

BlueLinx Holdings Inc.
Form 10-K
March 06, 2009

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**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
Form 10-K**

(Mark One)

- ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**
For the fiscal year ended January 3, 2009
- OR**
- TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Commission file number: 1-32383

BLUELINX HOLDINGS INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

4300 Wildwood Parkway, Atlanta, Georgia

(Address of principal executive offices)

77-0627356

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

30339

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

770-953-7000

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

Title of Each Class

Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered

Common stock, par value \$0.01 per share

New York Stock Exchange

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

None

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

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, 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. (Check one):

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

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

The aggregate market value of the registrant's common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of June 27, 2008 was \$43,910,553, based on the closing price on the New York Stock Exchange of \$3.63 per share on June 27, 2008.

As of March 3, 2009, the registrant had 32,806,619 shares of common stock outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of BlueLinx Holdings Inc.'s definitive Proxy Statement for use in connection with its 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, scheduled to be held on May 20, 2009, are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Report.

BLUELINX HOLDINGS INC.

**ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K
For the Fiscal Year Ended January 3, 2009**

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CAUTIONARY STATEMENT CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Annual Report on Form 10-K includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

Forward-looking statements include, without limitation, any statement that may predict, forecast, indicate or imply future results, performance or achievements, and may contain the words anticipate, believe, could, expect, estimate, intend, may, project, plan, should, will be, will likely continue, will likely result or words or phrases of similar meaning. You should read statements containing these words carefully, because they discuss our future expectations, contain projections of our future results or state other forward-looking information.

All of these forward-looking statements are based on estimates and assumptions made by us that, although believed by us to be reasonable, are inherently uncertain. However, there are events in the future that we are not able to accurately predict or control. The factors listed under Item 1A, Risk Factors, as well as any cautionary language in this Form 10-K, provide examples of risks, uncertainties and events that may cause our actual results to differ materially from the expectations we describe in our forward-looking statements. Although we believe that our expectations are based on reasonable assumptions, actual results may differ materially from those in the forward looking statements as a result of various factors, including, but not limited to, those described under Item 1A, Risk Factors and elsewhere in this Form 10-K.

Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this Form 10-K. Except as required under federal securities laws and the rules and regulations of the SEC, we do not have any intention, and do not undertake, to update any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances arising after the date of this Form 10-K, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. As a result of these risks and uncertainties, readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements included in this Form 10-K or that may be made elsewhere from time to time by or on behalf of us. All forward-looking statements attributable to us are expressly qualified by these cautionary statements.

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PART I

As used herein, unless the context otherwise requires, BlueLinx, the Company, we, us and our refer to BlueLinx Holdings Inc. and its subsidiaries. BlueLinx Corporation is the wholly-owned operating subsidiary of BlueLinx Holdings Inc. and is referred to herein as the operating company when necessary. Reference to fiscal 2008 refers to the 53-week period ended January 3, 2009. Reference to fiscal 2007 refers to the 52-week period ended December 29, 2007. Reference to fiscal 2006 refers to the 52-week period ended December 30, 2006.

ITEM 1. BUSINESS.

Company Overview

BlueLinx Holdings Inc., operating through our wholly-owned subsidiary, BlueLinx Corporation, is a leading distributor of building products in the United States. We operate in all of the major metropolitan areas in the United States and, as of January 3, 2009, we distributed more than 10,000 products to approximately 11,500 customers through our network of more than 70 warehouses and third-party operated warehouses.

We distribute products in two principal categories: structural products and specialty products. Structural products, which represented approximately 50% and 54% of our fiscal 2008 and fiscal 2007 gross sales, include plywood, oriented strand board (OSB), rebar and remesh, lumber and other wood products primarily used for structural support, walls and flooring in construction projects. Specialty products, which represented approximately 50% and 46% of our fiscal 2008 and fiscal 2007 gross sales, include roofing, insulation, specialty panels, moulding, engineered wood products, vinyl products (used primarily in siding), composite decking and metal products (excluding rebar and remesh).

Our customers include building materials dealers, industrial users of building products, manufactured housing builders and home improvement centers. We purchase products from over 750 vendors and serve as a national distributor for a number of our suppliers. We distribute products through our owned fleet of over 600 trucks and over 1,000 trailers, as well as by common carrier.

