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## **FORM 10-Q**

**Vitamin Shoppe, Inc. - VSI**

**Filed: November 02, 2016 (period: September 24, 2016)**

Quarterly report with a continuing view of a company's financial position

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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
Washington, DC 20549

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**FORM 10-Q**

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

For the quarterly period ended September 24, 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: 001-34507

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**VITAMIN SHOPPE, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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**Delaware**  
(State or Other Jurisdiction  
of Incorporation or Organization)

**11-3664322**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**300 Harmon Meadow Blvd.**  
**Secaucus, New Jersey 07094**  
(Addresses of Principal Executive Offices, including Zip Code)  
**(201) 868-5959**  
(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§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 definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer   
Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if 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

As of October 14, 2016 Vitamin Shoppe, Inc. had 23,816,518 shares of common stock outstanding.

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### Forward-Looking Statements

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q contains “forward-looking” statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, including, without limitation, statements regarding future financial results and performance, future business prospects, revenue, stores, our ability to implement strategic initiatives, realize improved financial results and meet market expectations, our ability to identify efficiencies and cost reduction opportunities, share repurchases, product offerings, contract manufacturing, supply chain network utilization, intellectual property, integration of acquisitions, working capital, liquidity, capital expenditures, capital needs and interest costs, industry based factors, including the level of competition in the vitamin, mineral and supplement industry, continued demand from the primary markets Vitamin Shoppe, Inc. (the “Company” or “we”) serves, consumer perception of our products, the availability of raw materials, as well as economic conditions generally and factors more specific to the Company such as compliance with manufacturing, healthcare, environmental and other regulations, changes in accounting standards, certifications and practices and restrictions imposed by the Company’s Revolving Credit Facility (as defined below), including financial covenants and limitations on the Company’s ability to incur additional indebtedness and the Company’s future capital requirements, and other risks, uncertainties and factors set forth under Item 1A., entitled “Risk Factors”, in the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 26, 2015 and in our other reports and documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”). You can identify these forward-looking statements by the use of words such as “outlook”, “believes”, “expects”, “potential”, “continues”, “may”, “will”, “should”, “seeks”, “predicts”, “intends”, “plans”, “estimates”, “anticipates”, “target”, “could” or the negative version of these words or other comparable words. These statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties, many of which are outside our control, including, among others, product liability claims and recalls, the availability of insurance, the strength of the economy, changes in the overall level of consumer spending, the performance of the Company’s products within the prevailing retail environment, trade restrictions, international operations, availability of suitable store locations at appropriate terms, new credit card technology, e-commerce relationships, disruptions of manufacturing, warehouse or distribution facilities or information systems, and other specific factors discussed herein and in other SEC filings by us (including our reports on Forms 10-K and 10-Q filed with the SEC).

We believe that all forward-looking statements are based on reasonable assumptions when made; however, we caution that it is impossible to predict actual results or outcomes or the effects of risks, uncertainties or other factors on anticipated results or outcomes with certainty and that, accordingly, one should not place undue reliance on these statements. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date when made and we undertake no obligation to update these statements in light of subsequent events or developments. Actual results may differ materially from anticipated results or outcomes discussed in any forward-looking statement.

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PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements

VITAMIN SHOPPE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY  
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS  
(In thousands, except share and per share data)  
(Unaudited)

|  | September 24,<br>2016 | December 26,<br>2015 |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>  |                       |                      |
| Current assets:  |                       |                      |
| Cash and cash equivalents  | \$ 2,023              | \$ 15,104            |
| Accounts receivable, net of allowance of \$1,163 and \$897 in 2016 and 2015, respectively  | 6,958                 | 7,437                |
| Inventories  | 223,672               | 226,830              |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets  | 29,602                | 25,194               |
| Total current assets   | 262,255               | 274,565              |
| Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization of \$297,016 and \$274,222 in 2016 and 2015, respectively   | 140,492               | 140,158              |
| Goodwill   | 243,269               | 243,269              |
| Other intangibles, net   | 86,314                | 87,270               |
| Other assets   | 4,187                 | 3,429                |
| Total assets   | \$ 736,517            | \$ 748,691           |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>  |                       |                      |
| Current liabilities:   |                       |                      |
| Revolving credit facility  | \$ 6,000              | \$ 8,000             |
| Accounts payable   | 50,911                | 41,217               |
| Accrued expenses and other current liabilities   | 60,137                | 68,259               |
| Total current liabilities  | 117,048               | 117,476              |
| Convertible notes, net   | 119,413               | 115,410              |
| Deferred rent  | 38,387                | 39,889               |
| Other long-term liabilities  | 1,876                 | 615                  |
| Commitments and contingencies  |                       |                      |
| Stockholders' equity:  |                       |                      |
| Preferred stock, \$0.01 par value; 250,000,000 shares authorized and no shares issued and outstanding at September 24, 2016 and December 26, 2015  | —                     | —                    |
| Common stock, \$0.01 par value; 400,000,000 shares authorized, 23,970,736 shares issued and 23,810,726 shares outstanding at September 24, 2016, and 25,993,715 shares issued and 25,873,581 shares outstanding at December 26, 2015 | 240                   | 260                  |
| Additional paid-in capital   | 88,876                | 139,827              |
| Treasury stock, at cost; 160,010 shares at September 24, 2016 and 120,134 shares at December 26, 2015  | (6,400)               | (5,225)              |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss   | —                     | (60)                 |
| Retained earnings  | 377,077               | 340,499              |
| Total stockholders' equity   | 459,793               | 475,301              |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity   | \$ 736,517            | \$ 748,691           |

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

**VITAMIN SHOPPE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME**  
(In thousands, except share and per share data)  
(Unaudited)

|  | Three Months Ended    |                       | Nine Months Ended     |                       |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|  | September 24,<br>2016 | September 26,<br>2015 | September 24,<br>2016 | September 26,<br>2015 |
| Net sales                                    | \$ 314,887            | \$ 313,886            | \$ 984,378            | \$ 973,059            |
| Cost of goods sold                           | 212,762               | 209,177               | 658,182               | 645,441               |
| Gross profit                                 | 102,125               | 104,709               | 326,196               | 327,618               |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 81,852                | 81,352                | 257,937               | 249,742               |
| Income from operations                       | 20,273                | 23,357                | 68,259                | 77,876                |
| Interest expense, net                        | 2,363                 | 172                   | 6,977                 | 515                   |
| Income before provision for income taxes     | 17,910                | 23,185                | 61,282                | 77,361                |
| Provision for income taxes                   | 6,547                 | 9,087                 | 24,704                | 30,322                |
| Net income                                   | \$ 11,363             | \$ 14,098             | \$ 36,578             | \$ 47,039             |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding   |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| Basic  | 23,578,334            | 28,988,779            | 24,048,201            | 29,238,808            |
| Diluted                                      | 23,769,726            | 29,190,454            | 24,239,254            | 29,504,418            |
| Net income per common share                  |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| Basic  | \$ 0.48               | \$ 0.49               | \$ 1.52               | \$ 1.61               |
| Diluted                                      | \$ 0.48               | \$ 0.48               | \$ 1.51               | \$ 1.59               |

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
(In thousands)  
(Unaudited)

|  | Three Months Ended    |                       | Nine Months Ended     |                       |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|  | September 24,<br>2016 | September 26,<br>2015 | September 24,<br>2016 | September 26,<br>2015 |
| Net income                               | \$ 11,363             | \$ 14,098             | \$ 36,578             | \$ 47,039             |
| Other comprehensive income (loss):       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | —                     | (85)                  | 60                    | (26)                  |
| Other comprehensive income (loss)        | —                     | (85)                  | 60                    | (26)                  |
| Comprehensive income                     | \$ 11,363             | \$ 14,013             | \$ 36,638             | \$ 47,013             |

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

**VITAMIN SHOPPE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**  
(In thousands)  
(Unaudited)

|   | Nine Months Ended     |                       |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|   | September 24,<br>2016 | September 26,<br>2015 |
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>                                      |                       |                       |
| Net income  | \$ 36,578             | \$ 47,039             |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: |                       |                       |
| Depreciation and amortization of fixed and intangible assets                      | 28,812                | 28,457                |
| Impairment charges on fixed assets  | 415                   | 321                   |
| Amortization of deferred financing fees   | 708                   | 141                   |
| Amortization of debt discount on convertible notes                                | 3,434                 | —                     |
| Deferred income taxes   | 1,309                 | 3,248                 |
| Deferred rent   | (2,340)               | (1,708)               |
| Equity compensation expense   | 4,706                 | 4,716                 |
| Issuance of shares for services rendered  | 333                   | —                     |
| Tax benefits on exercises of equity awards  | 714                   | 71                    |
| Contingent consideration for acquisition of FDC Vitamins, LLC                     | —                     | (959)                 |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities:                                      |                       |                       |
| Accounts receivable   | 479                   | 5,311                 |
| Inventories   | 4,506                 | (29,911)              |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets   | (4,407)               | (786)                 |
| Other long-term assets  | 106                   | (221)                 |
| Accounts payable  | 11,337                | 1,292                 |
| Accrued expenses and other current liabilities                                    | (9,442)               | (3,087)               |
| Other long-term liabilities   | 840                   | 2,726                 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities   | <u>78,088</u>         | <u>56,650</u>         |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>                                      |                       |                       |
| Capital expenditures  | (31,228)              | (30,172)              |
| Acquisition of FDC Vitamins, LLC  | —                     | 487                   |
| Trademarks and other intangible assets  | (221)                 | (444)                 |
| Net cash used in investing activities   | <u>(31,449)</u>       | <u>(30,129)</u>       |
| <b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>                                      |                       |                       |
| Borrowings under revolving credit facility  | 51,000                | 27,000                |
| Repayments of borrowings under revolving credit facility                          | (53,000)              | (27,000)              |
| Bank overdraft  | (377)                 | 5,822                 |
| Contingent consideration payment for acquisition of FDC Vitamins, LLC             | —                     | (4,041)               |
| Proceeds from exercises of common stock options                                   | 90                    | 1,348                 |
| Issuance of shares under employee stock purchase plan                             | 536                   | 718                   |
| Tax benefits on exercises of equity awards  | (714)                 | (71)                  |
| Purchases of treasury stock   | (1,175)               | (2,492)               |
| Purchases of shares under Share Repurchase Programs                               | (56,011)              | (37,965)              |
| Other financing activities  | (125)                 | (97)                  |
| Net cash used in financing activities   | <u>(59,776)</u>       | <u>(36,778)</u>       |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents                      | 56                    | 72                    |
| Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents   | <u>(13,081)</u>       | <u>(10,185)</u>       |

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|  |                 |                 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents beginning of period              | 15,104          | 12,166          |
| Cash and cash equivalents end of period                    | <u>\$ 2,023</u> | <u>\$ 1,981</u> |
| Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information:         |                 |                 |
| Interest paid  | \$ 1,879        | \$ 282          |
| Income taxes paid  | \$ 30,968       | \$ 26,351       |
| Supplemental disclosures of non-cash investing activities: |                 |                 |
| Liability for purchases of property and equipment          | \$ 4,327        | \$ 5,617        |
| Assets acquired under capital leases                       | \$ 1,589        | \$ —            |

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.



