaining maturities. The notes are classified as level 2 within the fair value hierarchy.

Table of Contents

The Company's debt agreements require the Company to maintain certain financial ratios as to cash flow leverage and interest coverage. The Company is in compliance with all financial covenants of its debt agreements.

12. On April 2, 2012, the Company closed on its \$650 million acquisition of the ITW finishing businesses. The acquired businesses had sales of \$375 million in 2011 and will expand and complement the Company's Industrial segment. The acquisition added Gema[®], a global leader in powder coating technology, which represented approximately one-third of the purchased business. The remaining two-thirds is a collection of industrial liquid finishing businesses, which the United States Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has ordered to be held separate from Gema and other Graco businesses while the FTC investigates and considers a settlement proposal from Graco. In compliance with the FTC's order, the industrial liquid finishing businesses will be run independently by existing management under the supervision of a trustee who reports directly to the FTC.

During the hold separate period, the Company will not have a controlling interest in the liquid finishing businesses. Consequently, the Company's investment in those businesses will be recorded at cost and their financial results will not be consolidated with those of the Company. Income will be recognized based on dividends received from current earnings.

At the completion of its review, the FTC will issue a final decision and order that will identify the products, businesses and/or assets that Graco will be required to divest. The Company will have 180 days following the issuance of the final decision and order to complete such divestiture.

Table of Contents**Item 2.****GRACO INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF****FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS****Overview**

The Company designs, manufactures and markets systems and equipment to move, measure, control, dispense and spray fluid materials. Management classifies the Company's business into three reportable segments: Industrial, Contractor and Lubrication. Key strategies include developing and marketing new products, expanding distribution globally, opening new markets with technology and channel expansion and completing strategic acquisitions.

The following Management's Discussion and Analysis reviews significant factors affecting the Company's results of operations and financial condition. This discussion should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and the accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Results of Operations

Net sales, net earnings and earnings per share were as follows (in millions except per share amounts and percentages):

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------|
| | Mar 30, 2012 | Apr 1, 2011 | % Change |
| Net Sales | \$ 234.1 | \$ 217.7 | 8 % |
| Net Earnings | \$ 35.4 | \$ 37.3 | (5)% |
| Diluted Net Earnings per Common Share | \$ 0.58 | \$ 0.61 | (5)% |

All segments and geographic regions had revenue growth over last year. Net earnings were 5 percent lower than last year as higher expenses (product development, acquisition-related and interest) more than offset the favorable effects of higher sales and strong gross margins. Changes in currency translation rates did not have a significant effect on consolidated results for the quarter.

Table of Contents**Consolidated Results**

Sales by geographic area were as follows (in millions):

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| | Mar 30, 2012 | Apr 1, 2011 |
| Americas ¹ | \$ 126.0 | \$ 115.6 |
| Europe ² | 54.7 | 53.3 |
| Asia Pacific | 53.4 | 48.8 |
| Consolidated | \$ 234.1 | \$ 217.7 |

¹ North and South America, including the U.S.

² Europe, Africa and Middle East

First quarter sales increased 8 percent, including increases of 9 percent in the Americas, 3 percent in Europe (6 percent at consistent translation rates) and 10 percent in Asia Pacific (8 percent at consistent translation rates).

Gross profit margin, expressed as a percentage of sales, was 56 percent, slightly lower than the first quarter last year. The unfavorable effect of higher material costs was partially offset by realized price increases and improved efficiencies.

Total operating expenses increased \$7 million for the quarter, including \$4 million related to the acquisition of ITW's finishing businesses and a \$2 million increase in product development expense (headcount and project expenses).

The effective income tax rate of 34 1/2 percent for the quarter is higher than the rate for the first quarter last year due to the expiration of the federal R&D credit.

Table of Contents**Segment Results**

Certain measurements of segment operations compared to last year are summarized below:

Industrial

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|
| | Mar 30, 2012 | Apr 1, 2011 |
| Net sales (in millions) | | |
| Americas | \$ 59.4 | \$ 52.9 |
| Europe | 36.8 | 34.4 |
| Asia Pacific | 37.9 | 35.5 |
| Total | \$ 134.1 | \$ 122.8 |
| Operating earnings as a percentage of net sales | 36 % | 37 % |

Industrial segment sales increased 9 percent, with increases of 12 percent in the Americas, 7 percent in Europe (10 percent at consistent translation rates) and 7 percent in Asia Pacific (6 percent at consistent translation rates).