Our principal executive offices are located at 4300 Wildwood Parkway, Atlanta, Georgia 30339 and our telephone number is (770) 953-7000. Our filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, including annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, proxy statements and amendments to those reports, are accessible free of charge at our official website, www.BlueLinxCo.com. We have adopted a Code of Ethics within the meaning of Item 406(b) of Regulation S-K. This Code of Ethics applies to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer and principal accounting officer. This Code of Ethics, our board committee charters and our corporate governance guidelines are publicly available at www.BlueLinxCo.com or upon request by writing to BlueLinx Holdings Inc., Attn: Corporate Secretary, 4300 Wildwood Parkway, Atlanta, Georgia 30339. If we make substantial amendments to our Code of Ethics or grant any waiver, including any implicit waiver, we are required to disclose the nature of such amendment or waiver on our website or in a report on Form 8-K of such amendment or waiver. The reference to our website does not constitute incorporation by reference of the information contained at the site.

History

We were created on March 8, 2004 as a Georgia corporation named ABP Distribution Holdings Inc. (ABP). ABP was owned by Cerberus Capital Management, L.P. (Cerberus Capital Management, L.P. and its subsidiaries are referred to

herein as Cerberus), a private, New York-based investment firm, and members of our management team. Prior to May 7, 2004, certain of our assets were owned by the distribution division (the Division) of Georgia-Pacific Corporation (Georgia-Pacific). The Division commenced operations in 1954 with 13 warehouses primarily used as an outlet for Georgia-Pacific s plywood. On May 7, 2004, Georgia-Pacific sold assets of the Division to ABP. ABP subsequently merged into BlueLinx Holdings Inc. On December 17, 2004, we consummated an initial public offering of our common stock.

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Products and Services

As of January 3, 2009, we distributed more than 10,000 different structural and specialty products to approximately 11,500 customers nationwide. Our structural products are primarily used for structural support, walls, flooring and roofing in construction projects. Additional end-uses of our structural products include outdoor decks, sheathing, crates and boxes. Our specialty products include engineered lumber, roofing, insulation, metal products (excluding rebar and remesh), vinyl products (used primarily in siding), moulding, composite decking and particleboard. In some cases, these products are branded.

We also provide a wide range of value-added services and solutions to our customers and vendors including:

providing less-than-truckload delivery services;

pre-negotiated program pricing plans;

inventory stocking;

automated order processing through an electronic data interchange, or EDI, that provides a direct link between us and our customers;

inter-modal distribution services, including railcar unloading and cargo reloading onto customers trucks; and

back-haul services, when otherwise empty trucks are returning from customer deliveries.

Distribution Channels

We sell products through three main distribution channels:

Warehouse Sales

Warehouse sales are delivered from our warehouses to dealers, home improvement centers and industrial users. We deliver products primarily using our fleet of over 600 trucks and over 1,000 trailers, but also occasionally use common carriers for peak load flexibility. We operate in all of the major metropolitan areas in the United States through our network of more than 70 warehouses and third-party operated warehouses. Our warehouses have over ten million square feet of space under roof plus significant outdoor storage space. Warehouse sales accounted for approximately 59% of our fiscal 2008 and fiscal 2007 gross sales.

Reload Sales

Reload sales are similar to warehouse sales but are shipped from third-party warehouses where we store owned product in order to expand our geographic reach. This channel is employed primarily to service strategic customers that would be uneconomical to service from our warehouses and to distribute large volumes of imported products such as metal or hardwood plywood from port facilities. Reload sales accounted for approximately 13% and 12% of our gross sales in fiscal 2008 and fiscal 2007, respectively.

Direct Sales

Direct sales are shipped from the manufacturer to the customer without our taking physical inventory possession. This channel requires the lowest amount of committed capital and fixed costs. Direct sales accounted for approximately

28% and 29% of our fiscal 2008 and fiscal 2007 gross sales, respectively.

Customers

As of January 3, 2009, our customer base included approximately 11,500 customers across multiple market segments and various end-use markets, including the following types of customers:

building materials dealers;

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industrial users of building products;
manufactured housing builders; and
home improvement centers.

Sales and Marketing

Our sales efforts primarily are directed through our sales force of approximately 600 sales representatives. Approximately 300 of our sales representatives are located at our two sales centers in Denver and Atlanta. Within these sales centers, our sales representatives primarily interact with our customers over the telephone. The remaining 300 sales representatives are located throughout the country and are responsible for maintaining a local dialogue with our customers, including making frequent, in-person visits.

Our sales force is separated between industrial/dealer sales and home improvement center sales. Industrial/dealer sales are managed by regional vice-presidents with sales teams organized by customer regions. The majority of industrial/dealer orders are processed by telephone and are facilitated by our centralized database of customer preferences and purchasing history. We also have dedicated cross-functional customer support teams focused on strategic growth with the home improvement centers.