**VITAMIN SHOPPE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**(UNAUDITED)**

**1. Basis of Presentation**

Vitamin Shoppe, Inc. (“VSI”), is incorporated in the State of Delaware, and through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Vitamin Shoppe Industries Inc. (“Subsidiary” or “Industries” together with VSI, the “Company”), is a multi-channel specialty retailer and contract manufacturer of nutritional products. Sales of both national brands and our own brands of vitamins, minerals, herbs, specialty supplements, sports nutrition and other health and wellness products (“VMS products”) are made through VSI-operated retail stores and the internet to customers located primarily in the United States. The Company manufactures products for both sales to third parties as well as for the VSI product assortment.

The condensed consolidated financial statements as of September 24, 2016 and September 26, 2015 are unaudited. The condensed consolidated balance sheet as of December 26, 2015 was derived from our audited financial statements. All intercompany transactions and balances have been eliminated in consolidation. In addition, certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAP”) have been condensed or omitted. The interim financial statements reflect all adjustments, which are, in the opinion of management, necessary for a fair presentation in conformity with GAAP. The interim financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements and notes thereto included in the Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 26, 2015, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 23, 2016 (the “Fiscal 2015 Form 10-K”). The results of operations for the interim periods should not be considered indicative of results to be expected for the full year.

The Company's fiscal year ends on the last Saturday in December. As used herein, the term "Fiscal Year" or "Fiscal" refers to a 52-week or 53-week period, ending on the last Saturday in December. Fiscal 2016 is a 53-week fiscal year. The results for the three and nine months ended September 24, 2016 and September 26, 2015 are each based on 13-week and 39-week periods, respectively.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Except as noted below, the Company has considered all new accounting pronouncements and has concluded that there are no new pronouncements that may have a material impact on its results of operations, financial condition, or cash flows, based on current information.

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-09 (“ASU 2014-09”), Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606). Under ASU 2014-09, an entity should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. In July 2015, the FASB deferred the effective date of ASU 2014-09 by one year. ASU 2014-09 will be effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017 for public companies and early adoption of ASU 2014-09 is permitted for public companies for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016. The Company is evaluating ASU 2014-09 to determine which transition approach it will utilize and if this guidance will have a material impact on the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements.

In February 2016, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2016-02 (“ASU 2016-02”), Leases (Topic 842). ASU 2016-02 was issued by the FASB to increase transparency and comparability among organizations by recognizing lease assets and lease liabilities on the balance sheet and disclosing key information about leasing arrangements. The main difference between previous GAAP and Topic 842 is the recognition of lease assets and lease liabilities by lessees for those leases classified as operating leases under previous GAAP. ASU 2016-02 will require modified retrospective application at the beginning of our first quarter of Fiscal 2019, but permits adoption in an earlier period. The Company is evaluating ASU 2016-02 in order to determine the impact of this guidance on the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements and anticipates this guidance will result in a significant increase to long-term assets and liabilities given we have a significant number of leases.

In March 2016, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2016-09 (“ASU 2016-09”), Compensation-Stock Compensation (Topic 718) Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting. ASU 2016-09 addresses simplification of several aspects of the accounting for share-based payment transactions, including the income tax consequences, classification of awards as either equity or liabilities, and classification on the statement of cash flows. ASU 2016-09 is effective for public companies for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016, and interim periods

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within those fiscal years. Early adoption of ASU 2016-09 is permitted. The Company has evaluated ASU 2016-09 and does not expect the impact of this guidance to have a material impact on the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements. However, under certain circumstances, this guidance could have an impact on the Company's effective tax rate as changes between tax and book treatment of equity compensation will be recognized in the provision for income taxes beginning in Fiscal 2017.

## 2. Inventories

The components of inventories are as follows (in thousands):

|                 | September 24,<br>2016 | December 26,<br>2015 |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Finished goods  | \$ 202,202            | \$ 211,879           |
| Work-in-process | 5,016                 | 6,180                |
| Raw materials   | 16,454                | 8,771                |
|                 | <u>\$ 223,672</u>     | <u>\$ 226,830</u>    |

## 3. Goodwill and Intangible Assets

Goodwill is allocated between the Company's segments (reporting units), retail, direct and manufacturing. The following table discloses the carrying value of all intangible assets (in thousands):

|                                 | September 24, 2016          |                             |                   | December 26, 2015           |                             |                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
|                                 | Gross<br>Carrying<br>Amount | Accumulated<br>Amortization | Net               | Gross<br>Carrying<br>Amount | Accumulated<br>Amortization | Net               |
| <b><u>Intangible assets</u></b> |                             |                             |                   |                             |                             |                   |
| Goodwill                        | \$ 243,269                  | \$ —                        | \$ 243,269        | \$ 243,269                  | \$ —                        | \$ 243,269        |
| Tradenames – Indefinite-lived   | 68,405                      | —                           | 68,405            | 68,405                      | —                           | 68,405            |
| Brands                          | 10,000                      | 1,296                       | 8,704             | 10,000                      | 880                         | 9,120             |
| Customer relationships          | 7,500                       | 875                         | 6,625             | 7,500                       | 594                         | 6,906             |
| Tradenames – Definite-lived     | 4,894                       | 3,007                       | 1,887             | 4,673                       | 2,722                       | 1,951             |
| Software                        | 1,300                       | 607                         | 693               | 1,300                       | 412                         | 888               |
|                                 | <u>\$ 335,368</u>           | <u>\$ 5,785</u>             | <u>\$ 329,583</u> | <u>\$ 335,147</u>           | <u>\$ 4,608</u>             | <u>\$ 330,539</u> |

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The useful lives of the Company's definite-lived intangible assets are between 3 to 20 years. The expected amortization expense on definite-lived intangible assets on the Company's condensed consolidated balance sheet at September 24, 2016, is as follows (in thousands):

|                          |    |               |
|--------------------------|----|---------------|
| Remainder of Fiscal 2016 | \$ | 355           |
| Fiscal 2017              |    | 1,435         |
| Fiscal 2018              |    | 1,435         |
| Fiscal 2019              |    | 1,435         |
| Fiscal 2020              |    | 1,435         |
| Thereafter               |    | 11,814        |
|                          | \$ | <u>17,909</u> |

#### 4. Accrued Expenses and Other Current Liabilities

Accrued expenses and other current liabilities consist of the following (in thousands):

|  | September 24,<br>2016 | December 26, 2015 |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Accrued salaries and related expenses  | \$ 14,124             | \$ 10,115         |
| Sales tax payable and related expenses | 7,777                 | 6,975             |
| Deferred sales (a)                     | 5,413                 | 20,483            |
| Accrued fixed asset additions          | 3,935                 | 5,842             |
| Other accrued expenses                 | 28,888                | 24,844            |
|  | \$ 60,137             | \$ 68,259         |

(a) The reduction in deferred sales reflects the change in the Company's loyalty program from annual redemptions to quarterly redemptions beginning in Fiscal 2016.

#### 5. Credit Arrangements

##### Convertible Senior Notes due 2020

On December 9, 2015, the Company issued \$143.8 million of its 2.25% Convertible Senior Notes due 2020 (the "Convertible Notes"). The Convertible Notes are senior unsecured obligations of VSI. Interest on the Convertible Notes is payable on June 1 and December 1 of each year, commencing on June 1, 2016 until their maturity date of December 1, 2020. The Company may not redeem the Convertible Notes prior to the maturity date.

Prior to July 1, 2020, the Convertible Notes will be convertible only under certain circumstances. The Convertible Notes will be convertible at an initial conversion rate of 25.1625 shares of the Company's common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of the Convertible Notes, which is equivalent to an initial conversion price of approximately \$39.74. The conversion rate will be subject to adjustment in some events but will not be adjusted for any accrued and unpaid interest. In addition, following certain corporate events that occur prior to the maturity date, the Company is required to increase, in certain circumstances, the conversion rate for a holder who elects to convert its Convertible Notes in connection with such a corporate event including customary conversion rate adjustments in connection with a "make-whole fundamental change" as defined. Upon conversion, the Company may satisfy its conversion obligation by paying or delivering, as applicable, cash, shares of its common stock or a combination of cash and shares of its common stock, at its election.

The Company allocated the principal amount of the Convertible Notes between its liability and equity components (see table below). The carrying amount of the liability component was determined by measuring the fair value of a similar debt instrument of similar credit quality and maturity that did not have the conversion feature. The carrying amount of the equity component, representing the embedded conversion option, was determined by deducting the fair value of the liability component from the principal amount of the Convertible Notes as a whole. The equity component was recorded to additional

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paid-in capital and is not remeasured as long as it continues to meet the conditions for equity classification. The excess of the principal amount of the Convertible Notes over the carrying amount of the liability component was recorded as a debt discount, and is being amortized to interest expense using an effective interest rate of 3.8% over the term of the Convertible Notes. The Company allocated the total amount of transaction costs incurred to the liability and equity components using the same proportions as the proceeds from the Convertible Notes. Transaction costs attributable to the liability component were recorded as a direct deduction from the liability component of the Convertible Notes, and are being amortized to interest expense using the effective interest method through the maturity date. Transaction costs attributable to the equity component were netted with the equity component of the Convertible Notes in additional paid-in capital.

The Convertible Notes consist of the following components (in thousands):

|  | September 24,<br>2016 | December 26,<br>2015 |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Liability component:</b>              |                       |                      |
| Principal                                | \$ 143,750            | \$ 143,750           |
| Conversion feature                       | (24,800)              | (24,800)             |
| Liability portion of debt issuance costs | (3,802)               | (3,800)              |
| Amortization                             | 4,265                 | 260                  |
| Net carrying amount                      | <u>\$ 119,413</u>     | <u>\$ 115,410</u>    |
| <b>Equity component:</b>                 |                       |                      |
| Conversion feature                       | \$ 24,800             | \$ 24,800            |
| Equity portion of debt issuance costs    | (793)                 | (793)                |
| Deferred taxes                           | 941                   | 941                  |
| Net carrying amount                      | <u>\$ 24,948</u>      | <u>\$ 24,948</u>     |

In connection with the issuance of the Convertible Notes, the Company entered into convertible note hedge transactions for which it paid an aggregate \$26.4 million. In addition, the Company sold warrants for which it received aggregate proceeds of \$13.0 million. The convertible note hedge transactions are expected generally to reduce potential dilution of the Company's common stock upon any conversion of notes and/or offset any cash payments the Company is required to make in excess of the principal amount of converted notes. However, the warrant transaction could separately have a dilutive effect to the extent that the market value per share of the Company's common stock exceeds the applicable strike price of the warrant transactions, which is approximately \$52.99 at inception. As these transactions meet certain accounting criteria, the convertible note hedge and warrant transactions are recorded in stockholders' equity, are not accounted for as derivatives and are not remeasured each reporting period.