Operating margins remained strong while the segment's investments in product development and marketing continued.

Contractor

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | |
|---|----------------------|----------------|
| | Mar 30, 2012 | Apr 1, 2011 |
| Net sales (in millions) | | |
| Americas | \$ 46.3 | \$ 44.9 |
| Europe | 15.9 | 16.7 |
| Asia Pacific | 9.8 | 8.6 |
| Total | \$ 72.0 | \$ 70.2 |
| Operating earnings as a percentage of net sales | 17 % | 16 % |

Contractor segment sales increased 3 percent with gains of 3 percent in the Americas and 13 percent in Asia Pacific (11 percent at consistent translation rates). Sales were down 4 percent in Europe (down 1 percent at consistent translation rates) compared to the first quarter of 2011.

Operating margin improved as marketing spending was lower due to heavy product launch and promotion expenses in 2011 that were not repeated in 2012.

Table of Contents**Lubrication**

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | |
|---|----------------------|----------------|
| | Mar 30, 2012 | Apr 1, 2011 |
| Net sales (in millions) | | |
| Americas | \$ 20.3 | \$ 17.8 |
| Europe | 1.9 | 2.2 |
| Asia Pacific | 5.8 | 4.6 |
| Total | \$ 28.0 | \$ 24.6 |
| Operating earnings as a percentage of net sales | 22 % | 21 % |

Lubrication segment sales increased 14 percent, with increases of 14 percent in the Americas and 25 percent in Asia Pacific. Sales decreased 14 percent in Europe, on a relatively small base.

Higher volume and expense leveraging contributed to improvement in operating earnings as a percentage of sales.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$23 million in 2012 and \$14 million in 2011. Increases in receivables and inventories moderated compared to the first quarter of last year.

Since the end of 2011, inventories increased by \$5 million to meet higher demand, and accounts receivable increased by \$21 million due to higher sales levels.

At March 30, 2012, the Company had various lines of credit totaling \$470 million, of which \$462 million was unused.

In April 2011, the Company entered into a definitive agreement to purchase the finishing business operations of Illinois Tool Works Inc. (ITW) in a \$650 million cash transaction. In May 2011, the Company entered into a credit agreement, providing for a \$450 million unsecured revolving credit facility that would be available to the Company upon closing of the transaction. The transaction was completed on April 2, 2012, with funding provided by available cash balances and borrowings of \$350 million under the new credit agreement. On March 27, 2012, the Company's \$250 million credit agreement was terminated in connection with the execution of the amendment to the new \$450 million credit agreement.

The new credit agreement is with a syndicate of lenders and expires in March 2017. It provides up to \$450 million of committed credit, available for general corporate purposes, working capital needs, share repurchases and acquisitions. The Company may borrow up to \$50 million under the swingline portion of the facility for daily working capital needs. Loans denominated in U.S. Dollars bear interest, at the Company's option, at either a base rate or a LIBOR-based rate. Loans denominated in currencies other than U.S. Dollars bear interest at a LIBOR-based rate. The base rate is an annual rate equal to a margin ranging from 0% to 1%, depending on the Company's cash flow leverage ratio (debt to earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortization and extraordinary, non-operating or non-cash charges and expenses), plus the highest of (i) the bank's prime rate, (ii) the federal funds rate plus 0.5%, or

Table of Contents

(iii) one-month LIBOR plus 1.5%. In general, LIBOR-based loans bear interest at LIBOR plus 1% to 2%, depending on the Company's cash flow leverage ratio. The Company is also required to pay a fee on the undrawn amount of the loan commitment at an annual rate ranging from 0.15 percent to 0.40 percent, depending on the Company's cash flow leverage ratio. The agreement requires the Company to maintain certain financial ratios as to cash flow leverage and interest coverage.

Internally generated funds and unused financing sources are expected to provide the Company with the flexibility to meet its liquidity needs in 2012, including the needs of the finishing businesses acquired in April 2012.