Suppliers

As of January 3, 2009, our vendor base included over 750 suppliers of both structural and specialty building products. In some cases, these products are branded. We have supply contracts in place with many of our vendors. Terms for these agreements frequently include prompt payment discounts and freight allowances and occasionally include volume discounts, growth incentives, marketing allowances, and consigned inventory.

Purchases of products manufactured by Georgia-Pacific accounted for approximately 21% and approximately 25% of total purchases in fiscal 2008 and fiscal 2007, respectively, with no other supplier accounting for more than 5% of our fiscal 2008 purchases. On May 7, 2004, we entered into a Master Purchase, Supply & Distribution Agreement with Georgia-Pacific, or the Supply Agreement. The Supply Agreement details distribution rights by product categories, including exclusivity rights and minimum supply volume commitments from Georgia-Pacific with respect to certain products. This agreement also details our purchase obligations by product categories, including minimum purchase volume commitments with respect to certain of the products supplied to us. Based on 2008 average market prices, our purchase obligation under the Supply Agreement is approximately \$32 million for the next two years. If we fail or refuse to purchase any products that we are obligated to purchase pursuant to the Supply Agreement, Georgia-Pacific has the right to sell products to third parties and, for certain products, terminate our exclusivity, and we may be required to pay monetary penalties.

On June 6, 2008, Georgia-Pacific notified us of its intent to terminate this Supply Agreement, effective May 7, 2010. On February 12, 2009, Georgia-Pacific and BlueLinx entered into a new three-year agreement governing the purchase and sale of engineered lumber products between parties. Georgia-Pacific and BlueLinx are currently in discussions regarding new agreements which would govern the purchase, supply and distribution arrangements between the two parties after May 7, 2010 for products other than engineered lumber. Georgia-Pacific and BlueLinx are continuing to work together pursuant to the terms of the existing Supply Agreement for the purchase and sale of products not covered by the new engineered lumber agreement.

Competition

The U.S. building products distribution market is a highly fragmented market, served by a small number of multi-regional distributors, several regionally focused distributors and a large number of independent local distributors. Local and regional distributors tend to be closely held and often specialize in a limited number of segments, such as the roofing segment, in which they offer a broader selection of products. Some of our multi-regional competitors are part of larger companies and therefore have access to greater financial and other

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resources than us. We compete on the basis of breadth of product offering, consistent availability of product, product price and quality, reputation, service and distribution facility location.

Our two largest competitors are Weyerhaeuser Company, or Weyerhaeuser, and Boise Cascade LLC, or Boise Cascade. Most major markets are served by at least one of these distributors.

Seasonality

We are exposed to fluctuations in quarterly sales volumes and expenses due to seasonal factors. These seasonal factors are common in the building products distribution industry. The first and fourth quarters are typically our slowest quarters due to the impact of poor weather on the construction market. Our second and third quarters are typically our strongest quarters, reflecting a substantial increase in construction due to more favorable weather conditions. Our working capital and accounts receivable and payable generally peak in the third quarter, while inventory generally peaks in the second quarter in anticipation of the summer building season. Although, we generally expect these trends to continue for the foreseeable future, we have reduced our inventory as part of our effort to manage to the current weakened demand environment in the housing market. Additionally, our accounts receivable balance has declined due to the weakened demand environment for the products we distribute.

Trademarks

As of January 31, 2009, we had 39 U.S. trademark applications and registrations, one issued U.S. patent and two Canadian trademark registrations. Depending on the jurisdiction, trademarks are valid as long as they are in use and/or their registrations are properly maintained and they have not become generic. Registrations of trademarks can generally be renewed indefinitely as long as the trademarks are in use. Our patent expires in September 2013. We do not believe our business is dependent on any one of our trademarks or on our patent.

Employees

As of January 3, 2009 we employed approximately 2,100 persons on a full-time basis. Approximately 30% of our employees are represented by labor unions. As of January 3, 2009, we had 45 collective bargaining agreements, of which 10, representing 140 employees, are up for renewal in 2009. We consider our relationship with our employees generally to be good.

Executive Officers

The following table contains the name, age and position with our Company of each of our executive officers as of March 3, 2009. There are no arrangements or understandings between any of our executive officers and any other person pursuant to which any executive officer was or is to be selected as an officer.