The net proceeds from the Convertible Notes and related transactions of \$125.7 million, net of commissions and offering costs of \$4.6 million, were used to repurchase shares of the Company's common stock under the Company's share repurchase programs. Refer to Note 9. Share Repurchase Programs for additional information.

### **Revolving Credit Facility**

As of September 24, 2016 and December 26, 2015, the Company had \$6.0 million and \$8.0 million of borrowings outstanding on its Revolving Credit Facility (the "Revolving Credit Facility"), respectively.

Subject to the terms of the Revolving Credit Facility, which has a maturity date of October 11, 2018, the Company may borrow up to \$90.0 million, with a Company option to increase the facility up to a total of \$150.0 million. The availability under the Revolving Credit Facility is subject to a borrowing base calculated on the value of certain accounts receivable as well as certain inventory of the Company. The obligations thereunder are secured by a security interest in substantially all of the assets of the Company. Under the Revolving Credit Facility, VSI has guaranteed the Company's obligations, and Industries and its wholly-owned subsidiaries have each guaranteed the obligations of the other respective entities. The Revolving Credit Facility provides for affirmative and negative covenants affecting the Company. The Revolving Credit Facility restricts, among other things, the Company's ability to incur indebtedness, create or permit liens on the Company's assets, declare or pay dividends and make certain other restricted payments, consolidate, merge or recapitalize, sell assets, make certain investments,

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loans or other advances, enter into transactions with affiliates, change our line of business, and restricts the types of hedging activities the Company can enter into. The largest amount outstanding during both the nine months ended September 24, 2016 and September 26, 2015 was \$27.0 million. The unused available line of credit under the Revolving Credit Facility at September 24, 2016 was \$81.1 million.

Borrowings under the Revolving Credit Facility accrue interest, at the Company's option, at the rate per annum based on an "alternative base rate" plus 0.25% or 0.50% or the adjusted Eurodollar rate plus 1.25% or 1.50%, in each case with the higher spread applicable in the event that the aggregate amount of the borrowings under the Revolving Credit Facility exceeds 50% of the borrowing base availability under the Revolving Credit Facility. The weighted average interest rate for the Revolving Credit Facility during the nine months ended September 24, 2016 and September 26, 2015 was 1.75% and 1.44%, respectively. The commitment fee on the undrawn portion of the \$90.0 million Revolving Credit Facility was 0.25% as of September 24, 2016 and December 26, 2015.

Interest expense, net for the three and nine months ended September 24, 2016 and September 26, 2015 consists of the following (in thousands):

|   | Three Months Ended    |                    | Nine Months Ended     |                    |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
|   | September 24,<br>2016 | September 26, 2015 | September 24,<br>2016 | September 26, 2015 |
| Amortization of debt discount on convertible notes                  | \$ 1,156              | \$ —               | \$ 3,434              | \$ —               |
| Interest on convertible notes                                       | 818                   | —                  | 2,455                 | —                  |
| Amortization of deferred financing fees                             | 236                   | 62                 | 708                   | 141                |
| Interest / fees on the revolving credit facility and other interest | 153                   | 110                | 380                   | 375                |
| Interest income   | —                     | —                  | —                     | (1)                |
| Interest expense, net   | <u>\$ 2,363</u>       | <u>\$ 172</u>      | <u>\$ 6,977</u>       | <u>\$ 515</u>      |

## 6. Stock Based Compensation

**Equity Incentive Plans** – The Company has two equity incentive plans that provide stock based compensation to certain directors, officers, consultants and employees of the Company; the 2006 Stock Option Plan (the "2006 Plan") and the Vitamin Shoppe 2009 Equity Incentive Plan, as amended and restated effective April 6, 2012, (the "2009 Plan"). As of September 24, 2016, there were 2,077,482 shares available to grant under both plans which includes 160,010 shares currently held by the Company as treasury stock.

The following table summarizes restricted shares for the 2009 Plan as of September 24, 2016 and changes during the nine month period then ended:

|                                | Number of Unvested<br>Restricted Shares | Weighted<br>Average Grant<br>Date Fair Value |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Unvested at December 26, 2015  | 398,562                                 | \$ 42.65                                     |
| Granted                        | 165,605                                 | \$ 30.04                                     |
| Vested                         | (101,009)                               | \$ 46.72                                     |
| Canceled/forfeited             | (84,031)                                | \$ 43.35                                     |
| Unvested at September 24, 2016 | <u>379,127</u>                          | <u>\$ 35.90</u>                              |

The total intrinsic value of restricted shares vested during the nine months ended September 24, 2016 and September 26, 2015, was \$2.7 million and \$6.2 million, respectively.

The following table summarizes stock options for the 2006 and 2009 Plans as of September 24, 2016 and changes during the nine month period then ended:

|  | Number of Options | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life (years) | Aggregate Intrinsic Value (in thousands) |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Outstanding at December 26, 2015                 | 284,838           | \$ 22.65                        |   |  |
| Granted  | 233,285           | \$ 30.03                        |   |  |
| Exercised  | (5,282)           | \$ 17.11                        |   |  |
| Canceled/forfeited                               | (30,155)          | \$ 32.66                        |   |  |
| Outstanding at September 24, 2016                | 482,686           | \$ 25.65                        | 5.38  | \$ 2,022                                 |
| Vested or expected to vest at September 24, 2016 | 467,286           | \$ 25.65                        | 5.38  |  |
| Vested and exercisable at September 24, 2016     | 261,449           | \$ 21.95                        | 1.89  | \$ 2,020                                 |

The total intrinsic value of options exercised during the nine months ended September 24, 2016 was \$0.1 million and during the nine months ended September 26, 2015 was \$1.0 million. The cash received from options exercised during the nine months ended September 24, 2016 was \$0.1 million and during the nine months ended September 26, 2015 was \$1.3 million.

Stock options granted during the nine months ended September 24, 2016 shall become vested in equal installments on the first, second and third anniversaries of the date on which such equity grants were awarded.

The following table summarizes performance share units for the 2009 Plan as of September 24, 2016 and changes during the nine month period then ended:

|                                | Number of Unvested Performance Share Units | Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Unvested at December 26, 2015  | —  | \$ —                                   |
| Granted                        | 134,927                                    | \$ 30.42                               |
| Vested                         | —  | \$ —                                   |
| Canceled/forfeited             | (6,608)                                    | \$ 30.26                               |
| Unvested at September 24, 2016 | 128,319                                    | \$ 30.43                               |

Performance share units granted during the nine months ended September 24, 2016 shall become vested on December 29, 2018 if the performance criteria are achieved. Performance share units can vest at a range of 25% to 150% based on the achievement of pre-established performance targets.

The following table summarizes restricted share units for the 2009 Plan as of September 24, 2016 and changes during the nine month period then ended:

|                                | Number of Unvested Restricted Share Units | Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Unvested at December 26, 2015  | 11,280                                    | \$ 37.25                               |
| Granted                        | 21,451                                    | \$ 30.68                               |
| Vested                         | (12,220)                                  | \$ 36.69                               |
| Canceled/forfeited             | —   | \$ —                                   |
| Unvested at September 24, 2016 | 20,511                                    | \$ 30.71                               |

The total intrinsic value of restricted share units vested during the nine months ended September 24, 2016 and September 26, 2015, was \$0.3 million and \$0.5 million, respectively.

Compensation expense attributable to stock based compensation for the three and nine months ended September 24, 2016 was approximately \$1.2 million and \$4.7 million, respectively, and for the three and nine months ended September 26, 2015 was approximately \$1.2 million and \$4.7 million, respectively. As of September 24, 2016, the remaining unrecognized stock based compensation expense for non-vested stock options, restricted shares, performance share units and restricted share

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units to be expensed in future periods is \$8.9 million, and the related weighted-average period over which it is expected to be recognized is 1.8 years. Forfeitures are estimated at the time of grant and revised, if necessary, in subsequent periods if actual forfeitures differ from those estimates. The Company estimates forfeitures based on its historical forfeiture rate since the inception of granting stock based awards. The estimated value of future forfeitures for stock options, restricted shares, performance share units and restricted share units as of September 24, 2016 is approximately \$0.7 million.

The weighted-average grant date fair value of stock options during the three and nine months ended September 24, 2016 was \$7.07 and \$8.21, respectively. Stock options were not granted during the three and nine months ended September 26, 2015. The fair value of each option grant was estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the following assumptions:

|  | <u>Three Months Ended</u><br><u>September 24, 2016</u> | <u>Nine Months Ended</u><br><u>September 24, 2016</u> |
|--|--|---|
| Expected dividend yield                  | 0.0%   | 0.0%  |
| Weighted average expected volatility     | 31.4%  | 32.5%   |
| Weighted average risk-free interest rate | 1.0%   | 1.2%  |
| Expected holding period                  | 4.00 years   | 4.00 years  |

**Treasury Stock** – As part of the Company’s equity incentive plans, the Company makes required tax payments on behalf of employees as their restricted shares vest. The Company withholds the number of vested shares having a value on the date of vesting equal to the minimum statutory tax obligation. The shares withheld are recorded as treasury shares. During the nine months ended September 24, 2016, the Company purchased 39,876 shares in settlement of employees’ tax obligations for a total of \$1.2 million. The Company accounts for treasury stock using the cost method. These shares are available to grant under the Company’s equity incentive plans.

### 7. Advertising Costs

The costs of advertising for online marketing arrangements, magazines, direct mail and radio are primarily expensed the first time the advertising takes place. Advertising expense was \$5.7 million and \$5.3 million for the three months ended September 24, 2016 and September 26, 2015, respectively, and \$18.1 million and \$16.8 million for the nine months ended September 24, 2016 and September 26, 2015, respectively.

### 8. Net Income Per Share

The Company’s basic net income per share excludes the dilutive effect of stock options, unvested restricted shares, unvested performance share units and unvested restricted share units. It is based upon the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period divided into net income.

Diluted net income per share reflects the potential dilution that would occur if securities or other contracts to issue common stock were exercised or converted into common stock. Stock options, unvested restricted shares, unvested performance share units and unvested restricted share units are included as potential dilutive securities for the periods applicable, using the treasury stock method to the extent dilutive.