Outlook

Management remains optimistic that the Company will achieve growth in all geographies and business segments for the full-year 2012, but cautions that the Western European economies and select construction markets are challenging. The demand environment in the Americas continues to be favorable, if not resilient. While the Company has noted some weakening of industrial project activity in the Asia Pacific region recently, management believes that growth will continue throughout 2012. Management will be watching worldwide order trends closely throughout the year and expects that product launches scheduled for the second half of 2012 will help to counteract softness.

Table of Contents

SAFE HARBOR CAUTIONARY STATEMENT

A forward-looking statement is any statement made in this report and other reports that the Company files periodically with the Securities and Exchange Commission, as well as in press or earnings releases, analyst briefings, conference calls and the Company's Overview report to shareholders, which reflects the Company's current thinking on market trends and the Company's future financial performance at the time they are made. All forecasts and projections are forward-looking statements. The Company undertakes no obligation to update these statements in light of new information or future events.

The Company desires to take advantage of the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 by making cautionary statements concerning any forward-looking statements made by or on behalf of the Company. The Company cannot give any assurance that the results forecasted in any forward-looking statement will actually be achieved. Future results could differ materially from those expressed, due to the impact of changes in various factors. These risk factors include, but are not limited to: economic conditions in the United States and other major world economies, currency fluctuations, political instability, changes in laws and regulations, and changes in product demand. In addition, risk factors related to the Company's acquisition of the ITW finishing businesses include: to what extent or when the required regulatory approvals will be obtained, whether and when the Company will be able to realize the expected financial results and accretive effect of the transaction, how customers, competitors, suppliers and employees will react to the transaction, economic changes in global markets, the extent of the acquired businesses required to be divested, whether the Company will be able to find a suitable purchaser(s) and structure the divestiture on acceptable terms, and whether the Company will be able to complete a divestiture in a time frame that is satisfactory to the Federal Trade Commission. Please refer to Item 1A of, and Exhibit 99 to, the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal year 2011 and Item 1A of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for a more comprehensive discussion of these and other risk factors.

Investors should realize that factors other than those identified above and in Item 1A and Exhibit 99 might prove important to the Company's future results. It is not possible for management to identify each and every factor that may have an impact on the Company's operations in the future as new factors can develop from time to time.

Table of Contents

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

There have been no material changes related to market risk from the disclosures made in the Company's 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures

As of the end of the fiscal quarter covered by this report, the Company carried out an evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of its disclosure controls and procedures. This evaluation was done under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer, the Vice President and Controller, and the Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary. Based upon that evaluation, they concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

Changes in internal controls

During the quarter, there was no change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that has materially affected or is reasonably likely to materially affect the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Table of Contents

PART II OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1A. Risk Factors

There have been no material changes to the Company's risk factors from those disclosed in the Company's 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K, except for changes in the status of the previously proposed (now completed) acquisition, as described below:

Acquisition - Our acquisition of the finishing business operations of Illinois Tool Works Inc. is subject to regulatory approvals and the expected benefits from the acquisition may not be fully realized.

On April 2, 2012, the Company closed on its \$650 million acquisition of the Illinois Tool Works Inc. (ITW) finishing businesses. The acquisition added Gema[®], a global leader in powder coating technology, which represented approximately one-third of the purchase. The remaining two-thirds of the acquisition is a collection of industrial liquid finishing businesses, which the United States Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has ordered to be held separate from Gema and other Graco businesses while the FTC investigates and considers a settlement proposal from Graco. In compliance with the FTC's order, the industrial liquid finishing businesses will be run independently by existing management under the supervision of a trustee who reports directly to the FTC.

At the completion of its review, the FTC will issue a final decision and order that will identify the products, businesses and/or assets that Graco will be required to divest. The Company will have 180 days following the issuance of the final decision and order to complete such divestiture.

We cannot predict to what extent or when the required regulatory approvals will be obtained. Additional risk factors include: the extent of the acquired businesses required to be divested, whether the Company will be able to find a suitable purchaser(s) and structure the divestiture on acceptable terms, and whether the Company will be able to complete a divestiture in a time frame that is satisfactory to the FTC.

