

AARON'S INC  
Form 10-Q  
May 06, 2016  
UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

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

FOR THE QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2016

OR

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

FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM TO  
COMMISSION FILE NUMBER 1-13941

AARON'S, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

|                                                                   |                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Georgia                                                           | 58-0687630                                |
| (State or other jurisdiction of<br>incorporation or organization) | (I. R. S. Employer<br>Identification No.) |

|                                                   |            |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 309 E. Paces Ferry Road, N.E.<br>Atlanta, Georgia | 30305-2377 |
| (Address of principal executive offices)          | (Zip Code) |
| (404) 231-0011                                    |            |

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable

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

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

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

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

Large Accelerated Filer ☒ Accelerated Filer ☐

Non-Accelerated Filer ☐ (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller Reporting Company ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes ☐ No ☒

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Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

| Title of Each Class           | Shares Outstanding as of<br>May 2, 2016 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Common Stock, \$.50 Par Value | 72,750,329                              |

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## PART I—FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## Item 1—Financial Statements

## AARON'S, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

| (In Thousands, Except Share Data)                                                                                                                                                  | (Unaudited)       |                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                    | March 31,<br>2016 | December 31,<br>2015 |
| <b>ASSETS:</b>                                                                                                                                                                     |                   |                      |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents                                                                                                                                                          | \$118,905         | \$14,942             |
| Investments                                                                                                                                                                        | 22,108            | 22,226               |
| Accounts Receivable (net of allowances of \$30,028 in 2016 and \$34,861 in 2015)                                                                                                   | 85,203            | 113,439              |
| Lease Merchandise (net of accumulated depreciation and allowances of \$720,007 in 2016 and \$738,657 in 2015)                                                                      | 1,102,233         | 1,138,938            |
| Loans Receivable (net of allowances and unamortized fees of \$6,779 in 2016 and \$2,971 in 2015)                                                                                   | 83,198            | 85,795               |
| Property, Plant and Equipment at Cost (net of accumulated depreciation of \$228,941 in 2016 and \$222,752 in 2015)                                                                 | 220,508           | 225,836              |
| Goodwill                                                                                                                                                                           | 524,687           | 539,475              |
| Other Intangibles (net of accumulated amortization of \$54,932 in 2016 and \$48,021 in 2015)                                                                                       | 268,235           | 275,912              |
| Income Tax Receivable                                                                                                                                                              | 30,034            | 179,174              |
| Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets                                                                                                                                                  | 93,656            | 59,434               |
| Total Assets                                                                                                                                                                       | \$2,548,767       | \$2,655,171          |
| <b>LIABILITIES &amp; SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY:</b>                                                                                                                                     |                   |                      |
| Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses                                                                                                                                              | \$244,491         | \$300,356            |
| Accrued Regulatory Expense                                                                                                                                                         | —                 | 4,737                |
| Deferred Income Taxes Payable                                                                                                                                                      | 306,671           | 307,481              |
| Customer Deposits and Advance Payments                                                                                                                                             | 61,642            | 69,233               |
| Debt                                                                                                                                                                               | 518,041           | 606,746              |
| Total Liabilities                                                                                                                                                                  | 1,130,845         | 1,288,553            |
| Commitments and Contingencies (Note 6)                                                                                                                                             |                   |                      |
| Shareholders' Equity:                                                                                                                                                              |                   |                      |
| Common Stock, Par Value \$.50 Per Share: Authorized: 225,000,000 Shares at March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015; Shares Issued: 90,752,123 at March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015 | 45,376            | 45,376               |
| Additional Paid-in Capital                                                                                                                                                         | 240,750           | 240,112              |
| Retained Earnings                                                                                                                                                                  | 1,450,991         | 1,403,120            |
| Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)                                                                                                                                      | 76                | (517 )               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1,737,193         | 1,688,091            |
| Less: Treasury Shares at Cost                                                                                                                                                      |                   |                      |
| Common Stock: 18,002,753 Shares at March 31, 2016 and 18,151,560 at December 31, 2015                                                                                              | (319,271 )        | (321,473 )           |
| Total Shareholders' Equity                                                                                                                                                         | 1,417,922         | 1,366,618            |
| Total Liabilities & Shareholders' Equity                                                                                                                                           | \$2,548,767       | \$2,655,171          |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

AARON'S, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EARNINGS  
 (Unaudited)

| (In Thousands, Except Per Share Data)       | Three Months Ended<br>March 31, |           |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
|                                             | 2016                            | 2015      |
| <b>REVENUES:</b>                            |                                 |           |
| Lease Revenues and Fees                     | \$741,611                       | \$695,282 |
| Retail Sales                                | 10,955                          | 11,994    |
| Non-Retail Sales                            | 79,305                          | 96,037    |
| Franchise Royalties and Fees                | 16,295                          | 17,004    |
| Interest and Fees on Loans Receivable       | 4,763                           | —         |
| Other                                       | 1,498                           | 1,497     |
|                                             | 854,427                         | 821,814   |
| <b>COSTS AND EXPENSES:</b>                  |                                 |           |
| Depreciation of Lease Merchandise           | 348,302                         | 315,986   |
| Retail Cost of Sales                        | 7,065                           | 7,704     |
| Non-Retail Cost of Sales                    | 71,385                          | 86,852    |
| Operating Expenses                          | 348,424                         | 327,920   |
| Other Operating Income, Net                 | (6,729 )                        | (1,460 )  |
|                                             | 768,447                         | 737,002   |
| <b>OPERATING PROFIT</b>                     | 85,980                          | 84,812    |
| Interest Income                             | 421                             | 439       |
| Interest Expense                            | (6,312 )                        | (5,969 )  |
| Other Non-Operating Expense, Net            | (361 )                          | (1,452 )  |
| <b>EARNINGS BEFORE INCOME TAXES</b>         | 79,728                          | 77,830    |
| <b>INCOME TAXES</b>                         | 30,041                          | 28,587    |
| <b>NET EARNINGS</b>                         | \$49,687                        | \$49,243  |
| <b>EARNINGS PER SHARE</b>                   |                                 |           |
| Basic                                       | \$.68                           | \$.68     |
| Assuming Dilution                           | \$.68                           | \$.68     |
| <b>CASH DIVIDENDS DECLARED PER SHARE:</b>   |                                 |           |
| Common Stock                                | \$.025                          | \$.023    |
| <b>WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING:</b> |                                 |           |
| Basic                                       | 72,634                          | 72,517    |
| Assuming Dilution                           | 73,217                          | 72,855    |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

AARON'S, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
 (Unaudited)

|                                         | Three Months<br>Ended<br>March 31, |          |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| (In Thousands)                          | 2016                               | 2015     |
| Net Earnings                            | \$49,687                           | \$49,243 |
| Other Comprehensive Income:             |                                    |          |
| Foreign Currency Translation Adjustment | 593                                | 3        |
| Total Other Comprehensive Income        | 593                                | 3        |
| Comprehensive Income                    | \$50,280                           | \$49,246 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

AARON'S, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
 (Unaudited)

|                                                                                                 | Three Months Ended<br>March 31, |            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| (In Thousands)                                                                                  | 2016                            | 2015       |
| <b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>                                                                    |                                 |            |
| Net Earnings                                                                                    | \$49,687                        | \$49,243   |
| Adjustments to Reconcile Net Earnings to Cash Provided by Operating Activities:                 |                                 |            |
| Depreciation of Lease Merchandise                                                               | 348,302                         | 315,986    |
| Other Depreciation and Amortization                                                             | 20,743                          | 19,944     |
| Accounts Receivable Provision                                                                   | 34,514                          | 29,931     |
| Provision for Credit Losses on Loans Receivable                                                 | 1,798                           | —          |
| Stock-Based Compensation                                                                        | 5,529                           | 3,016      |
| Deferred Income Taxes                                                                           | 1,616                           | (32,400 )  |
| Other Changes, Net                                                                              | (6,100 )                        | (965 )     |
| Changes in Operating Assets and Liabilities, Net of Effects of Acquisitions and Dispositions:   |                                 |            |
| Additions to Lease Merchandise                                                                  | (447,382 )                      | (405,270 ) |
| Book Value of Lease Merchandise Sold or Disposed                                                | 114,453                         | 124,543    |
| Accounts Receivable                                                                             | (6,400 )                        | (23,012 )  |
| Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets                                                               | (1,327 )                        | 6,535      |
| Income Tax Receivable                                                                           | 149,140                         | 117,298    |
| Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses                                                           | (57,704 )                       | 24,827     |
| Accrued Regulatory Expense                                                                      | (4,737 )                        | (3,420 )   |
| Customer Deposits and Advance Payments                                                          | (7,591 )                        | (1,287 )   |
| Cash Provided by Operating Activities                                                           | 194,541                         | 224,969    |
| <b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>                                                                    |                                 |            |
| Investments in Loans Receivable                                                                 | (18,706 )                       | —          |
| Proceeds from Loans Receivable                                                                  | 18,635                          | —          |
| Additions to Property, Plant and Equipment                                                      | (14,088 )                       | (9,758 )   |
| Proceeds from Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment                                             | 15,082                          | 1,027      |
| Acquisitions of Businesses and Contracts                                                        | —                               | (3,623 )   |
| Proceeds from Dispositions of Businesses and Contracts                                          | (32 )                           | —          |
| Cash Provided by (Used in) Investing Activities                                                 | 891                             | (12,354 )  |
| <b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>                                                                    |                                 |            |
| Proceeds from Debt                                                                              | 84,133                          | 30,150     |
| Repayments on Debt                                                                              | (173,169 )                      | (115,564 ) |
| Dividends Paid                                                                                  | (1,816 )                        | (1,668 )   |
| Excess Tax Benefits from Stock-Based Compensation                                               | (716 )                          | 53         |
| Issuance of Stock Under Stock Option Plans                                                      | 99                              | 702        |
| Cash Used in Financing Activities                                                               | (91,469 )                       | (86,327 )  |
| Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents                                                           | 103,963                         | 126,288    |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Period                                                | 14,942                          | 3,549      |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Period                                                      | \$118,905                       | \$129,837  |
| The accompanying notes are an integral part of the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements. |                                 |            |

## AARON'S, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

## NOTE 1: BASIS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

## Description of Business

Aaron's, Inc. (the "Company" or "Aaron's") is a leader in the sales and lease ownership and specialty retailing of furniture, consumer electronics, computers, and home appliances and accessories throughout the United States and Canada.

The Company's major operating divisions are the Aaron's Sales & Lease Ownership division (established as a monthly payment concept), Progressive, HomeSmart (established as a weekly payment concept), DAMI and Woodhaven Furniture

Industries, which manufactures and supplies the majority of the upholstered furniture and bedding leased and sold in Company-operated and franchised stores.

Progressive is a leading virtual lease-to-own company that provides lease-purchase solutions in 46 states. It does so by purchasing merchandise from third-party retailers desired by those retailers' customers and, in turn, leasing that merchandise to the customers on a lease-to-own basis. Progressive consequently has no stores of its own, but rather offers lease-purchase solutions to the customers of traditional retailers. DAMI, which was acquired by Progressive on October 15, 2015, partners with merchants to provide a variety of revolving credit products originated through a federally insured bank to customers that may not qualify for traditional prime lending (called "second-look" financing programs).

