



Ross Stores, Inc. 2021 Annual Report

**THERE'S ALWAYS
A NEW BARGAIN**

2021

THERE'S ALWAYS A NEW BARGAIN

We launched our off-price business almost four decades ago based on the premise that everyone always loves a new bargain. Since then, we have met customer wants and needs by consistently offering outstanding value on a wide array of fresh name brand fashions in convenient and easy-to-shop stores.

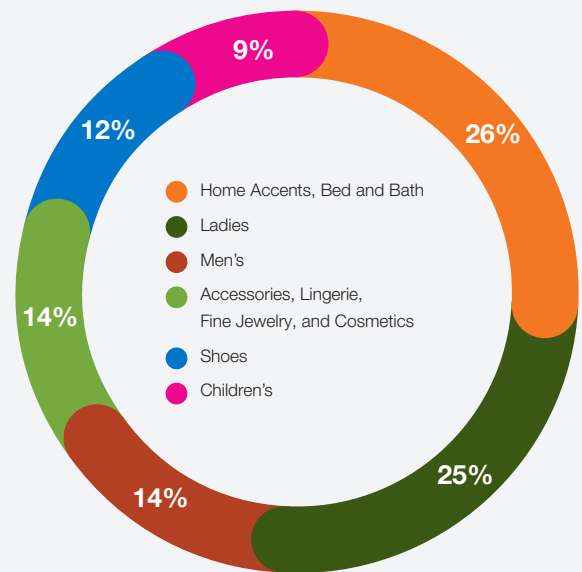
We accomplish this through our two off-price apparel and home fashion chains, Ross Dress for Less® (“Ross”) and dd’s DISCOUNTS®. The first Ross Dress for Less locations opened in 1982, and today, Ross is the largest off-price apparel and home fashion chain in the U.S. with 1,628 stores in 40 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam. We launched dd’s DISCOUNTS in 2004 and it now operates 295 locations in 21 states.

Ross offers name brand apparel, accessories, footwear, and home fashions for the entire family at savings of 20% to 60% off department store and specialty store regular prices every day. dd’s DISCOUNTS features more moderately-priced assortments at savings of 20% to 70% off moderate department and discount store prices every day. With the continued careful execution of our off-price strategies, we remain confident in our prospects for ongoing profitable market share gains.





MERCHANDISE MIX



TO OUR STOCKHOLDERS

We made significant progress in fiscal 2021 as we continued to navigate through the external challenges caused by the ongoing COVID pandemic and its effect on the macro-economic and retail environment. Despite continued headwinds from supply chain disruptions, higher expenses, and inflationary pressures, we are pleased to report that both sales and earnings significantly outperformed our expectations for the fiscal year ended January 29, 2022.

Fiscal 2021 Financial Results

Given the unprecedented effect on our business and financial results in fiscal 2020, when all stores were closed for a portion of the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our results for fiscal 2021 are presented versus fiscal 2019.

Total sales for the fiscal year ended January 29, 2022 were \$18.9 billion, up from \$16.0 billion for the 52 weeks ended February 1, 2020. Comparable sales for the 2021 fiscal year grew 13% over the same period in fiscal 2019. Earnings per share for fiscal 2021 were \$4.87 on net income of \$1.72 billion, up from \$4.60 per share on net earnings of \$1.66 billion in 2019.

Operating margin of 12.3% in fiscal 2021 was down 110 basis points from 13.4% in 2019 mainly due to expense headwinds from higher wages, supply chain, and COVID-related costs.

dd's DISCOUNTS 2021 Performance

Similar to Ross, while dd's DISCOUNTS posted healthy sales gains in fiscal 2021, its profitability was also impacted by cost pressures related to wages, supply chain, and COVID.

Continued Expansion with Higher Long-Term Store Potential

During 2021 we opened a total of 64 net new stores, consisting of 43 Ross Dress for Less and 21 dd's DISCOUNTS. We ended the year with a total of 1,923 locations in 40 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam.

Looking ahead, given consumers' increased focus on value and convenience, we have seen favorable sales trends in both our new and in-fill market stores. As a result, along with the large number of brick-and-mortar retail closures and bankruptcies over the last several years, we now believe that Ross Dress for Less can expand





to about 2,900 locations, up from our prior target of 2,400, and that dd's DISCOUNTS can eventually become a chain of approximately 700 stores versus our previous projection of 600. This represents an overall 20% increase in our forecasted potential to 3,600 stores, providing substantial runway for expansion relative to our year-end store count of 1,923 locations.

Strong Cash Flows Fund Growth and Stock Repurchases and Dividends

Operating cash flows helped to fund new store expansion and additional infrastructure improvements in 2021. We invested approximately \$560 million in capital projects during the year, including \$330 million for distribution, information technology, and other projects, and \$230 million to open new locations and update existing stores. We ended the year with about \$4.9 billion in cash and \$2.5 billion in long-term debt.

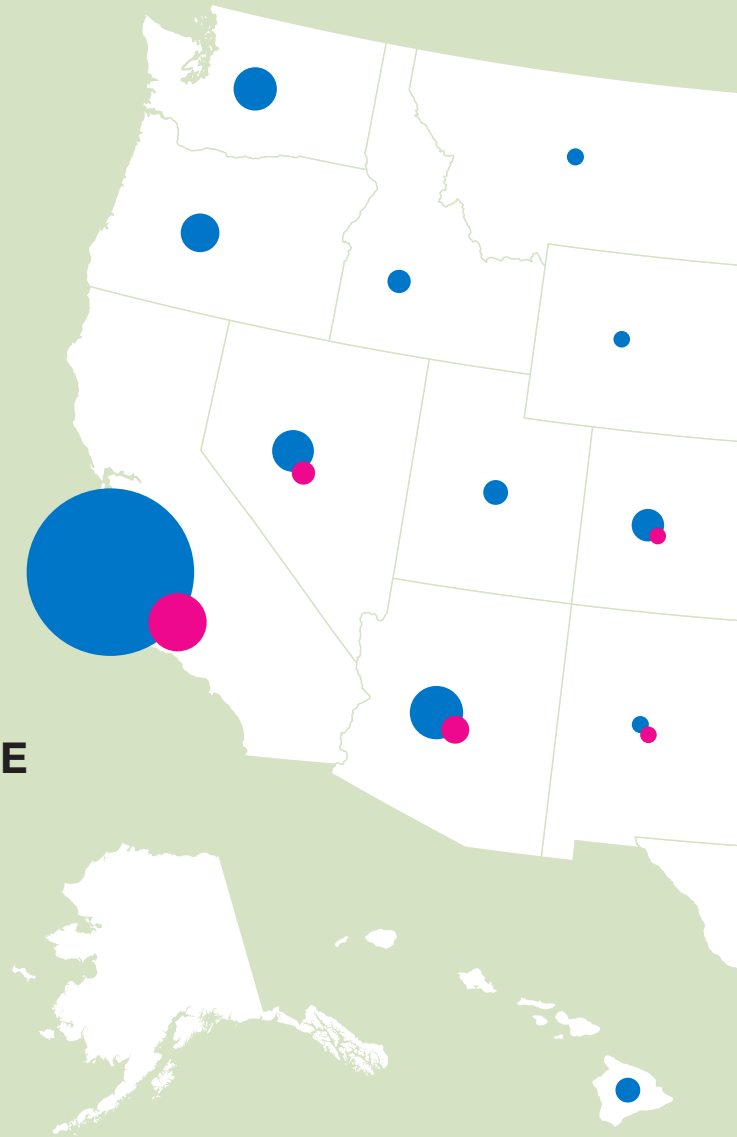
STORE GROWTH

40 STATES

1,923 STORES

\$18.9B ANNUAL
REVENUE

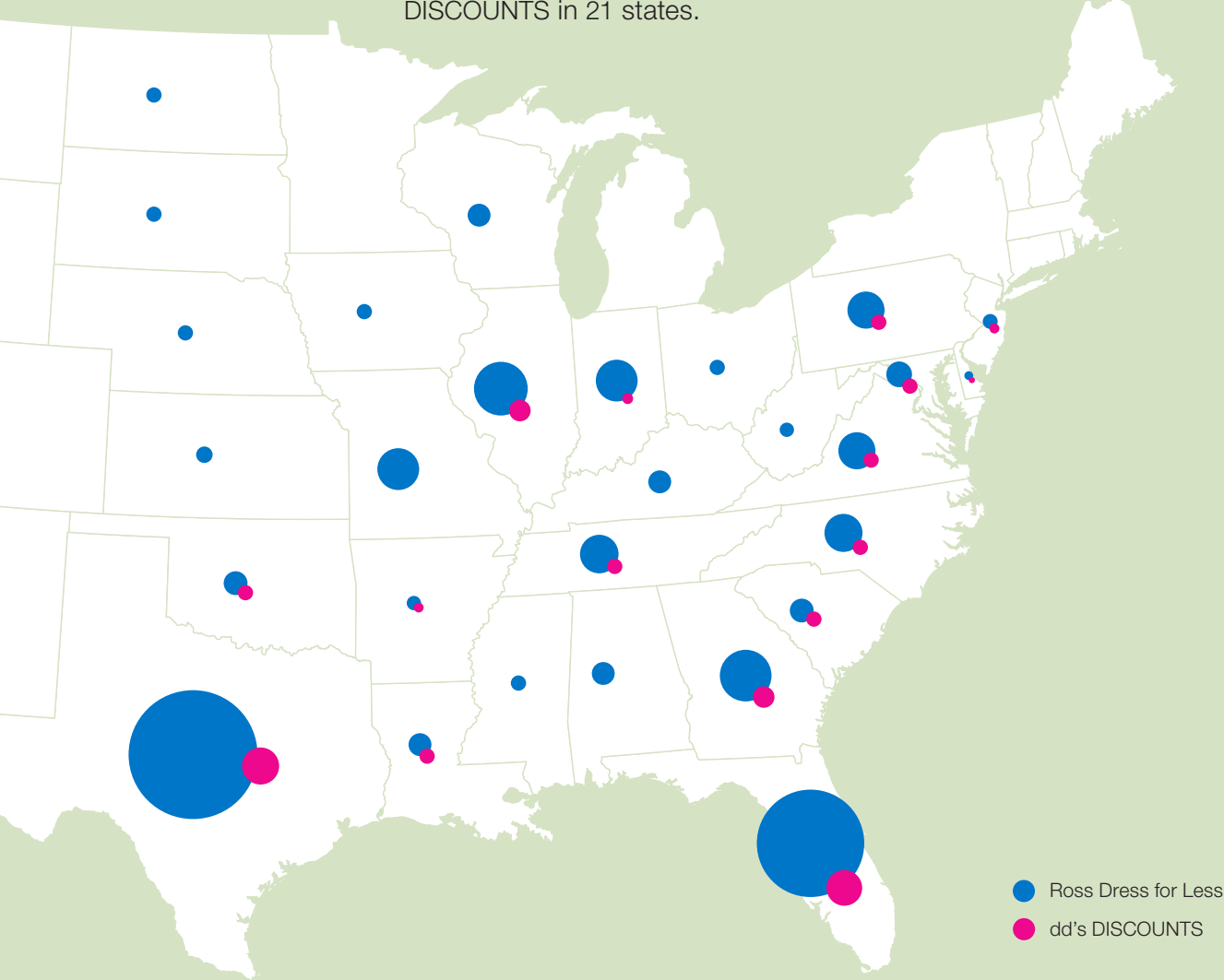
64 NET NEW
STORES IN 2021



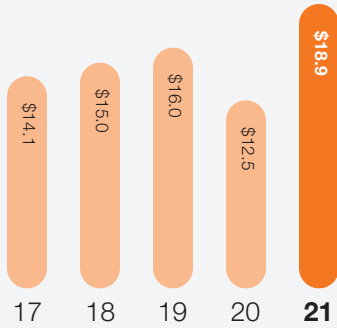
In 2021 we opened 43 net new Ross Dress for Less in both established regions as well as newer markets, including a total of 13 Ross stores in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Ohio.

dd's DISCOUNTS' store growth included the addition of 21 new locations across seven states, also in both existing and newer markets, including Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, and Texas.

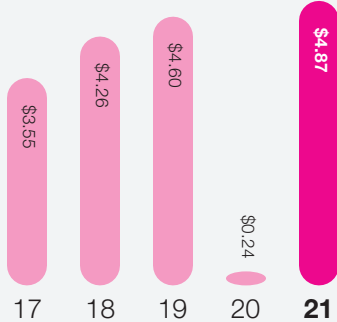
We ended the year with 1,628 Ross Dress for Less stores in 40 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam, and 295 dd's DISCOUNTS in 21 states.



Total Sales (in billions)



Earnings Per Share¹



To maximize our ability to capture profitable market share, we plan to make further investments over the next few years in our supply chain to support long-term growth and in technology to further increase efficiencies throughout the business.

In March of 2022, we announced that our Board of Directors had recently authorized a new two-year program to repurchase up to \$1.9 billion of our common stock through fiscal 2023. This authorization replaced the \$850 million remaining under the prior buyback announced in May 2021. A total of \$650 million of common stock was repurchased under the previous program in 2021. The Board also increased the Company's quarterly cash dividend by 9% to \$.31 per share.

The increases to our stock repurchase and dividend programs reflect our ongoing commitment to enhancing stockholder value and returns, confidence in our projected future cash flows as well as the strength of our balance sheet.

Social Responsibility at Ross

For almost 40 years, our Associates have played an essential role in our ability to deliver great values to our customers. As a Company, we are committed to promoting an inclusive culture that values and celebrates the diversity of backgrounds, identities, and ideas of our approximately 100,000 Associates and those who shop with us.

We also recognize that ensuring an inclusive work environment where all Associates are treated with dignity and respect is key to their ability to grow, succeed, and contribute to the communities where they live and work. To support this, we launched additional employee resource groups (known at Ross as "CommUnity Networks") to help Associates connect with one another and support our ongoing diversity, equality, and inclusion efforts, with more Networks to come in 2022.

Despite the ongoing inability to hold in-person meetings and trainings in 2021, we maintained our commitment to associate development with digital learning and engagement opportunities. Other ongoing initiatives included delivering competitive wages and benefits in each of our geographic markets, offering virtual internships, as well as continuing education opportunities for hundreds of our Associates and their dependents through the Stuart Moldaw Scholarship Program. Lastly, we continued to support the communities where we operate through local hiring and expanded philanthropic efforts, including through our foundation that furthers our charitable mission of helping to create a brighter future for today's youth.

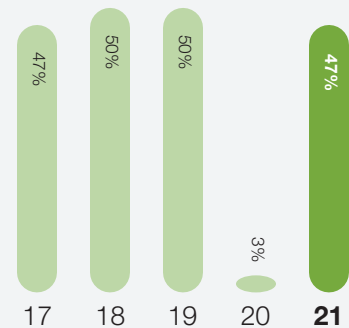
To learn more about our commitments to our Associates, we invite shareholders to read more on our website, www.rossstores.com, in the Social Responsibility section.

Investing in a Sustainable Future

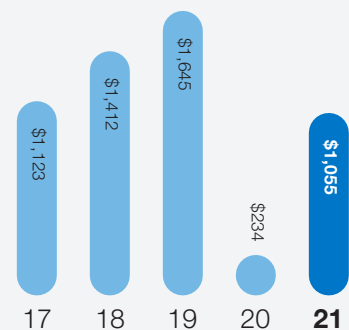
Improving the efficiency and sustainability of our operations, while minimizing our impact on the environment also remains a top priority. Our focus on identifying new opportunities to use less energy and fewer natural resources dates back more than 20 years, and we continue to make improvements on these initiatives.

Last year we continued to demonstrate our commitment to transparency by participating in the Carbon Disclosure Project Climate Change Questionnaire. We also published our 2020 Corporate Social Responsibility Report, which includes our sustainability efforts and accomplishments. In the report, we share the progress we made towards our greenhouse gas emissions target. We remain committed to taking actions that drive environmental sustainability and invite our shareholders to learn more about our efforts on our website, www.rossstores.com, in the Social Responsibility section.

Return on Average Stockholders' Equity



Cash Returned to Stockholders² (in millions)



2017 results are based on a 53-week fiscal year; all other years are on a 52-week basis; 2020 reflects the negative impact of store closures due to COVID-19.