Significant changes to our financial condition as a result of global economic changes or difficulties in the integration or addition of the newly acquired businesses, including how customers, competitors, suppliers and employees react to the transaction, may affect our ability to obtain the expected benefits from the transaction or to satisfy the financial covenants included in the terms of the financing arrangements.

Table of Contents**Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds**
Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

On September 18, 2009, the Board of Directors authorized the Company to purchase up to 6,000,000 shares of its outstanding common stock, primarily through open-market transactions. The authorization expires on September 30, 2012.

In addition to shares purchased under the Board authorizations, the Company purchases shares of common stock held by employees who wish to tender owned shares to satisfy the exercise price or tax withholding on option exercises.

Information on issuer purchases of equity securities follows:

| Period | | Total Number of Shares Purchased | Average Price Paid per Share | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs | Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs (at end of period) |
|--------------|--------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Dec 31, 2011 | Jan 27, 2012 | - | | - | 3,990,978 |
| Jan 28, 2012 | Feb 24, 2012 | 5,166 | 48.85 | - | 3,990,978 |
| Feb 25, 2012 | Mar 30, 2012 | 368 | 52.18 | - | 3,990,978 |

Item 5. Other Information

On March 27, 2012, the company's \$250 million credit agreement was terminated in connection with the execution of the amendment to the new \$450 million credit agreement.

Table of Contents

Item 6. Exhibits

- 2.1 First Amendment to Asset Purchase Agreement dated as of April 2, 2012 by and among Graco Inc., Graco Holdings Inc., Graco Minnesota Inc., Finishing Brands Holdings Inc., Illinois Tool Works Inc. and ITW Finishing LLC. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed April 2, 2012.)
- 3.1 Restated Articles of Incorporation as amended June 14, 2007. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended June 29, 2007.)
- 3.2 Restated Bylaws as amended June 13, 2002. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended June 28, 2002.)
- 3.3 Form of Articles of Amendment of Certificate of Designation, Preferences and Rights of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Shares. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on February 16, 2010.)
- 4.1 Rights Agreement, dated as of February 12, 2010, between the Company and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as Rights Agent. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form 8-A dated February 16, 2010.)
- 10.1 Form of Amendment to Executive Officer and Non-Employee Director Stock Options to Permit Net Exercises, as adopted by the Board of Directors February 17, 2012.
- 10.2 Stock Option Agreement. Amended form of agreement used for award in 2012 of stock options to chief executive officer under the Graco Inc. 2010 Stock Incentive Plan.
- 10.3 Stock Option Agreement. Amended form of agreement used for award in 2012 of stock options to executive officers under the Graco Inc. 2010 Stock Incentive Plan.
- 10.4 Stock Option Agreement. Amended form of agreement used for award in 2012 of stock options to non-employee directors under the Graco Inc. 2010 Stock Incentive Plan.
- 10.5 Second Amendment to Revolving Credit Agreement and Waiver, dated as of February 15, 2012, by and among Graco Inc., the Banks signatory thereto and U.S. Bank National Association, as Agent for the Banks.
- 10.6 First Amendment to Credit Agreement dated March 27, 2012, by and among Graco Inc., the Banks signatory thereto and U.S. Bank National Association, as administrative agent. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed April 2, 2012.)
- 10.7 Amendment and Restatement No. 1 to Note Agreement dated March 27, 2012 between Graco Inc. and the Noteholders. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed April 2, 2012.)

Table of Contents

| | |
|------|--|
| 10.8 | Agreement between Graco Inc., Illinois Tool Works Inc., and ITW Finishing LLC, as the Respondents, and Counsel for the Federal Trade Commission. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed March 27, 2012.) |
| 31.1 | Certification of President and Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a). |
| 31.2 | Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a). |
| 32 | Certification of President and Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 1350 of Title 18, U.S.C. |
| 99.1 | Press Release, Reporting First Quarter Earnings, dated April 25, 2012. |
| 101 | Interactive Data File. |

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.

GRACO INC.

Date: April 25, 2012

By: /s/ Patrick J. McHale
Patrick J. McHale
President and Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: April 25, 2012

By: /s/ James A. Graner
James A. Graner
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)

Date: April 25, 2012

By: /s/ Caroline M. Chambers
Caroline M. Chambers
Vice President and Controller
(Principal Accounting Officer)