The following table presents store count by ownership type for the Company's store-based operations:

Stores as of March 31 (Unaudited) 2016 2015

## Company-operated stores

|                               |       |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Sales and Lease Ownership     | 1,223 | 1,235 |
| HomeSmart                     | 82    | 83    |
| Total Company-operated stores | 1,305 | 1,318 |
| Franchised stores             | 729   | 790   |
| Systemwide stores             | 2,034 | 2,108 |

On April 5, 2016, the Company entered into an agreement to sell the 82 Company-operated HomeSmart stores. Refer to Note 9 for more information.

The following table presents active doors for Progressive:

Active Doors at March 31 (Unaudited) 2016 2015

|                                       |        |        |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Progressive Active Doors <sup>1</sup> | 13,521 | 11,861 |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|

<sup>1</sup> An active door is a retail store location at which at least one virtual lease-to-own transaction has been completed during the trailing three month period.

## Basis of Presentation

The preparation of the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States ("U.S. GAAP") for interim financial information requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in these financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Generally, actual experience has been consistent with management's prior estimates and assumptions. Management does not believe these estimates or assumptions will change significantly in the future absent unsurfaced and unforeseen events.

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements do not include all information required by U.S. GAAP for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring accruals) considered necessary for a fair presentation have been included in the accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements. These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes thereto included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for the year ended December 31, 2015 (the "2015 Annual Report"). The results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2016 are not necessarily indicative of operating results for the full year.



## Reclassifications

Certain reclassifications have been made to the prior periods to conform to the current period presentation.

## Principles of Consolidation and Variable Interest Entities

The condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Aaron's, Inc. and its subsidiaries, each of which is wholly owned. Intercompany balances and transactions between consolidated entities have been eliminated. The Company holds notes issued by Perfect Home Holdings Limited ("Perfect Home"), a privately-held lease-to-own company that is primarily financed by share capital and subordinated debt. Perfect Home is based in the U.K. and operates 70 retail stores as of March 31, 2016.

Perfect Home is a variable interest entity ("VIE") because it does not have sufficient equity at risk. However, the Company is not the primary beneficiary and does not consolidate Perfect Home since the Company lacks the power through voting or similar rights to direct the activities that most significantly affect Perfect Home's economic performance. The Company's maximum exposure to any potential losses associated with this VIE is equal to its total recorded investment, which is \$22.1 million at March 31, 2016.

## Accounting Policies and Estimates

See Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements in the 2015 Annual Report.

## Earnings Per Share

Earnings per share is computed by dividing net earnings by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the period. The computation of earnings per share assuming dilution includes the dilutive effect of stock options, restricted stock units and performance share units (collectively, "share-based awards") as determined under the treasury stock method. The following table shows the calculation of dilutive share-based awards for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015:

|                                                       | Three Months<br>Ended<br>March 31, |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------|
| (Shares In Thousands)                                 | 2016                               | 2015   |
| Weighted average shares outstanding                   | 72,634                             | 72,517 |
| Dilutive effect of share-based awards                 | 583                                | 338    |
| Weighted average shares outstanding assuming dilution | 73,217                             | 72,855 |

Approximately 849,000 and 468,000 share-based awards were excluded from the computation for earnings per share assuming dilution during the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively, because the awards would have been anti-dilutive for the periods presented.

## Investments

At March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015, investments classified as held-to-maturity securities consisted of British pound-denominated notes issued by Perfect Home. The Perfect Home notes, which totaled £15.4 million (\$22.1 million) and £15.1 million (\$22.2 million) at March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015, respectively, are classified as held-to-maturity securities because the Company has the positive intent and ability to hold the investments to maturity. The Perfect Home notes are carried at amortized cost in investments in the condensed consolidated balance sheets and mature on June 30, 2016. The increase in the carrying amount of the notes during the three months ended March 31, 2016 relates to accretion of the original discount on the notes, which had a face value of £10.0 million. The Company does not intend to sell its securities and it is not more likely than not that the Company will be required to sell the investments before recovery of its amortized cost basis. The Company has estimated that the carrying amount of its Perfect Home notes approximates fair value and, therefore, no impairment is considered to have occurred as of March 31, 2016.

## Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable consist primarily of receivables due from customers of Company-operated stores and Progressive, corporate receivables incurred during the normal course of business (primarily for real estate leasing activities, in-transit credit card transactions and vendor consideration) and franchisee obligations.



Accounts receivable, net of allowances, consist of the following:

|            | March<br>(In Thousands) 31,<br>2016 | December<br>31, 2015 |
|------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Customers  | \$32,263                            | \$35,153             |
| Corporate  | 16,046                              | 26,175               |
| Franchisee | 36,894                              | 52,111               |
|            | \$85,203                            | \$113,439            |

The following table shows the components of the accounts receivable provision for the three months ended March 31:

| (In Thousands)                                         | 2016     | 2015     |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Bad debt expense                                       | \$27,939 | \$24,141 |
| Provision for returns and uncollected renewal payments | 6,575    | 5,790    |
| Accounts receivable provision                          | \$34,514 | \$29,931 |

Refer to Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements in the 2015 Annual Report for information on the Company's accounting policy for the accounts receivable provision.

#### Lease Merchandise

All lease merchandise is available for lease or sale. On a monthly basis, all damaged, lost or unsalable merchandise identified is written off. The Company records lease merchandise adjustments on the allowance method, which estimates the merchandise losses incurred but not yet identified by management as of the end of the accounting period based on historical write-off experience. As of March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015, the allowance for lease merchandise write-offs was \$34.6 million and \$33.4 million, respectively.

Lease merchandise adjustments totaled \$33.9 million and \$29.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively, and are included in operating expenses in the accompanying condensed consolidated statements of earnings.

#### Loans Receivable, Net

Loans receivable, net represents the principal balances of credit card charges at DAMI's participating merchants that remain outstanding to cardholders, plus unpaid interest and fees due from cardholders, net of an allowance for uncollectible amounts and unamortized fees (which include merchant fees, net of capitalized origination costs, promotional fees and deferred annual card fees).

The Company acquired outstanding credit card loans in the October 15, 2015 DAMI acquisition (the "Acquired Loans"). Loans acquired in a business acquisition are recorded at their fair value at the acquisition date. The projected net cash flows from expected payments of principal, interest, fees and servicing costs and anticipated charge-offs are included in the determination of fair value; therefore, an allowance for loan losses and an amount for unamortized fees are not recognized for the Acquired Loans. The difference, or discount, between the expected cash flows to be received and the fair value of the Acquired Loans is accreted to revenue based on the effective interest method. At each period end, the Company evaluates the appropriateness of the accretible discount on the Acquired Loans based on actual and revised projected future cash receipts.

#### Assets Held for Sale

Assets held for sale are classified within prepaid expenses and other assets in the condensed consolidated balance sheets.

On April 5, 2016, the Company entered into an agreement to sell substantially all of the assets and certain liabilities of the HomeSmart segment ("the HomeSmart Disposal Group"). Refer to Note 9 for more information. As a result of the expected sale, the Company classified the HomeSmart Disposal Group as held for sale as of March 31, 2016 and recognized a loss of \$4.6 million in the three month period then ended related to the write-down of the disposal group to its fair value, less estimated costs to sell. The loss is reflected within other operating income, net in the condensed consolidated statements of earnings. The sale of the HomeSmart Disposal Group does not represent a strategic shift that will have a major effect on the Company's operations and financial results and therefore the HomeSmart segment is not classified as discontinued operations.

Certain properties, consisting of parcels of land and commercial buildings, met the held for sale classification criteria as of March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015. On January 29, 2016, the Company sold its Corporate headquarters

building for cash of \$13.6 million, resulting in a gain of \$11.1 million. The gain was recorded to other operating income, net in the condensed consolidated statements of earnings. After adjustment to fair value, the carrying amount of the properties held for sale as of March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015 is \$4.9 million and \$7.0 million, respectively.

Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)

Changes in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) by component for the three months ended March 31, 2016 are as follows:

| (In Thousands)             | Foreign Currency | Total   |
|----------------------------|------------------|---------|
| Balance at January 1, 2016 | \$ (517 )        | \$(517) |
| Other comprehensive income | 593              | 593     |
| Balance at March 31, 2016  | \$ 76            | \$76    |

There were no reclassifications out of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) for the three months ended March 31, 2016.

#### Fair Value Measurement

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. To increase the comparability of fair value measures, the following hierarchy prioritizes the inputs to valuation methodologies used to measure fair value:

Level 1—Valuations based on quoted prices for identical assets and liabilities in active markets.

Level 2—Valuations based on observable inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1, such as quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar assets and liabilities in markets that are not active, or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data.

Level 3—Valuations based on unobservable inputs reflecting the Company's own assumptions, consistent with reasonably available assumptions made by other market participants. These valuations require significant judgment. The Company measures assets held for sale at fair value on a nonrecurring basis and records impairment charges when they are deemed to be impaired. The Company maintains certain financial assets and liabilities, including investments and fixed-rate long-term debt, that are not measured at fair value but for which fair value is disclosed.

The fair values of the Company's other current financial assets and liabilities, including cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable and accounts payable, approximate their carrying values due to their short-term nature. The fair value for the loans receivable and the revolving credit borrowings also approximate their carrying amounts.

#### Recent Accounting Pronouncements

##### Adopted

**Debt Issuance Costs.** In April 2015, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") No. ASU 2015-03, Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs, which requires debt issuance costs to be presented in the balance sheet as a deduction from the corresponding debt liability rather than as a separate asset. ASU 2015-03 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2015, and interim periods within those fiscal years. The Company has adopted this ASU retrospectively in this quarterly report and as a result debt issuance costs of \$3.7 million at December 31, 2015, previously recognized as an asset in prepaid expenses and other assets, are now classified as a direct deduction from debt in the condensed consolidated balance sheet as of that date.

**Measurement-Period Adjustments.** In September 2015, the FASB issued No. ASU 2015-16, Simplifying the Accounting for Measurement-Period Adjustments. ASU 2015-16 eliminates the requirement that an acquirer in a business combination account for a measurement-period adjustment retrospectively. Instead, acquirers must recognize measurement-period adjustments during the period in which they determine the adjustment amounts. The adjustment amounts must include the effect on earnings of any amounts the acquirer would have recorded in previous periods if the accounting had been completed at the acquisition date. ASU 2015-16 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2015, and interim periods within those fiscal years. ASU 2015-16 is applied prospectively to adjustments to provisional amounts that occur after the effective date. That is, ASU 2015-16 applies to open measurement periods, regardless of the acquisition date. The Company has adopted this standard in this quarterly report and applied it to the measurement period adjustments related to the DAMI acquisition. See Note 2 for more information.

