

DENNYS CORP  
Form 10-Q  
November 03, 2010

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

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

For the Quarterly Period Ended September 29, 2010

Commission File Number 0-18051  
DENNY'S CORPORATION  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

13-3487402  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

203 East Main Street  
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29319-0001  
(Address of principal executive offices)  
(Zip Code)

(864) 597-8000  
(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 (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes ☒ No ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Yes ☐ No ☐

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

Large accelerated ☐ Accelerated filer ☒ Non-accelerated ☐ Smaller reporting ☐  
filer company

Edgar Filing: DENNYS CORP - Form 10-Q

(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 Exchange Act).

Yes ☐ No ☒

As of October 28, 2010, 99,697,084 shares of the registrant's common stock, par value \$.01 per share, were outstanding.

---

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>Part I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u>	
<u>Item 1. Financial Statements</u>	
<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations</u>	
<u>Quarter and Three Quarters Ended September 29, 2010 and September 30, 2009</u>	3
<u>(unaudited)</u>	
<u>Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets (unaudited)</u>	4
<u>Condensed Consolidated Statement of Shareholders' Deficit and Comprehensive</u>	5
<u>Income (unaudited)</u>	
<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (unaudited)</u>	6
<u>Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited)</u>	7
<u>Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and</u>	17
<u>Results of Operations</u>	
<u>Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	25
<u>Item 4. Controls and Procedures</u>	26
 <u>PART II - OTHER INFORMATION</u>	
<u>Item 1. Legal Proceedings</u>	26
<u>Item 5. Other Information</u>	27
<u>Item 6. Exhibits</u>	27
<u>Signatures</u>	28

## PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## Item 1. Financial Statements

Denny's Corporation and Subsidiaries  
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations  
(Unaudited)

	Quarter Ended		Three Quarters Ended	
	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009
(In thousands, except per share amounts)				
Revenue:				
Company restaurant sales	\$ 107,171	\$ 116,579	\$ 320,255	\$ 377,655
Franchise and license revenue	32,761	29,485	92,326	89,982
Total operating revenue	139,932	146,064	412,581	467,637
Costs of company restaurant sales:				
Product costs	25,405	26,924	75,597	88,513
Payroll and benefits	41,533	44,712	129,072	154,623
Occupancy	7,097	7,808	21,406	24,908
Other operating expenses	17,158	18,147	49,016	56,739
Total costs of company restaurant sales	91,193	97,591	275,091	324,783
Costs of franchise and license revenue	12,009	10,308	35,498	32,295
General and administrative expenses	14,375	14,313	40,560	44,067
Depreciation and amortization	7,320	7,865	21,984	24,592
Operating (gains), losses and other charges, net	(1,900)	(2,648)	(1,594)	(6,101)
Total operating costs and expenses	122,997	127,429	371,539	419,636
Operating income	16,935	18,635	41,042	48,001
Other expenses:				
Interest expense, net	6,394	8,117	19,306	24,847
Other nonoperating expense (income), net	188	(363)	746	(1,594)
Total other expenses, net	6,582	7,754	20,052	23,253
Net income before income taxes	10,353	10,881	20,990	24,748
Provision for income taxes	419	848	1,010	1,072
Net income	\$ 9,934	\$ 10,033	\$ 19,980	\$ 23,676
Net income per share:				
Basic	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.25
Diluted	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.24

Weighted average shares  
outstanding:

Edgar Filing: DENNYS CORP - Form 10-Q

Basic	99,579	96,506	98,646	96,221
Diluted	101,305	99,158	101,264	98,295

See accompanying notes

Denny's Corporation and Subsidiaries  
Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets  
(Unaudited)

	September 29, 2010	December 30, 2009
	(In thousands)	
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 40,638	\$ 26,525
Receivables, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$177 and \$171, respectively	13,718	18,106
Inventories	3,743	4,165
Assets held for sale	6,541	—
Prepaid and other current assets	11,260	9,549
Total current assets	75,900	58,345
Property, net of accumulated depreciation of \$247,975 and \$258,695, respectively	118,090	131,484
Other assets:		
Goodwill	31,892	32,440
Intangible assets, net	52,888	55,110
Deferred financing costs, net	2,773	2,676
Other noncurrent assets	31,135	32,572
Total assets	\$ 312,678	\$ 312,627
Liabilities and shareholders' deficit		
Current liabilities:		
Current maturities of notes and debentures	\$ 754	\$ 900
Current maturities of capital lease obligations	3,899	3,725
Accounts payable	19,248	22,842
Other current liabilities	62,738	64,641
Total current liabilities	86,639	92,108
Long-term liabilities:		
Notes and debentures, less current maturities	239,446	254,357
Capital lease obligations, less current maturities	18,960	19,684
Liability for insurance claims, less current portion	19,082	21,687
Deferred income taxes	13,121	13,016
Other noncurrent liabilities and deferred credits	37,854	39,273
Total long-term liabilities	328,463	348,017
Total liabilities	415,102	440,125
Commitments and contingencies		
Shareholders' deficit:		
Common stock \$0.01 par value; authorized - 135,000; issued – 99,627 and 96,613, respectively	996	966

Edgar Filing: DENNYS CORP - Form 10-Q

Paid-in capital	547,473	542,576
Deficit	(632,847)	(652,827)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss, net of tax	(18,046)	(18,213)
Total shareholders' deficit	(102,424)	(127,498)
Total liabilities and shareholders' deficit	\$ 312,678	\$ 312,627

See accompanying notes

Denny's Corporation and Subsidiaries  
Condensed Consolidated Statement of Shareholders' Deficit and Comprehensive Income  
(Unaudited)

	Common Stock Shares	Common Stock Amount	Paid-in Capital	Deficit	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss, Net	Total Shareholders' Deficit
	(In thousands)					
Balance, December 30, 2009	96,613	\$ 966	\$ 542,576	\$ (652,827)	\$ (18,213)	\$ (127,498)
Comprehensive income:						
Net income	—	—	—	19,980	—	19,980
Amortization of unrealized loss on hedged transactions, net of tax	—	—	—	—	167	167
Comprehensive income	—	—	—	19,980	167	20,147
Share-based compensation on equity classified awards	—	—	1,588	—	—	1,588
Issuance of common stock for share-based compensation	459	4	(4)	—	—	—
Exercise of common stock options	2,555	26	3,313	—	—	3,339
Balance, September 29, 2010	99,627	\$ 996	\$ 547,473	\$ (632,847)	\$ (18,046)	\$ (102,424)

See accompanying notes



Denny's Corporation and Subsidiaries  
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows  
(Unaudited)

	Three Quarters Ended September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009
	(In thousands)	
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 19,980	\$ 23,676
Adjustments to reconcile net income to cash flows provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	21,984	24,592
Operating (gains), losses and other charges, net	(1,594)	(6,101)
Amortization of deferred financing costs	771	811
Loss on early extinguishment of debt	221	40
(Gain) loss on interest rate swap	167	(1,486)
Deferred income tax expense	105	650
Share-based compensation	2,010	3,899
Changes in assets and liabilities, net of effects of acquisitions and dispositions:		
Decrease (increase) in assets:		
Receivables	1,704	3,313
Inventories	422	1,314
Other current assets	(1,716)	(4,691)
Other assets	(2,117)	(2,175)
Increase (decrease) in liabilities:		
Accounts payable	(977)	(2,949)
Accrued salaries and vacations	(5,600)	(3,009)
Accrued taxes	1,932	1,105
Other accrued liabilities	(1,496)	(7,107)
Other noncurrent liabilities and deferred credits	(4,203)	(4,482)
Net cash flows provided by operating activities	31,593	27,400
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchase of property	(13,202)	(12,484)
Proceeds from disposition of property	9,917	20,730
Collections on notes receivable	3,151	—
Net cash flows (used in) provided by investing activities	(134)	8,246
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Long-term debt payments	(17,747)	(22,906)
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	3,339	102
Tax withholding on share-based payments	(154)	(253)
Net bank overdrafts	(2,716)	(3,745)
Deferred financing costs	(58)	—
Debt transaction costs	(10)	—
Net cash flows used in financing activities	(17,346)	(26,802)

Edgar Filing: DENNYS CORP - Form 10-Q

Increase in cash and cash equivalents	14,113	8,844
Cash and cash equivalents at:		
Beginning of period	26,525	21,042
End of period	\$ 40,638	\$ 29,886

See accompanying notes

Denny's Corporation and Subsidiaries  
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements  
(Unaudited)

Note 1. Introduction and Basis of Presentation

Denny's Corporation, or Denny's, is one of America's largest family-style restaurant chains. At September 29, 2010, the Denny's brand consisted of 1,612 restaurants, 1,380 (86%) of which were franchised/licensed restaurants and 232 (14%) of which were company-owned and operated.

The following table shows the unit activity for the quarter and three quarters ended September 29, 2010 and September 30, 2009:

	Quarter Ended		Three Quarters Ended	
	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009
Company-owned restaurants, beginning of period	228	263	233	315
Units opened	6	—	10	1
Units sold to franchisees	(2)	(7)	(11)	(59)
Units closed	—	—	—	(1)
End of period	232	256	232	256
Franchised and licensed restaurants, beginning of period	1,328	1,281	1,318	1,226
Units opened	55	9	68	29
Units purchased from Company	2	7	11	59
Units closed	(5)	(8)	(17)	(25)
End of period	1,380	1,289	1,380	1,289
Total restaurants, end of period	1,612	1,545	1,612	1,545

Our unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements have been prepared pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Therefore, certain information and notes normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles have been condensed or omitted. In our opinion, all adjustments considered necessary for a fair presentation of the interim periods presented have been included. Such adjustments are of a normal and recurring nature. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions; however, we believe that our estimates, including those for the above-described items, are reasonable.

These interim Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements should be read in conjunction with our Consolidated Financial Statements and notes thereto for the year ended December 30, 2009 and the related Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, both of which are contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 30, 2009. The results of operations for the interim periods

presented are not necessarily indicative of the results for the entire fiscal year ending December 29, 2010.