Name	Age	Position
Howard S. Cohen	62	Executive Chairman
George R. Judd	47	President and Chief Executive Officer
H. Douglas Goforth	45	Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
Duane G. Goodwin	50	Chief Supply Chain Officer
Dean A. Adelman	43	Chief Administrative Officer

Howard S. Cohen has served as Chairman of our Board since March 2008 and as a member of our Board since September 2007. Mr. Cohen served as our Interim Chief Executive Officer from March 2008 through October 2008. Prior to joining our company as an executive officer, Mr. Cohen was a Senior Advisor of Cerberus Capital Management, L.P., or Cerberus. Mr. Cohen possesses 33 years of leadership experience, including service as President and CEO of four publicly-traded companies: GTECH Corporation, from 2001 to 2002; Bell & Howell, from 2000 to 2001; Sidus Systems Inc., from 1998 to 1999; and Peak Technologies Group, Inc., from 1996 to 1998. Mr. Cohen has also managed independent divisions of three Fortune 500 companies. Mr. Cohen also serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Albertsons LLC and

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Hilco Receivables LLC, both of which are Cerberus portfolio companies. Cerberus is the indirect holder of a majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock.

George R. Judd has served as our Chief Executive Officer since October 2008 and as our President since May 2004. Prior to that time, he worked for Georgia-Pacific Corporation in a variety of positions managing both inside and outside sales, national accounts and most recently as Vice President of Sales and Eastern Operations since 2002. From 2000 until 2002, Mr. Judd worked as Vice President of the North and Midwest regions of the Distribution Division. He served as Vice President of the Southeast region from 1999 to 2000. Mr. Judd serves on the board of the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta and leads its design and construction committee. He graduated from Western Connecticut State University in 1984 with a Bachelor's degree in Marketing.

H. Douglas Goforth has served as our Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer since February 2008. From November 2006 until February 2008, Mr. Goforth served as Vice President and Corporate Controller for Armor Holdings, Inc. which was acquired by BAE Systems in July 2007. Previously he served as Corporate Controller for BlueLinx from May 2004 until October 2006, where he played a key role in BlueLinx's 2004 IPO. From 2002 until 2004 he served as Controller for the Distribution Division of Georgia-Pacific Corporation. Mr. Goforth has over 20 years of combined accounting, finance, treasury, acquisition and management experience with leading distribution and manufacturing companies including Mitsubishi Wireless Communications, Inc., Yamaha Motor Manufacturing, Inc. and Ingersoll-Rand. Mr. Goforth is a North Carolina State Board Certified Public Accountant and earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Mars Hill College in North Carolina.

Duane G. Goodwin has served as our Chief Supply Chain Officer since December 2005. Prior to that time, Mr. Goodwin was with The Home Depot since April 1994, where he served in a variety of positions including Vice President/Merchandising Hardware from July 2003 to February 2005, Vice President Global Sourcing from July 2000 to July 2003, and Divisional Merchandise Manager from April 1999 to July 2000. Before this Mr. Goodwin was with Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., where he served in a variety of roles from 1985 through April 1994. Prior to joining our Company, Mr. Goodwin also served as an outside consultant to Cerberus beginning in June 2005.

Dean A. Adelman has served as our Chief Administrative Officer since May 2008 and as our Vice President, Human Resources since October 2005. Prior to that time, he served as Vice President Human Resources, Staff Development & Training for Corrections Corporation of America. Previously, Mr. Adelman served as Vice President Human Resources for Arby's Inc. (formerly RTM Restaurant Group) from 1998 to 2002. From 1991 to 1998, Mr. Adelman served as senior counsel for Georgia-Pacific Corporation. Mr. Adelman received his Masters of Business Administration from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Georgia School of Law, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Georgia.

Environmental and Other Governmental Regulations

Environmental Regulation and Compliance

Our operations are subject to various federal, state, provincial and local laws, rules and regulations. We are subject to environmental laws, rules and regulations that limit discharges into the environment, establish standards for the handling, generation, emission, release, discharge, treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous materials, substances and wastes, and require cleanup of contaminated soil and groundwater. These laws, ordinances and regulations are complex, change frequently and have tended to become more stringent over time. Many of them provide for substantial fines and penalties, orders (including orders to cease operations) and criminal sanctions for violations. They may also impose liability for property damage and personal injury stemming from the presence of, or exposure to, hazardous substances. In addition, certain of our operations require us to obtain, maintain compliance with, and periodically renew permits.

Certain of these laws, including the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, may require the investigation and cleanup of an entity's or its predecessor's current or former

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properties, even if the associated contamination was caused by the operations of a third party. These laws also may require the investigation and cleanup of third-party sites at which an entity or its predecessor sent hazardous wastes for disposal, notwithstanding that the original disposal activity accorded with all applicable requirements. Liability under such laws may be imposed jointly and severally, and regardless of fault.

Georgia-Pacific Corporation has agreed to indemnify us against any claim arising from environmental conditions that existed prior to May 7, 2004. In addition, we carry environmental insurance. While we do not expect to incur significant independent costs arising from environmental conditions, there can be no assurance that all such costs will be covered by indemnification or insurance.