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The components of the calculation of basic net income per common share and diluted net income per common share are as follows (in thousands except share and per share data):

|  | Three Months Ended    |                       | Nine Months Ended     |                       |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|  | September 24,<br>2016 | September 26,<br>2015 | September 24,<br>2016 | September 26,<br>2015 |
| <b>Numerator:</b>                                  |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| Net income   | \$ 11,363             | \$ 14,098             | \$ 36,578             | \$ 47,039             |
| <b>Denominator:</b>                                |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| Basic weighted average common shares outstanding   | 23,578,334            | 28,988,779            | 24,048,201            | 29,238,808            |
| <b>Effect of dilutive securities:</b>              |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| Stock options                                      | 67,797                | 86,627                | 70,837                | 103,885               |
| Restricted shares                                  | 110,761               | 113,535               | 113,515               | 160,252               |
| Performance share units                            | 11,602                | —                     | 5,619                 | —                     |
| Restricted share units                             | 1,232                 | 1,513                 | 1,082                 | 1,473                 |
| Diluted weighted average common shares outstanding | 23,769,726            | 29,190,454            | 24,239,254            | 29,504,418            |
| Basic net income per common share                  | \$ 0.48               | \$ 0.49               | \$ 1.52               | \$ 1.61               |
| Diluted net income per common share                | \$ 0.48               | \$ 0.48               | \$ 1.51               | \$ 1.59               |

Stock options, restricted shares and performance share units for the three months ended September 24, 2016 and September 26, 2015 in the amount of 35,106 shares and 90,737 shares, respectively, have been excluded from the above calculation as they were anti-dilutive. Stock options, restricted shares and performance share units for the nine months ended September 24, 2016 and September 26, 2015 in the amount of 15,088 shares and 34,803 shares, respectively, have been excluded from the above calculation as they were anti-dilutive.

The Company has the intent and ability to settle the principal portion of its Convertible Notes in cash, and as such, has applied the treasury stock method, which has resulted in the underlying convertible shares being anti-dilutive for the three and nine months ended September 24, 2016 as the Company's average stock price was less than the conversion price. Refer to Note 5. Credit Arrangements for additional information on the Convertible Notes.

## 9. Share Repurchase Programs

The Company's board of directors approved share repurchase programs that enable the Company to purchase up to an aggregate of \$300 million of its shares of common stock from time to time over three year periods ending on August 4, 2017, May 5, 2018 and November 22, 2018, respectively. As of September 24, 2016, 7,665,954 shares have been repurchased for a total of \$259.9 million. The repurchase program does not obligate the Company to acquire any specific number of shares of its common stock and may be suspended, terminated or modified at any time for any reason, including market conditions, the cost of repurchasing such shares, the availability of alternative investment opportunities, liquidity, and other factors deemed appropriate. These factors may also affect the timing and amount of share repurchases.

During the three and nine months ended September 24, 2016, the Company repurchased 179,648 and 1,919,132 shares, respectively, which were retired upon repurchase. The total purchase price during the three and nine months ended September 24, 2016 was \$5.0 million and \$56.0 million, respectively, with an average repurchase price per share of \$27.83 and \$29.19, respectively. During the three and nine months ended September 26, 2015, the Company repurchased 355,021 and 981,353 shares, respectively, which were retired upon repurchase. The total purchase price during the three and nine months ended September 26, 2015 was \$12.4 million and \$38.0 million, respectively, with an average repurchase price per share of \$35.00 and \$38.69, respectively.

## 10. Legal Proceedings

The Company is party to various lawsuits arising from time to time in the normal course of business, some of which are covered by insurance. Although the impact of the final resolution of these matters on the Company's financial condition, results of operations or cash flows is not known, management does not believe that the resolution of these lawsuits will have a material adverse effect on the financial condition, results of operations or liquidity of the Company.



**11. Segment Data**

The Company currently operates three business segments, retail, direct and manufacturing. The operating segments are segments of the Company for which separate financial information is available and for which operating results are evaluated regularly by executive management in deciding how to allocate resources and in assessing performance. The Company's management evaluates segment operating results based on several indicators. The primary key performance indicators are sales and operating income for each segment. The table below represents key financial information for each of the Company's business segments as well as corporate costs. The retail segment primarily includes the Company's retail stores. The retail segment generates revenue primarily through the sale of VMS products through Vitamin Shoppe and Super Supplements retail stores in the United States and Puerto Rico. The direct segment generates revenue through the sale of VMS products primarily through the Company's websites. The Company's websites offer customers online access to a full assortment of approximately 17,000 SKUs. The manufacturing segment supplies the retail and direct segments, along with various third parties, with finished products for sale. Corporate costs represent all other expenses not allocated to the retail, direct or manufacturing segments which include, but are not limited to: human resources, legal, retail management, direct management, finance, information technology, depreciation (primarily related to assets utilized by the retail and direct business segments as well as corporate assets) and amortization, and various other corporate level activity related expenses. Intercompany sales transactions are eliminated in consolidation.

The Company's segments are designed to allocate resources internally and provide a framework to determine management responsibility. The accounting policies of the segments are consistent with those described in Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies in the Fiscal 2015 Form 10-K. The Company has allocated \$165.3 million, \$45.3 million and \$32.6 million of its recorded goodwill to the retail, direct and manufacturing segments, respectively. The Company does not have identifiable assets separated by segment, with the exception of the identifiable assets of the manufacturing segment which were \$89.9 million and \$88.4 million as of September 24, 2016 and December 26, 2015, respectively. Capital expenditures for the manufacturing segment for the nine months ended September 24, 2016 and September 26, 2015 were approximately \$1.9 million and \$3.0 million, respectively. At September 24, 2016 and December 26, 2015, long lived assets of the manufacturing segment were \$59.5 million and \$60.4 million, respectively. Depreciation and amortization expense, included in selling, general and administrative expenses, for the manufacturing segment during the three months ended September 24, 2016 and September 26, 2015 was approximately \$0.5 million and \$0.4 million, respectively. Depreciation and amortization expense, included in selling, general and administrative expenses, for the manufacturing segment during the nine months ended September 24, 2016 and September 26, 2015 was approximately \$1.4 million and \$1.1 million, respectively.

The following table contains key financial information of the Company's business segments (in thousands):

|                                       | Three Months Ended    |                       | Nine Months Ended     |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|                                       | September 24,<br>2016 | September 26,<br>2015 | September 24,<br>2016 | September 26,<br>2015 |
| <b>Net sales:</b>                     |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| Retail                                | \$ 270,756            | \$ 270,213            | \$ 847,058            | \$ 836,396            |
| Direct                                | 30,321                | 31,254                | 98,946                | 96,444                |
| Manufacturing                         | 24,357                | 20,693                | 65,695                | 67,185                |
| Segment net sales                     | 325,434               | 322,160               | 1,011,699             | 1,000,025             |
| Elimination of intersegment revenues  | (10,547)              | (8,274)               | (27,321)              | (26,966)              |
| <b>Net sales</b>                      | <b>\$ 314,887</b>     | <b>\$ 313,886</b>     | <b>\$ 984,378</b>     | <b>\$ 973,059</b>     |
| <b>Income (Loss) from operations:</b> |                       |                       |                       |                       |
| Retail                                | \$ 45,397             | \$ 47,890             | \$ 152,529            | \$ 155,562            |
| Direct                                | 4,498                 | 5,324                 | 14,184                | 15,976                |
| Manufacturing (1)                     | (734)                 | (222)                 | (2,818)               | (1,433)               |
| Corporate costs (2)                   | (28,888)              | (29,635)              | (95,636)              | (92,229)              |
| <b>Income from operations</b>         | <b>\$ 20,273</b>      | <b>\$ 23,357</b>      | <b>\$ 68,259</b>      | <b>\$ 77,876</b>      |

(1) Manufacturing loss from operations for the nine months ended September 26, 2015 includes a \$1.4 million charge for accounts receivable for one wholesale customer which were deemed uncollectible.

(2) Corporate costs include (in thousands):

|  | Three Months Ended    |                       | Nine Months Ended     |                       |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|  | September 24,<br>2016 | September 26,<br>2015 | September 24,<br>2016 | September 26,<br>2015 |
| Depreciation and amortization expenses | \$ 8,828              | \$ 9,323              | \$ 27,462             | \$ 27,359             |
| Canada stores closing costs (a)        | (906)                 | —                     | 2,057                 | —                     |
| Cost reduction project (b)             | 2,269                 | —                     | 3,761                 | —                     |
| Super Supplements conversion costs (c) | —                     | —                     | 1,275                 | —                     |
| Reinvention strategy costs (d)         | —                     | 1,026                 | 541                   | 1,026                 |
| Management realignment charges (e)     | —                     | —                     | —                     | 2,174                 |
| Integration costs (f)                  | —                     | 617                   | —                     | 1,387                 |

- (a) Charges primarily related to lease terminations. The credit during the three months ended September 24, 2016 relates to a reversal of lease liabilities previously accrued.
- (b) Outside consulting costs relating to a project to identify and implement cost reduction opportunities.
- (c) Costs primarily related to the closure of the Seattle distribution center.
- (d) The costs represent outside consultants fees in connection with the Company's "reinvention strategy".
- (e) Management realignment charges primarily consist of severance, sign-on bonuses, recruiting and relocation costs.
- (f) Represents integration costs related to the acquisition of Nutri-Force, consisting primarily of professional fees.

## 12. Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The fair value hierarchy requires the categorization of assets and liabilities into three levels based upon the assumptions (inputs) used to price the assets or liabilities. Level 1 provides the most reliable measure of fair value, while Level 3 generally requires significant management judgment. The three levels are defined as follows:

- Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities.
- Level 2: Observable inputs other than those included in Level 1. For example, quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets or quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in inactive markets.
- Level 3: Unobservable inputs reflecting management's own assumptions about the inputs used in pricing the asset or liability.

The Company's financial instruments include cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable and its Revolving Credit Facility. The Company believes that the recorded values of these financial instruments approximate their fair values due to their nature and respective durations.

The Company's financial instruments also include its Convertible Notes (in thousands):

|                | September 24,<br>2016 | December 26,<br>2015 |
|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Fair Value     | \$ 113,669            | \$ 119,784           |
| Carrying Value | 119,413               | 115,410              |

The fair value of the Convertible Notes was determined based on inputs that are observable in the market or that could be derived from, or corroborated with, observable market data, including the trading price of the Company's Convertible Notes, when available, the Company's stock price and interest rates based on similar debt issued by parties with credit ratings similar to the Company (Level 1 or 2).

Certain assets are measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis, that is, the assets are subject to fair value adjustments in certain circumstances such as when there is evidence of impairment. These measures of fair value, and related inputs, are considered Level 2 or 3 measures under the fair value hierarchy.