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Newly Adopted Accounting Standards

Fair Value

Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) No. 2010-06, “Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures (Topic 820): Improving Disclosures about Fair Value Measurements”

Effective March 31, 2010, we adopted ASU No. 2010-06, which improves disclosure requirements related to fair value measurements under the Codification. The new disclosure requirements relate to transfers in and out of Levels 1 and 2. ASU No. 2010-06 also includes separate disclosure requirements about purchases, sales, issuances and settlements relating to Level 3 measurements, which we are required to adopt in the first quarter of 2011. The adoption did not have a material impact on the disclosures included in our Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Subsequent Events

ASU No. 2010-09, “Subsequent Events (Topic 855): Amendments to Certain Recognition and Disclosure Requirements”

Effective December 31, 2009, the first day of fiscal 2010, we adopted ASC No. 2010-09, which removes the requirement to disclose the date through which subsequent events have been evaluated. The adoption did not have a material impact on the disclosures included in our Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements. See Note 18.

## Variable Interest Entities

### Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 810 "Consolidation"

Effective December 31, 2009, the first day of fiscal 2010, we adopted FASB ASC 810, which amends the guidance on the consolidation of variable interest entities for determining whether an entity is a variable interest entity and modifies the methods allowed for determining the primary beneficiary of a variable interest entity. In addition, it requires ongoing reassessments of whether an enterprise is the primary beneficiary of a variable interest entity and enhanced disclosures related to an enterprise's involvement in a variable interest entity. The adoption did not have a material impact on our Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

There have been no other material changes to our significant accounting policies and estimates from the information provided in Note 2 of our Consolidated Financial Statements included in our Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 30, 2009.

### Accounting Standards to be Adopted

#### Fair Value

### Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") No. 2010-06, "Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures (Topic 820): Improving Disclosures about Fair Value Measurements"

As mentioned under the "Fair Value" section above, we are required to adopt the disclosure requirements of ASU 2010-06 about purchases, sales, issuances and settlements relating to Level 3 measurements in the first quarter of 2011. We do not anticipate that the adoption will have a material impact on the disclosures included in our Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

#### Receivables

### Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") No. 2010-20, "Disclosures about the Credit Quality of Financing Receivables and the Allowance for Credit Losses"

In July 2010, the FASB issued ASU 2010-20, which requires additional disclosures about the credit quality of financing receivables, including credit card receivables, and the allowance for doubtful accounts. We are required to adopt the provisions of this ASU in the fourth quarter of 2010. We believe the adoption will result in increased notes receivable disclosure, but will not have any impact on our Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Accounting standards that have been issued or proposed by the FASB or other standards-setting bodies that do not require adoption until a future date are not expected to have a material impact on our Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements upon adoption.

## Note 3. Notes Receivables

Notes receivable were comprised of the following:

September 29, 2010	December 30, 2009
(In thousands)	

Current assets (included as a component of receivables):

Receivables related to sale of restaurants to franchisees	\$	825	\$	3,504
Receivables related to sale of real estate to a third party		63		61
Total current notes receivable	\$	888	\$	3,565

Noncurrent (included as a component of other noncurrent assets):

Receivables related to sale of restaurants to franchisees	\$	1,667	\$	1,894
Receivables related to sale of real estate to a third party		64		111
Total noncurrent notes receivable	\$	1,731	\$	2,005

#### Note 4. Assets Held for Sale

Assets held for sale of \$6.5 million as of September 29, 2010, include restaurants and real estate to be sold to franchisees. There were no assets held for sale as of December 30, 2009. We expect to sell each of these assets within 12 months. Our Credit Facility (defined in Note 8) required us to make mandatory prepayments to reduce outstanding indebtedness with the net cash proceeds from the sale of specified real estate properties, restaurant assets and restaurant operations to franchisees, net of a voluntary \$10.0 million annual exclusion related to proceeds from the sale of restaurant operations to franchisees and a voluntary \$10.0 million annual exclusion related to proceeds from the sale of restaurant assets. As of September 29, 2010 and December 30, 2009, no reclassification of long-term debt to current liabilities was required. As a result of classifying certain assets as held for sale, we recognized impairment charges of \$0.1 million for the quarter and three quarters ended September 29, 2010 and \$0.4 million for the three quarters ended September 30, 2009. This expense is included as a component of operating (gains), losses and other charges, net in our Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations.

## Note 5. Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

The changes in carrying amounts of goodwill for the three quarters ended September 29, 2010 are as follows:

	(In thousands)
Balance at December 30, 2009	\$ 32,440
Write-offs associated with sale of restaurants	(548)
Balance at September 29, 2010	\$ 31,892

Goodwill and intangible assets were comprised of the following:

	September 29, 2010		December 30, 2009	
	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization
	(In thousands)			
Goodwill	\$ 31,892	\$ —	\$ 32,440	\$ —
Intangible assets with indefinite lives:				
Trade names	\$ 42,483	\$ —	\$ 42,454	\$ —
Liquor licenses	176	—	176	—
Intangible assets with definite lives:				
Franchise and license agreements	46,513	36,365	50,787	38,397
Foreign license agreements	241	160	241	151
Intangible assets	\$ 89,413	\$ 36,525	\$ 93,658	\$ 38,548
Other assets with definite lives:				
Software development costs	\$ 33,570	\$ 29,899	\$ 32,806	\$ 28,401

## Note 6. Operating (Gains), Losses and Other Charges, Net

Operating (gains), losses and other charges, net are comprised of the following:

	Quarter Ended		Three Quarters Ended	
	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009
	(In thousands)			
Gains on sales of assets and other, net	\$ (3,757)	\$ (3,127)	\$ (5,233)	\$ (7,159)
Restructuring charges and exit costs	1,778	479	3,560	235
Impairment charges	79	—	79	823
	\$ (1,900)	\$ (2,648)	\$ (1,594)	\$ (6,101)

Operating (gains), losses  
and other charges, net

### Gains on Sales of Assets

Proceeds and gains on sales of assets were comprised of the following:

	Quarter Ended September 29, 2010		Quarter Ended September 30, 2009	
	Net Proceeds	Gains	Net Proceeds	Gains
	(In thousands)			
Sales of restaurant operations and related real estate to franchisees	\$ 808	\$ 63	\$ 2,136	\$ 580
Sales of other real estate assets	5,787	3,663	5,753	2,437
Recognition of deferred gains	—	31	—	110
Total	\$ 6,595	\$ 3,757	\$ 7,889	\$ 3,127

During the quarter ended September 29, 2010, we recognized \$0.1 million of gains on the sale of two restaurant operations to two franchisees for net proceeds of \$0.8 million. In addition, during the quarter ended September 29, 2010, we recognized \$3.7 million of gains on real estate sold to franchisees. During the quarter ended September 30, 2009, we recognized \$0.6 million of gains on the sale of seven restaurant operations to four franchisees for net proceeds of \$2.1 million.



	Three Quarters Ended September 29, 2010		Three Quarters Ended September 30, 2009	
	Net		Net	
	Proceeds	Gains	Proceeds	Gains
	(In thousands)			
Sales of restaurant operations and related real estate to franchisees	\$ 3,806	\$ 1,429	\$ 13,887	\$ 3,383
Sales of other real estate assets	6,311	3,711	8,507	3,571
Recognition of deferred gains	—	93	—	205
Total	\$ 10,117	\$ 5,233	\$ 22,394	\$ 7,159

During the three quarters ended September 29, 2010, we recognized \$1.4 million of gains on the sale of 11 restaurant operations to six franchisees for net proceeds of \$3.8 million (which included a note receivable of \$0.2 million). In addition, during the three quarters ended September 29, 2010, we recognized \$3.6 million of gains on real estate sold to franchisees. During the three quarters ended September 30, 2009, we recognized \$3.4 million of gains on the sale of 59 restaurant operations to 14 franchisees for net proceeds of \$13.9 million (which included notes receivable of \$1.5 million).

#### Restructuring Charges and Exit Costs

Restructuring charges and exit costs were comprised of the following:

	Quarter Ended		Three Quarters Ended	
	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009
	(In thousands)			
Exit costs	\$ (45)	\$ 376	\$ 818	\$ (369)
Severance and other restructuring charges	1,823	103	2,742	604
Total restructuring and exit costs	\$ 1,778	\$ 479	\$ 3,560	\$ 235

See Note 17 for details on the severance and other restructuring charges related to the departure of our former Chief Executive Officer.

The components of the change in accrued exit cost liabilities are as follows:

	(In thousands)
Balance at December 30, 2009	\$ 6,555
Provisions for units closed during the year (1)	528
Changes in estimates of accrued exit costs, net (1)	290
Payments, net of sublease receipts	(2,281)
Reclassification of certain lease liabilities, net	(136)
Interest accretion	433
Balance at September 29, 2010	5,389

Edgar Filing: DENNYS CORP - Form 10-Q

Less current portion included in other current liabilities		1,595
Long-term portion included in other noncurrent liabilities	\$	3,794

(1) Included as a component of operating (gains), losses and other charges, net.

Estimated net cash payments related to exit cost liabilities in the next five years are as follows:

	(In thousands)
Remainder of 2010	\$ 818
2011	1,522
2012	1,054
2013	772
2014	649
Thereafter	1,394
Total	6,209
Less imputed interest	820
Present value of exit cost liabilities	\$ 5,389

As of September 29, 2010 and December 30, 2009, we had accrued severance and other restructuring charges of \$2.5 million and \$0.9 million, respectively. The balance as of September 29, 2010 is expected to be paid during the next 12 months.

## Note 7. Fair Value of Financial Instruments

## Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities Measured on a Recurring and Nonrecurring Basis

Financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis are summarized below:

Fair Value Measurements as of September 29, 2010						
Total	Quoted Prices		Significant		Valuation	Technique
	in Active		Other			
	Markets for		Observable			
	Identical		Inputs			
	Assets/Liabilities		(Level		Inputs	
	(Level 1)		2)		(Level 3)	
(In thousands)						
Deferred compensation plan investments	\$ 5,746	\$ 5,746	\$ —	\$ —	market approach	
Total	\$ 5,746	\$ 5,746	\$ —	\$ —		

Fair Value Measurements as of December 30, 2009						
Total	Quoted Prices		Significant			
	in Active		Other			
	Markets for		Observable		Significant	
	Identical		Inputs		Unobservable	
	Assets/Liabilities		(Level		Inputs	
	(Level 1)		2)		(Level 3)	
Valuation Technique						
(In thousands)						
Deferred compensation plan investments	\$ 5,721	\$ 5,721	\$ —	\$ —	market approach	
Total	\$ 5,721	\$ 5,721	\$ —	\$ —		

Assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis are summarized below:

Fair Value Measurements as of September 29, 2010						
		Quoted Prices				
		in Active		Significant		
		Markets for		Other		Significant
		Identical		Observable		Unobservable
		Assets/Liabilities		Inputs		Inputs
Total		(Level 1)		(Level 2)		(Level 3)
Valuation Technique						
(In thousands)						
Assets held for sale						
(1)	\$	20	\$	—	\$	20
Total	\$	20	\$	—	\$	20
— market approach						
—						

(1) In addition to the less than \$0.1 million in assets held for sale recorded at fair value, we classified an additional \$6.5 million as assets held for sale, which are recorded at their carrying amount. See Note 4.