Pending adoption

**Revenue Recognition.** In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers. ASU 2014-09 replaces substantially all existing revenue recognition guidance with a single, comprehensive revenue recognition model that requires a company to recognize revenue at the amount to which it expects to be entitled in exchange for transferring goods or services to a customer. ASU 2014-09 also requires additional disclosure about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from customer contracts, including significant judgments and changes in judgments and assets recognized from costs incurred to obtain or fulfill a contract. Companies may use either a full retrospective or a modified retrospective approach to adopt ASU 2014-09, and, as a result of a subsequent amendment, it will be effective in annual reporting periods, and interim periods within that period, beginning after December 15, 2017. In March and April 2016, the FASB issued additional updates to the revenue recognition guidance in ASU 2014-09 related to principal versus agent assessments, identifying performance obligations, and the accounting for licenses. The Company has not yet determined the potential effects of adopting ASU 2014-09 and any related updates on its consolidated financial statements. The Company plans to complete its initial assessment of how it will be affected by this standard and any related updates in the second half of 2016.

**Leases.** In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-02, Leases, which would require lessees to recognize assets and liabilities for most leases and would change certain aspects of today's lessor accounting, among other things. ASU 2016-02 is effective for annual and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2018, with early adoption permitted. Companies must use a modified retrospective approach to adopt ASU 2016-02. The Company has not yet determined the potential effects of adopting ASU 2016-02 on its consolidated financial statements.

**Share-Based Payments.** In March 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-09, Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting. The objective of the update is to simplify the accounting for employee share-based awards by, among other things, requiring companies to recognize the income tax effects of awards in earnings when they vest or are settled, providing companies with an option to recognize forfeitures in earnings as they occur, and clarifying certain guidance on classification of awards as either equity or liabilities and classification of tax payment activity on the statement of cash flows. ASU 2016-09 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016, including interim periods within those fiscal years, with early adoption permitted. The Company has not yet determined the potential effects of adopting ASU 2016-09 on its consolidated financial statements.

## NOTE 2. ACQUISITIONS

During the three months ended March 31, 2016, the Company did not make any cash payments related to the acquisitions of businesses or contracts. During the three months ended March 31, 2015, net cash payments related to the acquisitions of businesses, including contracts, were \$3.6 million. The effect of these acquisitions on the condensed consolidated financial statements for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015 was not significant.

## DAMI Acquisition

On October 15, 2015, the Company acquired a 100% ownership interest in DAMI for a total purchase price of \$54.9 million, inclusive of cash acquired of \$4.2 million. The following table summarizes the preliminary estimated fair value of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed as of the acquisition date, as well as adjustments made during the three months ended March 31, 2016 (referred to as the "measurement period adjustments"). The measurement period adjustments did not have a significant effect on the condensed consolidated financial statements.

| (In Thousands)                                                               | Amounts<br>Recognized<br>as of<br>Acquisition<br>Date <sup>1</sup> | Measurement<br>Period<br>Adjustments <sup>2</sup> | Amounts<br>Recognized<br>as of<br>Acquisition<br>Date (as<br>adjusted) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Purchase Price                                                               | \$ 54,900                                                          | \$ —                                              | \$ 54,900                                                              |
| Estimated Fair Value of Identifiable Assets Acquired and Liabilities Assumed |                                                                    |                                                   |                                                                        |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents                                                    | 4,185                                                              | —                                                 | 4,185                                                                  |
| Loans Receivable <sup>3</sup>                                                | 89,186                                                             | (876 )                                            | 88,310                                                                 |
| Receivables                                                                  | 45                                                                 | —                                                 | 45                                                                     |
| Property, Plant and Equipment                                                | 2,754                                                              | —                                                 | 2,754                                                                  |
| Other Intangibles                                                            | 3,400                                                              | (500 )                                            | 2,900                                                                  |
| Income Tax Receivable                                                        | 728                                                                | —                                                 | 728                                                                    |
| Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets                                            | 671                                                                | —                                                 | 671                                                                    |
| Deferred Income Tax Assets                                                   | 375                                                                | 2,426                                             | 2,801                                                                  |
| Total Identifiable Assets Acquired                                           | 101,344                                                            | 1,050                                             | 102,394                                                                |
| Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses                                        | (1,709 )                                                           | (760 )                                            | (2,469 )                                                               |
| Debt                                                                         | (45,025 )                                                          | —                                                 | (45,025 )                                                              |
| Total Liabilities Assumed                                                    | (46,734 )                                                          | (760 )                                            | (47,494 )                                                              |
| Goodwill                                                                     | 290                                                                | (290 )                                            | —                                                                      |
| Net Assets Acquired                                                          | \$ 54,900                                                          | \$ —                                              | \$ 54,900                                                              |

<sup>1</sup> As previously reported in the notes to the consolidated financial statements included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015.

<sup>2</sup> The measurement period adjustments primarily related to the resolution of certain income tax-related matters.

<sup>3</sup> Contractually required amounts due at the acquisition date were \$94.2 million.

The preliminary acquisition accounting presented above is subject to further refinement. The Company is still finalizing certain working capital adjustments with the sellers and gathering information on certain contingencies that existed at the acquisition date. Estimates for affected items have been included in the acquisition accounting and are expected to be finalized prior to the one year anniversary date of the acquisition.

**NOTE 3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT****Financial Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis**

The following table summarizes financial liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis:

| (In Thousands)                  | March 31, 2016 |         | December 31, 2015 |         |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
|                                 | Level 1        | Level 2 | Level 1           | Level 2 |
| Deferred Compensation Liability | \$—            | \$—     | \$—               | \$—     |

The Company maintains the Aaron's, Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan, which is an unfunded, nonqualified deferred compensation plan for a select group of management, highly compensated employees and non-employee directors.

The liability representing benefits accrued for plan participants is valued at the quoted market prices of the participants' investment elections, which consist of equity and debt "mirror" funds. As such, the Company has classified the deferred compensation liability as a Level 2 liability.

**Non-Financial Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on a Nonrecurring Basis**

The following table summarizes non-financial assets measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis:

| (In Thousands)       | March 31, 2016 |         | December 31, 2015 |         |
|----------------------|----------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
|                      | Level 1        | Level 2 | Level 1           | Level 2 |
| Assets Held for Sale | \$—            | \$—     | \$—               | \$—     |

Assets Held for Sale \$— \$— \$— \$—

<sup>1</sup> Assets held for sale is presented in the table net of liabilities of \$1.1 million associated with the HomeSmart Disposal Group.

As discussed in Note 1, the HomeSmart Disposal Group is classified as held for sale as of March 31, 2016 and certain real estate properties that consist of land and commercial buildings are classified as held for sale as of March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015. Assets and disposal groups classified as held for sale are adjusted to fair value less estimated costs to sell, and the adjustment is recorded in other operating income, net in the condensed consolidated statements of earnings.

The Company estimated the fair value of the HomeSmart Disposal Group as of March 31, 2016 based on the contractual sales price. The highest and best use of the real estate properties held for sale is as real estate land parcels for development or real estate properties for use or lease; however, the Company has chosen not to develop or use these properties. The Company estimated the fair values of real estate properties using the market values for similar properties.

**Certain Financial Assets and Liabilities Not Measured at Fair Value**

The following table summarizes the fair value of assets (liabilities) that are not measured at fair value in the condensed consolidated balance sheets, but for which the fair value is disclosed:

| (In Thousands)                         | March 31, 2016 |         | December 31, 2015 |         |
|----------------------------------------|----------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
|                                        | Level 1        | Level 2 | Level 1           | Level 2 |
| Perfect Home Notes <sup>1</sup>        | \$—            | \$—     | \$—               | \$—     |
| Fixed-Rate Long-Term Debt <sup>2</sup> | —              | —       | —                 | —       |

The Perfect Home notes were initially measured at cost. The Company periodically reviews the carrying amount

<sup>1</sup> utilizing company-specific transactions or changes in Perfect Home's financial performance to determine if fair value adjustments are necessary.

The fair value of fixed-rate long-term debt is estimated using the present value of underlying cash flows discounted

<sup>2</sup> at a current market yield for similar instruments. The carrying amount of fixed-rate long-term debt was \$375.0 million at March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015, respectively.

**NOTE 4: LOANS RECEIVABLE**

The following is a summary of the Company's loans receivable, net:

| (In Thousands)            | March 31, December 31, |           |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
|                           | 2016                   | 2015      |
| Credit Card Loans         | \$ 30,456              | \$ 13,900 |
| Acquired Loans            | 59,521                 | 74,866    |
| Loans Receivable, Gross   | 89,977                 | 88,766    |
| Allowance for Loan Losses | (2,589 )               | (937 )    |
| Unamortized Fees          | (4,190 )               | (2,034 )  |
| Loans Receivable, Net     | \$ 83,198              | \$ 85,795 |

The following table summarizes the aging of the Company's finance receivables portfolio, including delinquency percentage rates. A cardholder account is measured as past due when a current account's minimum payment due has been outstanding for 30 days or longer. The aging is based on the contractual amounts outstanding for each loan as of period end, and does not reflect the fair value of the Acquired Loans.

| Aging Category                                                                            | March 31, December 31, |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------|
|                                                                                           | 2016                   | 2015   |
| 30-59 days past due                                                                       | 5.9 %                  | 7.9 %  |
| 60-89 days past due                                                                       | 2.5 %                  | 3.3 %  |
| 90 or more days past due                                                                  | 3.7 %                  | 4.1 %  |
| Past due loans receivable                                                                 | 12.1%                  | 15.3 % |
| Current loans receivable                                                                  | 87.9%                  | 84.7 % |
| Balance of loans receivable 90 or more days past due and still accruing interest and fees | \$ —                   | \$ —   |

**NOTE 5. INDEBTEDNESS**

See Note 7 to the consolidated financial statements in the 2015 Annual Report and Note 9 in these condensed consolidated financial statements.

**NOTE 6. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES****Guarantees**

The Company has guaranteed certain debt obligations of some of its franchisees under a franchisee loan program with several banks. In the event these franchisees are unable to meet their debt service payments or otherwise experience an event of default, the Company would be unconditionally liable for the outstanding balance of the franchisees' debt obligations under the franchisee loan program, which would be due in full within 90 days of the event of default. At March 31, 2016, the maximum amount that the Company would be obligated to repay in the event franchisees defaulted was \$74.2 million. The Company has recourse rights to franchisee assets securing the debt obligations, which consist primarily of lease merchandise and fixed assets. Since the inception of the franchise loan program in 1994, the Company has had no significant associated losses. The Company believes the likelihood of any significant amounts being funded in connection with these commitments to be remote. The carrying amount of the franchisee-related borrowings guarantee, which is included in accounts payable and accrued expenses in the condensed consolidated balance sheets, is approximately \$760,000 as of March 31, 2016.

The maximum facility commitment amount under the franchisee loan program is \$175.0 million, including a Canadian subfacility commitment amount for loans to franchisees that operate stores in Canada (other than the province of Quebec) of Cdn \$50.0 million. The Company remains subject to the financial covenants under the franchisee loan facility.

**Legal Proceedings**

From time to time, the Company is party to various legal and regulatory proceedings arising in the ordinary course of business.