We are also subject to the requirements of the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA. In order to maintain compliance with applicable OSHA requirements, we have established uniform safety and compliance procedures for our operations and implemented measures to prevent workplace injuries.

The U.S. Department of Transportation, or DOT, regulates our operations in domestic interstate commerce. We are subject to safety requirements governing interstate operations prescribed by the DOT. Vehicle dimensions and driver hours of service also remain subject to both federal and state regulation.

We incur and will continue to incur costs to comply with the requirements of environmental, health and safety and transportation laws, ordinances and regulations. We anticipate that these requirements could become more stringent in the future, and we cannot assure you that compliance costs will not be material.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS.

In addition to the other information contained in this Form 10-K, the following risk factors should be considered carefully in evaluating our business. Our business, financial condition, or results of operations could be materially adversely affected by any of these risks. Additional risks not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business and operations.

Our industry is highly cyclical, and prolonged periods of weak demand or excess supply may reduce our net sales and/or margins, which may reduce our net income or cause us to incur losses.

The building products distribution industry is subject to cyclical market pressures. Prices of building products are determined by overall supply and demand in the market for building products. Market prices of building products historically have been volatile and cyclical and we have limited ability to control the timing and amount of pricing changes for building products. Demand for building products is driven mainly by factors outside of our control, such as general economic and political conditions, interest rates, availability of mortgage financing, the construction, repair and remodeling and industrial markets, weather and population growth. The supply of building products fluctuates based on available manufacturing capacity, and excess capacity in the industry can result in significant declines in market prices for those products. To the extent that prices and volumes experience a sustained or sharp decline, our net sales and margins would likely decline as well. Our results in some periods have been affected by market volatility, including a reduction in gross profits due to a decline in the resale value of our structural products inventory. All of these factors make it difficult to forecast our operating results.

Further downward changes in demand for housing could negatively impact our business.

The residential homebuilding industry is sensitive to changes in economic conditions, including interest rates, foreclosure rates, and availability of financing. Further adverse changes in these conditions could further decrease

demand for new homes. Additional declines in housing demand could result in lower pricing and demand for many of our building products which could have increased negative effects on our revenues and operating results.

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Further disruptions in the capital and credit markets may impact the availability of credit and general business conditions.

If the financial institutions which extended credit commitments to us through our revolving credit facility are adversely affected by the conditions of the capital and credit markets, they may become unable to fund borrowings under those credit commitments, which could have an adverse impact on our financial condition and our ability to borrow funds, if needed, for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions and other corporate purposes.

Continued market disruptions could cause broader economic downturns, which may lead to lower demand for our products and increased incidence of customers' inability to pay their accounts. Bankruptcies by our customers may cause us to incur bad debt expense at levels higher than historically experienced. Certain of our suppliers may potentially be impacted as well, causing disruption or delay of product availability. These events would adversely impact our results of operations, cash flows and financial position.

Our cash flows and capital resources may be insufficient to make required payments on our substantial indebtedness and future indebtedness.

We have a substantial amount of debt. As of January 3, 2009, advances outstanding under our revolving credit facility were approximately \$156 million, borrowing availability was approximately \$192 million and outstanding letters of credit on the facility were approximately \$13 million. We also have a mortgage loan in the amount of \$289 million.

Our substantial debt could have important consequences to you. For example, it could:

make it difficult for us to satisfy our debt obligations;

make us more vulnerable to general adverse economic and industry conditions;

limit our ability to obtain additional financing for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions and other general corporate requirements;

expose us to interest rate fluctuations because the interest rate on the debt under our revolving credit facility is variable;

require us to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to payments on our debt, thereby reducing the availability of our cash flow for operations and other purposes;

limit our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business and the industry in which we operate; and

place us at a competitive disadvantage compared to competitors that may have proportionately less debt.

In addition, our ability to make scheduled payments or refinance our obligations depends on our successful financial and operating performance, cash flows and capital resources, which in turn depend upon prevailing economic conditions and certain financial, business and other factors, many of which are beyond our control. These factors include, among others:

economic and demand factors affecting the building products distribution industry;

pricing pressures;

increased operating costs;
competitive conditions; and
other operating difficulties.