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

*The following Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations should be read in conjunction with the condensed consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included as part of this quarterly report on Form 10-Q.*

**Company Overview**

We are a multi-channel specialty retailer and contract manufacturer of vitamins, minerals, herbs, specialty supplements, sports nutrition and other health and wellness products. As of September 24, 2016, we operated 774 stores in 45 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico and also sold our products directly to consumers through the internet, primarily at [www.vitaminshoppe.com](http://www.vitaminshoppe.com). We market approximately 880 nationally recognized brands as well as our own brands, which include The Vitamin Shoppe®, BodyTech®, True Athlete®, Mytrition®, plnt®, ProBioCare®, Next Step® and Betancourt Nutrition®. We believe we offer one of the largest varieties of products among vitamin, mineral and supplement ("VMS") retailers and continue to refine our assortment with approximately 7,000 stock keeping units ("SKUs") offered in our typical store and approximately 10,000 additional SKUs available through e-commerce. Our broad product offering enables us to provide our customers with a depth of selection of products that may not be readily available at other specialty retailers or mass merchants, such as discount stores, supermarkets, drugstores and wholesale clubs. We believe our product offering and emphasis on product knowledge and customer service helps us meet the needs of our target customer and serves as a foundation for enhancing customer loyalty.

During Fiscal 2015, the Company began development of a strategic plan focused on upgrading our customers' experience across our retail and e-commerce channels, the "reinvention strategy". We worked with outside consultants to analyze qualitative and quantitative information relevant to our customers' experience. The reinvention strategy is focused on upgrading the customer experience to inspire our target customers with changes to curate our product assortment, opportunities to increase private brands penetration, enhancements to the in-store and digital experience, store layout, as well as changes to improve the effectiveness of our loyalty program. Such changes may result in a reduction of SKUs offered by the Company which could result in the recognition of related inventory charges in future periods. We expect to incur approximately \$10.0 million of selling, general and administrative costs during Fiscal 2016 in connection with the reinvention, of which approximately \$6.0 million of such costs are expected to be on-going. These costs include additional internal resources, improvements to store network connectivity, and outside consultants. During the three and nine months ended September 24, 2016, we incurred \$2.0 million and \$7.0 million, respectively, of costs to implement the reinvention. The Company is in the process of testing several initiatives and expects to realize improved financial results from the reinvention beginning in Fiscal 2017. In addition, we have engaged a consulting firm in Fiscal 2016 to identify other efficiencies and cost reduction opportunities focusing on product sourcing, store operations and corporate expenses. During the three and nine months ended September 24, 2016, we incurred \$2.3 million and \$3.8 million, respectively, of costs in connection with identifying other efficiencies and cost reduction opportunities. As a result of this cost reduction project, we have identified savings potential with an additional estimated value of at least \$10.0 million on an annualized basis.

In Fiscal 2015, we also performed a review of certain business operations. As part of this review, we implemented changes to the product assortment and supply chain operations of Super Supplements to more closely align Super Supplements with current processes and assortments in the Vitamin Shoppe retail stores. As a result, net costs of \$1.0 million were incurred during the first quarter of Fiscal 2016. Annual cost savings resulting from these actions are estimated to be \$1 million to \$2 million. In addition, the Company decided to cease operations in Canada, closing one store in the first quarter and closing the remaining two stores in the second quarter of Fiscal 2016. During the nine months ended September 24, 2016, net costs of \$1.9 million were incurred in connection with ceasing operations in Canada which includes a reversal of lease liabilities during the three months ended September 24, 2016 of \$0.9 million relating to lease liabilities previously accrued. The annual cost savings in connection with ceasing operations in Canada are estimated to be approximately \$1.0 million. Costs for these two initiatives include lease liabilities, markdown charges on inventory and employee severance.

Since the acquisition in Fiscal 2014, Nutri-Force has experienced disruption in its ability to optimize production capacity, volatility in sales performance, and correspondingly has experienced lower service levels to customers. We continue to take steps to improve the operations at Nutri-Force, including improvements in operating efficiencies and the ability to transition additional Vitamin Shoppe branded products. We believe such disruptions should not impact the long-term opportunity from the Nutri-Force acquisition. However, based upon the operating results of Nutri-Force during the three months ended June 25, 2016, we concluded that an impairment trigger occurred for the manufacturing reporting unit and therefore an impairment test was performed. A discounted cash flow model was prepared using the most recent internal forecast, including an estimate of long-term future growth rates and a discount rate determined by management to be commensurate with the risk inherent in this forecast. The results of this analysis determined the fair value of the manufacturing reporting unit exceeded its carrying value, and as a result, we concluded the goodwill assigned to the reporting unit was not

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impaired. However, the fair value of the manufacturing reporting unit exceeded its carrying value by approximately 5%, which is not considered to be a substantial excess over the carrying value. While financial results during the three months ended September 24, 2016 did not improve, we continue to closely monitor the financial performance of Nutri-Force and are currently in the process of developing the annual and long-term operating plans for Nutri-Force. Should financial performance not improve or if growth expectations are not achieved, estimates of future cash flows may be insufficient to support the carrying value of goodwill of \$32.6 million assigned to Nutri-Force as of September 24, 2016, which may result in impairment charges in future periods.

### Highlights for the Third Quarter of Fiscal 2016

- Net sales were flat compared to the same period of the prior year
- Total comparable net sales decreased 1.9%
- Comparable store net sales decreased 2.3%
- Comparable e-commerce net sales increased 1.7%
- Fully diluted earnings per share of \$0.48

### Outlook for Fiscal 2016

Management expects the following for Fiscal 2016, on a 53-week basis:

- Total comparable net sales growth expected to be flat to slightly negative
- To open 27 new stores
- Capital expenditures of approximately \$40 million

### Segment Information

We operate through three business segments: retail, which includes Vitamin Shoppe and Super Supplements retail store formats, direct, which consists of our e-commerce and catalog formats, and manufacturing, which consists of the Nutri-Force manufacturing operations.

**Retail.** Through our retail store formats, we believe we differentiate ourselves in the VMS industry, which has been successful across geographic and demographic markets. What makes us unique is our broad selection of VMS products and our stores are staffed with trained and knowledgeable employees, who we refer to as Health Enthusiasts®, and who are able to inform our customers about product features and assist in product selection.

**Direct.** We also sell our products directly to consumers through the internet, primarily at [www.vitaminshoppe.com](http://www.vitaminshoppe.com). Our e-commerce sites complement our in-store experience by extending our retail product offerings with approximately 10,000 additional SKUs that are not available in our stores and enable us to access customers outside our retail markets and those who prefer to shop online.

**Manufacturing.** Through Nutri-Force, we provide custom manufacturing and private labeling of VMS products and develop and market our own branded products for both sales to third parties and for the VSI product assortment.

### Trends and Other Factors Affecting Our Business

Our performance is affected by industry trends including, among others, demographic, health and lifestyle preferences, as well as other factors, such as industry media coverage and governmental actions. For example, our industry is subject to potential regulatory activity and other legal matters that could affect the credibility of a given product or category of products. Consumer trends, the overall impact on consumer spending, which may be affected heavily by current economic conditions, and limited product innovation and introductions in the VMS industry can dramatically affect purchasing patterns. Even though our business model allows us to respond to changing industry trends by introducing new products and adjusting our product mix and sales incentives, such actions may not offset adverse trends. Additionally, our performance is affected by competitive trends such as the entry and expansion of competitors, changes in promotional strategies or expansion of product assortment by various competitors.

Our historical results have also been significantly influenced by our new store openings. Since the beginning of Fiscal

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2014, we have opened 134 stores and as of September 24, 2016 operate 774 stores located in 45 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. In Fiscal 2016, we have reduced the number of new store openings as we continue to evaluate and implement our reinvention strategy. We expect to open 27 new stores in Fiscal 2016, of which 23 were opened during the nine months ended September 24, 2016.

New stores have typically required approximately four to five years to mature, generating lower store level sales in the initial years than our mature stores. As a result, new stores generally have a negative impact on our overall operating margin. In addition, our new stores since the beginning of Fiscal 2013 are approximately 2,900 square feet compared to the average of our total store portfolio of approximately 3,500 square feet. Additionally, stores opened in new markets have lower brand awareness compared to stores in existing markets, and as a result initially experience a lower sales volume than stores opened in existing markets. As these stores mature, we expect them to contribute positively to our operating results.

In Fiscal 2015, the Company began implementation of a new warehouse management system application (“WMS”) at its Ashland, Virginia distribution center in order to realize further productivity improvements and functionality. Implementation of the new WMS is expected to be completed by the fourth quarter of Fiscal 2016. In addition, we are developing plans to open a distribution center in the western U.S. within the next two years. We previously utilized a third-party logistics provider to service the west coast, and plan to open a Company operated facility that we believe will provide improved service levels and network efficiencies.

### **Critical Accounting Policies**

Our significant accounting policies are described in Note 2 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in our financial statements in the Fiscal 2015 Form 10-K. A discussion of our critical accounting policies and estimates is included in Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in the Fiscal 2015 Form 10-K. Management has discussed the development and selection of these policies with the Audit Committee of our Board of Directors, and the Audit Committee of our Board of Directors has reviewed the disclosures relating to them. Management believes there have been no material changes to the critical accounting policies or estimates reported in the Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations section of the Fiscal 2015 Form 10-K.

### **General Definitions for Operating Results**

*Net Sales* consist of sales, net of sales returns, deferred sales, customer incentives and a provision for estimated future returns, from comparable and non-comparable sales. Total comparable net sales include sales generated by retail stores and e-commerce sales in both reporting periods. Sales generated by retail stores after 410 days of operation are included in comparable net sales. Sales to third parties of manufactured products generated by Nutri-Force are considered non-comparable sales.

*Cost of goods sold* includes the cost of inventory sold, costs of warehousing, distribution, manufacturing and store occupancy costs and excludes depreciation and amortization related to the retail and direct segments that is included within selling, general and administrative expenses. Warehousing, distribution and manufacturing costs, which are capitalized into inventory and then expensed as merchandise is sold, include freight to transfer merchandise, costs associated with our buying department, distribution facilities and manufacturing overhead. Store occupancy costs include rent, common area maintenance, real estate taxes and utilities.

*Gross profit* is net sales minus cost of goods sold.

*Selling, general and administrative expenses* consist of depreciation and amortization of fixed and intangible assets, operating payroll and related benefits, advertising and promotion expense, and other selling, general and administrative expenses.

*Income from operations* consists of gross profit minus selling, general and administrative expenses.

*Interest expense, net* includes interest on our Revolving Credit Facility and Convertible Notes, letters of credit fees, interest on our capital leases, as well as amortization of financing costs, reduced by interest income earned from highly liquid investments (investments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less).

**Key Performance Indicators and Statistics**

We use a number of key indicators of financial condition and operating results to evaluate the performance of our business, including the following (in thousands):

|  | Three Months Ended |                    | Nine Months Ended  |                    |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|  | September 24, 2016 | September 26, 2015 | September 24, 2016 | September 26, 2015 |
| Net sales  | \$ 314,887         | \$ 313,886         | \$ 984,378         | \$ 973,059         |
| Increase (Decrease) in total comparable net sales (1)  | (1.9)%             | 0.1%               | (0.5)%             | 0.1 %              |
| Increase (Decrease) in comparable store net sales      | (2.3)%             | 0.1%               | (1.4)%             | 0.3 %              |
| Increase (Decrease) in e-commerce comparable net sales | 1.7 %              | 0.6%               | 6.8 %              | (2.1)%             |
| Gross profit as a percent of net sales                 | 32.4 %             | 33.4%              | 33.1 %             | 33.7 %             |
| Income from operations                                 | \$ 20,273          | \$ 23,357          | \$ 68,259          | \$ 77,876          |

(1) Total comparable net sales are comprised of comparable retail store sales and e-commerce sales.