Some of the proceedings to which the Company is currently a party are described below. The Company believes it has meritorious defenses to all of the claims described below, and intends to vigorously defend against the claims.

However, these proceedings are still developing and due to the inherent uncertainty in litigation, regulatory and similar adversarial proceedings, there can be no guarantee that the Company will ultimately be successful in these

proceedings, or in others to which it is

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currently a party. Substantial losses from these proceedings or the costs of defending them could have a material adverse impact upon the Company's business, financial position and results of operations.

The Company establishes an accrued liability for legal and regulatory proceedings when it determines that a loss is both probable and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. The Company continually monitors its litigation and regulatory exposure and reviews the adequacy of its legal and regulatory reserves on a quarterly basis. The amount of any loss ultimately incurred in relation to matters for which an accrual has been established may be higher or lower than the amounts accrued for such matters.

At March 31, 2016, the Company had accrued \$5.2 million for pending legal and regulatory matters for which it believes losses are probable, which is the Company's best estimate of its exposure to loss. The Company estimates that the aggregate range of reasonably possible loss in excess of accrued liabilities for such probable loss contingencies is between \$0 and \$3.3 million.

At March 31, 2016, the Company estimated that the aggregate range of loss for all material pending legal and regulatory proceedings for which a loss is reasonably possible, but less likely than probable (i.e., excluding the contingencies described in the preceding paragraph), is between \$546,000 and \$2.6 million. Those matters for which a reasonable estimate is not possible are not included within estimated ranges and, therefore, the estimated ranges do not represent the Company's maximum loss exposure. The Company's estimates as to legal and regulatory accruals, as to aggregate probable loss amounts and as to reasonably possible loss amounts, are all subject to the uncertainties and variables described above.

#### Consumer

In *Margaret Korrow, et al. v. Aaron's, Inc.*, originally filed in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Middlesex County, Law Division on October 26, 2010, plaintiff filed suit on behalf of herself and others similarly situated alleging that the Company is liable in damages to plaintiff and each class member because the Company's lease agreements issued after March 16, 2006 purportedly violated certain New Jersey state consumer statutes. Plaintiff's complaint seeks treble damages under the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act, and statutory penalty damages of \$100 per violation of all contracts issued in New Jersey, and also claims that there are multiple violations per contract. The Company removed the lawsuit to the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey on December 6, 2010 (Civil Action No.: 10-06317(JAP)(LHG)). Plaintiff on behalf of herself and others similarly situated seeks equitable relief, statutory and treble damages, pre- and post-judgment interest and attorneys' fees. Discovery on this matter is closed. On July 31, 2013, the Court certified a class comprising all persons who entered into a rent-to-own contract with the Company in New Jersey from March 16, 2006 through March 31, 2011. In August 2013, the Court of Appeals denied the Company's request for an interlocutory appeal of the class certification issue. On October 4, 2013, the Company also filed a motion to allow counterclaims against all newly certified class members who may owe legitimate fees or damages to the Company or who failed to return merchandise to the Company prior to obtaining ownership. On August 14, 2015, the Company filed a motion for partial summary judgment seeking judicial dismissal of a portion of the claims in the case. The motion filed October 4, 2013 to allow counterclaims was denied by the magistrate judge on June 30, 2014, and that decision was confirmed by the District Court on November 30, 2015. On December 23, 2015, the Company filed a motion requesting permission for an interlocutory appeal of the denial of the motion to add counterclaims to the United States Third Circuit Court of Appeals, which also remains pending. On February 23, 2016, the Court granted in part and denied in part the Company's motion for partial summary judgment filed August 14, 2015, dismissing plaintiff's claims that the pro-rate violated the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act, but denying summary judgment on the claim that Aaron's Service Plus violated the same act. On March 7, 2016, the Company moved for limited reconsideration of that ruling. On March 24, 2016, plaintiff filed a motion for approval of issuance of class notice. The Company has filed a motion requesting a stay on issuance of class notice pending the ruling on the request for limited reconsideration of the partial summary judgment ruling and the request for interlocutory review of the denial of the motion to add counterclaims filed on December 23, 2015. That motion remains pending.

#### Privacy and Related Matters

In *Crystal and Brian Byrd v. Aaron's, Inc., Aspen Way Enterprises, Inc., John Does (1-100) Aaron's Franchisees and Designerware, LLC*, filed on May 16, 2011, in the United States District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania (Case No. 1:11-CV-00101-SPB), plaintiffs alleged that the Company and its independently owned and operated franchisee Aspen Way Enterprises ("Aspen Way") knowingly violated plaintiffs' privacy in violation of the Electronic

Communications Privacy Act ("ECPA") and the Computer Fraud Abuse Act and sought certification of a putative nationwide class. Plaintiffs based these claims on Aspen Way's use of a software program called "PC Rental Agent." Although the District Court dismissed the Company from the original lawsuit on March 20, 2012, after certain procedural motions, on May 23, 2013, the Court granted plaintiffs' motion for leave to file a third amended complaint, which asserted the claims under the ECPA, common law invasion of privacy, added a request for injunction, and named additional independently owned and operated Company franchisees as defendants. Plaintiffs filed the third amended complaint, and the Company moved to dismiss that complaint on substantially the same grounds as it sought to dismiss plaintiffs' prior complaints. Plaintiffs seek monetary damages as well as injunctive relief.

Plaintiffs filed their motion for class certification on July 1, 2013, and the Company's response was filed in August 2013. On March 31, 2014, the United States District Judge dismissed all claims against all franchisees other than Aspen Way Enterprises, LLC. The Court also dismissed claims for invasion of privacy, aiding and abetting, and conspiracy against all defendants. In addition, the Court denied the plaintiffs' motion to certify the class. Finally, the Judge denied the Company's motion to dismiss the violation of ECPA claims. Plaintiffs requested and received immediate appellate review of these rulings by the United States Third Circuit Court of Appeals. On April 10, 2015, the Court of Appeals reversed the denial of class certification on the grounds stated by the District Court, and remanded the case back to the District Court for further consideration of that and the other elements necessary for class certification. The District Court has not issued a new ruling on those matters.

In *Michael Winslow and Fonda Winslow v. Sultan Financial Corporation, Aaron's, Inc., John Does (1-10), Aaron's Franchisees and Designerware, LLC*, filed on March 5, 2013 in the Los Angeles Superior Court (Case No. BC502304), plaintiffs assert claims against the Company and its independently owned and operated franchisee, Sultan Financial Corporation (as well as certain John Doe franchisees), for unauthorized wiretapping, eavesdropping, electronic stalking, and violation of California's Comprehensive Computer Data Access and Fraud Act and its Unfair Competition Law. Each of these claims arises out of the alleged use of PC Rental Agent software. The plaintiffs are seeking injunctive relief and damages in connection with the allegations of the complaint. Plaintiffs are also seeking certification of a putative California class. Plaintiffs are represented by the same counsel as in the above-described Byrd litigation. In April 2013, the Company timely removed this matter to federal court. On May 8, 2013, the Company filed a motion to stay this litigation pending resolution of the Byrd litigation, a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim, and a motion to strike certain allegations in the complaint. The Court subsequently stayed the case. The Company's motions to dismiss and strike certain allegations remain pending. On June 6, 2015, the plaintiffs filed a motion to lift the stay, which was denied on July 11, 2015.

In *Lomi Price v. Aaron's, Inc. and NW Freedom Corporation*, filed on February 27, 2013, in the State Court of Fulton County, Georgia (Case No. 13-EV-016812B), an individual plaintiff asserts claims against the Company and its independently owned and operated franchisee, NW Freedom Corporation, for invasion of privacy/intrusion on seclusion, computer invasion of privacy and infliction of emotional distress. Each of these claims arises out of the alleged use of PC Rental Agent software. The plaintiff is seeking compensatory and punitive damages of not less than \$250,000. On April 3, 2013, the Company filed an answer and affirmative defenses. On that same day, the Company also filed a motion to stay the litigation pending resolution of the Byrd litigation, a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim and a motion to strike certain allegations in the complaint. The Court stayed the proceeding pending rulings on certain motions in the Byrd case, which expired upon remand of the case back to the District Court. On April 24, 2015, the Company filed a renewed motion to stay, which was granted on June 15, 2015.

In *Michael Peterson v. Aaron's, Inc. and Aspen Way Enterprises, Inc.*, filed on June 19, 2014, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia (Case No. 1:14-cv-01919-TWT), several plaintiffs allege that they leased computers for use in their law practice. The plaintiffs claim that the Company and Aspen Way knowingly violated plaintiffs' privacy and the privacy of plaintiffs' legal clients in violation of the ECPA and the Computer Fraud Abuse Act. Plaintiffs seek certification of a putative nationwide class. Plaintiffs based these claims on Aspen Way's use of PC Rental Agent software. The plaintiffs claim that information and data obtained by defendants through PC Rental Agent was attorney-client privileged. The Company has filed a motion to dismiss plaintiffs' amended complaint. On June 4, 2015, the Court granted the Company's motion to dismiss all claims except a claim for aiding and abetting invasion of privacy. Plaintiffs then filed a second amended complaint alleging only the invasion of privacy claims that survived the June 4, 2015 court order, and adding a claim for unjust enrichment. The Company filed a motion to dismiss the second amended complaint, and on September 16, 2015, the Court granted the Company's motion to dismiss plaintiffs' unjust enrichment claim. The only remaining claim against the Company is a claim for aiding and abetting invasion of privacy. Plaintiffs filed their motion for class certification on March 18, 2016. The Company responded in opposition to that motion, which remains pending.

#### Regulatory Investigations

**California Attorney General Investigation.** The California Attorney General investigated the Company's retail transactional practices, including various leasing and marketing practices, information security and privacy policies and practices related to the alleged use of PC Rental Agent software by certain independently owned and operated

Company franchisees. The Company reached a comprehensive resolution of this matter without litigation. The final settlement and consent order were announced on October 13, 2014. The Court filed the final judgment on February 10, 2015. The final payment as scheduled under the consent order was made on January 6, 2016.

#### Other Matters

In *Foster v. Aaron's, Inc.*, filed on August 21, 2015, in the United States District Court in Phoenix, Arizona (No. CV-15-1637-PHX-SRB), the plaintiff in this putative class action alleges that the Company violated the Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA") by placing automated calls to customer references, or otherwise violated the TCPA in the manner in which the Company contacts customer references. The Company's initial responsive pleading was filed on October 7, 2015. A Scheduling Order was entered on January 26, 2016.

#### Other Contingencies

The Company is a party to various claims and legal proceedings arising in the ordinary course of business. Management regularly assesses the Company's insurance deductibles, monitors the Company's litigation and regulatory exposure with the Company's attorneys and evaluates its loss experience. The Company also enters into various contracts in the normal course of business that may subject it to risk of financial loss if counterparties fail to perform their contractual obligations.