As of December 30, 2009, impaired assets related to an underperforming unit were written down to a fair value of \$0 based on the income approach.

#### Fair Value of Long-Term Debt

The book value and estimated fair value of our long-term debt, excluding capital lease obligations, was as follows:

	September 29, 2010	December 30, 2009
	(In thousands)	
Book value:		
Fixed rate long-term debt	\$ 175,200	\$ 175,257
Variable rate long-term debt	65,000	80,000
Long term debt excluding capital lease obligations	\$ 240,200	\$ 255,257
Estimate fair value:		
Fixed rate long-term debt	\$ 175,638	\$ 179,194
Variable rate long-term debt	65,000	80,000
Long term debt excluding capital lease obligations	\$ 240,638	\$ 259,194

The difference between the estimated fair value of long-term debt compared with its historical cost reported in our Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets at September 29, 2010 and December 30, 2009 relates primarily to market quotations for our Denny's Holdings, Inc. 10% Senior Notes due 2012 (the "10% Notes").

During the quarter ended September 29, 2010, we commenced a tender offer on the 10% Notes. See Note 18.

#### Note 8. Long-Term Debt

##### Credit Facility

Our subsidiaries, Denny's, Inc. and Denny's Realty, LLC (the "Borrowers"), had, at September 29, 2010, a senior secured credit agreement consisting of a \$50 million revolving credit facility (including up to \$10 million for a revolving letter of credit facility for short term needs), a \$65 million term loan and an additional \$30 million letter of credit facility for longer term needs (together, the "Credit Facility"). At September 29, 2010, we had outstanding letters of credit of \$25.1 million under our letter of credit facility. There were no outstanding letters of credit under our revolving letter of credit facility and no revolving loans outstanding at September 29, 2010. These balances resulted in availability of \$4.9 million under our letter of credit facility and \$50.0 million under the revolving facility.

The revolving facility was scheduled to mature on December 15, 2011. The term loan and the \$30 million letter of credit facility were scheduled to mature on March 31, 2012. The term loan amortized in equal quarterly installments at a rate equal to approximately 1% per annum with all remaining amounts due on the maturity date. The Credit Facility was available for working capital, capital expenditures and other general corporate purposes. We were required to make mandatory prepayments under certain circumstances (such as required payments related to asset sales) typical for this type of credit facility and could have made certain optional prepayments under the Credit Facility.

The Credit Facility was guaranteed by Denny's and its other subsidiaries and was secured by substantially all of the assets of Denny's and its subsidiaries. In addition, the Credit Facility was secured by first-priority mortgages on approximately 100 company-owned real estate assets. The Credit Facility contained certain financial covenants (i.e., maximum total debt to EBITDA (as defined under the Credit Facility) ratio requirements, maximum senior secured debt to EBITDA ratio requirements, minimum fixed charge coverage ratio requirements and limitations on capital expenditures), negative covenants, conditions precedent, material adverse change provisions, events of default and other terms, conditions and provisions customarily found in credit agreements for facilities and transactions of this type.

A commitment fee of 0.5% was paid on the unused portion of the revolving credit facility. Interest on loans under the revolving facility was payable at per annum rates equal to LIBOR plus 250 basis points and adjusted over time based on our leverage ratio. Interest on the term loan and letter of credit facility was payable at per annum rates equal to LIBOR plus 200 basis points. The weighted average interest rate under the term loan was 2.6% and 2.9% as of September 29, 2010 and September 30, 2009, respectively. Taking into consideration our interest rate swap, described below, the weighted average interest rate under the term loan was 6.6% as of September 30, 2009.

We believe that our estimated cash flows from operations for 2010, combined with our capacity for additional borrowings under our Credit Facility, will enable us to meet our anticipated cash requirements and fund capital expenditures over the next twelve months.

Subsequent to the end of the quarter, we refinanced the Credit Facility. See Note 18.

#### Note 9. Derivative Financial Instruments

Edgar Filing: DENNYS CORP - Form 10-Q

We may choose to utilize derivative financial instruments to manage our exposure to interest rate risk and commodity risk in relation to natural gas costs. We do not enter into derivative instruments for trading or speculative purposes.

As of September 29, 2010 and December 30, 2009, there were no derivative instruments included in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet.

The gains (losses) recognized in our Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations as a result of interest rate swaps and natural gas hedge contracts are as follows:

	Quarter Ended		Three Quarters Ended	
	September	September	September	September
	29, 2010	30, 2009	29, 2010	30, 2009
	(In thousands)			
Realized gains (losses):				
Interest rate swap - included as a component of interest expense	\$ —	\$ (1,086)	\$ —	\$ (2,880)
Natural gas contracts - included as a component of utility expense, which is included in other operating expenses	\$ —	\$ (464)	\$ —	\$ (1,484)
Unrealized gains (losses) included as a component of nonoperating expense:				
Interest rate swap	\$ —	\$ 611	\$ (167)	\$ 1,486
Natural gas contracts	\$ —	\$ 405	\$ —	\$ 811

The unrealized gains (losses) related to the interest rate swap include both the changes in the fair value of the swap and the amortization of losses previously recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income.

## Interest Rate Swap

In 2007, we entered into an interest rate swap with a notional amount of \$150 million that was designated as a cash flow hedge of our interest rate exposure. Under the terms of the swap, we paid a fixed rate of 4.8925% on the notional amount and received payments from the counterparties based on the 3-month LIBOR rate for a term ending on March 30, 2010, effectively resulting in a fixed rate of 6.8925% on the notional amount. Interest rate differentials paid or received under the swap agreement were recognized as adjustments to interest expense. At the end of 2007, we determined that a portion of the underlying cash flows related to the swap were no longer probable of occurring over the term of the swap as a result of the probability of paying the debt down below the notional amount. Accordingly, we discontinued hedge accounting treatment. The losses included in accumulated other comprehensive income as of December 26, 2007 were amortized to other nonoperating expense over the remaining term of the swap. In 2008, we terminated \$50 million of the notional amount of the swap. In the fourth quarter of 2009 we terminated the remaining \$100 million of the notional amount of the swap. The 2009 termination resulted in a \$1.3 million cash payment, which was made in the fourth quarter of 2009. There were no interest rate swaps outstanding as of December 30, 2009 or September 29, 2010.

## Natural Gas Hedge Contracts

Realized gains (losses) on the contracts are recorded as utility cost which is a component of other operating expenses. The contracts are not accounted for under hedge accounting; therefore, changes in the contracts' fair value are recorded in other nonoperating expense.

## Note 10. Defined Benefit Plans

The components of net periodic benefit cost were as follows:

	Pension Plan Quarter Ended		Other Defined Benefit Plans Quarter Ended	
	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009
(In thousands)				
Service cost	\$ 94	\$ 98	\$ —	\$ —
Interest cost	858	863	35	37
Expected return on plan assets	(982)	(866)	—	—
Amortization of net loss	229	327	5	4
Net periodic benefit cost	\$ 199	\$ 422	\$ 40	\$ 41

	Pension Plan Three Quarters Ended		Other Defined Benefit Plans Three Quarters Ended	
	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009
(In thousands)				
Service cost	\$ 282	\$ 293	\$ —	\$ —
Interest cost	2,574	2,589	104	113
Expected return on plan assets	(2,946)	(2,598)	—	—
Amortization of net loss	686	980	16	11
Net periodic benefit cost	\$ 596	\$ 1,264	\$ 120	\$ 124

We did not make any contributions to our qualified pension plan during the three quarters ended September 29, 2010. We made contributions of \$1.1 million to our qualified pension plan during the three quarters ended September 30, 2009. We made contributions of \$0.1 million to our other defined benefit plans during both the three quarters ended September 29, 2010 and September 30, 2009, respectively. We do not expect to contribute to our qualified pension plan during 2010. We expect to contribute an additional \$0.1 million to our other defined benefit plans over the remainder of fiscal 2010.

Additional minimum pension liability of \$18.0 million is reported as a component of accumulated other comprehensive loss in the Condensed Consolidated Statement of Shareholders' Deficit and Comprehensive Income as of September 29, 2010 and December 30, 2009.



## Note 11. Share-Based Compensation

Total share-based compensation included as a component of net income was as follows:

	Quarter Ended		Three Quarters Ended	
	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009
(In thousands)				
Share-based compensation related to liability classified restricted stock units	\$ 211	\$ 547	\$ 422	\$ 1,143
Share based compensation related to equity classified awards:				
Stock options	\$ 347	\$ 349	\$ 882	\$ 855
Restricted stock units	93	226	501	1,669
Board deferred stock units	110	75	205	232
Total share-based compensation related to equity classified awards	550	650	1,588	2,756
Total share-based compensation	\$ 761	\$ 1,197	\$ 2,010	\$ 3,899

## Stock Options

During the three quarters ended September 29, 2010, we granted approximately 0.6 million stock options to certain employees. These stock options vest evenly over 3 years and have a 10-year contractual life.

The weighted average fair value per option for options granted during the three quarters ended September 29, 2010 was \$1.21. The fair value of these stock options was estimated at the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option pricing model. Use of this option pricing model requires the input of subjective assumptions. These assumptions include estimating the length of time employees will retain their vested stock options before exercising them (“expected term”), the estimated volatility of our common stock price over the expected term and the number of options that will ultimately not complete their vesting requirements (“forfeitures”). Changes in the subjective assumptions can materially affect the estimate of the fair value of share-based compensation and, consequently, the related amount recognized in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations.

We used the following weighted average assumptions for the stock option grants for the three quarters ended September 29, 2010:

Dividend yield	0.0%
Expected volatility	60.2%
Risk-free interest rate	2.48%
Weighted average expected term	4.7 years

The dividend yield assumption was based on our dividend payment history and expectations of future dividend payments. The expected volatility was based on the historical volatility of our stock for a period approximating the expected life. The risk-free interest rate was based on published U.S. Treasury spot rates in effect at the time of grant

with terms approximating the expected life of the option. The weighted average expected term of the options represents the period of time the options are expected to be outstanding based on historical trends.