1. Includes debt refinancing costs in 2020.
2. Includes cash dividends and stock repurchases.

We operate in an attractive sector of retail and our mission continues to be delivering the best bargains possible to leverage our favorable market position. Looking at 2023 and beyond, we are targeting a return to double-digit earnings per share growth, driven by a combination of same store sale gains, operating margin improvement, accelerated new store openings, and our ongoing stock repurchase program.

In closing, we especially want to thank our approximately 100,000 talented Associates throughout the Company whose dedication has enabled us to successfully navigate through the unprecedented challenges of the past two years. We believe their continued efforts will enable us to capitalize on our opportunities for future sales and earnings growth while also delivering strong returns to stockholders over the coming years.

Finally, we extend our deep appreciation to our customers, business partners, and investors for their ongoing support with best wishes for everyone's continued health and safety.

Sincerely,



George Orban

George P. Orban

Chairman of the Board

Barbara Rentler

Barbara Rentler

Chief Executive Officer



Ross Stores, Inc. 2021 Annual Report

FORM
10-K

2021

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

- (Mark one)
- ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the fiscal year ended January 29, 2022
- 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 0-14678

Ross Stores, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) **94-1390387** (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
5130 Hacienda Drive, Dublin, California (Address of principal executive offices) **94568-7579** (Zip Code)
Registrant's telephone number, including area code **(925) 965-4400**

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

<u>Title of each class</u>	<u>Trading symbol</u>	<u>Name of each exchange on which registered</u>
Common stock, par value \$.01	ROST	NASDAQ Global Select Market

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

Title of class
None

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted 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 such files). Yes No

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed a report on and attestation to its management's assessment of the effectiveness of its internal control over financial reporting under Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (15 U.S.C. 7262(b)) by the registered public accounting firm that prepared or issued its audit report.

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

The aggregate market value of the voting common stock held by non-affiliates of the Registrant as of July 31, 2021 was \$42,842,208,333, based on the closing price on that date as reported by the NASDAQ Global Select Market[®]. Shares of voting stock held by each director and executive officer have been excluded, in that such persons may be deemed to be affiliates. This determination of affiliate status is not necessarily a conclusive determination for other purposes.

The number of shares of Common Stock, \$.01 par value, outstanding on March 7, 2022 was 350,892,474.

Documents incorporated by reference:

Portions of the Proxy Statement for the Registrant's 2022 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, which will be filed on or before May 31, 2022, are incorporated herein by reference into Part III.

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

Ross Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries (“we” or the “Company”) operate two brands of off-price retail apparel and home fashion stores—Ross Dress for Less® (“Ross”) and dd’s DISCOUNTS®.

Ross is the largest off-price apparel and home fashion chain in the United States, with 1,628 locations in 40 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam, as of January 29, 2022. Ross offers first-quality, in-season, name brand and designer apparel, accessories, footwear, and home fashions for the entire family at savings of 20% to 60% off department and specialty store regular prices every day. Ross’ target customers are primarily from middle income households.

We also operate 295 dd’s DISCOUNTS stores in 21 states as of January 29, 2022. dd’s DISCOUNTS features more moderately-priced first-quality, in-season, name brand apparel, accessories, footwear, and home fashions for the entire family at savings of 20% to 70% off moderate department and discount store regular prices every day. The typical dd’s DISCOUNTS store is located in an established shopping center in a densely populated urban or suburban neighborhood, and its target customers typically come from households with more moderate incomes than Ross customers.

The merchant, store field, and distribution operations for Ross and dd’s DISCOUNTS are separate. The two chains share certain corporate and support services.

Both our Ross and dd’s DISCOUNTS brands target value-conscious customers. The decisions we make, from merchandising, purchasing, and pricing, to the locations of our stores, are based on these customer profiles. We believe that both brands derive a competitive advantage by offering a wide assortment of product within each of our merchandise categories, in organized and easy-to-shop store environments.

Our mission is to offer competitive values to our target customers by focusing on the following key strategic objectives:

- Maintain an appropriate level of recognizable brands, labels, and fashions at strong discounts throughout the store.
- Meet customer needs on a local basis.
- Deliver an in-store shopping experience that reflects the expectations of the off-price customer.
- Manage real estate growth to compete effectively across all our markets.

We refer to our fiscal years ended January 29, 2022, January 30, 2021, and February 1, 2020 as fiscal 2021, fiscal 2020, and fiscal 2019, respectively, each of which were 52-week years.

Merchandising, Purchasing, and Pricing

We seek to provide our customers with a wide assortment of first-quality, in-season, brand name and designer apparel, accessories, footwear, and home merchandise for the entire family at savings of 20% to 60% below department and specialty store regular prices every day at Ross, and 20% to 70% below moderate department and discount store regular prices at dd’s DISCOUNTS. We sell recognizable brand name merchandise that is on trend and fashionable in each category. New merchandise typically is received from three to six times per week at both Ross and dd’s DISCOUNTS stores. Our buyers review their merchandise assortments on a weekly basis, enabling them to respond to selling trends and purchasing opportunities in the market. Our merchandising strategy is reflected in our advertising, which emphasizes a strong value message. Our stores offer a treasure-hunt shopping experience where customers can find great savings every day on a broad assortment of brand name bargains for the family and the home.

Merchandising. Our merchandising strategy incorporates a combination of off-price buying techniques to purchase advance-of-season, in-season, and past-season merchandise for both Ross and dd’s DISCOUNTS. We believe nationally recognized name brands sold at compelling discounts will continue to be an important determinant of our success. We generally leave the brand name label on the merchandise we sell.

We have established merchandise assortments that we believe are attractive to our target customers. Although we offer fewer classifications of merchandise than most department stores, we generally offer a large selection within each classification with a wide assortment of vendors, labels, prices, colors, styles, and fabrics within each size or item. Our merchandise offerings

include, but are not limited to, apparel (including footwear and accessories), small furniture, home accents, bed and bath, beauty, toys, luggage, gourmet food, cookware, jewelry and watches.

Purchasing. We have a large network of merchandise vendors and manufacturers for both Ross and dd's DISCOUNTS and believe we have adequate sources of first-quality merchandise to meet our requirements. We purchase the vast majority of our merchandise directly from manufacturers. Despite the ongoing supply chain congestion, we have been able to sufficiently source merchandise inventory.

We believe our ability to effectively execute certain off-price buying strategies is a key factor in our success. Our buyers use a number of methods that enable us to offer our customers brand name and designer merchandise at strong discounts every day relative to department and specialty stores for Ross, and moderate department and discount stores for dd's DISCOUNTS. By purchasing later in the merchandise buying cycle than department, specialty, and discount stores, we are able to take advantage of imbalances between retailers' demand for products and manufacturers' supply of those products.

Unlike most department and specialty stores, we typically do not require that manufacturers provide promotional allowances, co-op advertising allowances, return privileges, split shipments, drop shipments to stores, or delayed deliveries of merchandise. For most orders, delivery is made to one of our distribution centers. These flexible requirements further enable our buyers to obtain significant discounts on purchases.

The merchandise that we offer in all of our stores is acquired through opportunistic purchases created by manufacturer and brand overruns and canceled orders both during and at the end of a season ("close-out" purchases), and production direct from brands and factories ("upfront" purchases). We also source merchandise under in-house brands or vendor brands. Merchandise can be shipped to stores in-season, allowing us to get in-season goods into our stores at great values, or can be stored as packaway merchandise.

Packaway merchandise is purchased with the intent that it will be stored in our warehouses until a later date, which may even be the beginning of the same selling season in the following year. Packaway purchases are an effective method of increasing the percentage of prestige and national brands at competitive savings within our merchandise assortments. The timing of the release of packaway inventory to our stores is principally driven by the product mix and seasonality of the merchandise, and its relation to our store merchandise assortment plans. As such, the aging of packaway varies by merchandise category and seasonality of purchase, but typically packaway remains in storage less than six months.

In fiscal 2021, we continued our emphasis on this important sourcing strategy in response to compelling opportunities available in the marketplace. Packaway accounted for approximately 40% and 38% of total inventories as of January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021, respectively. We believe the strong discounts we offer on packaway merchandise are one of the key drivers of our business results.

Our primary buying offices are located in New York City and Los Angeles, the nation's two largest apparel markets. We also operate a smaller buying office located in Boston. These strategic locations allow our buyers to be in the market frequently, sourcing opportunities and negotiating purchases with vendors and manufacturers. These locations also enable our buyers to strengthen vendor relationships—a key element to the success of our off-price buying strategies.

At the end of fiscal 2021, we had over 900 merchants for Ross and dd's DISCOUNTS combined. The Ross and dd's DISCOUNTS buying organizations are separate and distinct, and each includes merchandise management, buyers, and assistant buyers. Ross and dd's DISCOUNTS buyers have on average seven years of experience, including merchandising positions with other retailers. We expect to continue to make additional targeted investments in our merchant organization to further develop our relationships with our manufacturers and vendors. Our ongoing objective is to strengthen our ability to procure the most desirable brands and fashions at competitive discounts.

The off-price buying strategies utilized by our experienced team of merchants enable us to purchase Ross merchandise at net prices that are lower than prices paid by department and specialty stores, and to purchase dd's DISCOUNTS merchandise at net prices that are lower than prices paid by moderate department and discount stores.

Pricing. We sell brand name merchandise at Ross that is priced 20% to 60% below most department and specialty store regular prices. At dd's DISCOUNTS, we sell more moderate brand name merchandise that is priced 20% to 70% below most moderate department and discount store regular prices. Our pricing is reflected on most of our price tags which display our selling price as well as the comparable value for that item in department and specialty stores for Ross merchandise, or in more moderate department and discount stores for dd's DISCOUNTS merchandise.

Our pricing strategy at Ross differs from that of a department or specialty store. We purchase our merchandise at lower prices and mark it up less than a department or specialty store. This strategy enables us to offer customers consistently low prices and compelling value. On a weekly basis our buyers review specified departments in our stores for possible markdowns based on the rate of sale, as well as at the end of fashion seasons, to promote faster turnover of merchandise inventory and to accelerate the flow of fresh product. A similar pricing strategy is in place at dd's DISCOUNTS where prices are compared to those in moderate department and discount stores.

Stores

As of January 29, 2022, we operated a total of 1,923 stores comprised of 1,628 Ross stores and 295 dd's DISCOUNTS stores. Our stores are located predominantly in community and neighborhood shopping centers in heavily populated urban and suburban areas. Where the size of the market and real estate opportunities permit, we cluster Ross stores to benefit from economies of scale in advertising, distribution, and field management. We do the same for dd's DISCOUNTS stores.

We believe a key element of our success at both Ross and dd's DISCOUNTS is our organized, attractive, and easy-to-shop in-store environments which allow customers to shop at their own pace. While our stores promote a self-service, treasure-hunt shopping experience, the layouts are designed to enhance customer convenience in their merchandise presentation, dressing rooms, checkout, and merchandise return areas. Our store's sales area is based on a prototype single floor design with a racetrack aisle layout. A customer can locate desired departments by signs displayed just below the ceiling of each department. We enable our customers to select among sizes and prices through prominent category and sizing markers. Our stores have shopping carts and/or baskets available at the entrance for customer convenience. Cash registers are primarily located at store exits for customer ease and efficient staffing. In response to the health pandemic from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), we have implemented enhanced safety protocols for our customers and associates.

We accept a variety of payment methods. We provide refunds or store credit on all merchandise (not used, worn, or altered) returned with a receipt within 30 days. Merchandise returns having a receipt older than 30 days are exchanged or refunded with store credit.

Operating Costs

Consistent with the other aspects of our business strategy, we strive to keep operating costs as low as possible. Among the factors which have enabled us to do this are: labor costs that are generally lower than full-price department and specialty stores due to a store design that creates a self-service retail format and due to the utilization of labor saving technologies; economies of scale with respect to general and administrative costs resulting from centralized merchandising, marketing, and purchasing decisions; and flexible store layout criteria which facilitate conversion of existing buildings to our formats.

In response to COVID-19, we implemented additional processes and procedures to facilitate social distancing, to enhance cleaning and sanitation activities, and to provide personal protective equipment to our associates, which has increased our operating costs. We have incurred and expect to continue to incur elevated operating costs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Information Systems

We continue to invest in new information systems and technology to provide a platform for growth over the next several years. Current initiatives include continued enhancements to our stores, distribution, merchandising, merchandise planning, and cybersecurity systems. These initiatives support future growth, the execution and achievement of our plans, ongoing stability and compliance.

Distribution

We operate distribution processing facilities where we receive and ship all of our merchandise to our stores. These distribution centers are large, highly automated, and built to suit our specific off-price business model. We also operate warehouse facilities for packaway storage.

We utilize a combination of our own, and third-party, cross dock facilities to distribute merchandise to stores on a regional basis. Shipments are made by contract carriers to the stores three to six times per week depending on location.

We believe that our distribution centers and warehouses with their current expansion capabilities will provide adequate processing and storage capacity to support our current store growth. Information on the size and locations of our distribution centers and warehouse facilities is found under “Properties” in Item 2.

Advertising

Advertising for Ross Dress for Less relies on a mix of television and digital channels to communicate the Ross value proposition—savings off the same brands carried at leading department or specialty stores every day. This strategy reflects our belief that a mix of channels is necessary to reach our customer. Within digital channels, we continue to grow social, digital video, and audio, to communicate our brand position. Advertising for dd’s DISCOUNTS is primarily focused on radio, both broadcast and digital, social media, and new store grand openings.

Trademarks

The trademarks for ROSS®, Ross Dress For Less®, and dd’s DISCOUNTS® have been registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Human Capital

As of January 29, 2022, we had approximately 100,000 total associates, which includes both full- and part-time associates. Additionally, we hire temporary associates, especially during peak seasons. We have no associates that are covered by a collective bargaining agreement. Management considers the relationship between the Company and our associates to be good.

Our associates play essential roles in delivering great value to our customers. Throughout our organization, we recognize and appreciate the importance of attracting, retaining, and developing our associates and we have a number of key programs to do so.

Talent development. The professional growth of our associates is important to our success as a business. We identify and enumerate key competencies we believe are critical to our ability to execute our business model and deliver the values our customers expect. We utilize these competencies in the hiring, development, evaluation, and future planning of our teams. We provide training opportunities to help associates grow and build their careers. Our associates, managers, and executives may participate in technical and leadership development activities. We support associates interested in leadership roles by offering opportunities to gain experience and build the skills necessary to advance within the Company. We are proud that many store leaders started their careers with us as retail associates.

Diversity, equality, and inclusion. We care about our associates and the communities we serve. We are committed to building diverse teams and an inclusive culture that respects, values, and celebrates the diversity of backgrounds, identities, and ideas of those who work and shop with us. We are focused on executing strategies to support our commitment to diversity, equality, and inclusion.

Community and social impact. We provide our associates the opportunity to give back to their communities and make a social impact through various programs such as our matching gift program, volunteer time off for eligible associates, and a scholarship program for our associates and their dependents.

Competition

We believe the principal competitive factors in the off-price retail apparel and home fashion industry are offering significant discounts on brand name merchandise, offering a well-balanced assortment that appeals to our target customers, and consistently providing store environments that are convenient and easy to shop. To execute this concept, we continue to make strategic investments in our merchandising organization. We also continue to make improvements to our merchandising systems to strengthen our ability to plan, buy, and allocate product to our stores. We operate in an attractive sector of retail that we anticipate will be facing reduced brick and mortar competition given the significant number of recent retail closures and bankruptcies. We believe that we remain well-positioned within the off-price retail apparel and home fashion industry to compete based on these factors.

Nevertheless, the retail apparel market is highly fragmented and competitive. We face a challenging macro-economic and retail environment that creates intense competition for business from online retailers, department stores, specialty stores, discount stores, warehouse stores, other off-price retailers, and manufacturer-owned outlet stores, many of which are units of large national or regional chains that have substantially greater resources. The retail apparel and home-related businesses may become even more competitive in the future.

Available Information

The internet address for our corporate website is www.rossstores.com. Our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, Proxy Statements, and any amendments to those reports are made available free of charge on or through the Investors section of our corporate website, promptly after being electronically filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The information found on our corporate website is not part of this report, or of any other report or regulatory filing we file with or furnish to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal 2021, and information we provide in our Annual Report to Stockholders, press releases, and other investor communications, including those on our corporate website, may contain forward-looking statements with respect to anticipated future events, including the rapidly developing challenges (and our plans and responses) from the COVID-19 pandemic and related economic disruptions, our future financial performance, operations, competitive position, and our projected growth, that are all subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those forward-looking statements and from our prior expectations and projections. Refer to Management's Discussion and Analysis for a more complete identification and discussion of "Forward-Looking Statements."