#### Unfunded Lending Commitments

The Company, through its DAMI business, has unfunded lending commitments totaling approximately \$383.9 million and \$378.7 million as of March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015, respectively. These unfunded commitments arise in the ordinary course of business from credit card agreements with individual cardholders that give them the ability to borrow, against unused amounts, up to the maximum credit limit assigned to their account. While these unfunded amounts represented the total available unused lines of credit, the Company does not anticipate that all cardholders will utilize their entire available line at any given point in time. Commitments to extend unsecured credit are agreements to lend to a cardholder so long as there is no violation of any condition established in the contract. Commitments generally have fixed expiration dates or other termination clauses. Since many of the commitments are expected to expire without being drawn upon, the total commitment amounts do not necessarily represent future cash requirements.

See Note 9 to the consolidated financial statements in the 2015 Annual Report for further information.

#### NOTE 7. SEGMENTS

As of March 31, 2016, the Company had six operating and reportable segments: Sales and Lease Ownership, Progressive, HomeSmart, DAMI, Franchise and Manufacturing. On April 5, 2016, the Company entered into an agreement to sell HomeSmart. See Note 9 for more information. The results of DAMI have been included in the Company's consolidated results and presented as a reportable segment from its October 15, 2015 acquisition date. The Aaron's Sales & Lease Ownership division offers furniture, electronics, appliances and computers to consumers primarily on a monthly payment basis with no credit needed. Progressive is a leading virtual lease-to-own company that provides lease-purchase solutions on a variety of products, including furniture and bedding, consumer electronics, appliances and jewelry. The HomeSmart division offers furniture, electronics, appliances and computers to customers primarily on a weekly payment basis with no credit needed. DAMI offers a variety of second-look financing programs originated through a federally insured bank to customers of participating merchants and, together with Progressive, allows the Company to provide retail partners one source for financing and leasing transactions with below prime customers. The Franchise operation awards franchises and supports franchisees of its sales and lease ownership concept. The Manufacturing segment manufactures upholstered furniture and bedding predominantly for use by Company-operated and franchised stores. Therefore, the Manufacturing segment's revenues and earnings before income taxes are primarily the result of intercompany transactions, substantially all of which are eliminated through the elimination of intersegment revenues and intersegment profit or loss.

| (In Thousands)                                       | Three Months Ended<br>March 31, |           |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
|                                                      | 2016                            | 2015      |
| Revenues From External Customers:                    |                                 |           |
| Sales and Lease Ownership                            | \$502,192                       | \$536,160 |
| Progressive                                          | 306,665                         | 251,619   |
| HomeSmart                                            | 17,680                          | 16,972    |
| DAMI <sup>1</sup>                                    | 4,763                           | —         |
| Franchise                                            | 16,295                          | 17,004    |
| Manufacturing                                        | 24,923                          | 28,806    |
| Other                                                | 284                             | 368       |
| Revenues of Reportable Segments                      | 872,802                         | 850,929   |
| Elimination of Intersegment Revenues                 | (23,802 )                       | (28,289 ) |
| Cash to Accrual Adjustments                          | 5,427                           | (826 )    |
| Total Revenues from External Customers               | \$854,427                       | \$821,814 |
| Earnings (Loss) Before Income Taxes:                 |                                 |           |
| Sales and Lease Ownership                            | \$43,562                        | \$52,575  |
| Progressive                                          | 21,914                          | 15,830    |
| HomeSmart <sup>2</sup>                               | (3,229 )                        | 537       |
| DAMI                                                 | (2,882 )                        | —         |
| Franchise                                            | 13,119                          | 13,898    |
| Manufacturing                                        | 868                             | 1,282     |
| Other <sup>3</sup>                                   | (6,156 )                        | (11,479 ) |
| Earnings Before Income Taxes for Reportable Segments | 67,196                          | 72,643    |
| Elimination of Intersegment Profit                   | (755 )                          | (1,268 )  |
| Cash to Accrual and Other Adjustments                | 13,287                          | 6,455     |
| Total Earnings Before Income Taxes                   | \$79,728                        | \$77,830  |

<sup>1</sup> Represents interest and fees on loans receivable, and excludes the effect of interest expense.

<sup>2</sup> HomeSmart earnings before income taxes includes an estimated loss on the sale of HomeSmart of \$4.6 million during the three months ended March 31, 2016 incurred upon classification of the HomeSmart Disposal Group as held for sale.

<sup>3</sup> Earnings before income taxes for the Other category includes a gain of \$11.1 million on the sale of the Company's corporate office building during the the three months ended March 31, 2016.

Revenues in the Other category are primarily revenues attributable to leasing space to unrelated third parties in the corporate headquarters building and several minor unrelated activities. The pre-tax losses or earnings in the Other category generally are the result of the activity mentioned above, net of the portion of corporate overhead not allocated to the reportable segments for management purposes.

| (In Thousands)             | March 31, December 31, |             |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
|                            | 2016                   | 2015        |
| Assets:                    |                        |             |
| Sales and Lease Ownership  | \$1,249,551            | \$1,261,040 |
| Progressive                | 878,204                | 878,457     |
| HomeSmart                  | 38,621                 | 44,429      |
| DAMI                       | 93,701                 | 97,486      |
| Franchise                  | 39,161                 | 53,693      |
| Manufacturing <sup>1</sup> | 31,538                 | 28,986      |
| Other                      | 217,991                | 291,080     |
| Total Assets               | \$2,548,767            | \$2,655,171 |



<sup>1</sup> Includes inventory (principally raw materials and work-in-process) that has been classified within lease merchandise in the condensed consolidated balance sheets of \$22.1 million and \$19.4 million as of March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015, respectively.

The Company determines earnings (loss) before income taxes for all reportable segments in accordance with U.S. GAAP with the following adjustments:

- Revenues in the Sales and Lease Ownership and HomeSmart segments are reported on a cash basis for management reporting purposes.

- Generally a predetermined amount of each reportable segment's revenues is charged to the reportable segment as an allocation of corporate overhead.

- Accruals related to store closures are not recorded on the reportable segments' financial statements, but are maintained and controlled by corporate headquarters.

The capitalization and amortization of manufacturing variances are recorded on the consolidated financial statements as part of Cash to Accrual and Other Adjustments and are not allocated to the segment that holds the related lease merchandise.

Advertising expense in the Sales and Lease Ownership and HomeSmart segments is estimated at the beginning of each year and then allocated to the division ratably over time for management reporting purposes. For financial reporting purposes, advertising expense is recognized when the related advertising activities occur. The difference between these two methods is reflected as part of Cash to Accrual and Other Adjustments.

Sales and lease ownership lease merchandise write-offs are recorded using the direct write-off method for management reporting purposes and using the allowance method for financial reporting purposes. The difference between these two methods is reflected as part of Cash to Accrual and Other Adjustments.

Interest expense is allocated to the Sales and Lease Ownership and HomeSmart segments based a percentage of their revenues. Interest expense is allocated to the Progressive segment based on a percentage of the outstanding balances of its intercompany borrowings and of the debt incurred when it was acquired.

#### NOTE 8.RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Company leases certain properties under capital leases from related parties that are described in Notes 7 and 14 to the consolidated financial statements in the 2015 Annual Report.

#### NOTE 9. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

##### HomeSmart

On April 5, 2016, the Company entered into an agreement to sell the 82 Company-operated HomeSmart stores. The transaction is expected to close in May, subject to customary closing conditions. During the current quarter, the Company recognized a loss of \$4.6 million related to the write-down of the HomeSmart Disposal Group to its fair value less estimated costs to sell. The Company expects that any additional charges associated with the sale of HomeSmart would not be significant to future results.

##### Amendments to DAMI Credit Facility

On May 5, 2016, the Company entered into the eleventh amendment to the 2011 loan and security agreement assumed in the October 2015 DAMI acquisition (the DAMI Credit Facility). Among other things, the amendment changed the EBITDA ratio DAMI is required to maintain. DAMI was in compliance with the amended financial covenants as of March 31, 2016.

## ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

**Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Information:** Except for historical information contained herein, the matters set forth in this Form 10-Q are forward-looking statements. These statements are based on management's current expectations and plans, which involve risks and uncertainties. Such forward-looking statements generally can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "may," "will," "believe," "expect," "forecast," "guidance," "intend," "could," "project," "estimate," "anticipate," "should," and similar terminology. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the filing date of this Quarterly Report and which involve risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in these statements. These risks and uncertainties include factors such as the impact of increased regulation, changes in general economic conditions, including consumer confidence and demand for certain merchandise, increased competition, pricing pressures, the impact of legal proceedings faced by the Company, costs relating to protecting customer privacy and information security more generally, challenges relating to the integration of Progressive and a failure to realize the expected benefits of the integration, the execution and results of our operational strategies, risks related to Progressive's "virtual" lease-to-own business, deteriorations in our franchisee relationships, and the other risks and uncertainties discussed under Item 1A, "Risk Factors," in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 (the "2015 Annual Report"). Except as required by law, the Company undertakes no obligation to update these forward-looking statements to reflect subsequent events or circumstances after the filing date of this Quarterly Report.

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the condensed consolidated financial statements as of and for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, including the notes to those statements, appearing elsewhere in this report. We also suggest that management's discussion and analysis appearing in this report be read in conjunction with the management's discussion and analysis and consolidated financial statements included in our 2015 Annual Report.

### Business Overview

Aaron's, Inc. ("we", "our", "us", "Aaron's" or the "Company") is a leader in the sales and lease ownership and specialty retailing of furniture, consumer electronics, computers, and home appliances and accessories, and currently has more than 2,000 Company-operated and franchised stores in 47 states and Canada.

Our major operating divisions are the Aaron's Sales & Lease Ownership division (established as a monthly payment concept), Progressive, HomeSmart (established as a weekly payment concept), DAMI and Woodhaven Furniture Industries, which manufactures and supplies the majority of the upholstered furniture and bedding leased and sold in Company-operated and franchised stores.

Progressive, acquired in 2014, is a leading virtual lease-to-own company that provides lease-purchase solutions in 46 states. It does so by purchasing merchandise from third-party retailers desired by those retailers' customers and, in turn, leasing that merchandise to the customers on a lease-to-own basis. Progressive consequently has no stores of its own, but rather offers lease-purchase solutions to the customers of traditional retailers. DAMI, acquired on October 15, 2015, offers a variety of second-look financing programs originated through a federally insured bank to customers of participating merchants.

On April 5, 2016, the Company entered into an agreement to sell the 82 Company-operated HomeSmart stores, which includes substantially all of the assets and certain liabilities of the HomeSmart segment (the HomeSmart Disposal Group). The transaction is expected to close in May, subject to customary closing conditions.

For the three months ended March 31, 2016, total revenues were \$854.4 million, an increase of 4.0% over the comparable period in 2015. The increase of \$32.6 million was primarily due to a \$55.0 million increase in revenues from Progressive, offset by a decrease of \$27.2 million in revenues from our "core" business. The core business is our traditional lease-to-own store-based business and represents all of the operations of Aaron's, excluding Progressive and DAMI. The decrease in revenues from the core business primarily results from a decrease of \$16.7 million, or 17.4%, in revenues from non-retail sales for the three months ended March 31, 2016 from the comparable period in 2015.