As of September 29, 2010, we had approximately \$1.1 million of unrecognized compensation cost related to unvested stock option awards outstanding, which is expected to be recognized over a weighted average of 1.6 years.

#### Restricted Stock Units

In September 2010, we granted approximately 0.3 million performance shares as an employment incentive related to the hiring of our new Chief Operating Officer. As these awards contain a market condition, a Monte Carlo valuation was used to determine the grant date fair value. The weighted average fair value per share was \$2.18. The performance shares will vest and be earned if the closing price of Denny's common stock meets or exceeds set price hurdles for 20 consecutive days. The performance period is the five year period beginning September 13, 2010 and ending September 13, 2015.

In August 2010, we granted approximately 0.2 million performance shares as an employment incentive related to the hiring of our new Chief Marketing Officer. As these awards contain a market condition, a Monte Carlo valuation was used to determine the grant date fair value. The weighted average fair value per share was \$2.09. The performance shares will vest and be earned if the closing price of Denny's common stock meets or exceeds set price hurdles for 20 consecutive days. The performance period is the five year period beginning July 21, 2010 and ending July 21, 2015.

In June 2010, we granted two awards of less than 0.1 million restricted stock units to certain non-employee board members. One award had a grant date fair value of \$2.72 and the other had a grant date fair value of \$2.82. The units vest 12 months from the grant date and, based on the participant's election, are converted to shares of Denny's stock either upon vesting or upon the board member's separation from the Board of Directors.

In January 2010, we granted approximately 0.1 million performance shares and 0.1 million performance units to certain employees. As these awards contain a market condition, a Monte Carlo valuation was used to determine the performance shares grant date fair value of \$2.69 per share. The awards granted to our named executive officers also contain a performance condition based on certain operating measures for the fiscal year ended December 29, 2010. The performance units were valued at \$2.00 per unit. The performance period is the three year fiscal period beginning December 31, 2009 and ending December 26, 2012. The performance shares and units will vest and be earned (from 0% to 150% of the target award for each such increment) at the end of the performance period based on the Total Shareholder Return of our stock compared to the Total Shareholder Returns of a group of peer companies.

During the quarter ended September 29, 2010, we made payments of \$0.6 million (before taxes) in cash and issued 0.3 million shares of common stock, net of 0.1 million shares that were used to pay taxes, related to restricted stock unit awards. During the three quarters ended September 29, 2010, we made payments of \$1.5 million (before taxes) in cash and issued 0.5 million shares of common stock, net of 0.1 million shares that were used to pay taxes, related to restricted stock unit awards.

Accrued compensation expense related to liability classified restricted stock units included as a component of the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet was as follows:

	September 29, 2010	December 30, 2009
	(In thousands)	
Liability classified restricted stock units:		
Other current liabilities	\$ 344	\$ 1,303
Other noncurrent liabilities	\$ 299	\$ 506

As of September 29, 2010, we had approximately \$2.2 million of unrecognized compensation cost (approximately \$0.4 million for liability classified units and approximately \$1.8 million for equity classified units) related to all unvested restricted stock unit awards outstanding, which is expected to be recognized over a weighted average of 1.4 years.

#### Board Deferred Stock Units

During the three quarters ended September 29, 2010, we granted 0.2 million deferred stock units (which are equity classified) with a weighted average grant date fair value of \$2.91 per unit to non-employee members of our Board of Directors. The directors may elect to convert these awards into shares of common stock either on a specific date in the future (while still serving as a member of the Board of Directors) or upon termination as a member of the Board of Directors.

#### Note 12. Comprehensive Income and Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss

Total comprehensive income was \$20.1 million and \$24.4 million for the three quarters ended September 29, 2010 and September 30, 2009, respectively.

The components of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss, Net in the Condensed Consolidated Statement of Shareholder's Deficit and Comprehensive Loss are as follows:

	September 29, 2010	December 30, 2009
	(In thousands)	
Additional minimum pension liability	\$ (18,046)	\$ (18,046)
Unrealized loss on interest rate swap	—	(167)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	\$ (18,046)	\$ (18,213)

#### Note 13. Income Taxes

The provision for income taxes was \$0.4 million and \$1.0 million for the quarter and three quarters ended September 29, 2010 compared to \$0.8 million and \$1.1 million for the quarter and three quarters ended September 30, 2009. The provision for income taxes for the first three quarters of 2010 and 2009 was determined using our effective rate

estimated for the entire fiscal year. We have provided valuation allowances related to any benefits from income taxes resulting from the application of a statutory tax rate to our net operating losses (“NOL”) generated in previous periods.

## Note 14. Net Income Per Share

	Quarter Ended		Three Quarters Ended	
	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009
(In thousands, except for per share amounts)				
Numerator:				
Numerator for basic and diluted net income per share – net income	\$ 9,934	\$ 10,033	\$ 19,980	\$ 23,676
Denominator:				
Denominator for basic net income per share – weighted average shares	99,579	96,506	98,646	96,221
Effect of dilutive securities:				
Options	627	1,562	1,248	1,230
Restricted stock units and awards	1,099	1,090	1,371	844
Denominator for diluted net income per share – adjusted weighted average shares and assumed conversions of dilutive securities	101,305	99,158	101,264	98,295
Basic net income per share	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.25
Diluted net income per share	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.24
Stock options excluded (1)	3,206	3,038	2,232	5,671
Restricted stock units and awards excluded (1)	—	418	—	418

(1) Excluded from diluted weighted average shares outstanding as the impact would have been antidilutive.

## Note 15. Supplemental Cash Flow Information

	Three Quarters Ended	
	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009
(In thousands)		
Income taxes paid, net	\$ 1,083	\$ 384
Interest paid	\$ 14,426	\$ 19,229

Noncash investing activities:			
Notes received in connection with disposition of property	\$	200	\$ 1,665
Execution of direct financing leases	\$	—	\$ 2,815
Noncash financing activities:			
Issuance of common stock, pursuant to share-based compensation plans	\$	1,120	\$ 1,823
Execution of capital leases	\$	2,173	\$ 1,405
Accrued deferred financing costs	\$	841	\$ —

#### Note 16. Related Party Transactions

During the quarter and three quarters ended September 30, 2009, we sold company-owned restaurants to franchisees that are former employees, including a former executive. We received cash proceeds of \$1.1 million and \$2.2 million and recognized gains of \$0.7 million and \$0.6 million from these related party sales during the quarter and three quarters ended September 30, 2009, respectively. In relation to these sales, we may enter into leases or subleases with the franchisees. These leases and subleases are entered into at fair market value.

#### Note 17. Commitments and Contingencies

On July 23, 2010, the Company received notice that our former Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) had elected to arbitrate issues with respect to the settlement of any outstanding obligations related to his departure. We estimated that the arbitration could result in payments to our former CEO ranging from approximately \$0.8 million to \$3.2 million, and, as of June 30, 2010, we recorded \$0.8 million of severance and other restructuring charges related to the resolution of this matter. During the quarter ended September 29, 2010, we recorded an additional \$1.5 million of severance and other restructuring charges related to this matter, bringing the total to \$2.3 million. On November 2, 2010, we settled all outstanding obligations. See Note 18.

In addition, there are various other claims and pending legal actions against or indirectly involving us, including actions involving employees and guests, other employment related matters, taxes, sales of franchise rights and businesses and other matters. Based on our examination of these matters and our experience to date, we have recorded reserves reflecting our best estimate of liability, if any, with respect to these matters. However, the ultimate disposition of these matters cannot be determined with certainty. We record legal expenses and other litigation costs as those costs are incurred.

Note 18. Subsequent Events

Credit Facility

On September 30, 2010, our subsidiaries Denny's, Inc. and Denny's Realty, LLC, (the "Borrowers"), refinanced our Credit Facility (the "Old Credit Facility") and entered into a new senior secured credit agreement in an aggregate principal of \$300 million (the "New Credit Facility"). The New Credit Facility consists of a \$50 million five year senior secured revolver (with a \$30 million letter of credit sublimit) and a \$250 million six year senior secured term loan.

Interest on the New Credit Facility is payable at per annum rates equal to LIBOR plus 475 basis points with a LIBOR floor of 1.75%. The term loan was issued at 98.5% reflecting an original issue discount. The New Credit Facility includes an accordion feature that would allow the Borrowers to increase the size of the facility by \$25 million subject to lender approval. The maturity date for the revolver is September 30, 2015. The maturity date for the term loan is September 30, 2016. The term loan amortizes in equal quarterly installments equal to approximately 1% per annum with all remaining amounts due on the maturity date. Mandatory prepayments will be required under certain circumstances and we will have the option to make certain prepayments under the New Credit Facility.

Proceeds from the New Credit Facility were used principally to repurchase or redeem the \$175 million aggregate principal amount of the 10% Notes, as described below, and to repay the \$65 million term loan under the Old Credit Facility. The New Credit Facility is guaranteed by the Company and its material subsidiaries and is secured by substantially all of the assets of the Company and its subsidiaries, including the stock of the Company's subsidiaries.

The New Credit Facility includes certain financial covenants with respect to a maximum leverage ratio, a maximum lease-adjusted leverage ratio, a minimum fixed charged coverage ratio and limitations on capital expenditures. These covenants are substantially similar to those that were contained in the Old Credit Facility.

Tender Offer

On September 9, 2010, we commenced an offer (the "Tender Offer") to purchase for cash any and all of the outstanding 10% Notes. In conjunction with the Tender Offer, we solicited consents to the adoption of certain amendments to the indenture governing the 10% Notes (the "Indenture") and to the execution of the "Supplemental Indenture" effecting the amendments.

The "Total Consideration" for each \$1,000 principal amount of the 10% Notes validly tendered and not withdrawn on or before September 22, 2010 (the "Consent Date") and accepted for purchase was \$1,002.50, which included a consent payment of \$10.00 per \$1,000 principal amount of 10% Notes. The "Tender Offer Consideration" for each \$1,000 principal amount of the Notes validly tendered after the Consent Date and on or before October 6, 2010 (the "Expiration Time") and accepted for purchase was \$992.50. In addition to the Total Consideration or Tender Offer Consideration payable for the 10% Notes accepted for purchase, Holders received accrued and unpaid interest on their purchased 10% Notes up to, but not including, the date of payment. The Offer expired on October 6, 2010.