Our financial condition, results of operations, cash flows, and the performance of our common stock may be adversely affected by a number of risk factors. Risks and uncertainties that apply to both Ross and dd's DISCOUNTS include, without limitation, the following:

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to adversely affect our sales and our operations, and we expect it to continue to have adverse effects on our business and our financial performance.

The United States and other countries continue to experience a prolonged, major global COVID-19 pandemic, including additional outbreaks driven by new virus variants, with related, significant disruptions and impacts to retail operations and supply chains, and to general economic activities. The situation continues to be unprecedented and rapidly changing, and has unknown duration and severity.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, our customers and associates may be affected by future recommendations and/or mandates from federal, state, and local authorities to stay home, to avoid non-essential social contact and gatherings of people, and to self-quarantine. While a significant and increasing portion of the population is vaccinated or may have acquired some level of immunity after recovering from illness, it will take more time for those factors to reach levels that permit a return to pre-pandemic levels of social activity. Additional outbreaks and spreading of the disease have been occurring across the United States, and levels of spread have gone up and down in different regions. Government authorities in affected regions have in the past taken actions, sometimes drastic and including mandatory capacity restrictions, reduced operating hours, and closure of retail operations, in an effort to slow down the spread of the disease. We may still face required store closures and distribution center closures, nationally, regionally, or in specific locations.

We have a concentration of store locations in the states of California, Texas, and Florida; together those states include almost fifty percent of our stores. More than half of our distribution centers and warehouses are located in California. A severe outbreak or a required closure affecting these facilities would be very disruptive to our ability to supply merchandise to our stores. The COVID-19 pandemic may potentially adversely affect our ability to adequately staff our distribution centers, our stores, and our merchant and other support operations. Further, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted multiple countries, leading to supply related disruptions, including port of exit/entry congestion, shipping delays, and ocean freight cost increases, which may also adversely affect our ability to access and ship products from affected regions.

The prolonged, widespread pandemic has adversely impacted global economies, which has resulted in an economic downturn. An economic rebound is resulting in rising inflation that may reduce consumer demand for our products, and also increase our costs. The extent and duration of the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic on our business and financial results will depend largely on future developments, including the duration and spread of outbreaks within the U.S., regional surges in infection, vaccination rates, potential acquired immunity, the effectiveness of vaccines in controlling current and future variants of the virus,

the response by all levels of government in their efforts to contain the outbreak and to mitigate the resulting economic disruptions, and the related impact on consumer confidence, shopping behavior, and spending, all of which are highly uncertain and cannot be predicted. Such impacts have and are expected to adversely affect our profitability, cash flows, financial results, and our capital resources.

We are subject to impacts from the macro-economic environment, financial and credit markets, and geopolitical conditions that affect consumer confidence and consumer disposable income. The COVID-19 pandemic and accompanying economic impacts, including supply chain disruptions and inflation, and the developing Russia-Ukraine conflict and accompanying economic impacts, may have prolonged and significant negative effects on consumer confidence, shopping behavior, and spending, which may adversely affect our sales and gross margins.

Consumer spending habits for the merchandise we sell are affected by many factors. Currently, the repercussions from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic present significant risks and uncertainty. There is significant uncertainty over potential changes in consumer behavior and shopping patterns as the pandemic continues and as different regions experience surges.

Currently, there is also a rapidly developing Russia-Ukraine conflict, which has already escalated into a significant military confrontation, and is resulting in major, potentially prolonged economic sanctions and other responses from the United States and other countries, which present significant risks and uncertainties. These events may cause various adverse macro-economic effects, including increases in fuel and energy prices and depressed financial markets.

Other factors include levels of unemployment, the size and timing of federal stimulus programs, salaries and wage rates, prevailing economic conditions, increasing inflation, rising interest rates, recession and fears of recession, housing costs, energy and fuel costs, income tax rates and the timing of tax refunds, consumer perceptions of personal well-being and security, availability of consumer credit, consumer debt levels, and the resulting effects on consumers' disposable income and consumer confidence in future economic conditions.

The COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and other potential, adverse developments in any of these areas, could reduce demand for our merchandise, increase our cost of goods, freight cost, and payroll costs, decrease our inventory turnover, cause greater markdowns, and negatively affect our sales and margins. All of our stores are located in the United States and its territories, so we are especially susceptible to changes in the U.S. economy.

We need to successfully operate under the health and safety measures implemented in our stores and distribution centers, and across all our operations, to comply with regulatory requirements and with the goal of keeping our customers and associates safe from the spread of the COVID-19 virus without disruptions to our operations.

We have implemented a variety of measures in our store locations, distribution centers, and other facilities, with the goal of keeping our associates, customers, and the communities we serve safe from spreading the COVID-19 virus. These measures include additional cleaning and sanitation of stores and workspaces, providing associates with personal protective equipment based on CDC or other federal, state, or local health guidelines, and implementing physical distancing practices, in our stores, distribution centers, and in our other operations. This is very challenging to do, and there is significant risk, incremental costs, and uncertainty regarding changing requirements. Not only are these measures evolving, but they often require change to established habits and patterns of behavior by large groups of people, who may not fully understand or agree with the requested changes. Whatever measures we adopt, there will also be challenges in effecting consistent compliance by our customers and our associates. We are adapting and changing these measures as we learn from experience. And despite our efforts and best intentions, incidents of infection will occur at our stores, distribution centers, and/or in our other facilities, potentially resulting in serious illness for those affected, including our associates. This may result in required temporary closure of specific stores, distribution centers, or other facilities, and in temporary or longer term loss of key personnel during illness, and potential supply chain disruptions. We may also face claims (with or without merit) that our retail stores or our other facilities and workplaces are operating in an unsafe manner or are not in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Any such incidents may adversely affect our operating results, increase our costs, and damage our reputation and competitive position.

Competitive pressures in the apparel and home-related merchandise retailing industry are high.

The retail industry is highly competitive and the marketplace is highly fragmented, as many different retailers compete for market share by utilizing a variety of store and on-line formats and merchandising strategies. We expect competition to increase in the future. There are no significant economic barriers for others to enter our retail sector. We compete for customers, associates, store locations, and merchandise with many other local, regional, and national retailers, traditional department stores, upscale mass merchandisers, other off-price retailers, specialty stores, internet and catalog businesses, and other forms of retail commerce. Our retail competitors constantly adjust their pricing, business strategies, and promotional activity (particularly during holiday periods) in response to changing market conditions or their own financial condition. The substantial sales growth in e-commerce within the last decade has also encouraged the entry of many new competitors, new business models, and an increase in competition from established companies looking for ways to create successful on-line shopping alternatives. Intense

pressures from our competitors, our inability to adapt effectively and quickly to a changing competitive landscape, or a failure to effectively execute our off-price model, could reduce demand for our merchandise, decrease our inventory turnover, cause us to take greater markdowns, and negatively affect our sales and margins.

Unexpected changes in the level of consumer spending on or preferences for apparel and home-related merchandise could adversely affect us.

Our success depends on our ability to effectively buy and resell merchandise that meets customer demand. We work on an ongoing basis to identify customer trends and preferences, and to obtain merchandise inventory to meet anticipated customer needs. It is very challenging to successfully do this well and consistently across our diverse merchandise categories and in the multiple markets in which we operate throughout the United States and its territories. Although our off-price business model provides us certain advantages and may allow us greater flexibility than traditional retailers have in adjusting our merchandise mix to ever-changing consumer tastes, our merchandising decisions may still fail to correctly anticipate and match consumer trends and preferences, particularly in our newer geographic markets. Failure to correctly anticipate and match the trends, preferences, and demands of our customers could adversely affect our business, financial condition, and operating results.

Adverse and/or unseasonable weather may affect shopping patterns and consumer demand for seasonal apparel and other merchandise, and may result in temporary store closures and disruptions in deliveries of merchandise to our stores.

Unseasonable weather and prolonged, extreme temperatures, as well as events such as storms, affect consumers' buying patterns and willingness to shop, and may adversely affect the demand for merchandise in our stores, particularly in apparel and seasonal merchandise. Among other things, weather conditions may also affect our ability to deliver our products to our stores or require us to close certain stores temporarily, thereby reducing store traffic. Even if stores are not closed, many customers may be unable to go, or may decide to avoid going to stores in bad weather. As a result, adverse or unseasonable weather in any of our markets could lead to disappointing sales and cause us to increase our markdowns, which may negatively affect our sales and margins.

In order to achieve our planned gross margins, we must effectively manage our inventories, markdowns, and inventory shortage. As a result of changes in shopping behaviors due to the COVID-19 pandemic, disruptions to supply chains and store operations, and inflation, we are at risk for inventory imbalances and the potential for higher than normal levels of markdowns to sell through our inventory, increased cost of goods, and for lost sales due to insufficient inventory to meet customer demand, any of which would negatively affect our gross margins and our operating results.

We purchase the majority of our inventory based on our sales plans. If our actual demand is lower than our sales plans, we may experience excess inventory levels and need to take markdowns on excess or slow-moving inventory, resulting in decreased profit margins. Inflation may cause our costs to purchase inventory to be higher than we planned, and we may not be able to sell the inventory to our customers at correspondingly increased prices, resulting in decreased profit margins. We also may have insufficient inventory to meet customer demand, leading to lost sales opportunities. The COVID-19 pandemic and accompanying economic impacts may change shopping behavior so that our predictions and sales plans become less accurate, and that may lead us to have higher than usual levels of slow-moving or non-salable inventory at our prior planned price levels. We would then need to aggressively and progressively reduce our selling prices in order to clear out that inventory, which would result in decreased profit margins or losses on sales of that inventory, and adversely affect our results of operations in future periods.

As a regular part of our business, we purchase "packaway" inventory with the intent that it will be stored in our warehouses until a later date. The timing of the release of packaway inventory to our stores is principally driven by the product mix and seasonality of the merchandise, and its relation to our store merchandise assortment plans, but it typically remains in storage less than six months. Packaway inventory is frequently a significant portion of our overall inventory. If we make packaway purchases that do not align with consumer preferences at the later time of release to our stores, we could have significant inventory markdowns. Changes in packaway inventory levels could impact our operating cash flow. Although we have various systems to help protect against loss or theft of our inventory, both when in storage and once distributed to our stores, we may have damaged, lost, or stolen inventory (called "shortage") in higher amounts than we forecast, which would result in write-offs, lost sales, and reduced margins.

We depend on the market availability, quantity, and quality of attractive brand name merchandise at desirable discounts, and on the ability of our buyers to purchase merchandise to enable us to offer customers a wide assortment of merchandise at competitive prices.

Opportunistic buying, lean inventory levels, and frequent inventory turns are critical elements of our off-price business strategy. Maintaining an overall pricing differential to department and specialty stores is also key to our ability to attract customers and sustain our sales and gross margins. Our opportunistic buying places considerable discretion with our merchants, who are in the marketplace continually and who are generally purchasing merchandise for the current or upcoming season. Our ability to meet or exceed our operating performance targets depends upon the continuous, sufficient availability of high quality merchandise that

we can acquire at prices sufficiently below those paid by conventional retailers and that represent a value to our customers. To the extent that certain of our vendors are better able to manage their inventory levels and reduce the amount of their excess inventory, the amount of high quality merchandise available to us could be materially reduced. To the extent that certain of our vendors decide not to sell to us or go out of business, the amount of high quality merchandise available to us could also be materially reduced. Because a significant portion of the apparel and other goods we sell is originally manufactured in other countries, constraints on the availability of shipping capacity, changes in transportation costs or in U.S. tariffs, trade relationships, or tax policies, and natural disasters, or public health issues such as the current COVID-19 pandemic (or other, future pandemics), that reduce the supply or increase the relative cost of imported goods, could also result in disruptions to our existing supply relationships. Shortages, delays, or disruptions in the availability to us of high quality, value-priced merchandise would likely have a material adverse effect on our sales and margins.

Information or data security breaches, including cyber-attacks on our transaction processing and computer information systems, could result in theft or unauthorized disclosure of customer, credit card, employee, or other private and valuable information that we handle in the ordinary course of our business, disrupt our operations, damage our reputation, and increase our costs.

Like other large retailers, we rely on commercially available computer and telecommunications systems to process, transmit, and store payment card and other personal and confidential information, and to provide information or data security for those transactions. Some of the key information systems and processes we use to handle payment card transactions and check approvals, and the levels of security technology utilized in payment cards, are controlled by the banking and payment card industry, not by us. Cybercriminals may attempt to penetrate our point of sale and other information systems to misappropriate customer or business information, including but not limited to credit/debit card, personnel, or trade information. Cybercriminals (including state-sponsored actors) may attempt to penetrate our information systems to deprive us from access to necessary business information and to disrupt our operations, as part of so-called "ransomware" extortion activity or otherwise. Despite security measures we have in place, and our efforts to prevent, monitor, and mitigate attacks and errors, our facilities and systems (or those of third-party service providers we utilize or connect to) may be vulnerable to security breaches, acts of vandalism, computer viruses, misplaced or lost data, programming and/or human errors, phishing, ransomware attacks, and similar fraudulent attacks, or other similar events. It is also possible that an associate within our Company, or a third party we do business with, may purposefully or inadvertently cause a security breach involving such information. The increasing sophistication of cybercriminals, the increased potential for cyberattacks, and the advances in computer capabilities and remote access increases these risks. A breach of our information or data security, a system shut down or other response we may take, or our failure or delay in detecting and mitigating a loss of personal or business information, could result in damage to our reputation, loss of customer confidence, violation (or alleged violation) of applicable laws (including laws relating to consumer data protection and privacy, and required notifications of data security breaches), and expose us to civil claims, litigation, and regulatory action, and to unanticipated costs and disruption of our operations.

Disruptions in our supply chain or in our information systems could impact our ability to process sales and to deliver product to our stores in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Various information systems are critical to our ability to operate and to manage key aspects of our business. We depend on the integrity, continuous availability, and consistent operations of these systems to process transactions in our stores, track inventory flow, manage merchandise allocation and distribution logistics, generate performance and financial reports, and support merchandising decisions.

We are currently making, and will continue to make, significant technology investments to improve or replace information processes and systems that are key to managing our business. We must monitor and choose sound investments and implement them at the right pace. The risk of system disruption is increased whenever significant system changes are undertaken. An excessive rate of technological change could detract from the effectiveness of adoption, and could make it more difficult for us to realize benefits from new technology. Poorly targeting opportunities, failing to make good investments, or making an investment commitment significantly above or below our needs could damage our competitive position and adversely impact our business and results of operations. Additionally, the potential problems and interruptions associated with implementing technology system changes could disrupt or reduce the efficiency of our operations in the short term. These initiatives might not provide us with the anticipated benefits, or may provide them on a delayed schedule or at a higher cost.

Our information systems, including our back-up systems, are subject to damage or interruption from power outages, computer and telecommunications failures, cyberattacks, computer viruses, internal or external security breaches, catastrophic events such as severe storms, fires, earthquakes, floods, acts of terrorism, and design or usage errors by our employees or by third parties. If our information systems or our back-up systems are damaged or cease to function properly, we may have to make significant investments to fix or replace them, and we may suffer interruptions in our operations in the interim. Any material interruption in our computer systems could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

A disruption within our logistics or supply chain network could adversely affect our ability to timely and efficiently transport merchandise to our stores or our distribution centers, which could impair our ability to meet customer demand for products and result in lost sales or increased supply chain costs. Such disruptions may result from public health issues such as the current COVID-19 pandemic (or other, future pandemics), cyberattacks, damage or destruction to our distribution centers, weather-related events, natural disasters, trade restrictions, tariffs, third-party strikes or ineffective cross dock operations, work stoppages or slowdowns, shipping capacity constraints, supply or shipping interruptions, or other factors beyond our control. Any such disruptions could negatively impact our financial performance or financial condition.

We need to obtain acceptable new store sites with favorable consumer demographics to achieve our planned growth.