This decrease was mainly due to a .6% decrease in same store revenues of existing franchised stores and decreasing demand for product by franchisees as a result of the net reduction of 53 franchised stores during the 15-month period ended March 31, 2016. The decrease in lease revenues and fees from our core business also results from a 2.1%

decrease in Company-operated same store revenues.

Same Store Revenues. We believe that changes in same store revenues are a key performance indicator of our core business. For the three months ended March 31, 2016, we calculated this amount by comparing revenues for the three months ended March 31, 2016 to revenues for the comparable period in 2015 for all stores open for the entire 15-month period ended March 31, 2016, excluding stores that received lease agreements from other acquired, closed or merged stores.

**Active Doors.** We believe that active doors are a key performance indicator of our Progressive segment. Active doors represent retail store locations at which at least one virtual lease-to-own transaction has been completed during the trailing three month period. The following table presents active doors for the Progressive segment:

|                                      |        |        |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Active Doors at March 31 (Unaudited) | 2016   | 2015   |
| Progressive Active Doors             | 13,521 | 11,861 |

**Invoice Volume.** We also believe that invoice volume is a key performance indicator of our Progressive segment. Invoice volume is defined as the retail price of lease merchandise acquired and leased by Progressive during the period, net of returns. The following table presents invoice volume for the Progressive segment:

|                                                                  |           |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| For the Three Months Ended March 31 (Unaudited and In Thousands) | 2016      | 2015      |
| Progressive Invoice Volume                                       | \$218,927 | \$197,480 |

#### Business Environment and Company Outlook

Like many industries, the lease-to-own industry has been transformed by the internet and virtual marketplace. We believe the lease-to-own industry has suffered in recent periods due to economic challenges faced by our core customers. In response to these changing market conditions, we are executing a strategic plan for the core business that focuses on the following items and that we believe positions us for success over the long-term:

- Profitably grow our stores
- Accelerate our omni-channel platform
- Promote communication, coordination and integration
- Champion compliance

#### Key Components of Earnings

In this management's discussion and analysis section, we review our consolidated results. For the three months ended March 31, 2016, and the comparable prior year period, some of the key revenue and cost and expense items that affected earnings were as follows:

**Revenues.** We separate our total revenues into six components: lease revenues and fees, retail sales, non-retail sales, franchise royalties and fees, interest and fees on loans receivable and other. Lease revenues and fees include all revenues derived from lease agreements at Company-operated stores and retail locations serviced by Progressive. Retail sales represent sales of both new and returned lease merchandise from our Company-operated stores. Non-retail sales mainly represent new merchandise sales to our Aaron's Sales & Lease Ownership franchisees. Franchise royalties and fees represent fees from the sale of franchise rights and royalty payments from franchisees, as well as other related income from our franchised stores. Interest and fees on loans receivable primarily represents the accretion of the discount on loans acquired in the DAMI acquisition, as well as merchant fees, finance charges and annual and other fees earned on loans originated since the acquisition. Other revenues primarily relate to revenues from leasing real estate properties to unrelated third parties, as well as other miscellaneous revenues.

**Depreciation of Lease Merchandise.** Depreciation of lease merchandise primarily reflects the expense associated with depreciating merchandise held for lease and leased to customers by our Company-operated stores and Progressive.

**Retail Cost of Sales.** Retail cost of sales represents the depreciated cost of merchandise sold through our Company-operated stores.

**Non-Retail Cost of Sales.** Non-retail cost of sales primarily represents the cost of merchandise sold to our franchisees.

**Operating Expenses.** Operating expenses include personnel costs, occupancy costs, lease merchandise write-offs, bad debt expense, and advertising, among other expenses.

**Other Operating Income, Net.** Other operating income, net, consists of gains or losses on sales of Company-operated stores and delivery vehicles, fair value adjustments on assets held for sale and gains or losses on other transactions involving property, plant and equipment.

## Critical Accounting Policies

Refer to the 2015 Annual Report.

## Results of Operations

As of March 31, 2016, the Company had six operating and reportable segments: Sales and Lease Ownership, Progressive, HomeSmart, DAMI, Franchise and Manufacturing. On April 5, 2016, the Company entered into an agreement to sell HomeSmart, as discussed earlier. The results of DAMI have been included in the Company's consolidated results and presented as a reportable segment from its October 15, 2015 acquisition date.

The Company's Sales and Lease Ownership, Progressive, HomeSmart and Franchise segments accounted for substantially all of the operations of the Company and, therefore, unless otherwise noted, only material changes within these four segments are discussed. The production of our Manufacturing segment, consisting of Woodhaven Furniture Industries LLC, is primarily leased or sold through the Company-operated and franchised stores, and consequently, substantially all of that segment's revenues and earnings before income taxes are eliminated through the elimination of intersegment revenues and intersegment profit or loss.

## Results of Operations – Three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015

| (In Thousands)                        | Three Months Ended<br>March 31, |           | Change    |         |   |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|---|
|                                       | 2016                            | 2015      | \$        | %       |   |
| <b>REVENUES:</b>                      |                                 |           |           |         |   |
| Lease Revenues and Fees               | \$741,611                       | \$695,282 | \$46,329  | 6.7     | % |
| Retail Sales                          | 10,955                          | 11,994    | (1,039 )  | (8.7 )  |   |
| Non-Retail Sales                      | 79,305                          | 96,037    | (16,732 ) | (17.4 ) |   |
| Franchise Royalties and Fees          | 16,295                          | 17,004    | (709 )    | (4.2 )  |   |
| Interest and Fees on Loans Receivable | 4,763                           | —         | 4,763     | nmf     |   |
| Other                                 | 1,498                           | 1,497     | 1         | .1      |   |
|                                       | 854,427                         | 821,814   | 32,613    | 4.0     |   |
| <b>COSTS AND EXPENSES:</b>            |                                 |           |           |         |   |
| Depreciation of Lease Merchandise     | 348,302                         | 315,986   | 32,316    | 10.2    |   |
| Retail Cost of Sales                  | 7,065                           | 7,704     | (639 )    | (8.3 )  |   |
| Non-Retail Cost of Sales              | 71,385                          | 86,852    | (15,467 ) | (17.8 ) |   |
| Operating Expenses                    | 348,424                         | 327,920   | 20,504    | 6.3     |   |
| Other Operating Income, Net           | (6,729 )                        | (1,460 )  | 5,269     | 360.9   |   |
|                                       | 768,447                         | 737,002   | 31,445    | 4.3     |   |
| <b>OPERATING PROFIT</b>               | 85,980                          | 84,812    | 1,168     | 1.4     |   |
| Interest Income                       | 421                             | 439       | (18 )     | (4.1 )  |   |
| Interest Expense                      | (6,312 )                        | (5,969 )  | 343       | 5.7     |   |
| Other Non-Operating Expense, Net      | (361 )                          | (1,452 )  | (1,091 )  | (75.1 ) |   |
| <b>EARNINGS BEFORE INCOME TAXES</b>   | 79,728                          | 77,830    | 1,898     | 2.4     |   |
| <b>INCOME TAXES</b>                   | 30,041                          | 28,587    | 1,454     | 5.1     |   |
| <b>NET EARNINGS</b>                   | \$49,687                        | \$49,243  | \$444     | .9      | % |

nmf - Calculation is not meaningful

## Revenues

Information about our revenues by reportable segment is as follows:

| (In Thousands)                         | Three Months Ended<br>March 31, |           | Change     |         |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|---------|
|                                        | 2016                            | 2015      | \$         | %       |
| REVENUES:                              |                                 |           |            |         |
| Sales and Lease Ownership <sup>1</sup> | \$502,192                       | \$536,160 | \$(33,968) | (6.3 )% |
| Progressive <sup>2</sup>               | 306,665                         | 251,619   | 55,046     | 21.9    |
| HomeSmart <sup>1</sup>                 | 17,680                          | 16,972    | 708        | 4.2     |
| DAMI <sup>3</sup>                      | 4,763                           | —         | 4,763      | nmf     |
| Franchise <sup>4</sup>                 | 16,295                          | 17,004    | (709)      | (4.2 )  |
| Manufacturing                          | 24,923                          | 28,806    | (3,883)    | (13.5 ) |
| Other                                  | 284                             | 368       | (84)       | (22.8 ) |
| Revenues of Reportable Segments        | 872,802                         | 850,929   | 21,873     | 2.6     |
| Elimination of Intersegment Revenues   | (23,802 )                       | (28,289 ) | 4,487      | 15.9    |
| Cash to Accrual Adjustments            | 5,427                           | (826 )    | 6,253      | 757.0   |
| Total Revenues from External Customers | \$854,427                       | \$821,814 | \$32,613   | 4.0 %   |

nmf - Calculation is not meaningful

<sup>1</sup> Segment revenue principally consists of lease revenues and fees, retail sales and non-retail sales, and is presented on a cash basis.

<sup>2</sup> Segment revenue consists of lease revenues and fees.

<sup>3</sup> Segment revenue consists of interest and fees on loans receivable, and excludes the effect of interest expense.

<sup>4</sup> Segment revenue consists of franchise royalties and fees.

**Sales and Lease Ownership.** Sales and Lease Ownership segment revenues decreased \$34.0 million to \$502.2 million primarily due to a \$17.9 million decrease in lease revenues and fees and a \$17.3 million decrease in non-retail sales. Lease revenues and fees decreased primarily due to a 2.4% decrease in same store revenues and the net reduction of 20 Company-operated stores during the 15-month period ended March 31, 2016. In particular, Texas stores, which represent approximately 18.4% of our store-based revenues, have continued to underperform other regions in period-over-period same-store sales due to the effects of contractions in the oil industry on that market. Non-retail sales decreased primarily due to decreased demand for product by franchisees primarily as a result of a .6% decrease in same store revenues of existing franchised stores and the net reduction of 53 franchised stores during the 15-month period ended March 31, 2016.

**Progressive.** Progressive segment revenues increased \$55.0 million to \$306.7 million primarily due to increases in invoice volumes at existing active doors as well as a net increase of approximately 1,660 active doors during the three months ended March 31, 2016 as compared to the three months ended March 31, 2015.

**HomeSmart.** HomeSmart segment revenues increased \$708,000 to \$17.7 million primarily due to a 4% increase in lease revenues and fees. Lease revenues and fees within the HomeSmart segment increased due to a 6.9% increase in same store revenues, which more than offsets the impact of the net reduction of one Company-operated store during the 15-month period ended March 31, 2016.

**Franchise.** Franchise segment revenues decreased \$709,000 to \$16.3 million due to a .6% decrease in same store revenues of existing franchised stores and the net reduction of 53 franchised stores during the 15-month period ended March 31, 2016.