If our cash flows and capital resources are insufficient to fund our debt service obligations, we may be forced to reduce or delay capital expenditures, sell material assets or operations, obtain additional capital or restructure our debt. Obtaining additional capital or restructuring our debt could be accomplished in part

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through new or additional borrowings or placements of debt or equity securities. There is no assurance that we could obtain additional capital or restructure our debt on terms acceptable to us or at all. In the event that we are required to dispose of material assets or operations to meet our debt service and other obligations, the value realized on such assets or operations will depend on market conditions and the availability of buyers. Accordingly, any such sale may not, among other things, be for a sufficient dollar amount. Our obligations under the revolving credit facility are secured by a first priority security interest in all of our operating company's inventories, receivables and proceeds from those items. In addition, our mortgage loan is secured by the majority of our real property. The foregoing encumbrances may limit our ability to dispose of material assets or operations. We also may not be able to restructure our indebtedness on favorable economic terms, if at all. We may incur substantial additional indebtedness in the future, including under the revolving credit facility. Our incurrence of additional indebtedness would intensify the risks described above.

The instruments governing our indebtedness contain various covenants limiting the discretion of our management in operating our business.

Our revolving credit facility and mortgage loan contain various restrictive covenants and restrictions, including financial covenants customary for asset-based loans that limit our management's discretion in operating our business. In particular, these instruments limit our ability to, among other things:

- incur additional debt;
- grant liens on assets;
- make investments, including capital expenditures;
- sell or acquire assets outside the ordinary course of business;
- engage in transactions with affiliates; and
- make fundamental business changes.

If we fail to maintain minimum excess availability of \$40 million under the revolving credit facility, the revolving credit facility requires us to (i) maintain certain financial ratios and (ii) limit our capital expenditures. If we fail to comply with the restrictions in the revolving credit facility, the mortgage loan documents or any other current or future financing agreements, a default may allow the creditors under the relevant instruments to accelerate the related debt and to exercise their remedies under these agreements, which will typically include the right to declare the principal amount of that debt, together with accrued and unpaid interest and other related amounts, immediately due and payable, to exercise any remedies the creditors may have to foreclose on assets that are subject to liens securing that debt and to terminate any commitments they had made to supply further funds.

The payment of dividends has been suspended, and resumption is dependant on business conditions, among other factors; the instruments governing our indebtedness contain various covenants that may limit our ability to pay dividends.

In the past we have paid dividends on our common stock at the quarterly rate of \$0.125 per share. However, on December 5, 2007, we suspended the payment of dividends on our common stock for an indefinite period of time. Resumption of the payment of dividends will depend on, among other things, business conditions in the housing industry, our results of operations, cash requirements, financial condition, contractual restrictions, provisions of applicable law and other factors that our board of directors may deem relevant. Accordingly, we may not be able to

resume the payment of dividends at the same quarterly rate in the future, if at all.

We depend upon a single supplier, Georgia-Pacific for a significant percentage of our products.

Georgia-Pacific is our largest supplier, accounting for approximately 21% and approximately 25% of our purchases during fiscal 2008 and fiscal 2007, respectively. On May 7, 2004, we entered into a multi-year Supply Agreement with Georgia-Pacific. The Supply Agreement had a five-year initial term expiring on May 7,

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2009. On June 6, 2008, Georgia-Pacific notified us of its intent to terminate this Supply Agreement, effective May 7, 2010. On February 12, 2009, Georgia-Pacific and BlueLinx entered into a new three-year agreement governing the purchase and supply of engineered lumber products between the two parties. Georgia-Pacific and BlueLinx are currently in discussions regarding new agreements which would govern the purchase, supply and distribution arrangements between the two parties after May 7, 2010 for products other than engineered lumber. Georgia-Pacific and BlueLinx are continuing to work together pursuant to the terms of the existing Supply Agreement for the purchase and sale of products not covered by the new engineered lumber agreement. Upon a material breach of the agreement by us, Georgia-Pacific may terminate the agreement at anytime. If Georgia-Pacific and BlueLinx are unable to agree on new supply arrangements for products other than engineered lumber or Georgia-Pacific otherwise discontinues sales of product to us after May 7, 2010, we could experience a product shortage unless and until we obtain a replacement supplier. We may not be able to obtain replacement products on favorable economic terms. An inability to replace products on favorable economic terms would adversely impact our net sales and our costs, which in turn could impact our gross profit, net income and cash flows.

Under the Supply Agreement, we have minimum purchase volume commitments with respect to certain products supplied to us. Based on 2008 average market prices, our purchase obligations under this agreement are \$32 million for the remaining term of the Supply Agreement. If we fail or refuse to purchase any products that we are obligated to purchase pursuant to the Supply Agreement, Georgia-Pacific has the right to sell products to third parties and, for certain products, terminate our exclusivity, which could reduce our net sales due to the unavailability of products or our gross profit if we are required to pay higher product prices to other suppliers. A reduction in our net sales or gross profit may also reduce our net income and cash flows.