Successful growth requires us to find appropriate real estate sites in our targeted market areas. We compete with other retailers and businesses for acceptable store locations. For the purpose of identifying locations we rely, in part, on consumer demographics. While we believe consumer demographics are helpful indicators of acceptable store locations, we recognize that this information cannot predict future consumer preferences and buying trends with complete accuracy. Time frames for negotiations and store development vary from location to location and can be subject to unforeseen delays or unexpected cancellations. We may not be able to open new stores or, if opened, operate those new stores profitably. Construction and other delays in store openings could have a negative impact on our business and operating results. Additionally, we may not be able to renegotiate our current lease terms which could negatively impact our operating results. New stores may not achieve the same sales or profit levels as our existing stores, and adding stores to existing markets may adversely affect the sales and profitability of other existing stores. If we cannot acquire sites on attractive terms, it could limit our ability to grow or adversely affect the economics of our new stores in various markets.

To achieve growth, we need to expand in existing markets and enter new geographic markets.

Our growth strategy is based on successfully expanding our off-price model in current markets and in new geographic regions. There are significant risks associated with our ability to continue to expand our current business and to enter new markets. Stores we open in new markets may take longer to reach expected sales and profit levels on a consistent basis and may have higher construction, occupancy, advertising, or operating costs than stores we open in existing markets, thereby affecting our overall profitability. New markets may have competitive conditions, consumer tastes, and discretionary spending patterns that are more difficult to predict or satisfy than our existing markets. Our limited operating experience and limited brand recognition in new markets may require us to build brand awareness in that market through greater investments in advertising and promotional activity than we originally planned. We may find it more difficult in new markets to hire, motivate, and retain qualified associates.

Consumer problems or legal issues involving the quality, safety, or authenticity of products we sell could harm our reputation, result in lost sales, and/or increase our costs.

Various governmental authorities regulate the quality and safety of merchandise we sell. These regulations and related laws frequently change, and the ultimate cost of compliance cannot be precisely estimated. Because of our opportunistic buying strategy, we sometimes obtain merchandise in new categories or from new vendors that we have not dealt with before. Although our vendor arrangements typically place contractual responsibility on the vendor for resulting liability and we generally rely on our vendors to provide authentic merchandise that matches the stated quality attributes and complies with applicable product safety and other laws, vendor non-compliance with consumer product safety laws may subject us to product recalls, make certain products unsalable, or require us to incur significant compliance costs.

Regardless of fault, any real or perceived issues with the quality and safety of merchandise we offer (particularly products such as food and children's items), issues with the authenticity of merchandise, or our inability or that of our vendor to comply on a timely basis with laws and regulatory requirements, could adversely affect our reputation, result in lost sales, inventory write-offs, uninsured product liability or other legal claims, penalties or losses, merchandise recalls, and increased costs.

An adverse outcome in various legal, regulatory, or tax matters could damage our reputation or brand and increase our costs.

As an ordinary part of our business, we are involved in various legal proceedings, regulatory reviews, tax audits, and/or other legal matters. These may include lawsuits, inquiries, demands, or other claims or proceedings by governmental entities and private plaintiffs, including those relating to employment and employee benefits (including classification, employment rights, discrimination, harassment, wage and hour, and retaliation), securities, real estate, tort, commercial, consumer protection, privacy, product compliance and safety, advertising, environmental, comparative pricing, product labeling, intellectual property, tax, escheat, and whistle-blower claims. We continue to be involved in a number of employment-related lawsuits, including class/representative actions which are primarily in California.

We are subject to federal, state, and local rules and regulations in the United States, and to various international laws, which change from time to time. These legal requirements collectively affect multiple aspects of our business, including the cost of health care, workforce management and employee benefits, minimum wages, advertising, comparative pricing, import/export, sourcing and manufacturing, data protection (including customer and associate data privacy, choice and notification rights), intellectual property, and others. If we fail to comply (or are alleged not to comply) with any of these requirements, we may be subject to fines, settlements, penalties, or other costs. In addition, an adverse outcome (or the adverse publicity from the claims) in any of these matters may damage our reputation or brand. We are also subject to the continuous examination of our tax returns and reports by federal, state, and local tax authorities, and these examining authorities may challenge positions we take.

Significant judgment is required in evaluating and estimating our tax provisions and reserves for legal claims. Actual results may differ and our costs may exceed the reserves we establish in estimating the probable outcomes. In addition, applicable accounting principles and interpretations may change from time to time, and those changes could have material effects on our reported operating results and financial condition.

Damage to our corporate reputation or brands could adversely affect our sales and operating results.

Our reputation is partially based on perceptions of various subjective qualities and overall integrity. Any incident that erodes the trust or confidence of our customers or the general public could adversely affect our reputation and business, particularly if the incident results in significant adverse publicity or governmental inquiry. Such an incident could also include alleged acts or omissions by or situations involving our suppliers (or their contractors or subcontractors), the landlord for our stores, or our associates outside of work, and may pertain to social or political issues or protests largely unrelated to our business. The use of social media platforms, including blogs, social media websites, and other forms of internet-based communications which allow individuals access to a broad audience of consumers and other interested persons, continues to increase. The availability of information (whether correct or erroneous) on social media platforms is virtually immediate, as is its impact. Many social media platforms immediately publish the content their subscribers and participants post, often without filters or checks on accuracy of the content. The opportunity for dissemination of information, including inaccurate information, is seemingly limitless and readily available. Information concerning our Company may be posted on such platforms at any time. Information posted may be adverse to our interests or may be inaccurate, which could negatively affect our sales, diminish customer trust, reduce employee morale and productivity, and lead to difficulties in recruiting and retaining qualified associates. The harm may be immediate, without affording us an opportunity for redress or correction.

Our inability to continually attract, train, and retain associates with the retail talent necessary to execute our off-price retail strategies along with labor shortages, increased turnover, or increased labor costs could adversely affect our operating results.

Like other retailers, we face challenges in recruiting and retaining sufficient talent in our buying organization, management, stores, distribution centers, and other key areas. Many of our retail store associates are in entry level or part-time positions with historically high rates of turnover. Our ability to control labor costs is subject to numerous external factors, including prevailing wage rates and health and other insurance costs, as well as the impact of legislation or regulations governing minimum wage or healthcare benefits.

Any increase in labor costs may adversely impact our profitability or, if we fail to pay such higher wages, may result in increased turnover. Excessive turnover may result in higher costs associated with finding, hiring, and training new associates. If we cannot hire enough qualified associates, or if there is a disruption in the supply of personnel we hire from third-party providers, especially during our peak seasons, our operations could be negatively impacted.

Because of the distinctive nature of our off-price model, we must also attract, train, and retain our key associates across the Company, especially within our buying organization. The loss of one or more of our key personnel, or the inability to effectively identify a suitable successor for a key role could have a material adverse effect on our business. There is no assurance that we will be able to attract or retain highly qualified associates in the future, and any failure to do so could have a material adverse effect on our growth, operations, or financial position.

We must effectively advertise and market our business.

Customer traffic and demand for our merchandise is influenced by our advertising and marketing activities, the name recognition and reputation of our brands, and the location of our stores. Although we use marketing and advertising programs to attract customers to our stores, particularly through television and digital channels, our competitors may spend more or use different approaches, which could provide them with a competitive advantage. Our advertising and other promotional programs may not be effective or may be perceived negatively, or could require increased expenditures, any of which could adversely affect sales or increase costs.

We are subject to risks associated with selling and importing merchandise produced in other countries.

Risks in importing and selling such merchandise include import duties and quotas, compliance with anti-dumping regulations, economic uncertainties and adverse economic conditions (including shipping capacity limitations, cost increases, inflation, recession, and exchange rate fluctuations), foreign government regulations, employment and labor matters, concerns relating to human rights, working conditions, and other issues in factories or countries where merchandise is produced, transparency of sourcing and supply chains, exposure on product warranty and intellectual property issues, consumer perceptions of the safety of imported merchandise, wars and fears of war, political unrest, natural disasters, regulations to address climate change, and trade restrictions.

A predominant portion of the apparel and other goods we sell (even when we purchase it domestically, often as excess inventory sold to us by a domestic vendor) is originally manufactured in other countries. In addition, we directly source a portion of the products sold in our stores from foreign vendors predominantly in Asia (including China). We also buy products that originate from foreign sources indirectly through domestic vendors and manufacturers' representatives. Although our foreign purchases of merchandise are negotiated and paid for in U.S. dollars, decreases in the value of the U.S. dollar relative to foreign currencies could increase the cost of products we purchase from overseas vendors. When we are the importer of record, we may be subject to regulatory or other requirements similar to those applicable to a manufacturer.

To the extent that our vendors are located overseas or rely on overseas sources for a large portion of their products, any event causing a disruption, delay, or increase in the cost of imports, including the imposition of import or other restrictions such as product detention, war, acts of terrorism, natural disasters, or public health issues such as the current COVID-19 pandemic (or other, future pandemics) could adversely affect our business. The flow of merchandise from our vendors could also be adversely affected by global shipping capacity limitations, or by financial or political instability in any of the countries in which the goods we purchase are manufactured. Trade restrictions in the form of tariffs or quotas, or both, applicable to the products we sell could also affect the importation of those products and could increase the cost and reduce the supply of products available to us. We cannot predict whether any of the countries from which our products are sourced, or in which our products are currently manufactured or may be manufactured in the future, will be subject to trade restrictions imposed by the U.S. or foreign governments or the likelihood, type or effect of any such restrictions.

We require our vendors (for both import and domestic purchasing) to contractually confirm that they adhere to various conduct, compliance, and other requirements, including those relating to environmental, employment and labor (including wages and working conditions), health, safety, and anti-bribery standards. From time to time, our vendors, their contractors, or their subcontractors may be alleged to not be in compliance with these standards or with applicable local laws. Although we have implemented policies and procedures to promote compliance with laws and regulations relating to doing business in foreign markets and importing merchandise, and to monitor the compliance of our suppliers, this does not guarantee that suppliers and other third parties with whom we do business will not violate (or not allegedly violate) such laws and regulations or our policies. Significant or continuing noncompliance (or alleged noncompliance) with such standards and laws by one or more vendors could have a negative impact on our reputation, could subject us to claims and liability, and could have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

Changes in U.S. tax or trade policy regarding apparel and home-related merchandise produced in other countries could adversely affect our business.

A predominant portion of the apparel and other goods we sell is originally manufactured in other countries. The U.S. government has at times indicated a willingness to significantly change existing trade policies, including those with China. This exposes us to risks of disruption and cost increases in our established patterns for sourcing our merchandise, and creates increased uncertainties in planning our sourcing strategies and forecasting our margins. Changes in U.S. tariffs, quotas, trade relationships, or tax provisions that reduce the supply or increase the relative cost of goods produced in other countries could increase our cost of goods and/or increase our effective tax rate. Although such changes would have implications across the entire industry, we may fail to effectively adapt and to manage the adjustments in strategy that would be necessary in response to those changes. In addition to the general uncertainty and overall risk from potential changes in U.S. laws and policies, as we make business decisions in the face of uncertainty as to potential changes, we may incorrectly anticipate the outcomes, miss out on business opportunities, or fail to effectively adapt our business strategies and manage the adjustments that are necessary in response to those changes. These risks could adversely affect our revenues and expenses, increase our effective tax rates, and reduce our profitability.

We may experience volatility in revenues and earnings.

Our business has slower and busier periods based on holiday and back-to-school seasons, weather, and other factors. Although our off-price business is historically subject to less seasonality than traditional retailers, we may still experience unexpected decreases in sales from time to time, which could result in increased markdowns and reduced margins. Significant operating expenses, such as rent expense and associate salaries, do not adjust proportionately with our sales. If sales in a certain period are lower than our plans, we may not be able to adjust these operating expenses concurrently, which could adversely affect our operating results.

A pandemic, natural or man-made disaster in California or in another region where we have a concentration of stores, offices, or a distribution center could harm our business.

Our corporate headquarters, Los Angeles buying office, 10 distribution centers/warehouses, and approximately 23% of our stores are located in California. Natural or other disasters, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic (or other, future pandemics), wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, or other extreme weather and climate conditions, or fires, explosions, and acts of war or terrorism, or public health issues, in any of our markets could disrupt our operations or our supply chain, or could shut down, damage, or destroy our stores or distribution facilities.

To support our continuing operations, our new store and distribution center growth plans, our quarterly dividends, and our stock repurchase program, we must maintain sufficient liquidity; the COVID-19 pandemic and related economic disruptions are adding significant uncertainty and challenges.

We depend upon our operations to generate strong cash flows to support our general operating activities, and to finance our operations, make capital expenditures and acquisitions, manage our debt levels, and return value to our stockholders through dividends and stock repurchases. While the pandemic continues, disruptions to our operations may occur, nationally, regionally, or in specific locations. The situation is unprecedented and rapidly changing, and has unknown duration and severity. If we are unable to generate sufficient cash flows from operations to support our activities, our growth plans and our financial performance would be adversely affected.

If our access to capital is restricted or our borrowing costs increase, our operations and financial condition could be adversely impacted. In addition, if we do not properly allocate our capital resources to maximize returns, our operations, cash flows, and returns to stockholders could be adversely affected.

We are subject to impacts from instances of damage to our stores and losses of merchandise accompanying protests or demonstrations, which may result in temporary store closures.

There have been recent demonstrations and protests in cities throughout the United States. While they have generally been peaceful, in some locations they have been accompanied by violence, damage to retail stores, and the loss of merchandise. While generally subject to coverage by insurance, the repair of damage to our stores and replacement of lost merchandise may also increase our costs and temporarily disrupt store operations, and we may incur increased operating costs for additional security. Governmental authorities in affected cities and regions may take actions in an effort to protect people and property while permitting lawful and non-violent protests, including curfews and restrictions on business operations, which may be disruptive to our operations. These activities, governmental responses, and resulting media coverage may also harm consumer confidence and perceptions of personal well-being and security, which may negatively affect shopping behavior and our sales.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

Not applicable.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

At January 29, 2022, we operated a total of 1,923 stores, of which 1,628 were Ross stores in 40 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam, and 295 were dd's DISCOUNTS stores in 21 states. All stores are leased, with the exception of two locations which we own.

During fiscal 2021, we opened 44 new Ross stores and closed 1 existing store. The average approximate Ross store size is 28,000 square feet.

During fiscal 2021, we opened 21 new dd's DISCOUNTS stores and closed no existing stores. The average approximate dd's DISCOUNTS store size is 23,000 square feet.

During fiscal 2021, no one store accounted for more than 1% of our sales.

We carry fire, flood, wind, and earthquake insurance to help mitigate the risk of financial loss that may result from such events.

Our real estate strategy in 2022 is to primarily open stores in states where we currently operate, with the objective to increase our market penetration and leverage our overhead and advertising expenses as a percentage of sales in each market. We also expect to continue our store expansion in newer markets in 2022. Important considerations in evaluating a new store location in both newer and more established markets are the availability and quality of potential sites, demographic characteristics, competition, and population density of the local trade area. In addition, we continue to consider opportunistic real estate acquisitions.

The following table summarizes the locations of our stores by state/territory as of January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021.

State/Territory	January 29, 2022	January 30, 2021
Alabama	25	24
Arizona	82	81
Arkansas	10	10
California	443	431
Colorado	39	38
Delaware	4	4
District of Columbia	2	2
Florida	231	225
Georgia	64	63
Guam	2	2
Hawaii	22	22
Idaho	12	12
Illinois	94	89
Indiana	28	26
Iowa	6	6
Kansas	12	12
Kentucky	15	15
Louisiana	21	20
Maryland	27	26
Mississippi	9	9
Missouri	30	27
Montana	6	6
Nebraska	6	5
Nevada	41	40
New Jersey	18	18
New Mexico	18	18
North Carolina	49	49
North Dakota	3	3
Ohio	11	8
Oklahoma	28	28
Oregon	30	30
Pennsylvania	51	51
South Carolina	30	30
South Dakota	2	2
Tennessee	39	37
Texas	277	260
Utah	24	23
Virginia	41	41
Washington	45	43
West Virginia	2	1
Wisconsin	21	19
Wyoming	3	3
Total	1,923	1,859

Where possible, we obtain sites in buildings requiring minimal alterations, allowing us to establish stores in new locations in a relatively short period of time and at reasonable costs in a given market. At January 29, 2022, the majority of our stores had unexpired original lease terms ranging from three to ten years, with three to four renewal options of five years each. The weighted-average unexpired lease term of our leased stores is approximately six years, or approximately 20 years if renewal options are included. See Note E of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

See additional discussion under “Stores” in Item 1.