## Operating Expenses

Information about certain significant components of operating expenses is as follows:

|                               | Three Months<br>Ended March 31, |           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| (In Thousands)                | 2016                            | 2015      |
| Personnel costs               | \$163,530                       | \$155,821 |
| Occupancy costs               | 53,484                          | 52,054    |
| Lease merchandise adjustments | 33,906                          | 29,293    |
| Bad debt expense              | 27,939                          | 24,141    |
| Advertising                   | 9,686                           | 11,600    |
| Other operating expenses      | 59,879                          | 55,011    |
| Operating Expenses            | \$348,424                       | \$327,920 |

Operating expenses increased \$20.5 million, or 6.3%, to \$348.4 million in 2016 from \$327.9 million for the comparable period in 2015. As a percentage of total revenues, operating expenses increased to 40.8% in 2016 from 39.9% in 2015.

Personnel costs increased \$7.7 million, or 4.9%, during the three months ended March 31, 2016 from the comparable period in 2015 primarily due to hiring to support the growth of Progressive. In addition, the Company recorded charges of \$3.7 million during the three months ended March 31, 2016 primarily related to the retirement of the Company's chief financial officer.

Lease merchandise write-offs increased \$4.6 million, or 15.7%, during the three months ended March 31, 2016 from the comparable period in 2015 due to the growth in Progressive revenues as a percentage of total revenues.

Progressive's lease merchandise write-offs as a percentage of Progressive's lease revenues decreased to 6.2% in 2016 from 6.4% in 2015. Lease merchandise write-offs as a percentage of lease revenues for our core business increased to 3.5% in 2016 from 3.0% in 2015.

Bad debt expense increased \$3.8 million, or 15.7%, during the three months ended March 31, 2016 from the comparable period in 2015 primarily due to the continued growth of Progressive. Progressive's bad debt expense as a percentage of Progressive's revenues decreased to 9.0% in 2016 from 9.6% in 2015.

## Other Costs and Expenses

Depreciation of lease merchandise. Depreciation of lease merchandise increased \$32.3 million, or 10.2%, to \$348.3 million during the three months ended March 31, 2016, from \$316.0 million during the comparable period in 2015. Levels of merchandise on lease for the Aaron's core business improved year over year, with idle merchandise representing approximately 5% of total depreciation expense in 2016 as compared to approximately 6% in 2015. As a percentage of total lease revenues and fees, depreciation of lease merchandise increased to 47.0% from 45.4% in the prior year period, primarily because of Progressive's continued growth relative to our core business. Progressive generally experiences higher depreciation as a percentage of lease revenues because, among other factors, its merchandise has a shorter average life on lease and a higher rate of early buyouts than our core business.

Retail cost of sales. Retail cost of sales decreased \$639,000, or 8.3%, to \$7.1 million during the three months ended March 31, 2016, from \$7.7 million for the comparable period in 2015, and as a percentage of retail sales, did not change significantly.

Non-retail cost of sales. Non-retail cost of sales decreased \$15.5 million, or 17.8%, to \$71.4 million during the three months ended March 31, 2016, from \$86.9 million for the comparable period in 2015, and as a percentage of non-retail sales, remained consistent at approximately 90% in both periods.

# Other Operating Income, Net

Information about the components of other operating income, net is as follows:

| (In Thousands)                                                                           | Three Months Ended March 31, |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
|                                                                                          | 2016                         | 2015      |
| Losses (gains) on sales of stores                                                        | \$32                         | \$(2,075) |
| Net gains on sales of delivery vehicles                                                  | (463 )                       | (318 )    |
| Impairment charges and net (gains) losses on asset dispositions and assets held for sale | (6,298 )                     | 933       |
| Other operating income, net                                                              | \$(6,729)                    | \$(1,460) |

During the three months ended March 31, 2016, impairment charges and net gains on asset dispositions and assets held for sale included a loss of \$4.6 million related to the expected sale of the HomeSmart Disposal Group and a gain of \$11.1 million related to the sale of the Company's corporate headquarters building in January 2016.

During the three months ended March 31, 2015, impairment charges and net losses on asset dispositions and assets held for sale included charges of \$830,000, representing the impairment of leasehold improvements for Company-operated stores that were expected to be closed as of March 31, 2015. In addition, the Company recognized gains of \$2.1 million from the sale of nine Aaron's Sales & Lease Ownership stores.

## Operating Profit

Interest income. Interest income, which primarily relates to the Perfect Home notes, decreased to \$421,000 during the three months ended March 31, 2016 compared with \$439,000 for the comparable period in 2015.

Interest expense. Interest expense increased \$343,000 to \$6.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2016 from \$6.0 million in 2015 due primarily to interest on the debt assumed in connection with the October 15, 2015 DAMI acquisition, which was partially offset by reductions in other revolving credit borrowings in the current period.

Other non-operating expense, net. Included in other non-operating expense, net were net foreign exchange transaction losses of \$325,000 and \$1.7 million during the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively. These net losses result from changes in the value of the U.S. dollar against the British pound and Canadian dollar.

## Earnings Before Income Taxes

Information about our earnings (loss) before income taxes by reportable segment is as follows:

| (In Thousands)                                       | Three Months Ended March 31, |           | Change        |          |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|---------------|----------|
|                                                      | 2016                         | 2015      | 2016 vs. 2015 |          |
|                                                      |                              |           | \$            | %        |
| <b>EARNINGS (LOSS) BEFORE INCOME TAXES:</b>          |                              |           |               |          |
| Sales and Lease Ownership                            | \$43,562                     | \$52,575  | \$(9,013)     | (17.1 )% |
| Progressive                                          | 21,914                       | 15,830    | 6,084         | 38.4     |
| HomeSmart <sup>1</sup>                               | (3,229 )                     | 537       | (3,766 )      | (701.3 ) |
| Franchise                                            | 13,119                       | 13,898    | (779 )        | (5.6 )   |
| DAMI                                                 | (2,882 )                     | —         | (2,882 )      | nmf      |
| Manufacturing                                        | 868                          | 1,282     | (414 )        | (32.3 )  |
| Other <sup>2</sup>                                   | (6,156 )                     | (11,479 ) | 5,323         | 46.4     |
| Earnings Before Income Taxes for Reportable Segments | 67,196                       | 72,643    | (5,447 )      | (7.5 )   |
| Elimination of Intersegment Profit                   | (755 )                       | (1,268 )  | 513           | 40.5     |
| Cash to Accrual and Other Adjustments                | 13,287                       | 6,455     | 6,832         | 105.8    |
| Total                                                | \$79,728                     | \$77,830  | \$1,898       | 2.4 %    |

nmf - Calculation is not meaningful

<sup>1</sup> HomeSmart earnings before income taxes includes an estimated loss on the expected sale of HomeSmart of \$4.6 million during the three months ended March 31, 2016 incurred upon classification of the HomeSmart Disposal Group as held for sale.



<sup>2</sup> Earnings before income taxes for the Other category includes a gain of \$11.1 million on the sale of the Company's corporate headquarters building during the three months ended March 31, 2016.

#### Income Tax Expense

Income tax expense increased \$1.5 million to \$30.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2016 compared to \$28.6 million for the same period in 2015. The effective tax rate also increased to 37.7% for the three months ended March 31, 2016 from 36.7% for the three months ended March 31, 2015. The increase is primarily related to valuation allowances recorded for certain tax credits.

#### Net Earnings

Net earnings increased \$444,000 to \$49.7 million during the three months ended March 31, 2016 from \$49.2 million during the three months ended March 31, 2015, representing a .9% increase. As a percentage of total revenues, net earnings were 5.8% and 6.0% in 2016 and 2015, respectively.

#### Overview of Financial Position

The major changes in the condensed consolidated balance sheet from December 31, 2015 to March 31, 2016 include:

• Cash and cash equivalents increased \$104.0 million to \$118.9 million at March 31, 2016 from \$14.9 million at December 31, 2015. For additional information, refer to the "Liquidity and Capital Resources" section below.

• Accounts receivable, net decreased \$28.2 million to \$85.2 million at March 31, 2016 from \$113.4 million at December 31, 2015 primarily due to decreases in non-retail sales during the period.

• Income tax receivable decreased \$149.1 million primarily because the Company received income tax refunds, net of payments of \$119.7 million, during the three months ended March 31, 2016. The enactment of the Protecting Americans From Tax Hikes Act in December 2015 extended bonus depreciation on eligible inventory held during 2015. Throughout 2015, the Company made payments based on the previously enacted law, resulting in an overpayment when the current act was signed and the Company applied for a refund at that time.

• Accounts payable and accrued expenses decreased \$55.9 million due primarily to decreases in lease merchandise purchases during the three months ended March 31, 2016 compared to the three months ended December 31, 2015.

• Debt decreased \$88.7 million due primarily to the net repayment of \$89.0 million in revolving credit borrowings, term loans and capital lease obligations. Refer to "Liquidity and Capital Resources" below for further details regarding the Company's financing arrangements.

#### Liquidity and Capital Resources

##### General

For the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, cash provided by operating activities was \$194.5 million and \$225.0 million, respectively. The \$30.5 million quarter-over-quarter decrease in operating cash flows occurred primarily because of increases in cash payments for lease merchandise, which offset the net effects of a \$19.7 million increase in income tax refunds. We had increased cash payments for lease merchandise in the three months ended March 31, 2016 because of the growth in invoice volumes at Progressive and increased purchases at our core business in the fourth quarter of 2015 relative to the same period in 2014. Progressive's operating cash flow needs are more immediate than those of our core business when acquiring lease merchandise because Progressive pays for lease merchandise at a retailer's point-of-sale at the same time it enters into a lease agreement with its customers while our core business generally acquires inventory from its vendors on deferred payment terms.

For the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, cash provided by investing activities was \$891,000 and cash used in investing activities was \$12.4 million, respectively. The increase in investing cash flows during the three months ended March 31, 2016 as compared to the three months ended March 31, 2015 was primarily due to cash received of \$13.6 million related to the sale of the Company's corporate headquarters building in January 2016.

For the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, cash used in financing activities was \$91.5 million and \$86.3 million, respectively. The \$5.2 million decrease in financing cash flows was primarily due to \$3.6 million additional net repayments of debt during the three months ended March 31, 2016 as compared to the three months ended March 31, 2015.

Our primary capital requirements consist of buying lease merchandise for sales and lease ownership stores and Progressive's operations. As we continue to grow, the need for additional lease merchandise is expected to remain our major capital requirement. Other capital requirements include purchases of property, plant and equipment, expenditures for acquisitions and



income tax payments, and funding of loan receivables for DAMI. Our capital requirements historically have been financed through:

- cash flows from operations;
- private debt offerings;
- bank debt;
- trade credit with vendors;
- proceeds from the sale of lease return merchandise; and
- stock offerings.

#### Debt Financing

As of March 31, 2016, \$96.9 million in term loans and no revolving credit balances were outstanding under the revolving credit agreement. Our current revolving credit facility matures December 9, 2019 and the total available credit on the facility as of March 31, 2016 was \$225.0 million. The revolving credit and term loan agreement includes an uncommitted incremental facility increase option (an "accordion facility") which, subject to certain terms and conditions, permits the Company at any time prior to the maturity date to request an increase in extensions of credit available thereunder by an aggregate additional principal amount of up to \$200.0 million.