As of the Consent Date, \$125,266,000 in principal amount of the 10% Notes had been validly tendered and not validly withdrawn. On September 30, 2010, we paid the Total Consideration for each \$1,000 principal amount of the 10% Notes validly tendered on or prior to the Consent Date, plus accrued and unpaid interest. At the Expiration Time, an aggregate of \$125,279,000 in principal amount of the 10% Notes (71.59% of the original amount of the 10% Notes) had been validly tendered and not validly withdrawn in the Tender Offer. On October 7, 2010, we paid the Tender Offer Consideration for each \$1,000 principal amount of the 10% Notes tendered after the Consent Date but before the Expiration Time, plus accrued and unpaid interest.

Redemption of Remaining 10% Notes

On October 1, 2010, we gave a notice of redemption pursuant to the Indenture (as amended by Supplemental Indenture) providing redemption of the aggregate principal amount of the 10% Notes not purchased in the Offer at a redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the redemption date. On November 1, 2010 we redeemed the remaining \$49,721,000 in principal amount of the 10% Notes.

#### Settlement of Pending Arbitration

On November 2, 2010, in settlement of a previously disclosed arbitration proceeding between the Company and Nelson Marchioli, we entered into a Settlement Agreement and General Release (the "Settlement Agreement") with our former Chief Executive Officer related to his departure from the Company effective June 30, 2010. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement Mr. Marchioli will receive (i) a lump sum from the Company in the amount of \$2,250,000, (ii) performance-based incentive awards and outstanding stock option awards held by Mr. Marchioli, as of his departure from the Company, generally subject to the terms and conditions set forth in his May 1, 2009 employment agreement, as if Mr. Marchioli's termination of employment was under circumstances constituting a "Termination without Cause" under the employment agreement, and (iii) any and all of Mr. Marchioli's previously deferred compensation, together with any accrued interest or earnings valued as of December 31, 2010. The Settlement Agreement also contains mutual releases between the Company and Mr. Marchioli and confirms his resignation from the Board of Directors of Denny's Corporation effective as of June 30, 2010.

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

##### Forward-Looking Statements

The following discussion is intended to highlight significant changes in our financial position as of September 29, 2010 and results of operations for the quarter and three quarters ended September 29, 2010 compared to the quarter and three quarters ended September 30, 2009. The forward-looking statements included in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, which reflect our best judgment based on factors currently known, involve risks, uncertainties, and other factors which may cause our actual performance to be materially different from the performance indicated or implied by such statements. Such factors include, among others: competitive pressures from within the restaurant industry; the level of success of our operating initiatives and advertising and promotional efforts; adverse publicity; changes in business strategy or development plans; terms and availability of capital; regional weather conditions; overall changes in the general economy (including with regard to energy costs), particularly at the retail level; political environment (including acts of war and terrorism); and other factors included in the discussion below, or in Part II. Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and Part I. Item 1A. Risk Factors, contained in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 30, 2009.



## Statements of Operations

The following table contains information derived from our Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations expressed as a percentage of total operating revenues, except as noted below. Percentages may not add due to rounding.

	Quarter Ended September 29, 2010 (Dollars in thousands)			September 30, 2009			Three Quarters Ended September 29, 2010			September 30, 2009		
Revenue:												
Company restaurant sales	\$ 107,171	76.6	%	\$ 116,579	79.8	%	\$ 320,255	77.6	%	\$ 377,655	80.8	%
Franchise and license revenue	32,761	23.4	%	29,485	20.2	%	92,326	22.4	%	89,982	19.2	%
Total operating revenue	139,932	100.0	%	146,064	100.0	%	412,581	100.0	%	467,637	100.0	%
Costs of company restaurant sales (a):												
Product costs	25,405	23.7	%	26,924	23.1	%	75,597	23.6	%	88,513	23.4	%
Payroll and benefits	41,533	38.8	%	44,712	38.4	%	129,072	40.3	%	154,623	40.9	%
Occupancy	7,097	6.6	%	7,808	6.7	%	21,406	6.7	%	24,908	6.6	%
Other operating expenses	17,158	16.0	%	18,147	15.6	%	49,016	15.3	%	56,739	15.0	%
Total costs of company restaurant sales	91,193	85.1	%	97,591	83.7	%	275,091	85.9	%	324,783	86.0	%
Costs of franchise and license revenue (a)												
	12,009	36.7	%	10,308	35.0	%	35,498	38.4	%	32,295	35.9	%
General and administrative expenses												
	14,375	10.3	%	14,313	9.8	%	40,560	9.8	%	44,067	9.4	%
Depreciation and amortization	7,320	5.2	%	7,865	5.4	%	21,984	5.3	%	24,592	5.3	%
Operating (gains), losses and other charges	(1,900 )	(1.4	%)	(2,648 )	(1.8	%)	(1,594 )	(0.4	%)	(6,101 )	(1.3	%)
Total operating costs and expenses	122,997	87.9	%	127,429	87.2	%	371,539	90.1	%	419,636	89.7	%
Operating income	16,935	12.1	%	18,635	12.8	%	41,042	9.9	%	48,001	10.3	%
Other expenses:												
Interest expense, net	6,394	4.6	%	8,117	5.6	%	19,306	4.7	%	24,847	5.3	%
Other nonoperating expense (income), net	188	0.1	%	(363 )	(0.2	%)	746	0.2	%	(1,594 )	(0.3	%)
Total other expenses, net	6,582	4.7	%	7,754	5.3	%	20,052	4.9	%	23,253	5.0	%
Net income before income taxes	10,353	7.4	%	10,881	7.4	%	20,990	5.1	%	24,748	5.3	%
Provision for income taxes	419	0.3	%	848	0.6	%	1,010	0.2	%	1,072	0.2	%
Net income	\$ 9,934	7.1	%	\$ 10,033	6.9	%	\$ 19,980	4.8	%	\$ 23,676	5.1	%
Other Data:												
	\$ 462			\$ 450			\$ 1,368			\$ 1,365		

Company-owned average  
unit sales

Franchise average unit sales	\$ 348	\$ 348	\$ 1,029	\$ 1,067
Company-owned equivalent units (b)	232	259	234	277
Franchise equivalent units (b)	1,348	1,285	1,330	1,266
Same-store sales decrease (company-owned) (c)(d)	(0.7 %)	(6.6 %)	(4.2 %)	(2.9 %)
Guest check average (decrease) increase (d)	(2.9 %)	0.8 %	(1.8 %)	1.1 %
Guest count increase (decrease) (d)	2.3 %	(7.3 %)	(2.4 %)	(4.0 %)
Same-store sales decrease (franchised and licensed units) (c)(d)	(1.2 %)	(7.3 %)	(4.5 %)	(4.5 %)

(a) Costs of company restaurant sales percentages are as a percentage of company restaurant sales. Costs of franchise and license revenue percentages are as a percentage of franchise and license revenue. All other percentages are as a percentage of total operating revenue.

(b) Equivalent units are calculated as the weighted average number of units outstanding during a defined time period.

(c) Same-store sales include sales from restaurants that were open the same period in the prior year.

(d) Prior year amounts have not been restated for 2010 comparable units.

## Quarter Ended September 29, 2010 Compared with Quarter Ended September 30, 2009

## Unit Activity

	Quarter Ended	
	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009
Company-owned restaurants, beginning of period	228	263
Units opened	6	—
Units sold to franchisees	(2)	(7)
Units closed	—	—
End of period	232	256
Franchised and licensed restaurants, beginning of period	1,328	1,281
Units opened	55	9
Units purchased from Company	2	7
Units closed	(5)	(8)
End of period	1,380	1,289
Total restaurants, end of period	1,612	1,545

Of the 61 units opened during the quarter ended September 29, 2010, six company-owned units and 42 franchise units represent conversions of restaurants at Pilot Flying J Travel Centers.

## Company Restaurant Operations

During the quarter ended September 29, 2010, we incurred a 0.7% decrease in same-store sales, comprised of a 2.9% decrease in guest check average and a 2.3% increase in guest counts. Company restaurant sales decreased \$9.4 million, or 8.1%, primarily resulting from a 27 equivalent-unit decrease in company-owned restaurants. The decrease in equivalent units primarily resulted from the sale of company-owned restaurants to franchisees.

Total costs of company restaurant sales as a percentage of company restaurant sales increased to 85.1% from 83.7%. Product costs increased to 23.7% from 23.1% primarily due to unfavorable shifts in menu mix. Payroll and benefits increased to 38.8% from 38.4% primarily as a result of a higher incentive compensation, partially offset by improved scheduling of restaurant staff and favorable worker's compensation claims development. Occupancy costs decreased slightly to 6.6% from 6.7%. Other operating expenses were comprised of the following amounts and percentages of company restaurant sales:

	Quarter Ended					
	September 29, 2010		September 30, 2009			
	(Dollars in thousands)					
Utilities	\$	4,926	4.6%	\$	5,868	5.0%
Repairs and maintenance		1,767	1.6%		2,496	2.1%
Marketing		4,645	4.3%		4,493	3.9%
Legal settlement costs		602	0.6%		19	0.0%
Other direct costs		5,218	4.9%		5,271	4.5%
Other operating expenses	\$	17,158	16.0%	\$	18,147	15.6%

# Edgar Filing: DENNYS CORP - Form 10-Q

Utilities decreased 0.4 percentage points primarily due to the recognition of \$0.5 million in losses on natural gas contracts during the prior year quarter. Legal settlement costs increased 0.6 percentage points primarily resulting from unfavorable claims development. Other direct costs increased 0.4 percentage points primarily as a result of expenses related to new store openings.