The following table summarizes the location and approximate sizes of our distribution/warehouse facilities and office locations as of January 29, 2022. Square footage information for the distribution and warehouse facilities represents total ground floor area of the facility. Square footage information for office space represents total space owned and leased. See additional discussion in Management’s Discussion and Analysis.

Location	Approximate Square Footage	Own/Lease
Distribution/Warehouse Facilities		
Moreno Valley, California	1,300,000	Own
Moreno Valley, California ¹	740,000	Lease
Moreno Valley, California ¹	1,110,000	Lease
Perris, California	1,300,000	Own
Perris, California	699,000	Own
Riverside, California	449,000	Own
Sacramento, California	114,000	Lease
Shafter, California	1,700,000	Own
Shafter, California	1,003,000	Lease
Shafter, California ¹	350,000	Lease
Lakeland, Florida	100,000	Lease
Baltimore, Maryland	122,000	Lease
Kansas City, Missouri	72,000	Lease
Las Vegas, Nevada	102,000	Lease
Statesville, North Carolina ¹	640,000	Lease
Carlisle, Pennsylvania	465,000	Own
Carlisle, Pennsylvania	239,000	Lease
Carlisle, Pennsylvania	246,000	Lease
Fort Mill, South Carolina	1,200,000	Own
Fort Mill, South Carolina	428,000	Own
Fort Mill, South Carolina	423,000	Own
Fort Mill, South Carolina	255,000	Lease
Fort Mill, South Carolina	160,000	Lease
Rock Hill, South Carolina	1,200,000	Own
Rock Hill, South Carolina	431,000	Lease
Brookshire, Texas	1,890,000	Own
Office Space		
Dublin, California	414,000	Own
Los Angeles, California	120,000	Lease
Boston, Massachusetts	5,000	Lease
New York City, New York	572,000	Own

¹ Operated by a third party.

See additional discussion under “Distribution” in Item 1.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

We have been named in class/representative action lawsuits, primarily in California, alleging violations of wage and hour laws and consumer protection laws. Class/representative action litigation remains pending as of January 29, 2022.

We are also party to various other legal and regulatory proceedings arising in the normal course of business. Actions filed against us may include commercial, product and product safety, consumer, intellectual property, environmental, and labor and employment-related claims, including lawsuits in which private plaintiffs or governmental agencies allege that we violated federal, state, and/or local laws. Actions against us are in various procedural stages. Many of these proceedings raise factual and legal issues and are subject to uncertainties.

Like many retailers and other businesses, we have filed a lawsuit as plaintiff against the insurance companies with respect to our claims for insurance coverage for business interruption, property damage, and other losses that we have experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our suit was filed in Alameda County, California in December 2020. The proceedings remain in early stages, and are subject to significant uncertainties.

We believe that the resolution of our pending class/representative action litigation and other currently pending legal and regulatory proceedings will not have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

Executive Officers of the Registrant

The following sets forth the names and ages of our executive officers, indicating each person's principal occupation or employment during at least the past five years. The term of office is at the discretion of our Board of Directors.

Name	Age	Position
Barbara Rentler	64	Chief Executive Officer
Michael J. Hartshorn	54	Group President and Chief Operating Officer
Michael Kobayashi	57	President and Chief Capability Officer
Brian Morrow	62	President and Chief Merchandising Officer, dd's DISCOUNTS
Adam Orvos	57	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Rentler has served as Chief Executive Officer and a member of the Board of Directors since 2014. From 2009 to 2014, she was President and Chief Merchandising Officer, Ross Dress for Less and Executive Vice President, Merchandising, from 2006 to 2009. She also served at dd's DISCOUNTS as Executive Vice President and Chief Merchandising Officer from 2005 to 2006, and Senior Vice President and Chief Merchandising Officer from 2004 to 2005. Prior to that, she held various merchandising positions since joining the Company in 1986.

Mr. Hartshorn has served as Group President and Chief Operating Officer since August 2019 and a member of the Board of Directors since March 2021. Previously, he was Group Executive Vice President, Finance and Legal, Chief Financial Officer in 2019; Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer from 2018 to 2019; Group Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer from 2015 to 2018; Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer from 2014 to 2015; and Senior Vice President and Deputy Chief Financial Officer from 2012 to 2014. He was also Group Vice President, Finance and Treasurer from 2011 to 2012, and Vice President, Finance and Treasurer from 2006 to 2011. From 2002 to 2006, he held a number of management roles in the Ross IT and supply chain organizations. He initially joined the Company in 2000 as Director and Assistant Controller. For seven years prior to joining Ross, Mr. Hartshorn held various financial roles at The May Department Stores Company.

Mr. Kobayashi has served as President and Chief Capability Officer since February 2022. Prior to this role, he served as President, Operations and Technology from 2019 to 2022; Group Executive Vice President, Supply Chain, Merchant Operations, and Technology from 2014 to 2019; and Executive Vice President, Supply Chain, Allocation, and Chief Information Officer from 2010 to 2014. Previously, he was Group Senior Vice President, Supply Chain and Chief Information Officer from 2008 to 2010, and Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer from 2004 to 2008. Prior to joining Ross, Mr. Kobayashi was a Partner with Accenture, providing consulting services to clients in Accenture's Retail & Consumer Goods practice.

Mr. Morrow has served as President and Chief Merchandising Officer, dd's DISCOUNTS since December 2015. Prior to joining Ross, Mr. Morrow served as President, Chief Merchandising Officer of Stein Mart from 2014 to 2015 and Executive Vice President and Chief Merchandising Officer from 2010 to 2014. From 2008 to 2009, he served as Executive Vice President, General Merchandise Manager at Macy's West. He also held roles as Senior Vice President, General Merchandise Manager at Mervyn's in 2008 and Macy's North/Marshall Field's from 2006 to 2008. For approximately 20 years prior to this, Mr. Morrow held various merchandising roles at The May Department Stores Company.

Mr. Orvos has served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since October 2021. Mr. Orvos joined Ross in January 2021 as Group Senior Vice President, Supply Chain Administration. Prior to joining Ross, Mr. Orvos served as Senior Vice President, Retail Finance and Global Financial Planning and Analysis at Lowe's from 2019 to 2020; Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer at Neiman Marcus from 2018 to 2019; and Executive Vice President, Retail and then Chief Executive Officer at Total Wine & More from 2016 to 2017. Mr. Orvos held several senior management positions at Belk Department Stores from 2006 to 2016, where he eventually became its Chief Financial Officer. For almost 20 years prior to this, Mr. Orvos held various financial roles at The May Department Stores Company, including Chief Financial Officer of their Foley's division.

PART II

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

General information. Our stock is traded on The NASDAQ Global Select Market[®] under the symbol ROST. There were 1,198 stockholders of record as of March 7, 2022 and the closing stock price on that date was \$85.12 per share.

Cash dividends. On March 1, 2022, our Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.310 per common share, payable on March 31, 2022. Our Board of Directors declared cash dividends of \$0.285 per common share in March, May, August, and November 2021. Our Board of Directors declared a cash dividend of \$0.285 per common share in March 2020. In May 2020, we temporarily suspended our quarterly dividends, due to the economic uncertainty stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Board of Directors declared cash dividends of \$0.255 per common share in March, May, August, and November 2019.

Issuer purchases of equity securities. Information regarding shares of common stock we repurchased during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2021 is as follows:

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	Maximum number (or approximate dollar value) of shares (or units) that may yet be purchased under the plans or programs (\$000)
November (10/31/2021 - 11/27/2021)	493,824	\$115.90	493,824	\$1,025,788
December (11/28/2021 - 01/01/2022)	885,525	\$110.80	885,525	\$927,675
January (01/02/2022 - 01/29/2022)	760,962	\$102.40	758,321	\$850,003 ²
Total	<u>2,140,311</u>	\$108.99	<u>2,137,670</u>	\$1,900,000 ²

¹ We acquired 2,641 shares of treasury stock during the quarter ended January 29, 2022. Treasury stock includes shares acquired from employees for tax withholding purposes related to vesting of restricted stock grants. All remaining shares were repurchased under our publicly announced stock repurchase program.

² In March 2022, our Board of Directors approved a new two-year program to repurchase up to \$1.9 billion of our common stock through fiscal 2023, replacing the \$850 million that remained available at the end of fiscal 2021 under the previous \$1.5 billion program.

In May 2021, our Board of Directors authorized a program to repurchase up to \$1.5 billion of our common stock through fiscal 2022, with plans to buy back \$650 million in fiscal 2021 and \$850 million in fiscal 2022. In March 2022, our Board of Directors approved a new two-year program to repurchase up to \$1.9 billion of our common stock through fiscal 2023. This new program replaces the previous \$1.5 billion stock repurchase program, effective at the end of fiscal 2021 (at which time we had repurchased \$650 million under the \$1.5 billion program).

See Note H of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for equity compensation plan information. The information under Item 12 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K under the caption "Equity compensation plan information" is incorporated herein by reference.

Stockholder Return Performance Graph

The following information in this Item 5 shall not be deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Act of 1934, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933.

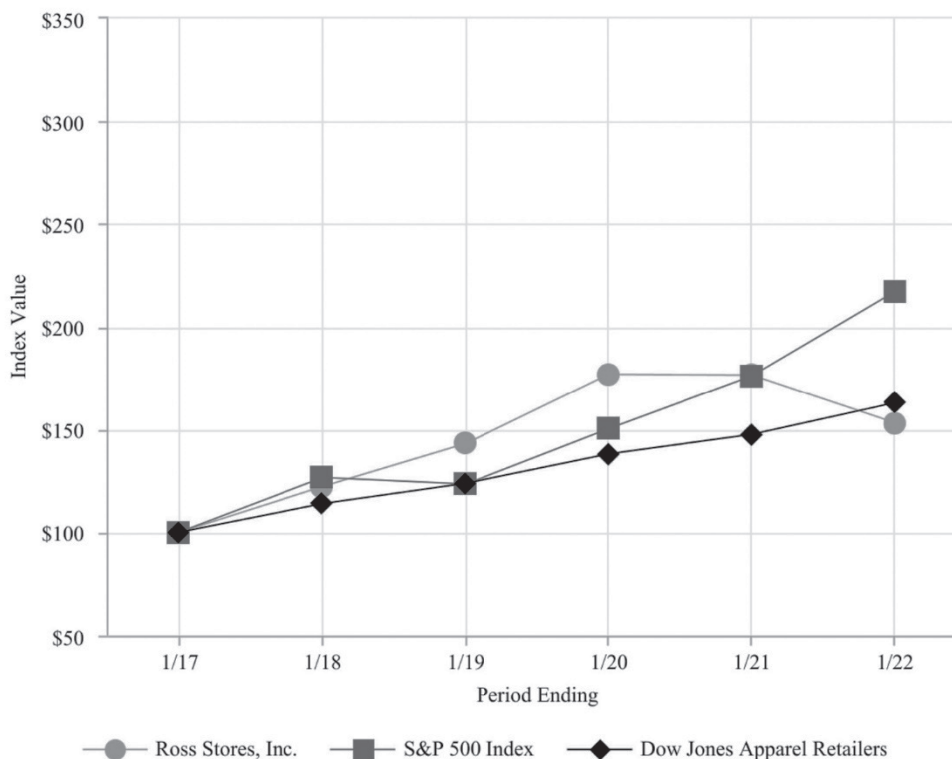
The graph below compares total stockholder returns over the last five years for our common stock to the Standard & Poor's 500 Index ("S&P Index") and the Dow Jones Apparel Retailers Index.

We use the Dow Jones Apparel Retailers Index in our performance graph because we believe the retail companies comprising that index are aligned with the segment of the retail industry in which we operate, and it provides a relevant comparison against which to measure our stock performance.

The cumulative total return listed below assumed an initial investment of \$100 and reinvestment of dividends at each fiscal year-end, and measures the performance of this investment as of the last trading day in the month of January for each of the following five years. These measurement dates are based on the historical month-end data available and vary slightly from our actual fiscal year-end date for each period. Data with respect to returns for the S&P Index and the Dow Jones Apparel Retailers Index is not readily available for periods shorter than one month. The graph is a historical representation of past performance only and is not necessarily indicative of future performance.

COMPARISON OF 5 YEAR CUMULATIVE TOTAL RETURN

Among Ross Stores, Inc., the S&P 500 Index, and Dow Jones Apparel Retailers



Company/Index	Base Period 2016	Indexed Returns for Fiscal Years Ended				
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Ross Stores, Inc.	100	122	143	177	176	153
S&P 500 Index	100	126	123	150	176	217
Dow Jones Apparel Retailers	100	114	124	138	147	163

ITEM 6. RESERVED

ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Overview

Ross Stores, Inc. operates two brands of off-price retail apparel and home fashion stores—Ross Dress for Less® (“Ross”) and dd’s DISCOUNTS®. Ross is the largest off-price apparel and home fashion chain in the United States with 1,628 locations in 40 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam, as of January 29, 2022. Ross offers first-quality, in-season, name brand and designer apparel, accessories, footwear, and home fashions for the entire family at savings of 20% to 60% off department and specialty store regular prices every day. We also operate 295 dd’s DISCOUNTS stores in 21 states as of January 29, 2022 that feature a more moderately-priced assortment of first-quality, in-season, name brand apparel, accessories, footwear, and home fashions for the entire family at savings of 20% to 70% off moderate department and discount store regular prices every day.

Our primary objective is to pursue and refine our existing off-price strategies to maintain and improve both profitability and financial returns over the long term. In establishing appropriate growth targets for our business, and considering the pace and magnitude of the economic recovery as the COVID-19 pandemic subsides, we are closely monitoring market share trends for the off-price industry. We believe our share gains will continue to be driven mainly by continued focus on bringing value and convenience to our consumers. Our merchandise and operational strategies are designed to take advantage of the trends toward expanding market share of the off-price industry as well as the ongoing customer demand for name brand fashions for the family and home at compelling discounts every day.

We refer to our fiscal years ended January 29, 2022, January 30, 2021, and February 1, 2020 as fiscal 2021, fiscal 2020, and fiscal 2019, respectively.

Results of Operations

While the United States and other countries continued to experience the ongoing global COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic throughout fiscal 2021, the effects on our operations were less disruptive than in fiscal 2020. All of our store locations and distribution centers remained open and operating throughout fiscal 2021, in contrast to 2020, when our results reflected the significant revenue decline and other impacts from our chain-wide store closures for approximately half of the first quarter and 25 percent of the second quarter, as well as mandated occupancy restrictions and reduced operating hours that occurred throughout that year. For fiscal 2021, we compare our results of operations to fiscal 2020 and also to fiscal 2019. We believe the extended closure of our operations in the spring of 2020, and the significant disruptions caused by COVID-19 throughout fiscal 2020, make fiscal 2019 a more useful and relevant basis for comparison to our fiscal 2021 performance in assessing our ongoing results of operations.

We achieved strong sales results in fiscal 2021, which benefited from a combination of government stimulus, increasing vaccination rates, diminishing COVID-19 restrictions, pent-up consumer demand, and strong execution of our merchandising strategies. We achieved these results despite the negative impacts from COVID-19 and related variants during fiscal 2021, especially the surge in Omicron cases which depressed in-person shopping behavior during the peak holiday selling period, and from continued supply chain congestion. Throughout the year, we continued to experience expense pressures from higher domestic freight costs of approximately 95 basis points, primarily due to the ongoing and worsening industry-wide supply chain congestion compared to fiscal 2019. We also incurred ongoing COVID-related increased operating costs of approximately 35 basis points (the vast majority of which impacted our selling, general and administrative expenses). We expect higher freight costs, higher distribution expenses, higher wages, and ongoing COVID-related operating costs to continue during fiscal 2022.

There remains significant uncertainty related to the ongoing industry-wide supply chain congestion. We also face external risks from the effects of inflation, both on consumer demand and on costs in our business. In addition, there continues to be significant uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, including its unknown duration, the potential for further new virus variants and future resurgences, as well as possible operational restrictions, the ongoing effect of the pandemic on consumer behavior and shopping patterns, and the potential adverse impact on our business.