As of March 31, 2016, \$41.0 million was outstanding under the DAMI credit facility. The DAMI credit facility is currently set to mature on October 15, 2017 and the total available credit on the facility as of March 31, 2016 was \$10.5 million, in addition to letter of credit not to exceed \$2.0 million. In addition, the DAMI credit facility includes an accordion facility, which, subject to certain terms and conditions, permits DAMI at any time prior to the maturity date to request an increase in the maximum facility of up to \$25.0 million. The DAMI credit facility restricts DAMI's ability to transfer funds by limiting intercompany dividends to an amount not to exceed the amount of capital the Company has invested in DAMI. The aggregate amount of such dividends made in a calendar year are limited to 75% of DAMI's net income for the immediately preceding calendar year.

As of March 31, 2016, the Company had outstanding \$300.0 million in aggregate principal amount of senior unsecured notes issued in a private placement in connection with the April 14, 2014 Progressive acquisition. The notes bear interest at the rate of 4.75% per year and mature on April 14, 2021. Payments of interest are due quarterly, commencing July 14, 2014, with principal payments of \$60.0 million each due annually commencing April 14, 2017.

As of March 31, 2016, the Company had outstanding \$75.0 million in senior unsecured notes originally issued in a private placement in July 2011. Effective April 28, 2014, the notes bear interest at the rate of 3.95% per year and mature on April 27, 2018. Quarterly payments of interest commenced July 27, 2011, and annual principal payments of \$25.0 million commenced April 27, 2014.

Our revolving credit and term loan agreement and senior unsecured notes, and our franchisee loan agreement discussed above, contain certain financial covenants. These covenants include requirements that the Company maintain ratios of (i) EBITDA plus lease expense to fixed charges of no less than 2.00:1.00 and (ii) total debt to EBITDA of no greater than 3.00:1.00. In each case, EBITDA refers to the Company's consolidated earnings before interest and tax expense, depreciation (other than lease merchandise depreciation), amortization expense and other non-cash charges, and it excludes the results of DAMI. If we fail to comply with these covenants, we will be in default under these agreements, and all amounts will become due immediately. We are in compliance with all of these covenants at March 31, 2016 and believe that we will continue to be in compliance in the future.

The DAMI credit facility also contains financial covenants, including requirements that DAMI maintain certain EBITDA and senior debt to capital base ratios. On May 5, 2016, the Company entered into the eleventh amendment to the DAMI credit facility. Among other things, the amendment changed the EBITDA ratio DAMI is required to maintain. DAMI was in compliance with the amended financial covenants as of March 31, 2016.

#### Dividends

We have a consistent history of paying dividends, having paid dividends for 29 consecutive years. At its November 2015 meeting, our board of directors increased the quarterly dividend by 8.7%, raising it to \$.025 per share from \$.023 per share. Aggregate dividend payments for the three months ended March 31, 2016 were \$1.8 million. Subject to sufficient operating profits, any future capital needs and other contingencies, we currently expect to continue our policy of paying dividends.

If we achieve our expected level of growth in our operations, we anticipate we will supplement our expected cash flows from operations, existing credit facilities, vendor credit and proceeds from the sale of lease return merchandise by expanding our

existing credit facilities, by securing additional debt financing, or by seeking other sources of capital to ensure we will be able to fund our capital and liquidity needs for at least the next 12 to 24 months.

#### Commitments

**Income Taxes.** During the three months ended March 31, 2016, we received income tax refunds, net of payments, of \$119.7 million. Within the next nine months, we anticipate that we will make cash payments for federal and state income taxes of approximately \$50.0 million.

The Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014 signed into law on December 20, 2014 extended bonus depreciation and reauthorized work opportunity tax credits through the end of 2014. The Protecting Americans From Tax Hikes Act of 2015 (the 2015 Act) signed into law on December 18, 2015 extended 50% bonus depreciation and reauthorized work opportunity tax credits through the end of 2019. As a result, the Company applied for and received a \$100 million quick refund from the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") for the 2014 tax year during January 2015, and a \$120 million quick refund for the 2015 tax year during February 2016. Accordingly, our cash flow benefited from having a lower cash tax obligation, which, in turn, provided additional cash flow from operations. Because of our sales and lease ownership model, in which the Company remains the owner of merchandise on lease, we benefit more from bonus depreciation, relatively, than traditional furniture, electronics and appliance retailers.

In future years, we may have to make increased tax payments on our earnings as a result of expected profitability and the reversal of the accelerated depreciation deductions that were taken in 2015 and prior periods. While the 2015 Act extended bonus depreciation through 2019, not considering the effects of bonus depreciation on future qualifying expenditures, we estimate that at December 31, 2015, the remaining tax deferral associated with the acts described above was approximately \$178.0 million, of which approximately 80% is expected to reverse in 2016 and most of the remainder during 2017 and 2018.

**Leases.** The Company leases various properties and other assets in the normal course of business, including certain properties under capital leases with related parties. Our lease agreements are more fully described in Note 7 to the consolidated financial statements in the 2015 Annual Report.

**Franchise Loan Guaranty.** We have guaranteed the borrowings of certain independent franchisees under a franchise loan agreement with several banks, which has a maturity date of December 8, 2016.

At March 31, 2016, the portion that we might be obligated to repay in the event franchisees defaulted was \$74.2 million. However, due to franchisee borrowing limits, we believe any losses associated with defaults would be mitigated through recovery of lease merchandise and other assets. Since the inception of the franchise loan program in 1994, we have had no significant associated losses. We believe the likelihood of any significant amounts being funded in connection with these commitments to be remote.

#### Contractual Obligations and Commitments.

As part of our ongoing operations, we enter into various arrangements that obligate us to make future payments, including debt agreements, operating leases, and other purchase obligations. The future cash commitments owed under these arrangements generally fluctuate in the normal course of business as we, for example, borrow on or pay down our revolving lines of credit, make scheduled payments on other debt, leases or purchase obligations and renegotiate arrangements or enter into new arrangements. Nonetheless, as of March 31, 2016, there were no material changes outside the normal course of business in our material cash commitments and contractual obligations from those reported in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015.

#### Unfunded Lending Commitments

The Company, through its DAMI business, has unfunded lending commitments totaling approximately \$383.9 million and \$378.7 million as of March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015, respectively. These unfunded commitments arise in the ordinary course of business from credit card agreements with individual cardholders that give them the ability to borrow, against unused amounts, up to the maximum credit limit assigned to their account. While these unfunded amounts represented the total available unused lines of credit, the Company does not anticipate that all cardholders will utilize their entire available line at any given point in time. Commitments to extend unsecured credit are agreements to lend to a cardholder so long as there is no violation of any condition established in the contract.

Commitments generally have fixed expiration dates or other termination clauses. Since many of the commitments are expected to expire without being drawn upon, the total commitment amounts do not necessarily represent future cash requirements.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

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Refer to Note 1 to the condensed consolidated financial statements for a discussion of recently issued accounting pronouncements, including pronouncements that were adopted in the current year.

### ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

For quantitative and qualitative disclosures about market risk, see Item 7A, "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk," of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015. Our exposures to market risk have not changed materially since December 31, 2015.

### ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

#### Disclosure Controls and Procedures.

An evaluation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, was carried out by management, with the participation of the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") and Chief Financial Officer ("CFO"), as of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

This evaluation is performed to determine if our disclosure controls and procedures are effective to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by the Company in the reports that it files or submits under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, is accumulated and communicated to management, including our CEO and CFO, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures and are effective to provide reasonable assurance that such information is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified by the SEC's rules and forms. No system of controls, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide absolute assurance that the objectives of the system of controls are met, and no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that the system of controls has operated effectively in all cases. Our disclosure controls and procedures, however, are designed to provide reasonable assurance that the objectives of disclosure controls and procedures are met.

Based on management's evaluation, the CEO and CFO concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the date of the evaluation to provide reasonable assurance that the objectives of disclosure controls and procedures are met.

#### Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting.

There were no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting, as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, during the three months ended March 31, 2016 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

## PART II – OTHER INFORMATION

## ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

From time to time, we are party to various legal proceedings arising in the ordinary course of business. While any proceeding contains an element of uncertainty, we do not currently believe that any of the outstanding legal proceedings to which we are a party will have a material adverse impact on our business, financial position or results of operations. However, an adverse resolution of a number of these items may have a material adverse impact on our business, financial position or results of operations. For further information, see Note 6 to the condensed consolidated financial statements under the heading “Legal Proceedings,” which discussion is incorporated herein by reference.

## ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

The Company does not have any updates to its risk factors disclosure from that previously reported in the 2015 Annual Report.

## ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

The following table presents our share repurchase activity for the three months ended March 31, 2016:

| Period                                     | Total<br>Number of<br>Shares<br>Purchased | Average<br>Price<br>Paid per<br>Share | Total<br>Number of<br>Shares<br>Purchased<br>as Part of<br>Publicly<br>Announced<br>Plans or<br>Programs | Maximum<br>Number of<br>Shares that<br>May Yet<br>Be<br>Purchased<br>Under the<br>Plans or<br>Programs <sup>1</sup> |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 1, 2016 through January 31, 2016   | —                                         | —                                     | —                                                                                                        | 10,496,421                                                                                                          |
| February 1, 2016 through February 29, 2016 | —                                         | —                                     | —                                                                                                        | 10,496,421                                                                                                          |
| March 1, 2016 through March 31, 2016       | —                                         | —                                     | —                                                                                                        | 10,496,421                                                                                                          |
| Total                                      | —                                         | —                                     | —                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                     |

<sup>1</sup> Share repurchases are conducted under authorizations made from time to time by the Company’s Board of Directors. The

most recent authorization was publicly announced on October 4, 2013 and authorized the repurchase of an additional 10,955,345 shares of common stock over the previously authorized repurchase amount of 4,044,655 shares, increasing the

total number of our shares of common stock authorized for repurchase to 15,000,000. These authorizations have no expiration date, and the Company is not obligated to repurchase any shares. Subject to applicable law, repurchases may be

made at such times and in such amounts as the Company deems appropriate. Repurchases may be discontinued at any time.

## ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

None.

## ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

None.

## ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT  
NO.

DESCRIPTION OF EXHIBIT

- |       |                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10.1* | Eleventh amendment to the Loan and Security Agreement by and among Dent-A-Med, Inc., HC Recovery, Inc. and Wells Fargo, N.A, dated as of May 5, 2016. |
| 31.1* | Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and Rule 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act, as amended.                    |
| 31.2* | Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and Rule 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act, as amended.                    |
| 32.1* | Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.            |
| 32.2* | Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.            |

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|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 101 | The following financial information from the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2016, formatted in XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language): (i) Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets as of March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015, (ii) Condensed Consolidated Statements of Earnings for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, (iii) Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, (iv) Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, and (v) the Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements. |
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\*Filed herewith.

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.

AARON'S, INC.  
(Registrant)

Date: May 5, 2016 By: /s/ Steven A. Michaels  
Steven A. Michaels  
Chief Financial Officer,  
President Strategic Operations

Date: May 5, 2016 By: /s/ Robert P. Sinclair, Jr.  
Robert P. Sinclair, Jr.  
Vice President,  
Corporate Controller