The following table shows the growth in our network of stores during the three and nine months ended September 24, 2016 and September 26, 2015:

|   | Three Months Ended |                    | Nine Months Ended  |                    |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|   | September 24, 2016 | September 26, 2015 | September 24, 2016 | September 26, 2015 |
| <b>Store Data:</b>  |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| Stores open at beginning of period                          | 771                | 734                | 758                | 717                |
| Stores opened   | 5                  | 15                 | 23                 | 39                 |
| Stores closed   | (2)                | (1)                | (7)                | (8)                |
| Stores open at end of period                                | 774                | 748                | 774                | 748                |
| Total retail square footage at end of period (in thousands) | 2,710              | 2,634              | 2,710              | 2,634              |
| Average store square footage at end of period               | 3,501              | 3,522              | 3,501              | 3,522              |

**Three Months Ended September 24, 2016 Compared to Three Months Ended September 26, 2015**

The information presented below is for the three months ended September 24, 2016 and September 26, 2015 and was derived from our condensed consolidated financial statements, which, in the opinion of management, include all adjustments necessary for a fair presentation of our financial position and operating results for such periods and as of such dates.

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The following tables summarize our results of operations for the three months ended September 24, 2016 and September 26, 2015 (in thousands):

|   | Three Months Ended    |                       | \$<br>Change | %<br>Change |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
|   | September 24,<br>2016 | September 26,<br>2015 |              |             |
| Net sales                                       | \$ 314,887            | \$ 313,886            | \$ 1,001     | 0.3 %       |
| Cost of goods sold                              | 212,762               | 209,177               | 3,585        | 1.7 %       |
| <i>Cost of goods sold as % of net sales</i>     | <i>67.6%</i>          | <i>66.6%</i>          |              |             |
| Gross profit                                    | 102,125               | 104,709               | (2,584)      | (2.5)%      |
| <i>Gross profit as % of net sales</i>           | <i>32.4%</i>          | <i>33.4%</i>          |              |             |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses    | 81,852                | 81,352                | 500          | 0.6 %       |
| <i>SG&amp;A expenses as % of net sales</i>      | <i>26.0%</i>          | <i>25.9%</i>          |              |             |
| Income from operations                          | 20,273                | 23,357                | (3,084)      | (13.2)%     |
| <i>Income from operations as % of net sales</i> | <i>6.4%</i>           | <i>7.4%</i>           |              |             |
| Interest expense, net                           | 2,363                 | 172                   | 2,191        | 1,273.8 %   |
| Income before provision for income taxes        | 17,910                | 23,185                | (5,275)      | (22.8)%     |
| Provision for income taxes                      | 6,547                 | 9,087                 | (2,540)      | (28.0)%     |
| Net income                                      | \$ 11,363             | \$ 14,098             | \$ (2,735)   | (19.4)%     |

**Net Sales**

Net sales were flat as a result of an increase in our total non-comparable net sales of \$6.6 million, which includes an increase in Nutri-Force net sales of \$1.4 million to third parties, and a decrease in our total comparable net sales of \$5.6 million, or 1.9%. Sales increased \$2.7 million in the Specialty Supplements category, which includes whole foods, cleansing and digestive supplements and increased \$2.5 million in the Vitamins, Minerals and Herbs category. Sales decreased \$5.8 million in the Sports Nutrition category.

Net sales for our three business segments, as well as a discussion of the changes in each segment's net sales from the comparable prior year period, are provided below (in thousands):

|                                      | Three Months Ended    |                       | \$<br>Change | %<br>Change |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
|                                      | September 24,<br>2016 | September 26,<br>2015 |              |             |
| <b>Net Sales:</b>                    |                       |                       |              |             |
| Retail (a)                           | \$ 270,756            | \$ 270,213            | \$ 543       | 0.2 %       |
| Direct (b)                           | 30,321                | 31,254                | (933)        | (3.0)%      |
| Manufacturing (c)                    | 24,357                | 20,693                | 3,664        | 17.7 %      |
| Segment net sales                    | 325,434               | 322,160               | 3,274        | 1.0 %       |
| Elimination of intersegment revenues | (10,547)              | (8,274)               | (2,273)      | 27.5 %      |
| Total net sales                      | \$ 314,887            | \$ 313,886            | \$ 1,001     | 0.3 %       |

- (a) The change in retail sales resulted from an increase in non-comparable store sales of \$6.6 million offset by a decrease in comparable store sales of \$6.1 million, or 2.3%. The decrease in comparable store sales was primarily driven by a reduction in average transaction value resulting from product category mix.
- (b) Direct sales decreased primarily due to a decrease in non-comparable e-commerce net sales as a result of the closure of the Super Supplements online storefront and lower catalog sales totaling \$1.4 million partially offset by an increase in comparable e-commerce net sales of \$0.5 million, or 1.7%.
- (c) Manufacturing sales reflect an increase of \$2.3 million in product manufactured for the Vitamin Shoppe assortment and an increase of \$1.4 million in product manufactured for third parties.

**Cost of Goods Sold**

Cost of goods sold includes product, warehouse, distribution, manufacturing and occupancy costs. As a percentage of net sales, cost of goods sold increased primarily due to an increase of 0.6% related to occupancy, an increase of 0.5% due to Nutri-Force and an increase of 0.4% resulting from supply chain costs partially offset by a 0.5% increase in product margin, which is primarily the result of less promotional activity.

**Selling, General and Administrative Expenses**

|   | Three Months Ended |                    | \$<br>Change | %<br>Change |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|
|   | September 24, 2016 | September 26, 2015 |              |             |
| <b>SG&amp;A Expenses (in thousands):</b>              |                    |                    |              |             |
| Store Payroll and Benefits (a)                        | \$ 32,863          | \$ 31,856          | \$ 1,007     | 3.2 %       |
| <i>Store Payroll &amp; benefits as % of net sales</i> | <i>10.4%</i>       | <i>10.1%</i>       |              |             |
| Advertising and Promotion (b)                         | 5,669              | 5,343              | 326          | 6.1 %       |
| <i>Advertising &amp; promotion as % of net sales</i>  | <i>1.8%</i>        | <i>1.7%</i>        |              |             |
| Other SG&A (c)  | 43,320             | 44,153             | (833)        | (1.9)%      |
| <i>Other SG&amp;A as % of net sales</i>               | <i>13.8%</i>       | <i>14.1%</i>       |              |             |
| Total SG&A Expenses                                   | \$ 81,852          | \$ 81,352          | \$ 500       | 0.6 %       |

- (a) Store payroll and benefits increased primarily due to the increase in head count to operate new stores and an increase in the average wage rates.
- (b) Advertising and promotion increased due to higher retail expenditures partially offset by lower expenditures related to Nutri-Force and digital advertising.
- (c) Other SG&A expenses for the three month period ended September 24, 2016 includes consulting costs in connection with identifying efficiencies and cost reduction opportunities of \$2.3 million and a reversal of lease liabilities previously accrued related to the closing of the Canada stores of \$0.9 million. Other SG&A expenses for the three month period ended September 26, 2015 includes consultants fees in connection with the Company's "reinvention strategy" of \$1.0 million and integration costs related to the acquisition of Nutri-Force of \$0.6 million.

**Income from Operations**

Operating income (loss) for our three business segments are provided below (in thousands):

|                                       | Three Months Ended |                    | \$<br>Change | %<br>Change |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|
|                                       | September 24, 2016 | September 26, 2015 |              |             |
| <b>Income (Loss) from operations:</b> |                    |                    |              |             |
| Retail (a)                            | \$ 45,397          | \$ 47,890          | \$ (2,493)   | (5.2)%      |
| <i>% of net sales</i>                 | <i>16.8 %</i>      | <i>17.7 %</i>      |              |             |
| Direct (b)                            | 4,498              | 5,324              | (826)        | (15.5)%     |
| <i>% of net sales</i>                 | <i>14.8 %</i>      | <i>17.0 %</i>      |              |             |
| Manufacturing (c)                     | (734)              | (222)              | (512)        | 230.6 %     |
| <i>% of net sales</i>                 | <i>(3.0)%</i>      | <i>(1.1)%</i>      |              |             |
| Corporate costs (d)                   | (28,888)           | (29,635)           | 747          | (2.5)%      |
| <i>% of net sales</i>                 | <i>(9.2)%</i>      | <i>(9.4)%</i>      |              |             |
| Income from operations                | \$ 20,273          | \$ 23,357          | \$ (3,084)   | (13.2)%     |

- (a) The decrease in retail income from operations as a rate of sales is due to a 0.4% increase from store payroll and benefits costs, a 0.3% decrease in gross margin and a 0.2% increase in advertising and promotion costs.



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- (b) The decrease in direct income from operations is primarily due to a reduction in operating margin generated by on-line marketplaces and from an increase in promotional pricing and delivery expense.
- (c) The increase in manufacturing loss from operations was primarily due to operational inefficiencies.
- (d) Corporate costs for the three month period ended September 24, 2016 includes consulting costs in connection with identifying efficiencies and cost reduction opportunities of \$2.3 million and a reversal of lease liabilities previously accrued related to the closing of the Canada stores of \$0.9 million. Corporate costs for the three month period ended September 26, 2015 includes consultants fees in connection with the Company's "reinvention strategy" of \$1.0 million and integration costs related to the acquisition of Nutri-Force of \$0.6 million.

**Interest Expense, Net**

The increase in interest expense, net of \$2.2 million is primarily due to interest expense on our Convertible Notes, which includes the coupon interest, amortization of the debt discount and the amortization of deferred financing fees.

**Provision for Income Taxes**

The effective tax rate for the three months ended September 24, 2016 was 36.6%, compared to 39.2% for the three months ended September 26, 2015. The change in the effective tax rate is primarily due to a reversal of lease liabilities previously accrued of \$0.9 million in connection with the closing of retail stores in Canada which do not result in tax expense to the Company's consolidated results.

**Nine Months Ended September 24, 2016 Compared to Nine Months Ended September 26, 2015**

The information presented below is for the nine months ended September 24, 2016 and September 26, 2015 and was derived from our condensed consolidated financial statements, which, in the opinion of management, include all adjustments necessary for a fair presentation of our financial position and operating results for such periods and as of such dates.