The following table summarizes the financial results for fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019:

	2021	2020	2019
Sales			
Sales (millions)	\$ 18,916	\$ 12,532	\$ 16,039
Sales growth (decline)	50.9%	(21.9)%	7.0%
Comparable store sales growth	13% ¹	n/a ²	3% ³
Costs and expenses (as a percent of sales)			
Cost of goods sold	72.5%	78.5%	71.9%
Selling, general and administrative	15.2%	20.0%	14.7%
Interest expense (income), net	0.4%	0.7%	(0.1)%
Earnings before taxes (as a percent of sales)	11.9%	0.8%	13.5%
Net earnings (as a percent of sales)	9.1%	0.7%	10.4%

¹ Amount shown is for fiscal 2021 compared to fiscal 2019. Comparable store sales for this purpose represents sales from stores that were open at the end of fiscal 2019, less stores closed in fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2021.

² Given the temporary store closures resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the comparable store sales metric for fiscal 2020 is not meaningful.

³ Amount shown is for fiscal 2019 compared to fiscal 2018 for stores that have been open for more than 14 complete months.

Stores. Total stores open at the end of fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019 were 1,923, 1,859, and 1,805, respectively. The number of stores at the end of fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019 increased by 3%, 3%, and 5% from the respective prior years. In response to the impacts and uncertainties from the COVID-19 pandemic, we reduced our pace of new store openings for fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2021. Looking forward to 2022, we expect to return to our historical annual opening program of approximately 100 new stores. Beyond fiscal 2022, we are planning for our pace of new store openings to be greater than our historical annual opening program of approximately 100 stores, based on trends we perceive toward consumers' increased focus on value and convenience, favorable store performance in both our new and in-fill markets, and the market share opportunities resulting from the significant number of brick-and-mortar retail closures and bankruptcies over the last several years. Our longer term strategy is to open additional stores based on market penetration, local demographic characteristics, competition, expected store profitability, and the ability to leverage overhead expenses. We continually evaluate opportunistic real estate acquisitions and opportunities for potential new store locations. We also evaluate our current store locations and determine store closures based on similar criteria.

Store Count and Square Footage	2021	2020	2019
Beginning of the period	1,859	1,805	1,717
Opened in the period	65	66 ¹	98
Closed in the period	(1)	(12)	(10) ²
End of the period	1,923	1,859	1,805
Selling square footage at the end of the period (000)	39,900	38,800	37,900

¹ Includes the reopening of a store previously temporarily closed due to a weather event.

² Includes the temporary closure of a store impacted by a weather event.

Sales. Sales for fiscal 2021 increased \$6.4 billion, or 50.9%, compared to the prior year. This was primarily due to all store locations remaining open throughout fiscal 2021, compared to the negative impact from the COVID-19 related closures of all of our stores during a significant portion of the March 2020 to June 2020 period. Sales for fiscal 2021 also benefited from a combination of government stimulus payments, increasing vaccination rates, diminishing COVID-19 restrictions on operations, pent-up consumer demand, and strong execution of our merchandising strategies. Sales also increased due to the opening of 64 net new stores between fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2021.

Sales for fiscal 2020 decreased \$3.5 billion, or 21.9%, compared to fiscal 2019. This was primarily due to the negative impact from the COVID-19 related closures of all of our stores during a significant portion of the March 2020 to June 2020 period, the negative impacts on customer demand from the COVID-19 pandemic, mandated occupancy restrictions, and reduced store operating hours during the remainder of fiscal 2020. We opened 54 net new stores during 2020. The sales from these new stores partially offset the overall sales decline.

Sales for fiscal 2021 increased \$2.9 billion, or 17.9%, compared to fiscal 2019, due to a 13% increase in sales from comparable stores and the opening of 118 net new stores between fiscal 2019 and fiscal 2021.

Our sales mix is shown below for fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019:

	2021	2020	2019
Home Accents and Bed and Bath	26%	28%	25%
Ladies	25%	23%	26%
Men's	14%	14%	14%
Accessories, Lingerie, Fine Jewelry, and Cosmetics	14%	14%	13%
Shoes	12%	12%	13%
Children's	9%	9%	9%
Total	100%	100%	100%

We intend to address the competitive retail climate for off-price apparel and home goods by pursuing and refining our existing strategies, and by continuing to strengthen our merchant organization, diversify our merchandise mix, and more fully develop our systems to improve our merchandise offerings.

It is difficult to predict any future impact from some of the factors that benefited our sales results for fiscal 2021, in particular the benefit from the government stimulus payments and pent-up consumer demand. There remains significant uncertainty related to ongoing industry-wide supply chain congestion. We also face external risks from the effects of inflation, both on consumer demand and on costs in our business. In addition, there continues to be significant uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, including its unknown duration, the potential for new virus variants and future resurgences, as well as possible operational restrictions, the ongoing effect of the pandemic on consumer behavior and shopping patterns, and the potential adverse impact on our business. We cannot be sure that our strategies and our store expansion program will result in a continuation of our historical sales growth, or an increase in net earnings.

Cost of goods sold. Cost of goods sold in fiscal 2021 increased \$3.9 billion compared to the prior year, mainly due to higher sales, given that all our stores were open throughout fiscal 2021, compared to the negative impact from the COVID-19 related closures of all of our stores during a significant portion of the March 2020 to June 2020 period. Cost of goods also increased due to the opening of 64 net new stores between fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2021.

Cost of goods sold in fiscal 2020 decreased \$1.7 billion compared to fiscal 2019, mainly due to the lower sales from the temporary COVID-19 related closures of all of our stores during a significant portion of the March 2020 to June 2020 period, and ensuing negative impacts on shopping behavior and customer demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic after our store reopenings, as well as lower costs from the temporary furlough of most hourly associates in our distribution centers and some associates in our buying offices. These decreases were partially offset by higher markdowns used to clear aged and seasonal inventory, higher distribution costs primarily due to increased wages, and higher freight costs due to industry-wide supply chain congestion, added expenditures for COVID-19 related measures, and higher occupancy costs from the opening of 54 net new stores during 2020.

Cost of goods sold in fiscal 2021 increased \$2.2 billion compared to fiscal 2019, primarily due to a 13% increase in comparable store sales, higher freight and distribution costs primarily due to industry-wide supply chain congestion, and higher wages, and higher sales due to the opening of 118 net new stores between fiscal 2019 and fiscal 2021.

Cost of goods sold as a percentage of sales for fiscal 2021 increased approximately 55 basis points from fiscal 2019, primarily due to a 95 basis point increase in domestic freight costs, mainly driven by worsening industry-wide supply chain congestion, a 30 basis point increase in distribution expenses, mainly driven by higher wages, and a 10 basis point increase in buying costs. These increases were partially offset by leverage of 60 basis points in occupancy costs and a 20 basis point improvement in merchandise gross margin.

We expect higher supply chain costs from the industry-wide congestion and higher wages to continue throughout fiscal 2022.

Selling, general and administrative expenses. For fiscal 2021, selling, general and administrative expenses (“SG&A”) increased \$371.2 million compared to the prior year. The increase was primarily due to all our stores remaining open throughout fiscal 2021, compared to the impact from the COVID-19 related closures of all of our stores during a significant portion of the March 2020 to June 2020 period, and to the opening of 64 net new stores between fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2021, partially offset by approximately \$240 million in long-term debt refinancing costs incurred in fiscal 2020.

For fiscal 2020, SG&A increased \$146.6 million compared to fiscal 2019, primarily due to approximately \$240 million in long-term debt refinancing costs, COVID-related expenses (primarily for supplies, cleaning, and payroll related to additional safety protocols), and payments to associates while our stores were closed (net of employee retention credits under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the “CARES Act”)), partially offset by payroll-related cost reduction measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (including the temporary furlough of most hourly associates in our stores during closure periods, and some associates in our corporate offices), reductions in non-business critical operating expenses, and lower store operating expenses on lower sales.

For fiscal 2021, SG&A increased \$517.8 million compared to fiscal 2019, mainly due to a 13% increase in comparable store sales, the opening of 118 net new stores between fiscal 2019 and fiscal 2021, higher incentive compensation costs due to better-than-expected results, net COVID-related operating expenses primarily for supplies, cleaning, and payroll related to additional safety protocols, higher wages, and holiday related pay incentives.

SG&A as a percentage of sales for fiscal 2021 increased by approximately 50 basis points compared to fiscal 2019, primarily due to higher incentive compensation costs due to better-than-expected results, net COVID-related operating expenses for supplies, cleaning, and payroll related to additional safety protocols, higher wages, and holiday related pay incentives.

We expect our operating costs in fiscal 2022 to continue to reflect ongoing COVID-related expenses and also higher wages.

Interest expense (income), net. In fiscal 2021, net interest expense decreased by \$9.1 million compared to 2020 primarily due to the elimination of interest expense on short-term debt due to the repayment of our \$800 million revolving credit facility in October 2020 and higher capitalized interest primarily related to the construction of our Brookshire, Texas distribution center, partially offset by lower interest income due to lower interest rates.

In fiscal 2020, net interest expense increased by \$101.5 million compared to 2019 primarily due to higher interest expense on long-term debt due to the issuance of Senior Notes in April 2020 and October 2020 (net of repurchase of Senior Notes), lower interest income due to lower interest rates, and higher interest expense on short-term debt due to the draw down on our \$800 million revolving credit facility in March 2020 (which was subsequently repaid in October 2020), partially offset by higher capitalized interest primarily related to the construction of our Brookshire, Texas distribution center.

In fiscal 2021, net interest expense increased by \$92.4 million compared to 2019 primarily due to higher interest expense on long-term debt due to the issuance of Senior Notes in April 2020 and October 2020 (net of repurchase of Senior Notes), and lower interest income due to lower interest rates, partially offset by higher capitalized interest primarily related to the construction of our Brookshire, Texas distribution center.

The table below shows the components of interest expense and income for fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019:

(\$000)	2021	2020	2019
Interest expense on long-term debt	\$ 88,286	\$ 88,544	\$ 13,139
Interest expense on short-term debt	—	7,863	—
Other interest expense	1,351	3,908	968
Capitalized interest	(14,476)	(12,251)	(4,367)
Interest income	(833)	(4,651)	(27,846)
Interest expense (income), net	\$ 74,328	\$ 83,413	\$ (18,106)

Taxes on earnings. Our effective tax rates for fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019 were approximately 24%, 20%, and 23%, respectively. The increase in the effective tax rate of 4% for fiscal 2021 compared to fiscal 2020 and the decrease of 3% for fiscal 2020 compared to fiscal 2019 was primarily due to the impact of hiring tax credits on lower pre-tax earnings in fiscal 2020. The increase in effective tax rate of 1% for fiscal 2021 compared to fiscal 2019 was primarily due to resolution of uncertain tax positions with a state tax authority during fiscal 2019.

Our effective tax rate represents the applicable combined federal and state statutory rates reduced by the federal benefit of state taxes deductible on federal returns. Our effective rate is impacted by changes in tax law and accounting guidance, location of new stores, level of earnings, tax effects associated with share-based compensation, and the resolution of tax positions with various tax authorities.

In fiscal 2020, the CARES Act was signed into law. The CARES Act made several significant changes to business tax provisions including modifications for net operating losses, employee retention credits, and deferral of employer payroll tax payments. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (“CAA”) was signed into law during fiscal 2020. The CAA made several changes to business tax provisions including extending certain employment-related tax credits through December 31, 2025.

Net earnings. Net earnings as a percentage of sales for fiscal 2021 were higher than in fiscal 2020, primarily due to lower cost of goods sold, lower SG&A expenses, and lower interest expense, partially offset by higher taxes on earnings. Net earnings as a percentage of sales for fiscal 2020 were lower compared to fiscal 2019, primarily due to higher cost of goods sold, higher SG&A expenses, and higher interest expense. Net earnings as a percentage of sales for fiscal 2021 were lower than in fiscal 2019, primarily due to higher cost of goods sold, higher SG&A expenses, and higher interest expense, partially offset by lower taxes on earnings.

Earnings per share. Diluted earnings per share in fiscal 2021 was \$4.87, compared to \$0.24 in the prior year. The higher diluted earnings per share in fiscal 2021 were primarily attributable to all our store locations remaining open throughout fiscal 2021, compared to the negative impact from the COVID-19 related closures of all of our stores during a significant portion of the March 2020 to June 2020 period.

Diluted earnings per share in fiscal 2020 was \$0.24, compared to \$4.60 in fiscal 2019. The lower diluted earnings per share in fiscal 2020 was primarily attributable to lower sales due to the closing of all our store locations during a significant portion of the March 2020 to June 2020 period and the negative impacts on shopping behavior and customer demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic, higher markdowns to clear aged and seasonal inventory, long-term debt refinancing costs, payments to associates while our stores were closed (net of employee retention credits under the CARES Act), and higher expenditures for COVID-19 related measures.

Diluted earnings per share in fiscal 2021 was \$4.87, compared to \$4.60 in fiscal 2019. The 6% increase in diluted earnings per share for fiscal 2021 compared to fiscal 2019, was attributable to a 4% increase in net earnings, and to the reduction in weighted-average diluted shares outstanding of 2% for fiscal 2021, largely due to stock repurchases under our stock repurchase programs.

Financial Condition

Liquidity and Capital Resources

The primary sources of funds for our business activities have been cash flows from operations and short-term trade credit. Our primary ongoing cash requirements are for merchandise inventory purchases, payroll, operating and variable lease costs, taxes, and for capital expenditures in connection with new and existing stores, and investments in distribution centers, information systems, and buying and corporate offices. We also use cash to pay dividends, to repay debt as it becomes due, and to repurchase stock under active stock repurchase programs.

(\$ millions)	2021	2020	2019
Cash provided by operating activities	\$ 1,738.8	\$ 2,245.9	\$ 2,171.5
Cash used in investing activities	(557.8)	(405.4)	(555.0)
Cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(1,152.4)	1,701.9	(1,683.2)
Net increase (decrease) in cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash and cash equivalents	\$ 28.6	\$ 3,542.4	\$ (66.7)

In this report, we compare our cash flows from operating activities to both fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2019. We believe fiscal 2019 is a more useful and relevant basis of comparison given that our stores were open for full 52-week periods in fiscal 2021 and fiscal 2019. Our cash flows from investing and financing activities are compared to fiscal 2020, given the construction of our Brookshire, Texas distribution center during fiscal 2020 and 2021, and the significant financing actions we took in fiscal 2020 to preserve our financial liquidity and enhance our financial flexibility in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Operating Activities

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$1.7 billion in fiscal 2021. This was primarily driven by net earnings excluding non-cash expenses for depreciation, amortization, and stock-based compensation, partially offset by higher merchandise inventory receipts net of accounts payable. Net cash provided by operating activities was \$2.2 billion in fiscal 2020. This was primarily driven by higher accounts payable due to longer payment terms, lower merchandise receipts as we closely managed inventory levels and used packaway inventory to replenish our stores, and net earnings excluding non-cash expenses for depreciation, amortization, and stock-based compensation. Net cash provided by operating activities was \$2.2 billion in fiscal 2019, and was primarily driven by net earnings excluding non-cash expenses for depreciation, amortization, and stock-based compensation, and for deferred taxes.

The decrease in cash flow from operating activities in fiscal 2021 compared to fiscal 2020 was primarily driven by lower Accounts payable leverage (defined as accounts payable divided by merchandise inventory), partially offset by higher net earnings in the current year. Accounts payable leverage was 105% and 150% as of January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021, respectively. The decrease in Accounts payable leverage in fiscal 2021 compared to fiscal 2020 was primarily driven by higher merchandise receipts to support higher sales and to replenish our packaway inventory.

The increase in cash flow from operating activities in fiscal 2020 compared to fiscal 2019 was primarily driven by higher Accounts payable leverage. Accounts payable leverage was 150% and 71% as of January 30, 2021, and February 1, 2020, respectively. The increase in Accounts payable leverage in fiscal 2020 compared to fiscal 2019 was primarily driven by lower packaway and in-store inventory and longer payment terms.

The decrease in cash flow from operating activities in fiscal 2021 compared to fiscal 2019 was primarily driven by higher merchandise receipts to support higher sales and to replenish packaway inventory, partially offset by higher incentive bonus accruals and higher net earnings.

As a regular part of our business, packaway inventory levels will vary over time based on availability of compelling merchandise purchase opportunities in the marketplace and our decisions on the timing for release of that inventory. Packaway merchandise is purchased with the intent that it will be stored in our warehouses until a later date. The timing of the release of packaway inventory to our stores is principally driven by the product mix and seasonality of the merchandise, and its relation to our store merchandise assortment plans. As such, the aging of packaway varies by merchandise category and seasonality of purchase, but typically packaway remains in storage less than six months. We expect to continue to take advantage of packaway inventory opportunities to maximize our ability to deliver bargains to our customers.