Our industry is highly fragmented and competitive. If we are unable to compete effectively, our net sales and operating results will be reduced.

The building products distribution industry is highly fragmented and competitive and the barriers to entry for local competitors are relatively low. Some of our competitors are part of larger companies and therefore have access to greater financial and other resources than us. In addition, certain product manufacturers sell and distribute their products directly to customers. Additional manufacturers of products distributed by us may elect to sell and distribute directly to end-users in the future or enter into exclusive supply arrangements with other distributors. Finally, we may not be able to maintain our costs at a level sufficiently low for us to compete effectively. If we are unable to compete effectively, our net sales and net income will be reduced.

Integrating acquisitions may be time-consuming and create costs that could reduce our operating results and cash flows.

Part of our growth strategy includes pursuing acquisitions. Any integration process may be complex and time consuming, may be disruptive to the business and may cause an interruption of, or a distraction of management's attention from, the business as a result of a number of obstacles, including but not limited to:

- the loss of key customers of the acquired company;
- the incurrence of unexpected expenses and working capital requirements;
- a failure of our due diligence process to identify significant issues or contingencies;
- difficulties assimilating the operations and personnel of the acquired company;
- difficulties effectively integrating the acquired technologies with our current technologies;

our inability to retain key personnel of acquired entities;

failure to maintain the quality of customer service;

our inability to achieve the financial and strategic goals for the acquired and combined businesses; and

difficulty in maintaining internal controls, procedures and policies.

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Any of the foregoing obstacles, or a combination of them, could increase selling, general and administrative expenses in absolute terms and/or as a percentage of net sales, which could in turn negatively impact our operating results and cash flows.

We may not be able to consummate acquisitions in the future on terms acceptable to us, or at all. In addition, future acquisitions are accompanied by the risk that the obligations and liabilities of an acquired company may not be adequately reflected in the historical financial statements of that company and the risk that those historical financial statements may be based on assumptions which are incorrect or inconsistent with our assumptions or approach to accounting policies. Any of these material obligations, liabilities or incorrect or inconsistent assumptions could adversely impact our results of operations.

A significant percentage of our employees are unionized. Wage increases or work stoppages by our unionized employees may reduce our results of operations.

As of January 3, 2009, approximately 30% of our employees were represented by various labor unions. As of January 3, 2009, we had 45 collective bargaining agreements, of which 10, covering 140 total employees, are up for renewal in 2009. We may become subject to material cost increases, or additional work rules imposed by agreements with labor unions. The foregoing could increase our selling, general and administrative expenses in absolute terms and/or as a percentage of net sales. In addition, work stoppages or other labor disturbances may occur in the future, which could adversely impact our net sales and/or selling, general and administrative expenses. All of these factors could negatively impact our operating results and cash flows.

We may be unable to recover or continue to recognize our deferred income tax assets which would increase our tax expense and reduce our operating results.

As of January 3, 2009, we have recorded deferred income tax assets of \$36.8 million. Deferred income tax assets and income tax benefits are recognized for temporary differences between amounts recorded for financial reporting and income tax purposes. We evaluate our deferred tax assets quarterly to determine if valuation allowances are required based on the consideration of all available evidence using a more likely than not standard.

In evaluating our ability to recover our deferred income tax assets, we consider all available positive and negative evidence, including our past operating results, our ability to carryback losses against prior taxable income, the existence of cumulative losses in the most recent years, tax planning strategies, our forecast of future taxable income and the existence of an excess of appreciated assets over the tax basis of our net assets in amounts sufficient to realize our deferred tax assets. In estimating future taxable income, we develop assumptions including the amount of future state and federal pretax operating and non-operating income, the reversal of temporary differences and the implementation of feasible and prudent tax planning strategies. These assumptions require significant judgment about the forecasts of future taxable income. Substantial changes in these assumptions could result in our inability to recover the value of our deferred tax assets which could result in future tax expense and reduced operating results.

Increases in the cost of employee benefits, such as pension and other postretirement benefits, could impact our financial results and cash flow.

Unfavorable changes in the cost of our pension retirement benefits and current employees' medical benefits could materially impact our financial results and cash flow. We sponsor a number of defined benefit pension plans covering substantially all of our hourly employees. Our estimates of the amount and timing of our future funding obligations for our defined benefit pension plans are based upon various assumptions. These assumptions include, but are not limited to, the discount rate, projected return on plan assets, compensation increase rates, mortality rates, retirement patterns,

and turnover rates. In addition, the amount and timing of our pension funding obligations can be influenced by funding requirements that are established by the Employee Retirement Income and Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), the Pension Protection Act, Congressional Acts, or other governing bodies. During 2008, we contributed approximately \$7.5 million to our defined

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benefit pension plans. As of January 3, 2009, the net unfunded status of our benefit plan was \$17.0 million. If the status of our defined benefit plan continues to be unfunded it could require future cash contributions.