The following tables summarize our results of operations for the nine months ended September 24, 2016 and September 26, 2015 (in thousands):

|   | Nine Months Ended     |                       | \$<br>Change | %<br>Change |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
|   | September 24,<br>2016 | September 26,<br>2015 |              |             |
| Net sales                                       | \$ 984,378            | \$ 973,059            | \$ 11,319    | 1.2 %       |
| Cost of goods sold                              | 658,182               | 645,441               | 12,741       | 2.0 %       |
| <i>Cost of goods sold as % of net sales</i>     | <i>66.9%</i>          | <i>66.3%</i>          |              |             |
| Gross profit                                    | 326,196               | 327,618               | (1,422)      | (0.4)%      |
| <i>Gross profit as % of net sales</i>           | <i>33.1%</i>          | <i>33.7%</i>          |              |             |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses    | 257,937               | 249,742               | 8,195        | 3.3 %       |
| <i>SG&amp;A expenses as % of net sales</i>      | <i>26.2%</i>          | <i>25.7%</i>          |              |             |
| Income from operations                          | 68,259                | 77,876                | (9,617)      | (12.3)%     |
| <i>Income from operations as % of net sales</i> | <i>6.9%</i>           | <i>8.0%</i>           |              |             |
| Interest expense, net                           | 6,977                 | 515                   | 6,462        | 1,254.8 %   |
| Income before provision for income taxes        | 61,282                | 77,361                | (16,079)     | (20.8)%     |
| Provision for income taxes                      | 24,704                | 30,322                | (5,618)      | (18.5)%     |
| Net income                                      | \$ 36,578             | \$ 47,039             | \$ (10,461)  | (22.2)%     |

**Net Sales**

Net sales increased 1.2% as a result of an increase in our total non-comparable net sales of \$18.1 million offset by a decrease in our total comparable net sales of \$4.9 million, or 0.5% and a decrease in Nutri-Force net sales of \$1.8 million to third parties. Sales increased \$11.7 million in the Specialty Supplements category, which includes whole foods, cleansing and digestive supplements and increased \$10.8 million in the Vitamins, Minerals and Herbs category. Sales decreased \$12.3 million in the Sports Nutrition category.

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Net sales for our three business segments, as well as a discussion of the changes in each segment's net sales from the comparable prior year period, are provided below (in thousands):

|                                      | Nine Months Ended     |                       | \$<br>Change | %<br>Change |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
|                                      | September 24,<br>2016 | September 26,<br>2015 |              |             |
| <b>Net Sales:</b>                    |                       |                       |              |             |
| Retail (a)                           | \$ 847,058            | \$ 836,396            | \$ 10,662    | 1.3 %       |
| Direct (b)                           | 98,946                | 96,444                | 2,502        | 2.6 %       |
| Manufacturing (c)                    | 65,695                | 67,185                | (1,490)      | (2.2)%      |
| Segment net sales                    | 1,011,699             | 1,000,025             | 11,674       | 1.2 %       |
| Elimination of intersegment revenues | (27,321)              | (26,966)              | (355)        | 1.3 %       |
| Total net sales                      | \$ 984,378            | \$ 973,059            | \$ 11,319    | 1.2 %       |

- (a) The change in retail sales resulted from an increase in non-comparable store sales of \$21.9 million offset by a decrease in comparable store sales of \$11.2 million, or 1.4%. The decrease in comparable store sales was primarily driven by a reduction in average transaction value resulting from product category mix.
- (b) Direct sales increased primarily due to an increase in comparable e-commerce sales of \$6.3 million, or 6.8% offset by a decrease in non-comparable e-commerce net sales and lower catalog sales totaling \$3.8 million. The increase in comparable e-commerce sales was primarily due to effective customer acquisition and promotional activities.
- (c) Manufacturing sales reflect a decrease of \$1.8 million in product manufactured for third parties offset by an increase of \$0.4 million in product manufactured for the Vitamin Shoppe assortment.

**Cost of Goods Sold**

Cost of goods sold includes product, warehouse, distribution, manufacturing and occupancy costs. As a percentage of net sales, cost of goods sold increased primarily due to an increase of 0.4% related to occupancy, an increase of 0.3% due to Nutri-Force and an increase of 0.2% resulting from supply chain costs partially offset by a 0.4% increase in product margin.

**Selling, General and Administrative Expenses**

|   | Nine Months Ended     |                       | \$<br>Change | %<br>Change |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
|   | September 24,<br>2016 | September 26,<br>2015 |              |             |
| <b>SG&amp;A Expenses (in thousands):</b>              |                       |                       |              |             |
| Store Payroll and Benefits (a)                        | \$ 100,728            | \$ 96,064             | \$ 4,664     | 4.9%        |
| <i>Store Payroll &amp; benefits as % of net sales</i> | <i>10.2%</i>          | <i>9.9%</i>           |              |             |
| Advertising and Promotion (b)                         | 18,063                | 16,813                | 1,250        | 7.4%        |
| <i>Advertising &amp; promotion as % of net sales</i>  | <i>1.8%</i>           | <i>1.7%</i>           |              |             |
| Other SG&A (c)  | 139,146               | 136,865               | 2,281        | 1.7%        |
| <i>Other SG&amp;A as % of net sales</i>               | <i>14.1%</i>          | <i>14.1%</i>          |              |             |
| Total SG&A Expenses                                   | \$ 257,937            | \$ 249,742            | \$ 8,195     | 3.3%        |

- (a) Store payroll and benefits increased primarily due to the increase in head count to operate new stores and an increase in the average wage rates.
- (b) Advertising and promotion increased due to higher retail expenditures and digital advertising partially offset by lower expenditures related to Nutri-Force.
- (c) Other SG&A expenses for the nine month period ended September 24, 2016 includes consulting costs in connection with identifying efficiencies and cost reduction opportunities of \$3.8 million, costs related to the closing of the Canada stores of \$2.1 million, Super Supplements conversion costs of \$1.3 million and consultants fees in connection with the Company's "reinvention strategy" of \$0.5 million. Other SG&A expenses for the nine month period ended September 26, 2015 includes management realignment charges of \$2.2 million, a charge for accounts receivable for one

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wholesale customer which were deemed uncollectible of \$1.4 million, integration costs related to the acquisition of Nutri-Force of \$1.4 million and consultants fees in connection with the Company's "reinvention strategy" of \$1.0 million.

**Income from Operations**

Operating income (loss) for our three business segments are provided below (in thousands):

|                                       | Nine Months Ended  |                    | \$<br>Change | %<br>Change |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|
|                                       | September 24, 2016 | September 26, 2015 |              |             |
| <b>Income (Loss) from operations:</b> |                    |                    |              |             |
| Retail (a)                            | \$ 152,529         | \$ 155,562         | \$ (3,033)   | (1.9)%      |
| % of net sales                        | 18.0 %             | 18.6 %             |              |             |
| Direct (b)                            | 14,184             | 15,976             | (1,792)      | (11.2)%     |
| % of net sales                        | 14.3 %             | 16.6 %             |              |             |
| Manufacturing (c)                     | (2,818)            | (1,433)            | (1,385)      | 96.7 %      |
| % of net sales                        | (4.3)%             | (2.1)%             |              |             |
| Corporate costs (d)                   | (95,636)           | (92,229)           | (3,407)      | 3.7 %       |
| % of net sales                        | (9.7)%             | (9.5)%             |              |             |
| Income from operations                | \$ 68,259          | \$ 77,876          | \$ (9,617)   | (12.3)%     |

- (a) The decrease in retail income from operations as a rate of sales is due to 0.4% from store payroll and benefits costs, 0.1% related to advertising and promotion costs and 0.1% resulting from other selling, general and administrative expenses.
- (b) The decrease in direct income from operations is primarily due to a reduction in operating margin generated by on-line marketplaces and from an increase in promotional pricing and delivery expense.
- (c) The increase in manufacturing loss from operations was primarily due to lower sales to third party customers and operational inefficiencies. The nine month period ended September 26, 2015 includes a \$1.4 million charge for accounts receivable for one wholesale customer which were deemed uncollectible.
- (d) Corporate costs for the nine month period ended September 24, 2016 includes consulting costs in connection with identifying efficiencies and cost reduction opportunities of \$3.8 million, costs related to the closing of the Canada stores of \$2.1 million, Super Supplements conversion costs of \$1.3 million and consultants fees in connection with the Company's "reinvention strategy" of \$0.5 million. Corporate costs for the nine month period ended September 26, 2015 includes management realignment charges of \$2.2 million, integration costs related to the acquisition of Nutri-Force of \$1.4 million and consultants fees in connection with the Company's "reinvention strategy" of \$1.0 million.

**Interest Expense, Net**

The increase in interest expense, net of \$6.5 million is primarily due to interest expense on our Convertible Notes, which includes the coupon interest, amortization of the debt discount and the amortization of deferred financing fees.

**Provision for Income Taxes**

The effective tax rate for the nine months ended September 24, 2016 was 40.3%, compared to 39.2% for the nine months ended September 26, 2015. The change in the effective tax rate is primarily due to charges incurred in Canada related to the closing of retail stores which do not result in tax benefits to the Company's consolidated results.

**Key Indicators of Liquidity and Capital Resources**

The following table provides key indicators of our liquidity and capital resources (in thousands):

|                            | As of              |                   |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
|                            | September 24, 2016 | December 26, 2015 |
| <b>Balance Sheet Data:</b> |                    |                   |
| Cash and cash equivalents  | \$ 2,023           | \$ 15,104         |
| Working capital (a)        | 145,207            | 157,089           |
| Total assets               | 736,517            | 748,691           |
| Total debt (b)             | 127,005            | 123,525           |

(a) Working capital is total current assets minus total current liabilities.

(b) Total debt includes the outstanding balance on the Company's Revolving Credit Facility, the net balance of its Convertible Notes and its capital lease obligations.

|  | Nine Months Ended  |                    |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
|  | September 24, 2016 | September 26, 2015 |
| <b>Other Information:</b>                                    |                    |                    |
| Depreciation and amortization of fixed and intangible assets | \$ 28,812          | \$ 28,457          |
| <b>Cash Flows Provided By (Used In):</b>                     |                    |                    |
| Operating activities   | \$ 78,088          | \$ 56,650          |
| Investing activities   | (31,449)           | (30,129)           |
| Financing activities   | (59,776)           | (36,778)           |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents | 56                 | 72                 |
| Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents                    | \$ (13,081)        | \$ (10,185)        |

**Liquidity and Capital Resources**

Our primary uses of cash have been to fund working capital, operating expenses and capital expenditures related primarily to the build-out of new stores, the remodeling of existing stores and information technology investments as well as to repurchase shares of our common stock. Historically, we have financed our requirements predominately through internally generated cash flow, supplemented with short-term financing. In Fiscal 2015, we issued \$143.8 million of Convertible Notes to fund the repurchase of shares of our common stock. Refer to Note 5, "Credit Arrangements", to our condensed consolidated financial statements for additional information. We believe that the cash generated by operations and cash and cash equivalents, together with the borrowing availability under our Revolving Credit Facility, will be sufficient to meet our working capital needs for the next twelve months, our store growth plans, costs and investments related to our reinvention strategy, systems development, store improvements and interest payments on the Convertible Notes, as well as the repurchase of shares of our common stock from time to time.