## Franchise Operations

Franchise and license revenue and related costs were comprised of the following amounts and percentages of franchise and license revenue for the periods indicated:

	Quarter Ended					
	September 29, 2010		September 30, 2009			
	(Dollars in thousands)					
Royalties	\$	18,670	57.0%	\$	17,805	60.4%
Initial and other fees		2,760	8.4%		665	2.2%
Occupancy revenue		11,331	34.6%		11,015	37.4%
Franchise and license revenue	\$	32,761	100.0%	\$	29,485	100.0%
Occupancy costs		8,743	26.7%		8,633	29.3%
Other direct costs		3,266	10.0%		1,675	5.7%
Costs of franchise and license revenue	\$	12,009	36.7%	\$	10,308	35.0%

Royalties increased by \$0.9 million, or 4.9% primarily resulting from a 63 equivalent unit increase in franchised and licensed units, partially offset by the effects of a 1.2% decrease in same-store sales. The increase in equivalent units resulted primarily from the sale of company-owned restaurants to franchisees. Initial fees increased by \$2.1 million, or 315.0%, as a greater number of restaurants were opened by franchisees during the current year quarter. The increase in occupancy revenue of \$0.3 million, or 2.9%, is primarily the result of the sale of restaurants to franchisees over the last 12 months.

Costs of franchise and license revenue increased by \$1.7 million, or 16.5%. Occupancy costs increased \$0.1 million, or 1.3%. Other direct costs increased by \$1.6 million, or 95.0%, primarily as a result of expenses associated with Pilot Flying J restaurant openings. As a result, costs of franchise and license revenue as a percentage of franchise and license revenue increased to 36.7% for the quarter ended September 29, 2010 from 35.0% for the quarter ended September 30, 2009.

#### Other Operating Costs and Expenses

Other operating costs and expenses such as general and administrative expenses and depreciation and amortization expense relate to both company and franchise operations.

General and administrative expenses were comprised of the following:

	Quarter Ended	
	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009
	(In thousands)	
Share-based compensation	\$ 761	\$ 1,197
Other general and administrative expenses	13,614	13,116
Total general and administrative expenses	\$ 14,375	\$ 14,313

The \$0.4 million decrease in share-based compensation expense is primarily due to the departure of certain employees during the fourth quarter of 2009 and the first half of 2010 and the adoption of lower cost share-based compensation plans during recent years. The \$0.5 million increase in other general and administrative expenses results primarily from executive hiring costs incurred during the quarter.

Depreciation and amortization was comprised of the following:

	Quarter Ended	
	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009
	(In thousands)	
Depreciation of property and equipment	\$ 5,384	\$ 5,872
Amortization of capital lease assets	710	659
Amortization of intangible assets	1,226	1,334
Total depreciation and amortization expense	\$ 7,320	\$ 7,865

The overall decrease in depreciation and amortization expense is due to the sale of company-owned restaurants to franchisees during fiscal 2009 and 2010.

Operating (gains), losses and other charges, net were comprised of the following:

	Quarter Ended	
	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009

Edgar Filing: DENNYS CORP - Form 10-Q

	(In thousands)	
Gains on sales of assets and other, net	\$ (3,757)	\$ (3,127)
Restructuring charges and exit costs	1,778	479
Impairment charges	79	—
Operating (gains), losses and other charges, net	\$ (1,900)	\$ (2,648)

During the quarter ended September 29, 2010, we recognized \$0.1 million of gains on the sale of two restaurant operations to two franchisees for net proceeds of \$0.8 million. In addition, during the quarter ended September 29, 2010, we recognized \$3.6 million of gains on real estate sold to franchisees. During the quarter ended September 30, 2009, we recognized \$0.6 million of gains on the sale of seven restaurant operations to four franchisees for net proceeds of \$2.1 million. The remaining gains for the two periods resulted from the recognition of gains on the sale of other real estate assets and deferred gains.

Restructuring charges and exit costs were comprised of the following:

	Quarter Ended	
	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009
	(In thousands)	
Exit costs	\$ (45)	\$ 376
Severance and other restructuring charges	1,823	103
Total restructuring and exit costs	\$ 1,778	\$ 479

Severance and other restructuring charges for the quarter ended September 29, 2010 includes \$1.5 million related to the departure of the Company's former Chief Executive Officer (see Part II Item 1. Legal Proceedings).

Impairment charges for the quarter ended September 29, 2010 relate to restaurants identified as held for sale during the quarter.

Operating income was \$16.9 million for the quarter ended September 29, 2010 compared with \$18.6 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2009.

Interest expense, net was comprised of the following:

	Quarter Ended	
	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009
	(In thousands)	
Interest on senior notes	\$ 4,363	\$ 4,363
Interest on credit facilities	402	2,051
Interest on capital lease liabilities	964	960
Letters of credit and other fees	397	425
Interest income	(345)	(464)
Total cash interest	5,781	7,335
Amortization of deferred financing costs	254	269
Interest accretion on other liabilities	359	513
Total interest expense, net	\$ 6,394	\$ 8,117

The decrease in interest expense resulted from a decrease in interest rates and the repayment of term loan debt during the three quarters ended September 29, 2010 and fiscal 2009, of \$15.0 million and \$46.7 million, respectively. Subsequent to the end of the quarter, we refinanced the 10% Notes and our Credit Facility. See "Liquidity and Capital Resources".

Other nonoperating expense (income), net was \$0.2 million of expense for the quarter ended September 29, 2010 compared with other nonoperating income of \$0.4 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2009.

The provision for income taxes was \$0.4 million for the quarter ended September 29, 2010 compared to \$0.8 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2009. The provision for income taxes for the third quarters of 2010 and 2009 was determined using our effective rate estimated for the entire fiscal year. We have provided valuation allowances related to any benefits from income taxes resulting from the application of a statutory tax rate to our net operating losses ("NOL") generated in previous periods.

Net income was \$9.9 million for the quarter ended September 29, 2010 compared with \$10.0 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2009 due to the factors noted above.

#### Three Quarters Ended September 29, 2010 Compared with Three Quarters Ended September 30, 2009

##### Unit Activity

	Three Quarters Ended	
	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009
Company-owned restaurants, beginning of period	233	315
Units opened	10	1
Units sold to franchisees	(11)	(59)
Units closed	—	(1)
End of period	232	256

Franchised and licensed restaurants, beginning of period	1,318	1,226
Units opened	68	29
Units purchased from Company	11	59
Units closed	(17)	(25)
End of period	1,380	1,289
Total restaurants, end of period	1,612	1,545

Of the 78 units opened during the three quarters ended September 29, 2010, ten company-owned and 43 franchise units represent conversions of restaurants at Pilot Flying J Travel Centers.

#### Company Restaurant Operations

During the three quarters ended September 29, 2010, we realized a 4.2% decrease in same-store sales, comprised of a 1.8% decrease in guest check average and a 2.4% decrease in guest counts. Company restaurant sales decreased \$57.4 million, or 15.2%, primarily resulting from a 43 equivalent-unit decrease in company-owned restaurants. The decrease in equivalent-units primarily resulted from the sale of company-owned restaurants to franchisees.

Total costs of company restaurant sales as a percentage of company restaurant sales decreased to 85.9% from 86.0%. Product costs increased to 23.6% from 23.4% due to unfavorable shifts in menu mix. Payroll and benefits decreased to 40.3% from 40.9% primarily as a result of a decrease in incentive compensation. Occupancy costs increased slightly to 6.7% from 6.6%. Other operating expenses were comprised of the following amounts and percentages of company restaurant sales:



Three Quarters Ended						
September 29, 2010			September 30, 2009			
(Dollars in thousands)						
Utilities	\$	13,968	4.4%	\$	18,302	4.8%
Repairs and maintenance		5,711	1.8%		7,593	2.0%
Marketing		13,469	4.2%		14,087	3.7%
Legal settlement costs		802	0.3%		374	0.1%
Other direct costs		15,066	4.7%		16,383	4.3%
Other operating expenses	\$	49,016	15.3%	\$	56,739	15.0%

Utilities decreased 0.4 percentage points primarily due to the recognition of \$1.5 million in losses on natural gas contracts during the prior year. Other direct costs increased 0.4 percentage points primarily as a result of expenses related to new store openings and charges for excess promotional materials.

### Franchise Operations

Franchise and license revenue and costs of franchise and license revenue were comprised of the following amounts and percentages of franchise and license revenue for the periods indicated:

Three Quarters Ended						
September 29, 2010			September 30, 2009			
(Dollars in thousands)						
Royalties	\$	54,488	59.0%	\$	53,690	59.7%
Initial fees		3,872	4.2%		3,571	4.0%
Occupancy revenue		33,966	36.8%		32,721	36.3%
Franchise and license revenue	\$	92,326	100.0%	\$	89,982	100.0%
Occupancy costs		26,062	28.2%		25,241	28.1%
Other direct costs		9,436	10.2%		7,054	7.8%
Costs of franchise and license revenue	\$	35,498	38.4%	\$	32,295	35.9%

Royalties increased by \$0.8 million, or 1.5% primarily resulting from a 64 equivalent-unit increase in franchised and licensed units, partially offset by the effects of a 4.5% decrease in same-store sales. The increase in equivalent-units resulted primarily from the sale of company-owned restaurants to franchisees. Initial fees increased by \$0.3 million, or 8.4%. The increase in initial fees resulted from the greater number of restaurants opened by franchisees, partially offset by the fewer number of restaurants sold to franchisees during the current year period. The increase in occupancy revenue of \$1.2 million, or 3.8%, is also primarily the result of the sale of restaurants to franchisees over the last 12 months.

Costs of franchise and license revenue increased by \$3.2 million, or 9.9%. The increase in occupancy costs of \$0.8 million, or 3.3%, is primarily the result of the sale of company-owned restaurants to franchisees. Other direct costs increased by \$2.4 million, or 33.8%, primarily as a result of expenses associated with Pilot Flying J restaurant openings. As a result, costs of franchise and license revenue as a percentage of franchise and license revenue increased to 38.4% for the three quarters ended September 29, 2010 from 35.9% for the three quarters ended September 30, 2009.

## Other Operating Costs and Expenses

Other operating costs and expenses such as general and administrative expenses and depreciation and amortization expense relate to both company and franchise operations.

General and administrative expenses are comprised of the following:

	Three Quarters Ended	
	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009
	(In thousands)	
Share-based compensation	\$ 2,010	\$ 3,899
General and administrative expenses	38,550	40,168
Total general and administrative expenses	\$ 40,560	\$ 44,067

The \$1.9 million decrease in share-based compensation expense is primarily due to the departure of certain employees during the fourth quarter of 2009 and the first half of 2010 and the adoption of lower cost share-based compensation plans during recent years. The \$1.6 million decrease in other general and administrative expenses is primarily the result of a \$4.6 million decrease in incentive and deferred compensation, partially offset by a \$2.0 million increase in costs related to our recent proxy contest.