Changes in packaway inventory levels impact our operating cash flow. At the end of fiscal 2021, packaway inventory was 40% of total inventory compared to 38% and 46% at the end of fiscal 2020 and 2019, respectively.

Investing Activities

Net cash used in investing activities was \$557.8 million, \$405.4 million, and \$555.0 million in fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019, respectively, and was related to capital expenditures. Our capital expenditures include costs to build, expand, and improve distribution centers (primarily related to the construction of our Brookshire, Texas distribution center); open new stores and improve existing stores; and for various other expenditures related to our information technology systems, buying and corporate offices.

The increase in cash used for investing activities in fiscal 2021 compared to fiscal 2020 was primarily due to an increase in our capital expenditures related to the resumption of capital projects deferred during fiscal 2020. The decrease in cash used for investing activities in fiscal 2020 compared to fiscal 2019 was primarily due to our actions to preserve our financial liquidity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and related economic disruptions. We opened 65, 66, and 98 new stores in fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019, respectively.

Our capital expenditures over the last three years are set forth in the table below:

(\$ millions)	2021	2020	2019
New stores	\$ 124.9	\$ 81.1	\$ 137.4
Existing stores	103.3	54.8	125.3
Information systems, corporate, and other	50.3	38.3	91.8
Distribution and transportation	279.3	231.2	201.0
Total capital expenditures	\$ 557.8	\$ 405.4	\$ 555.5

Capital expenditures for fiscal 2022 are projected to be approximately \$800 million. Our planned capital expenditures for fiscal 2022 are expected to be used for investments in our supply chain to support long-term growth, including construction of our next distribution center, costs for fixtures and leasehold improvements to open planned new Ross and dd's DISCOUNTS stores, investments in certain information technology systems, and for various other needed expenditures related to our stores, distribution centers, buying, and corporate offices. We expect to fund capital expenditures with available cash. The increase in our planned capital expenditures for fiscal 2022 compared to fiscal 2021 is primarily driven by the upgrade or remodeling of existing stores, costs for fixtures and leasehold improvements to open planned new Ross and dd's DISCOUNTS stores, construction of our next distribution center, investments in information technology systems, and for various other needed expenditures related to our stores, distribution centers, buying, and corporate offices.

Financing Activities

Net cash used in financing activities was \$1.2 billion in fiscal 2021. Net cash provided by financing activities was \$1.7 billion in fiscal 2020. Net cash used in financing activities was \$1.7 billion in fiscal 2019. The decrease in cash provided by financing activities for fiscal 2021, compared to fiscal 2020, was primarily due to the completion of our public debt offerings, net of refinancing costs in fiscal 2020, the resumption of our share repurchases in the second quarter of fiscal 2021, the resumption of cash dividend payments in the first quarter of fiscal 2021, and the repayment of our Series B unsecured Senior Notes. The increase in cash provided by financing activities for fiscal 2020, compared to fiscal 2019, was primarily due to the completion of our public debt offerings, net of repurchase and refinancing costs in fiscal 2020, and the suspension of our share repurchases and dividends in the second quarter of 2020.

Revolving credit facilities. In February 2022 (the “Effective Date”), we entered into a new, \$1.3 billion senior unsecured revolving Credit Agreement (the “2022 Credit Facility”), which replaced our previous \$800 million unsecured revolving credit facility (the “Prior Credit Facility”). The 2022 Credit Facility expires in February 2027, and may be extended, at our option, for up to two additional one year periods, subject to customary conditions. The new facility contains a \$300 million sublimit for issuance of standby letters of credit. It also contains an option allowing us to increase the size of our credit facility by up to an additional \$700 million, with the agreement of the committing lenders. The interest rate on borrowings under the 2022 Credit Facility is a term rate based on the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (“Term SOFR”) (or an alternate benchmark rate, if Term SOFR is no longer available) plus an applicable margin, and is payable quarterly and upon maturity. The 2022 Credit Facility is subject to a quarterly Consolidated Adjusted Debt to Consolidated EBITDAR financial leverage ratio covenant, effective the first quarter of fiscal 2022.

On the Effective Date of the 2022 Credit Facility, the Prior Credit Facility was terminated and was replaced by the new 2022 Credit Facility. As of January 29, 2022, we had no borrowings or standby letters of credit outstanding under the Prior Credit Facility, the \$800 million credit facility remained in place and available, and we were in compliance with the financial covenant.

In March 2020, we borrowed \$800 million under the Prior Credit Facility. Interest on the loan was based on LIBOR plus 0.875% (or 1.76%). In May 2020, we amended the Prior Credit Facility to temporarily suspend for the second and third quarters of fiscal 2020 the Consolidated Adjusted Debt to EBITDAR ratio financial covenant, and to apply a transitional modification to that ratio, effective in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2020. In October 2020, we repaid in full the \$800 million we borrowed under the Prior Credit Facility.

In May 2020, we also entered into an additional \$500 million 364-day senior revolving credit facility which was scheduled to expire in April 2021. In October 2020, we terminated this senior revolving credit facility. We had no borrowings under that credit facility at any time.

Senior notes. In April 2020, we issued an aggregate of \$2.0 billion in unsecured senior notes in four tenors as follows: \$700 million of 4.600% Senior Notes due April 2025, \$400 million of 4.700% Senior Notes due April 2027, \$400 million of 4.800% Senior Notes due April 2030, and \$500 million of 5.450% Senior Notes due April 2050.

In October 2020, we accepted for purchase approximately \$775 million in aggregate principal amount of senior notes pursuant to cash tender offers as follows: \$351 million of the 2050 Notes, \$266 million of the 2030 Notes, and \$158 million of the 2027 Notes. We paid approximately \$1.003 billion in aggregate consideration (including transaction costs, and accrued and unpaid interest) and recorded an approximately \$240 million loss on the early extinguishment for the accepted notes.

In October 2020, we also issued an aggregate of \$1.0 billion in unsecured senior notes in two tenors as follows: 0.875% Senior Notes due April 2026 (the “2026 Notes”) with an aggregate principal amount of \$500 million and 1.875% Senior Notes due April 2031 (the “2031 Notes”) with an aggregate principal amount of \$500 million. Cash proceeds, net of discounts and other issuance costs, were approximately \$987.2 million. We used the net proceeds from the offering of the 2026 and 2031 Notes to fund the purchase of the accepted notes from our tender offers.

In December 2021, we repaid at maturity the \$65 million principal amount of the Series B 6.530% unsecured Senior Notes.

Other financing activities. In March 2019, our Board of Directors had approved a two-year \$2.55 billion stock repurchase program through fiscal 2020. Due to the economic uncertainty stemming from the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, we suspended that stock repurchase program in March 2020, at which time we had repurchased \$1.407 billion under the \$2.55 billion stock repurchase program. In May 2021, our Board of Directors authorized a program to repurchase up to \$1.5 billion of our common stock through fiscal 2022, with plans to buy back \$650 million in fiscal 2021 and \$850 million in fiscal 2022. In March 2022, our Board of Directors approved a new two-year program to repurchase up to \$1.9 billion of our common stock through fiscal 2023. This new program replaces the previous \$1.5 billion stock repurchase program, effective at the end of fiscal 2021 (at which time we had repurchased \$650 million under the previous \$1.5 billion program).

We repurchased 5.7 million, 1.2 million, and 12.3 million shares of common stock for aggregate purchase prices of approximately \$650 million, \$132 million, and \$1,275 million in fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019, respectively. We also acquired 0.5 million, 0.5 million, and 0.6 million shares in fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019, respectively, of treasury stock from our employee stock equity compensation programs, for aggregate purchase prices of approximately \$57.3 million, \$45.2 million, and \$60.7 million during fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019, respectively.

On March 1, 2022, our Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.310 per common share, payable on March 31, 2022. Our Board of Directors declared quarterly cash dividends of \$0.285 per common share in March, May, August, and November 2021, respectively. Prior to fiscal 2021, our most recent quarterly dividend was a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.285 per common share declared by our Board of Directors in March 2020. In May 2020, we temporarily suspended our quarterly dividends, due to the economic uncertainty stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Board of Directors declared quarterly cash dividends of \$0.255 per common share in March, May, August, and November 2019, respectively.

During fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019, we paid dividends of \$405.1 million, \$101.4 million, and \$369.8 million, respectively.

Short-term trade credit represents a significant source of financing for our merchandise inventory. Trade credit arises from customary payment terms and trade practices with our vendors. We regularly review the adequacy of credit available to us from all sources and expect to be able to maintain adequate trade credit, bank credit facility, and other credit sources to meet our capital and liquidity requirements, including lease and interest payment obligations.

During fiscal 2021 and 2019, our liquidity and capital requirements were provided by available cash and cash flows from operations. During fiscal 2020, our liquidity and capital requirements were provided by available cash and cash flows from operations and our long-term debt financing.

We ended fiscal 2021 with \$4.9 billion of unrestricted cash balances, and as of the Effective Date we have \$1.3 billion available under our senior unsecured revolving credit facility. We estimate that existing cash and cash equivalent balances, cash flows from operations, bank credit facility, and trade credit are adequate to meet our operating cash needs and to fund our planned capital investments, common stock repurchases, and quarterly dividend payments for at least the next 12 months.

Contractual Obligations

The table below presents our significant contractual obligations as of January 29, 2022:

(\$000)	Less than 1 year	Greater than 1 year	Total ¹
Recorded contractual obligations:			
Senior notes	\$ —	\$ 2,474,991	\$ 2,474,991
Operating leases	652,365	2,529,515	3,181,880
New York buying office ground lease ²	6,274	961,705	967,979
Unrecorded contractual obligations:			
Real estate obligations ³	11,715	241,469	253,184
Interest payment obligations	80,316	515,450	595,766
Purchase obligations ⁴	5,026,221	14,991	5,041,212
Total contractual obligations	\$ 5,776,891	\$ 6,738,121	\$ 12,515,012

¹ We have a \$65.4 million liability for unrecognized tax benefits that is included in Other long-term liabilities on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. This liability is excluded from the schedule above as the timing of payments cannot be reasonably estimated.

² Our New York buying office building is subject to a 99-year ground lease.

³ Minimum lease payments for operating leases signed that have not yet commenced.

⁴ Purchase obligations primarily consist of merchandise inventory purchase orders, commitments related to construction projects, store fixtures and supplies, and information technology services, transportation, and maintenance contracts.

Supply chain finance program. We facilitate a voluntary supply chain finance program (the “program”) to provide certain suppliers with the opportunity to sell receivables due from us to a participating financial institution at the sole discretion of both the suppliers and the financial institution. A third party administers the program; our responsibility is limited to making payment on the terms originally negotiated with the supplier, regardless of whether the supplier sells its receivable to a financial institution. We do not enter into agreements with the participating financial institution in connection with the program. The range of payment terms we negotiate with our suppliers is consistent, irrespective of whether a supplier participates in the program.

All outstanding payments owed under the program are recorded within Accounts payable in the Consolidated Balance Sheets. The amounts owed to a participating financial institution under the program and included in Accounts payable were \$272.7 million and \$15.6 million at January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021, respectively. We account for all payments made under the program as a reduction to operating cash flows in Accounts payable within the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows. The amounts settled through the program and paid to the participating financial institution were \$430.1 million and \$2.6 million during fiscal 2021 and 2020, respectively.

Standby letters of credit and collateral trust. We use standby letters of credit outside of our revolving credit facility in addition to a funded trust to collateralize some of our insurance obligations. We also use standby letters of credit outside of our revolving credit facility to collateralize some of our trade payable obligations. As of January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021, we had \$3.3 million and \$15.3 million, respectively, in standby letters of credit outstanding, and \$56.7 million and \$56.1 million, respectively, in a collateral trust. The standby letters of credit are collateralized by restricted cash and the collateral trust consists of restricted cash, cash equivalents, and investments.

Trade letters of credit. We had \$19.3 million and \$16.3 million in trade letters of credit outstanding at January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021, respectively.

Other than the unrecorded contractual obligations noted above, we do not have any material off-balance sheet arrangements as of January 29, 2022.

Other

Critical Accounting Estimates

The preparation of our consolidated financial statements requires our management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts. These estimates and assumptions are evaluated on an ongoing basis and are based on historical experience and on various other factors that management believes to be reasonable. We believe the following critical accounting estimates describe the more significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements and are not intended to be a comprehensive list of all of our accounting estimates.

Merchandise inventory. Our merchandise inventory is stated at the lower of cost (determined using a weighted-average basis) or net realizable value. Merchandise inventory includes acquisition, transportation, processing, and storage costs related to packaway inventory. Included in the carrying value of our merchandise inventory is a provision for shortage. The shortage reserve is based on historical shortage rates as determined through our annual physical merchandise inventory counts and cycle counts. Historically, our actual physical inventory count results have shown our provision for shortage to be reliable. If actual market conditions are less favorable than those projected by us, or if sales of the merchandise inventory are more difficult than anticipated, additional merchandise inventory write-downs may be required beyond our normal markdowns taken to clear seasonal and aged inventory. As a measure of sensitivity, a five percent change in shortage rates as of January 29, 2022, would not have materially impacted our cost of goods sold in fiscal 2021.

Lease accounting. In determining the present value of lease payments, for use in the calculation of the operating lease liabilities and right-of-use assets, we use the estimated collateralized incremental borrowing rate based on information available at the lease commencement date. Since our leases generally do not provide an implicit discount rate, this rate is determined using a portfolio approach based on the risk-adjusted rate of interest, and requires estimates and assumptions including credit rating, credit spread, and adjustments for the impact of collateral. Changes in these inputs can increase or decrease the recorded operating lease assets and related lease liabilities for new leases, and for remeasurements or modifications of existing leases. We believe that this approximates the rate we would have to pay to borrow an amount equal to the lease payments on a collateralized basis over a similar lease term.

Insurance obligations. We use a combination of insurance and self-insurance for a number of risk management activities, including workers' compensation, general liability, and employee-related health care benefits. Our self-insurance and deductible liability is determined actuarially, based on claims filed and an estimate of claims incurred but not reported. Should a greater amount of claims occur compared to what is estimated or the costs of medical care increase beyond what was anticipated, our recorded reserves may not be sufficient and additional charges could be required. A five percent increase or decrease in our insurance reserves would not have materially impacted our net earnings in fiscal 2021.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

See Note A to the Consolidated Financial Statements - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Recently issued accounting standards and Recently adopted accounting standards) for a discussion of recent accounting pronouncements and their impact to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

Forward-Looking Statements

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal 2021, and information we provide in our Annual Report to Stockholders, press releases, and other investor communications including those on our corporate website, may contain a number of forward-looking statements regarding, without limitation, the rapidly developing challenges and our plans and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and related economic and supply chain disruptions, including adjustments to our operations, and planned new store growth, new markets, expected sales, projected earnings levels, capital expenditures, and other matters. These forward-looking statements reflect our then current beliefs, plans, and estimates with respect to future events and our projected financial performance, operations, and competitive position. The words "plan," "expect," "target," "anticipate," "estimate," "believe," "forecast," "projected," "guidance," "looking ahead," and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements.

Future impact from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and other economic and industry trends that could potentially impact revenue, profitability, operating conditions, and growth are difficult to predict. Our forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties which could cause our actual results to differ materially from those forward-looking statements and our previous expectations, plans, and projections. Refer to Item 1A in this Annual Report on Form 10-K for a more complete discussion of risk factors for Ross and dd's DISCOUNTS. The factors underlying our forecasts are dynamic and subject to change. As a result, any forecasts or forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are given and do not necessarily reflect our outlook at any other point in time. We disclaim any obligation to update or revise these forward-looking statements.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

We are exposed to market risks, which primarily include changes in interest rates. We do not engage in financial transactions for trading or speculative purposes.

We occasionally use forward contracts to hedge against fluctuations in foreign currency prices. We had no outstanding forward contracts as of January 29, 2022.

Interest that is payable on our revolving credit facility is based on variable interest rates and is, therefore, affected by changes in market interest rates. As of January 29, 2022, we had no borrowings outstanding under our revolving credit facility.

As of January 29, 2022, we have outstanding seven series of unsecured Senior Notes. Interest that is payable on all series of our Senior Notes is based on fixed interest rates, and is therefore unaffected by changes in market interest rates.