We purchased \$56.0 million of common stock under our \$300.0 million share repurchase programs during the nine months ended September 24, 2016. Refer to Note 9, "Share Repurchase Programs", to our condensed consolidated financial statements for additional information. During Fiscal 2016 we plan to spend approximately \$40 million in capital expenditures, including costs for building new stores, remodeling existing stores and information technology and investments resulting from our reinvention strategy. Of the total capital expenditures projected for Fiscal 2016, we have invested \$31.2 million during the nine months ended September 24, 2016. We expect to open 27 new stores in Fiscal 2016, of which we have opened 23 stores and closed 7 stores as of September 24, 2016. Our working capital requirements for merchandise inventory will continue to increase as we continue to open additional stores. Currently, our practice is to establish an inventory level of approximately \$145,000 at cost for each of our stores, the cost of which is partially offset by vendor incentive and allowance programs. Additionally, 30 day payment terms have been extended to us by some of our suppliers allowing us to effectively manage our inventory and working capital.

The Company is subject to concentrations of credit risk associated with cash and cash equivalents, and at times holds

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cash balances in excess of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation limits. Currently, the Company's cash management practice is to hold cash balances in quality institutions and invest in highly liquid and secure investments.

We were in compliance with all covenants relating to our Revolving Credit Facility and Convertible Notes as of September 24, 2016. We expect to be in compliance with these same debt covenants during the remainder of Fiscal 2016 as well.

### *Cash Provided by Operating Activities*

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$78.1 million for the nine months ended September 24, 2016 as compared to \$56.7 million for the nine months ended September 26, 2015. The \$21.4 million increase in cash flows from operating activities is primarily due to an increase in inventory purchases for the nine months ended September 26, 2015 related primarily to the transition of Vitamin Shoppe production of private brands to Nutri-Force and the opening of new stores.

### *Cash Used in Investing Activities*

Net cash used in investing activities was \$31.4 million during the nine months ended September 24, 2016 as compared to \$30.1 million during the nine months ended September 26, 2015. Capital expenditures during the nine months ended September 24, 2016 and September 26, 2015 were used primarily for the build-out of new stores, the remodeling of existing stores and information technology investments. The Company opened 23 new stores during the nine months ended September 24, 2016 as compared to 39 new stores during the nine months ended September 26, 2015.

### *Cash Used in Financing Activities*

Net cash used in financing activities was \$59.8 million for the nine months ended September 24, 2016, as compared to \$36.8 million for the nine months ended September 26, 2015. The \$23.0 million increase in cash used in financing activities is primarily due to an increase in purchases of common stock under the Company's share repurchase programs.

## **Revolving Credit Facility**

The terms of our Revolving Credit Facility extend through October 11, 2018, and allow the Company to borrow up to \$90.0 million, subject to the terms of the facility, with a Company option to increase the facility up to a total of \$150.0 million. For information regarding the terms of our Revolving Credit Facility, refer to Note 5., "Credit Arrangements" in the Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited). As of September 24, 2016, the Company had \$6.0 million of borrowings outstanding on its Revolving Credit Facility. The largest amount outstanding during both the nine months ended September 24, 2016 and September 26, 2015 was \$27.0 million. The unused available line of credit under the Revolving Credit Facility at September 24, 2016 was \$81.1 million.

## **Convertible Notes**

On December 9, 2015, the Company issued \$143.8 million of its 2.25% Convertible Notes. The Convertible Notes are senior unsecured obligations of VSI. Interest is payable on the Convertible Notes on June 1 and December 1 of each year, commencing on June 1, 2016 until their maturity date of December 1, 2020. For additional information regarding the terms of our Convertible Notes, refer to Note 5., "Credit Arrangements", to our condensed consolidated financial statements.

## **Contractual Obligations and Commercial Commitments**

As of September 24, 2016, there have been no material changes with respect to our contractual obligations since December 26, 2015. For additional information, see Contractual Obligations and Commercial Commitments under Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations", in the Fiscal 2015 Form 10-K.

## **Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

We have not created, and are not party to, any special-purpose or off-balance sheet entities for the purpose of raising capital, incurring debt or operating our business. We do not have any off-balance sheet arrangements or relationships with entities that are not consolidated into our financial statements that have or are reasonably likely to have a material current or future effect on our financial condition, changes in financial condition, revenues, expenses, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures or capital resources. The Company has commitments for its operating leases, primarily related to its stores, distribution centers, as well as its manufacturing and corporate facilities, which are not reflected on our balance sheet. For additional information, see Contractual Obligations and Commercial Commitments under Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations", in the Fiscal 2015 10-K.

## **Effects of Inflation**

We do not believe that our sales or operating results have been materially affected by inflation during the periods presented in our financial statements. During the nine months ended September 24, 2016, retail price inflation was approximately 1%. We anticipate retail inflation to be approximately 1% for Fiscal 2016. Additionally, we may experience increased cost pressure from our suppliers which could have an adverse effect on our gross profit results in the future.

## **Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

Except as discussed in Note 1., “Basis of Presentation” in the Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited), the Company has considered all new accounting pronouncements and has concluded that there are no new pronouncements that may have a material impact on its results of operations, financial condition, or cash flows, based on current information.

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

### *Interest Rate Risk*

The Company’s market risks relate primarily to changes in interest rates. Market risk represents the risk of changes in the value of market risk sensitive instruments caused by fluctuations in interest rates and commodity prices. Changes in these factors could cause fluctuations in the results of our operations and cash flows.

Our Revolving Credit Facility carries a floating interest rate and, therefore, our statements of income and our cash flows are exposed to changes in interest rates. As of September 24, 2016, there was \$6.0 million of borrowings outstanding on our Revolving Credit Facility. At September 24, 2016, a hypothetical 10% change in the floating interest rate would have a de minimis impact on our consolidated financial statements.

Our Convertible Notes carry a fixed interest rate and, therefore, have no market risk.

## **Item 4. *Controls and Procedures***

### *Conclusion Regarding the Effectiveness of Disclosure Controls and Procedures*

We carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, who are our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, respectively, of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”) as of September 24, 2016, pursuant to Exchange Act Rules 13a-15 and 15d-15. Based on such evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at a reasonable assurance level as of September 24, 2016.

### *Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting*

There have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended September 24, 2016 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

### *Inherent Limitations on Effectiveness of Controls*

Our management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, do not expect that our disclosure controls and procedures or our internal control over financial reporting will prevent or detect all errors and all fraud. A control system, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the control system’s objectives will be met. The design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints, and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs. Further, because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that misstatements due to error or fraud will not occur or that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, within the Company have been detected. These inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision-making can be faulty and that breakdowns can occur because of simple error or mistake. Controls can also be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons, by collusion of two or more people, or by management override of the controls. The design of any system of controls is based in part on certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions. Projections of any evaluation of controls effectiveness to future periods are subject to risks. Over time, controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or deterioration in the degree of compliance with policies or procedures.

**PART II. OTHER INFORMATION****Item 1. Legal Proceedings**

None.

**Item 1A. Risk Factors**

For a more detailed explanation of the factors affecting our business, please refer to the Risk Factors section in the Fiscal 2015 Form 10-K. There has not been a material change to the risk factors set forth in the Fiscal 2015 Form 10-K.

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

The following table summarizes the Company's purchases of shares of common stock during the quarter ended September 24, 2016:

| Period                                     | Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased (1) | Average Price Paid per Share (or Unit) | Total Number of Shares (or Units) Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs (2) | Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares (or Units) that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs (in thousands) |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| June 26, 2016 through July 23, 2016        | 618   | \$ 28.96                               | —   | \$ 45,068  |
| July 24, 2016 through August 20, 2016      | 2,784   | \$ 29.15                               | —   | \$ 45,068  |
| August 21, 2016 through September 24, 2016 | 183,422   | \$ 27.82                               | 179,648   | \$ 40,068  |
| Totals                                     | <u>186,824</u>                                  |  | <u>179,648</u>  |  |

(1) Includes 7,176 shares withheld to cover required tax payments on behalf of employees as their restricted shares vest.

(2) On August 5, 2014, May 6, 2015 and November 23, 2015, the Company's board of directors approved share repurchase programs that enable the Company to purchase up to an aggregate of \$300 million of its shares of common stock from time to time over three year periods ending on August 4, 2017, May 5, 2018 and November 22, 2018, respectively.

**Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities**

None.

**Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures**

Not applicable.

**Item 5. Other Information**

None.

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**Item 6. Exhibits**

| <u>Exhibit No.</u> | <u>Description</u>   |
|--------------------|--|
| 3.1                | Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Vitamin Shoppe, Inc. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 in our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 10, 2016 (File No. 001-34507))   |
| 3.2                | Fourth Amended and Restated By-laws of Vitamin Shoppe, Inc. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed on February 23, 2016 (File No. 001-34507))   |
| 31.1               | Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.  |
| 31.2               | Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.  |
| 32.1               | Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 – Chief Executive Officer.  |
| 32.2               | Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 – Chief Financial Officer.  |
| 101.1              | The following financial information from the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, for the period ended September 24, 2016, formatted in eXtensible Business Reporting Language: (i) Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets, (ii) Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income, (iii) Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income, (iv) Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows, and (v) Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements |



**SIGNATURE**

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 on November 2, 2016.

VITAMIN SHOPPE, INC.

By:

/s/ Brenda Galgano

Brenda Galgano

*EVP and Chief Financial Officer*

**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

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## CERTIFICATIONS

I, Brenda Galgano, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Form 10-Q of Vitamin Shoppe, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and we have:
  - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent function):
  - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: November 2, 2016

By:           /s/ Brenda Galgano            
Brenda Galgano  
*EVP and Chief Financial Officer*

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350, AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO  
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with this quarterly report on Form 10-Q of Vitamin Shoppe, Inc. (the "Company") for the quarter ended September 24, 2016 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Colin Watts, Chief Executive Officer of the Company, hereby certify pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that to the best of my knowledge:

- (i) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended; and
- (ii) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of Vitamin Shoppe, Inc.

Date: November 2, 2016

/s/ Colin Watts

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Colin Watts  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
*(Principal Executive Officer)*

The foregoing certification is being furnished solely pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350 and is not being filed as part of this Report.

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350, AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO  
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with this quarterly report on Form 10-Q of Vitamin Shoppe, Inc. (the "Company") for the quarter ended September 24, 2016 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Brenda Galgano, Chief Financial Officer of the Company, hereby certify pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that to the best of my knowledge:

- (i) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended; and
- (ii) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of Vitamin Shoppe, Inc.

Date: November 2, 2016

/s/ Brenda Galgano

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Brenda Galgano

*EVP and Chief Financial Officer*

*(Principal Financial Officer)*

The foregoing certification is being furnished solely pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350 and is not being filed as part of this Report.