Depreciation and amortization is comprised of the following:

	Three Quarters Ended	
	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009
	(In thousands)	
Depreciation of property and equipment	\$ 16,180	\$ 18,477
Amortization of capital lease assets	2,055	2,054
Amortization of intangible assets	3,749	4,061
Total depreciation and amortization expense	\$ 21,984	\$ 24,592

The overall decrease in depreciation and amortization expense is due primarily to the sale of company-owned restaurants to franchisees during fiscal 2009 and 2010.

Operating (gains), losses and other charges, net are comprised of the following:

	Three Quarters Ended	
	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009
	(In thousands)	
Gains on sales of assets and other, net	\$ (5,233)	\$ (7,159)
Restructuring charges and exit costs	3,560	235
Impairment charges	79	823
Operating (gains), losses and other charges, net	\$ (1,594)	\$ (6,101)

During the three quarters ended September 29, 2010, we recognized \$1.4 million of gains on the sale of 11 restaurant operations to six franchisees for net proceeds of \$3.8 million (which included a note receivable of \$0.2 million). In addition, during the three quarters ended September 29, 2010, we recognized \$3.6 million of gains on real estate sold to franchisees. During the three quarters ended September 30, 2009, we recognized \$3.4 million of gains on the sale of 59 restaurant operations to 14 franchisees for net proceeds of \$13.9 million (which included notes receivable of \$1.5 million). The remaining gains for the two periods resulted from the recognition of gains on the sale of other real estate assets and deferred gains.

Restructuring charges and exit costs were comprised of the following:

	Three Quarters Ended	
	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009
	(In thousands)	
Exit costs	\$ 818	\$ (369)
Severance and other restructuring charges	2,742	604
Total restructuring and exit costs	\$ 3,560	\$ 235

Severance and other restructuring charges for the three quarters ended September 29, 2010 includes \$2.3 million related to the departure of the Company's former Chief Executive Officer (see Part II Item 1. Legal Proceedings).

Impairment charges for the three quarters ended September 29, 2010 and September 30, 2009 generally relate to underperforming restaurants as well as restaurants and real estate identified as held for sale during the period.

Operating income was \$41.0 million for the three quarters ended September 29, 2010 and \$48.0 million for the three quarters ended September 30, 2009.

Interest expense, net is comprised of the following:

	Three Quarters Ended	
	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009
	(In thousands)	
Interest on senior notes	\$ 13,089	\$ 13,089
Interest on credit facilities	1,329	6,350
Interest on capital lease liabilities	2,943	2,855
Letters of credit and other fees	1,173	1,284
Interest income	(1,183)	(1,294)
Total cash interest	17,351	22,284
Amortization of deferred financing costs	771	811
Interest accretion on other liabilities	1,184	1,752
Total interest expense, net	\$ 19,306	\$ 24,847

The decrease in interest expense resulted from a decrease in interest rates and the repayment of term loan debt during the three quarters ended September 29, 2010 and fiscal 2009, of \$15.0 million and \$46.7 million, respectively. Subsequent to the end of the quarter, we refinanced the 10% Notes and our Credit Facility. See "Liquidity and Capital Resources".

Other nonoperating expense (income), net was \$0.7 million of expense for the three quarters ended September 29, 2010 compared with other nonoperating income of \$1.6 million for the three quarters ended September 30, 2009. The decrease is primarily related to interest rate swap and natural gas hedge activity during the prior year period.

The provision for income taxes was \$1.0 million for the three quarters ended September 29, 2010 compared to \$1.1 million for the three quarters ended September 30, 2009. The provision for income taxes for the first three quarters of 2010 and 2009 was determined using our effective rate estimated for the entire fiscal year. We have provided valuation allowances related to any benefits from income taxes resulting from the application of a statutory tax rate to our NOL's generated in previous periods.

Net income was \$20.0 million for the three quarters ended September 29, 2010 compared with \$23.7 million for the three quarters ended September 30, 2009 due to the factors noted above.

### Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our primary sources of liquidity and capital resources are cash generated from operations, borrowings under our Credit Facility (as defined in Note 8) and, in recent years, cash proceeds from the sale of surplus properties and sales of restaurant operations to franchisees, to the extent allowed by our Credit Facility. Principal uses of cash are operating expenses, capital expenditures and debt repayments.

The following table presents a summary of our sources and uses of cash and cash equivalents for the periods indicated:

	Three Quarters Ended	
	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009
	(In thousands)	
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 31,593	\$ 27,400
Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities	(134)	8,246
Net cash used in financing activities	(17,346)	(26,802)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	\$ 14,113	\$ 8,844

The increase in operating cash flows is primarily the result of timing differences in marketing spending and the reduction in our interest payments. We believe that our estimated cash flows from operations for 2010, combined with our capacity for additional borrowings under our Credit Facility, will enable us to meet our anticipated cash requirements and fund capital expenditures over the next twelve months.

Net cash flows used in investing activities were \$0.1 million for the three quarters ended September 29, 2010. These cash flows include capital expenditures of \$15.4 million, of which \$2.2 million was financed through capital leases. These expenditures were partially offset by \$9.9 million in proceeds from asset sales and collections of notes receivable of \$3.2 million. Our principal capital requirements have been largely associated with the maintenance of our existing company-owned restaurants and facilities, new construction, remodeling, information technology and our strategic initiatives, as follows:

	Three Quarters Ended	
	September 29, 2010	September 30, 2009
	(In thousands)	
Facilities	\$ 3,932	\$ 4,745
New construction	6,806	3,782
Remodeling	1,187	1,563
Information technology	622	199

Edgar Filing: DENNYS CORP - Form 10-Q

Strategic initiatives	6	994
Other	649	1,201
Capital expenditures	\$ 13,202	\$ 12,484

The increase in new construction is primarily the result of the conversion of restaurants at Pilot Flying J Travel Centers. We generally expect our capital requirements to trend downward as we reduce our company-owned restaurant portfolio and remain selective in our new restaurant investments.

Cash flows used in financing activities were \$17.3 million for the three quarters ended September 29, 2010, which included \$14.6 million of term loan prepayments and \$0.4 million of scheduled term loan payments.

Our Credit Facility consisted of a \$50 million revolving credit facility (including up to \$10 million for a revolving letter of credit facility for short term needs), a \$65 million term loan and an additional \$30 million letter of credit facility for longer term needs. At September 29, 2010, we had outstanding letters of credit of \$25.1 million under our letter of credit facility. There were no outstanding letters of credit under our revolving letter of credit facility and no revolving loans outstanding at September 29, 2010. These balances resulted in availability of \$4.9 million under our letter of credit facility and \$50.0 million under the revolving facility.

The revolving facility was scheduled to mature on December 15, 2011. The term loan and the \$30 million letter of credit facility were scheduled to mature on March 31, 2012. The term loan amortized in equal quarterly installments at a rate equal to 1% per annum with all remaining amounts due on the maturity date. The revolving facility was available for working capital, capital expenditures and other general corporate purposes. We were required to make mandatory prepayments under certain circumstances (such as required payments related to asset sales) typical for this type of credit facility and could have made certain optional prepayments under the Credit Facility.

The Credit Facility was guaranteed by Denny's and its other subsidiaries and was secured by substantially all of the assets of Denny's and its subsidiaries. In addition, the Credit Facility was secured by first-priority mortgages on approximately 100 company-owned real estate assets. The Credit Facility contained certain financial covenants (i.e., maximum total debt to EBITDA (as defined under the Credit Facility) ratio requirements, maximum senior secured debt to EBITDA ratio requirements, minimum fixed charge coverage ratio requirements and limitations on capital expenditures), negative covenants, conditions precedent, material adverse change provisions, events of default and other terms, conditions and provisions customarily found in credit agreements for facilities and transactions of this type. We were in compliance with the terms of the Credit Facility as of September 29, 2010.

## Refinancing of Credit Facility and Tender Offer

On September 30, 2010, our subsidiaries Denny's, Inc. and Denny's Realty, LLC, (the "Borrowers"), refinanced our Credit Facility (the "Old Credit Facility") and entered into a new senior secured credit agreement in an aggregate principal of \$300 million (the "New Credit Facility"). The New Credit Facility consists of a \$50 million five year senior secured revolver (with a \$30 million letter of credit sublimit) and a \$250 million six year senior secured term loan.

Interest on the New Credit Facility is payable at per annum rates equal to LIBOR plus 475 basis points with a LIBOR floor of 1.75%. The term loan was issued at 98.5% reflecting an original issue discount. The New Credit Facility includes an accordion feature that would allow the Borrowers to increase the size of the facility by \$25 million subject to lender approval. The maturity date for the revolver is September 30, 2015. The maturity date for the term loan is September 30, 2016. The term loan amortizes in equal quarterly installments equal to approximately 1% per annum with all remaining amounts due on the maturity date. Mandatory prepayments will be required under certain circumstances and we will have the option to make certain prepayments under the New Credit Facility.

Proceeds from the New Credit Facility were used principally to repurchase or redeem the \$175 million aggregate principal amount of the 10% Notes and to repay the \$65 million term loan under the Old Credit Facility. The New Credit Facility is guaranteed by the Company and its material subsidiaries and is secured by substantially all of the assets of the Company and its subsidiaries, including the stock of the Company's subsidiaries.

The New Credit Facility includes certain financial covenants with respect to a maximum leverage ratio, a maximum lease-adjusted leverage ratio, a minimum fixed charged coverage ratio and limitations on capital expenditures. These covenants are substantially similar to those that were contained in the Old Credit Facility.

On September 9, 2010, we commenced an offer (the "Tender Offer") to purchase for cash any and all of the outstanding 10% Notes. In conjunction with the Tender Offer, we solicited consents to the adoption of certain amendments to the indenture governing the 10% Notes (the "Indenture") and to the execution of the "Supplemental Indenture" effecting the amendments.

The "Total Consideration" for each \$1,000 principal amount of the 10% Notes validly tendered and not withdrawn on or before September 22, 2010 (the "Consent Date") and accepted for purchase was \$1,002.50, which included a consent payment of \$10.00 per \$1,000 principal amount of 10% Notes. The "Tender Offer Consideration" for each \$1,000 principal amount of the Notes validly tendered after the Consent Date and on or before October 6, 2010 (the "Expiration Time") and accepted for purchase was \$992.50. In addition to the Total Consideration or Tender Offer Consideration payable for the 10% Notes accepted for purchase, Holders received accrued and unpaid interest on their purchased 10% Notes up to, but not including, the date of payment. The Offer expired on October 6, 2010.