We participate in various multi-employer pension plans in the U.S. The majority of these plans are underfunded. If, in the future, we choose to withdraw from these plans, we would likely need to record a withdrawal liability, which may be material to our financial results.

Federal and state transportation regulations could impose substantial costs on us which would reduce our net income.

We use our own fleet of over 600 trucks and over 1,000 trailers to service customers throughout the United States. The U.S. Department of Transportation, or DOT, regulates our operations in domestic interstate commerce. We are subject to safety requirements governing interstate operations prescribed by the DOT. Vehicle dimensions and driver hours of service also remain subject to both federal and state regulation. More restrictive limitations on vehicle weight and size, trailer length and configuration, or driver hours of service would increase our costs, which, if we are unable to pass these cost increases on to our customers, would reduce our gross margins, increase our selling, general and administrative expenses and reduce our operating results.

Environmental laws impose risks and costs on us.

Our operations are subject to federal, state, provincial and local laws, rules and regulations governing the protection of the environment, including, but not limited to, those regulating discharges into the air and water, the use, handling and disposal of hazardous or toxic substances, the management of wastes, the cleanup of contamination and the control of noise and odors. We have made, and will continue to make, expenditures to comply with these requirements. While we believe, based upon current information, that we are in substantial compliance with all applicable environmental laws, rules and regulations, we could be subject to potentially significant fines or penalties for any failure to comply. Moreover, under certain environmental laws, a current or previous owner or operator of real property, and parties that generate or transport hazardous substances that are disposed of at that real property, may be held liable for the cost to investigate or clean up such real property and for related damages to natural resources. We may be subject to liability, including liability for investigation and cleanup costs, if contamination is discovered at one of our current or former warehouse facilities, or at a landfill or other location where we have disposed of, or arranged for the disposal of, wastes. Georgia-Pacific has agreed to indemnify us against any claim arising from environmental conditions that existed prior to May 7, 2004. We also carry environmental insurance. However, any remediation costs not related to conditions existing prior to May 7, 2004 may not be covered by indemnification. In addition, certain remediation costs may not be covered by insurance. In addition, we could be subject to claims brought pursuant to applicable laws, rules or regulations for property damage or personal injury resulting from the environmental impact of our operations. Increasingly stringent environmental requirements, more aggressive enforcement actions, the discovery of unknown conditions or the bringing of future claims may cause our expenditures for environmental matters to increase, and we may incur material costs associated with these matters.

We may incur substantial costs relating to Georgia-Pacific's product liability related claims.

Georgia-Pacific is a defendant in suits brought in various courts around the nation by plaintiffs who allege that they have suffered personal injury as a result of exposure to products containing asbestos. These suits allege a variety of lung and other diseases based on alleged exposure to products previously manufactured by Georgia-Pacific. Although the terms of the asset purchase agreement provide that Georgia-Pacific will indemnify us against all obligations and liabilities arising out of, relating to or otherwise in any way in respect of any product liability claims (including, without limitation, claims, obligations or liabilities relating to the presence or alleged presence of asbestos-containing materials) with respect to products purchased, sold, marketed, stored, delivered, distributed or transported by

Georgia-Pacific and its affiliates, including the Division prior to the acquisition, it could be possible that circumstances may arise under which asbestos-related claims against Georgia-Pacific could cause us to incur substantial costs.

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For example, in the event that Georgia-Pacific is financially unable to respond to an asbestos product liability claim, plaintiffs' lawyers may, in order to obtain recovery, attempt to sue us, in our capacity as owner of assets sold by Georgia-Pacific, despite the fact that the assets sold to us did not contain asbestos. Asbestos litigation has, over the years, proved unpredictable, as the aggressive and well-financed asbestos plaintiffs' bar has been creative, and often successful, in bringing claims based on novel legal theories and on expansive interpretations of existing legal theories. These claims have included claims against companies that did not manufacture asbestos products. As a result of these factors, a number of companies have been held liable for amounts far in excess of their perceived exposure. Although we believe, based on our understanding of the law as currently interpreted, that we should not be held liable for any of Georgia-Pacific's asbestos-related claims, and, to the contrary, that we would prevail on summary judgment on any such claims, there is nevertheless a possibility that new theories could be developed, or that the application of existing theories could be expanded, in a manner that would result in liability for us. Any such liability could ultimately be borne by us if Georgia-Pacific is unable to fulfill its indemnity obligation under the asset purchase agreement with us.