As of the Consent Date, \$125,266,000 in principal amount of the 10% Notes had been validly tendered and not validly withdrawn. On September 30, 2010, we paid the Total Consideration for each \$1,000 principal amount of the 10% Notes validly tendered on or prior to the Consent Date, plus accrued and unpaid interest. At the Expiration Time, an aggregate of \$125,279,000 in principal amount of the 10% Notes (71.59% of the original amount of the 10% Notes) had been validly tendered and not validly withdrawn in the Tender Offer. On October 7, 2010, we paid the Tender Offer Consideration for each \$1,000 principal amount of the 10% Notes tendered after the Consent Date but before the Expiration Time, plus accrued and unpaid interest.

On October 1, 2010, we gave a notice of redemption pursuant to the Indenture (as amended by Supplemental Indenture) providing redemption of the aggregate principal amount of the 10% Notes not purchased in the Offer at a redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the redemption date. On November 1, 2010 we redeemed the remaining \$49,721,000 in principal amount of the 10%

Notes.

Our working capital deficit was \$10.7 million at September 29, 2010 compared with \$33.8 million at December 30, 2009. The decrease in working capital deficit resulted primarily from the sale of company-owned restaurants to franchisees during 2009 and 2010, a \$6.5 million increase in assets held for sale and an overall increase in cash resulting from the timing of the debt refinancing. We are able to operate with a substantial working capital deficit because (1) restaurant operations and most food service operations are conducted primarily on a cash (and cash equivalent) basis with a low level of accounts receivable, (2) rapid turnover allows a limited investment in inventories, and (3) accounts payable for food, beverages and supplies usually become due after the receipt of cash from the related sales.

#### Implementation of New Accounting Standards

See Note 2 to our Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

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

#### Interest Rate Risk

We have exposure to interest rate risk related to certain instruments entered into for other than trading purposes. Specifically, at September 29, 2010, borrowings under the term loan and revolving credit facility bore interest at variable rates based on LIBOR plus a spread of 200 basis points per annum for the term loan and letter of credit facility and 250 basis points per annum for the revolving credit facility.

Based on the levels of borrowings under the Credit Facility at September 29, 2010, if interest rates changed by 100 basis points, our annual cash flow and income before income taxes would change by approximately \$0.7 million. This computation is determined by considering the impact of hypothetical interest rates on the variable rate portion of the Credit Facility at September 29, 2010. However, the nature and amount of our borrowings under the Credit Facility may vary as a result of future business requirements, market conditions and other factors.

Our other outstanding long-term debt bears fixed rates of interest. The estimated fair value of our fixed rate long-term debt (excluding capital lease obligations and revolving credit facility advances) was approximately \$175.6 million, compared with a book value of \$175.2 million at September 29, 2010. This computation is based on market quotations for the same or similar debt issues or the estimated borrowing rates available to us. Specifically, the difference between the estimated fair value of long-term debt compared with its historical cost reported in our Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet at September 29, 2010 relates primarily to market quotations for our 10% Notes, which we subsequently repurchased and redeemed as described elsewhere in this report.



We also have exposure to interest rate risk related to our pension plan, other defined benefit plans and self-insurance liabilities. A 25 basis point increase or decrease in discount rate would decrease or increase our projected benefit obligation related to our pension plan by approximately \$1.8 million and would impact the pension plan's net periodic benefit cost by \$0.1 million. The impact of a 25 basis point increase or decrease in discount rate would decrease or increase our projected benefit obligation related to our other defined benefit plans by less than \$0.1 million while the plans' net periodic benefit cost would remain flat. A 25 basis point increase or decrease in discount rate related to our self-insurance liabilities would result in a decrease or increase of \$0.2 million, respectively.

#### Commodity Price Risk

We purchase certain food products, such as beef, poultry, pork, eggs and coffee, and utilities such as gas and electricity, which are affected by commodity pricing and are, therefore, subject to price volatility caused by weather, production problems, delivery difficulties and other factors that are outside our control and which are generally unpredictable. Changes in commodity prices affect us and our competitors generally and often simultaneously. In general, we purchase food products and utilities based upon market prices established with vendors. Although many of the items purchased are subject to changes in commodity prices, the majority of our purchasing arrangements are structured to contain features that minimize price volatility by establishing fixed pricing and/or price ceilings and floors. We use these types of purchase arrangements to control costs as an alternative to using financial instruments to hedge commodity prices. In many cases, we believe we will be able to address commodity cost increases which are significant and appear to be long-term in nature by adjusting our menu pricing or changing our product delivery strategy. However, competitive circumstances could limit such actions and, in those circumstances, increases in commodity prices could lower our margins. Because of the often short-term nature of commodity pricing aberrations and our ability to change menu pricing or product delivery strategies in response to commodity price increases, we believe that the impact of commodity price risk is not significant.

We have established a policy to identify, control and manage market risks which may arise from changes in interest rates, commodity prices and other relevant rates and prices. We do not use derivative instruments for trading purposes.

#### Item 4. Controls and Procedures

As required by Rule 13a-15(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, (the "Exchange Act") our management conducted an evaluation (under the supervision and with the participation of our Interim Chief Executive Officer, Debra Smithart-Oglesby, and our Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Financial Officer, F. Mark Wolfinger) as of the end of the period covered by this report, of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Exchange Act. Based on that evaluation, Ms. Smithart-Oglesby and Mr. Wolfinger each concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act (i) is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms and (ii) is accumulated and communicated to our management, including Ms. Smithart-Oglesby and Wolfinger, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

There have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting identified in connection with the evaluation required by Rule 13a-15(d) of the Exchange Act that occurred during our last fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

## PART II - OTHER INFORMATION

#### Item 1. Legal Proceedings

On July 23, 2010, the Company received notice that our former Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) had elected to arbitrate issues with respect to the settlement of any outstanding obligations related to his departure. We estimated that the arbitration could result in payments to our former CEO ranging from approximately \$0.8 million to \$3.2 million, and, as of June 30, 2010, we recorded \$0.8 million of severance and other restructuring charges related to the resolution of this matter. During the quarter ended September 29, 2010, we recorded an additional \$1.5 million of severance and other restructuring charges related to this matter, bringing the total to \$2.3 million. On November 2, 2010, we settled all outstanding obligations (see Item 5. Other Information).

In addition, there are various other claims and pending legal actions against or indirectly involving us, including actions involving employees and guests, other employment related matters, taxes, sales of franchise rights and businesses and other matters. Based on our examination of these matters and our experience to date, we have recorded reserves reflecting our best estimate of liability, if any, with respect to these matters. However, the ultimate disposition of these matters cannot be determined with certainty.

## Item 5. Other Information

## Redemption of 10% Notes

On November, 1, 2010, Denny's Holdings, Inc. redeemed all the \$49,721,000 in principal amount of the 10% Notes that remained outstanding following completion of the Tender Offer for the 10% Notes described elsewhere in this report, at a redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the redemption date, in accordance with the Indenture (as amended by the Supplemental Indenture) governing the 10% Senior Notes due 2012, among Denny's Holdings, Inc., as issuer, Denny's Corporation, as guarantor, and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, and the October 1, 2010 notice of redemption thereunder. As a result, the Indenture (as amended by the Supplemental Indenture) was discharged and generally ceased to be of further effect.

## Settlement of Pending Arbitration

On November 2, 2010, in settlement of a previously disclosed arbitration proceeding between the Company and Nelson Marchioli, the Company entered into a Settlement Agreement and General Release (the "Settlement Agreement") with its former Chief Executive Officer related to his departure from the Company effective June 30, 2010. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement Mr. Marchioli will receive (i) a lump sum from the Company in the amount of \$2,250,000, (ii) performance-based incentive awards and outstanding stock option awards held by Mr. Marchioli, as of his departure from the Company, generally subject to the terms and conditions set forth in his May 1, 2009 employment agreement, as if Mr. Marchioli's termination of employment was under circumstances constituting a "Termination without Cause" under the employment agreement, and (iii) any and all of Mr. Marchioli's previously deferred compensation, together with any accrued interest or earnings valued as of December 31, 2010. The Settlement Agreement also contains mutual releases between the Company and Mr. Marchioli and confirms his resignation from the Board of Directors of Denny's Corporation effective as of June 30, 2010.

## Item 6. Exhibits

The following are included as exhibits to this report:

Exhibit No.	Description
-------------	-------------

10.1	Supplemental Indenture dated as of September 9, 2010 to 10% Senior Notes due 2012 Indenture dated as of October 5, 2004 between Denny's Holdings, Inc., as Issuer, Denny's Corporation, as Guarantor, and U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee.
10.2	Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement dated as of September 30, 2010 among Denny's, Inc. and Denny's Realty, LLC, as Borrowers, Denny's Corporation, Denny's Holdings, Inc., and DFO, LLC, as Guarantors, Bank of America, N.A., as Administrative Agent and L/C Issuer, certain other lenders and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as Syndication Agent.
10.3	Second Amended and Restated Guarantee and Collateral Agreement dated as of September 30, 2010, among Denny's, Inc., Denny's Realty, LLC, Denny's Corporation, Denny's Holdings, Inc., DFO, LLC, and Bank of America, N.A., as Administrative Agent.
10.4	Employment Offer Letter dated July 19, 2010 between Denny's Corporation and Frances L. Allen.

- 10.5 Employment Offer Letter dated August 20, 2010 between Denny's Corporation and Robert Rodriguez.
- 31.1 Certification of Debra Smithart-Oglesby, Interim Chief Executive Officer of Denny's Corporation, pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 31.2 Certification of F. Mark Wolfinger, Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Financial Officer of Denny's Corporation, pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a), as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.1 Certification of Debra Smithart-Oglesby, Interim Chief Executive Officer of Denny's Corporation and F. Mark Wolfinger, Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Financial Officer of Denny's Corporation, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

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.

DENNY'S CORPORATION

Date: November 3, 2010

By: /s/ F. Mark Wolfinger  
F. Mark Wolfinger  
Executive Vice President,  
Chief Administrative Officer  
and  
Chief Financial Officer

Date: November 3, 2010

By: /s/ Jay C. Gilmore  
Jay C. Gilmore  
Vice President,  
Chief Accounting Officer and  
Corporate Controller