We receive interest on our short- and long-term investments. Changes in interest rates may impact interest income recognized in the future, or the fair value of our investment portfolio.

A hypothetical 100 basis point increase or decrease in prevailing market interest rates would not have a material negative impact on our consolidated financial position, results of operations, cash flows, or the fair values of our short- and long-term investments as of and for the year ended January 29, 2022. We do not consider the potential losses in future earnings and cash flows from reasonably possible, near-term changes in interest rates to be material.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Consolidated Statements of Earnings

(\$000, except per share data)	Year Ended January 29, 2022	Year Ended January 30, 2021	Year Ended February 1, 2020
Sales	\$ 18,916,244	\$ 12,531,565	\$ 16,039,073
Costs and Expenses			
Cost of goods sold	13,708,907	9,838,574	11,536,187
Selling, general and administrative	2,874,469	2,503,281	2,356,704
Interest expense (income), net	74,328	83,413	(18,106)
Total costs and expenses	16,657,704	12,425,268	13,874,785
Earnings before taxes	2,258,540	106,297	2,164,288
Provision for taxes on earnings	535,951	20,915	503,360
Net earnings	\$ 1,722,589	\$ 85,382	\$ 1,660,928
Earnings per share			
Basic	\$ 4.90	\$ 0.24	\$ 4.63
Diluted	\$ 4.87	\$ 0.24	\$ 4.60
Weighted-average shares outstanding (000)			
Basic	351,496	352,392	358,462
Diluted	353,734	354,619	361,182

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income

(\$000)	Year Ended January 29, 2022	Year Ended January 30, 2021	Year Ended February 1, 2020
Net earnings	\$ 1,722,589	\$ 85,382	\$ 1,660,928
Other comprehensive income (loss)	—	—	—
Comprehensive income	\$ 1,722,589	\$ 85,382	\$ 1,660,928

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Consolidated Balance Sheets

(\$000, except share data)	January 29, 2022	January 30, 2021
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,922,365	\$ 4,819,293
Accounts receivable	119,247	115,067
Merchandise inventory	2,262,273	1,508,982
Prepaid expenses and other	169,291	249,149
Total current assets	7,473,176	6,692,491
Property and Equipment		
Land and buildings	1,240,246	1,187,045
Fixtures and equipment	3,425,762	3,243,206
Leasehold improvements	1,332,687	1,278,134
Construction-in-progress	574,333	376,076
Total property and equipment	6,573,028	6,084,461
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	3,674,501	3,373,965
Property and equipment, net	2,898,527	2,710,496
Operating lease assets	3,027,272	3,084,819
Other long-term assets	241,281	230,061
Total assets	\$ 13,640,256	\$ 12,717,867
Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 2,372,302	\$ 2,256,928
Accrued expenses and other	613,089	592,122
Current operating lease liabilities	630,517	598,120
Accrued payroll and benefits	588,772	400,273
Income taxes payable	10,249	54,680
Current portion of long-term debt	—	64,910
Total current liabilities	4,214,929	3,967,033
Long-term debt	2,452,325	2,448,175
Non-current operating lease liabilities	2,539,297	2,621,594
Other long-term liabilities	236,013	268,558
Deferred income taxes	137,642	121,867
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders' Equity		
Common stock, par value \$0.01 per share	3,517	3,565
Authorized 1,000,000,000 shares		
Issued and outstanding 351,720,000 and 356,503,000 shares, respectively		
Additional paid-in capital	1,717,530	1,579,824
Treasury stock	(535,895)	(478,550)
Retained earnings	2,874,898	2,185,801
Total stockholders' equity	4,060,050	3,290,640
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 13,640,256	\$ 12,717,867

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity

(000)	Common stock		Additional paid-in capital	Treasury stock	Retained earnings	Total
	Shares	Amount				
Balance at February 2, 2019	368,242	\$ 3,682	\$ 1,375,965	\$ (372,663)	\$ 2,298,762	\$ 3,305,746
Net earnings	—	—	—	—	1,660,928	1,660,928
Cumulative effect of adoption of accounting standard (leases), net	—	—	—	—	(19,614)	(19,614)
Common stock issued under stock plans, net of shares used for tax withholding	793	8	22,201	(60,665)	—	(38,456)
Stock-based compensation	—	—	95,438	—	—	95,438
Common stock repurchased	(12,260)	(122)	(35,297)	—	(1,239,581)	(1,275,000)
Dividends declared (\$1.020 per share)	—	—	—	—	(369,793)	(369,793)
Balance at February 1, 2020	356,775	\$ 3,568	\$ 1,458,307	\$ (433,328)	\$ 2,330,702	\$ 3,359,249
Net earnings	—	—	—	—	85,382	85,382
Common stock issued under stock plans, net of shares used for tax withholding	899	9	23,525	(45,222)	—	(21,688)
Stock-based compensation	—	—	101,568	—	—	101,568
Common stock repurchased	(1,171)	(12)	(3,576)	—	(128,879)	(132,467)
Dividends declared (\$0.285 per share)	—	—	—	—	(101,404)	(101,404)
Balance at January 30, 2021	356,503	\$ 3,565	\$ 1,579,824	\$ (478,550)	\$ 2,185,801	\$ 3,290,640
Net earnings	—	—	—	—	1,722,589	1,722,589
Common stock issued under stock plans, net of shares used for tax withholding	905	9	25,060	(57,345)	—	(32,276)
Stock-based compensation	—	—	134,217	—	—	134,217
Common stock repurchased	(5,688)	(57)	(21,571)	—	(628,369)	(649,997)
Dividends declared (\$1.140 per share)	—	—	—	—	(405,123)	(405,123)
Balance at January 29, 2022	351,720	\$ 3,517	\$ 1,717,530	\$ (535,895)	\$ 2,874,898	\$ 4,060,050

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(\$'000)	Year Ended January 29, 2022	Year Ended January 30, 2021	Year Ended February 1, 2020
Cash Flows From Operating Activities			
Net earnings	\$ 1,722,589	\$ 85,382	\$ 1,660,928
Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	360,664	364,245	350,892
Loss on early extinguishment of debt	—	239,953	—
Stock-based compensation	134,217	101,568	95,438
Deferred income taxes	15,775	(27,812)	32,009
Change in assets and liabilities:			
Merchandise inventory	(753,291)	323,357	(81,897)
Other current assets	1,420	(39,406)	(10,315)
Accounts payable	135,311	938,837	114,153
Other current liabilities	198,595	171,444	30,513
Income taxes	(44,579)	39,806	(35,239)
Operating lease assets and liabilities, net	7,647	13,669	15,631
Other long-term, net	(39,499)	34,890	(567)
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,738,849	2,245,933	2,171,546
Cash Flows From Investing Activities			
Additions to property and equipment	(557,840)	(405,433)	(555,483)
Proceeds from investments	—	—	517
Net cash used in investing activities	(557,840)	(405,433)	(554,966)
Cash Flows From Financing Activities			
Issuance of common stock related to stock plans	25,069	23,534	22,209
Treasury stock purchased	(57,345)	(45,222)	(60,665)
Repurchase of common stock	(649,997)	(132,467)	(1,275,000)
Dividends paid	(405,123)	(101,404)	(369,793)
Net proceeds from issuance of short-term debt	—	805,601	—
Payments of short-term debt	—	(805,601)	—
Net proceeds from issuance of long-term debt	—	2,965,115	—
Payments of long-term debt	(65,000)	(775,009)	—
Payments of debt extinguishment and debt issuance costs	—	(232,688)	—
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(1,152,396)	1,701,859	(1,683,249)
Net increase (decrease) in cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash and cash equivalents	28,613	3,542,359	(66,669)
Cash and cash equivalents, and restricted cash and cash equivalents:			
Beginning of year	4,953,769	1,411,410	1,478,079
End of year	\$ 4,982,382	\$ 4,953,769	\$ 1,411,410
Supplemental Cash Flow Disclosures			
Interest paid	\$ 84,331	\$ 72,471	\$ 12,682
Income taxes paid	\$ 564,755	\$ 8,921	\$ 506,591

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Note A: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Business. Ross Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries (the “Company”) is an off-price retailer of first-quality, in-season, name brand and designer apparel, accessories, footwear, and home fashions for the entire family. At the end of fiscal 2021, the Company operated 1,628 Ross Dress for Less® (“Ross”) locations in 40 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam, and 295 dd’s DISCOUNTS® stores in 21 states. The Ross and dd’s DISCOUNTS stores are supported by the Company’s headquarters, buying offices, and its network of distribution centers/warehouses.

Segment reporting. The Company has one reportable segment. The Company’s operations include only activities related to off-price retailing in stores throughout the United States.

Basis of presentation and fiscal year. The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its subsidiaries, all of which are wholly-owned. Intercompany transactions and accounts have been eliminated. The Company follows the National Retail Federation fiscal calendar and utilizes a 52-53 week fiscal year whereby the fiscal year ends on the Saturday nearest to January 31. The fiscal years ended January 29, 2022, January 30, 2021 and February 1, 2020 are referred to as fiscal 2021, fiscal 2020, and fiscal 2019, respectively, and were 52-week years.

Use of accounting estimates. The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in the United States of America (“GAAP”) requires the Company to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. The Company’s significant accounting estimates include valuation reserves for inventory, packaway and other inventory carrying costs, useful lives of fixed assets, insurance reserves, reserves for uncertain tax positions, employee retention credits under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the “CARES Act”), and legal claims. The uncertainties and impacts from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic increase the challenge of making these estimates; actual results could differ materially from the Company’s estimates.

Purchase obligations. As of January 29, 2022, the Company had purchase obligations of approximately \$5.0 billion. These purchase obligations primarily consist of merchandise inventory purchase orders, commitments related to construction projects, store fixtures and supplies, and information technology services, transportation, and maintenance contracts.

Cash and cash equivalents. Cash equivalents consist of highly liquid, fixed income instruments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less.

Restricted cash, cash equivalents, and investments. Restricted cash, cash equivalents, and investments serve as collateral for certain insurance obligations and has also served as collateral for certain trade payable obligations of the Company. These restricted funds are invested in bank deposits, money market mutual funds, U.S. Government and agency securities, and corporate securities and cannot be withdrawn from the Company’s account without the prior written consent of the secured parties. The classification between current and long-term is based on the timing of expected payments of the obligations.

The following table provides a reconciliation of cash, cash equivalents, restricted cash and cash equivalents in the Consolidated Balance Sheets that reconcile to the amounts shown on the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows:

(\$000)	2021	2020	2019
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,922,365	\$ 4,819,293	\$ 1,351,205
Restricted cash and cash equivalents included in:			
Prepaid expenses and other	11,403	85,711	10,235
Other long-term assets	48,614	48,765	49,970
Total restricted cash and cash equivalents	60,017	134,476	60,205
Total cash and cash equivalents, and restricted cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,982,382	\$ 4,953,769	\$ 1,411,410

The Company had no restricted investments as of January 29, 2022, January 30, 2021, and February 1, 2020.

Estimated fair value of financial instruments. The carrying value of cash and cash equivalents, short- and long-term investments, restricted cash and cash equivalents, restricted investments, accounts receivable, other long-term assets, accounts payable, and other long-term liabilities approximates their estimated fair value. See Note B and Note D for additional fair value information.

Cash and cash equivalents were \$4,922.4 million and \$4,819.3 million, at January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021, respectively, and include bank deposits and money market funds for which the fair value was determined using quoted prices for identical assets in active markets, which are considered to be Level 1 inputs under the fair value measurements and disclosures guidance.

Merchandise inventory. Merchandise inventory is stated at the lower of cost (determined using a weighted-average basis) or net realizable value. The Company purchases inventory that can either be shipped to stores or processed as packaway merchandise with the intent that it will be warehoused and released to stores at a later date. The timing of the release of packaway inventory to the stores is principally driven by the product mix and seasonality of the merchandise, and its relation to the Company's store merchandise assortment plans. As such, the aging of packaway varies by merchandise category and seasonality of purchase, but typically packaway remains in storage less than six months. Merchandise inventory includes acquisition, transportation, processing, and storage costs related to packaway inventory. The cost of the Company's merchandise inventory is reduced by valuation reserves for shortage based on historical shortage experience from the Company's physical merchandise inventory counts and cycle counts.

Cost of goods sold. In addition to product costs, the Company includes in cost of goods sold its buying, distribution, and freight expenses as well as occupancy costs, and depreciation and amortization related to the Company's retail stores, buying, and distribution facilities. Buying expenses include costs to procure merchandise inventories. Distribution expenses include the cost of operating the Company's distribution centers, warehouses, and cross-dock facilities.

Property and equipment. Property and equipment are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation and amortization. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of the asset, typically ranging from three years to 12 years for equipment, 20 years to 40 years for land improvements and buildings, and three years to seven years for computer software costs incurred in developing or obtaining software for internal use. The cost of leasehold improvements is amortized over the useful life of the asset or the applicable lease term, whichever is less. Depreciation and amortization expense on property and equipment was \$360.7 million, \$364.2 million, and \$350.9 million for fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019, respectively. The Company capitalizes interest during the construction period of facilities and during the development and implementation phase of software projects. Interest capitalized was \$14.5 million, \$12.3 million, and \$4.4 million in fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019, respectively. As of January 29, 2022, January 30, 2021, and February 1, 2020 the Company had \$47.3 million, \$56.2 million, and \$40.3 million, respectively, of property and equipment purchased but not yet paid. These purchases are included in Property and Equipment and in Accounts payable and Accrued expenses and other in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Other long-term assets. Other long-term assets as of January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021 consisted of the following:

(\$000)	2021	2020
Deferred compensation (Note B)	\$ 163,891	\$ 159,116
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	48,614	48,765
Other	28,776	22,180
Total	\$ 241,281	\$ 230,061

Impairment of long-lived assets. Property and other long-term assets that are subject to depreciation and amortization are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable based on estimated undiscounted future cash flows. For stores that are closed, the Company records an impairment charge, if appropriate, or accelerates depreciation over the revised useful life of the asset. Intangible assets that are not subject to amortization, including goodwill, are tested for impairment annually or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the asset may be impaired. No material impairment charges were recorded during fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019.

Accounts payable. Accounts payable represents amounts owed to third parties at the end of the period. Accounts payable includes book cash overdrafts (checks issued under zero balance accounts not yet presented for payment) in excess of cash balances in such accounts of approximately \$99.1 million and \$63.5 million at January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021, respectively. The Company includes the change in book cash overdrafts in operating cash flows.

Insurance obligations. The Company uses a combination of insurance and self-insurance for a number of risk management activities, including workers' compensation, general liability, and employee-related health care benefits. The self-insurance and deductible liability is determined actuarially, based on claims filed and an estimate of claims incurred but not yet reported. Self-insurance and deductible reserves as of January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021 consisted of the following:

(\$000)	2021	2020
Workers' compensation	\$ 83,771	\$ 83,900
General liability	45,589	42,575
Medical plans	7,660	7,727
Total	\$ 137,020	\$ 134,202

Workers' compensation and self-insured medical plan liabilities are included in Accrued payroll and benefits, and accruals for general liability are included in Accrued expenses and other in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Other long-term liabilities. Other long-term liabilities as of January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021 consisted of the following:

(\$000)	2021	2020
Income taxes (Note F)	\$ 65,359	\$ 65,507
Deferred compensation (Note G)	163,891	159,116
Deferred social security taxes	—	36,701
Other	6,763	7,234
Total	\$ 236,013	\$ 268,558

Lease accounting. As the Company's leases generally do not provide an implicit discount rate, the Company uses the estimated collateralized incremental borrowing rate based on information available at the lease commencement date in determining the present value of lease payments for use in the calculation of the operating lease liabilities and right-of-use assets. This rate is determined using a portfolio approach based on the risk-adjusted rate of interest and requires estimates and assumptions including credit rating, credit spread, and adjustments for the impact of collateral. The Company believes that this is the rate it would have to pay to borrow an amount equal to the lease payments on a collateralized basis over a similar lease term. Operating lease liabilities and corresponding right-of-use assets include options to extend lease terms that are reasonably certain of being exercised. The Company does not record a lease liability and corresponding right-of-use asset for leases with terms of 12 months or less, and accounts for lease and non-lease components as a single lease component. The Company's lease portfolio is comprised of operating leases with the lease cost recorded on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") provided relief under Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2016-02, *Leases* (Accounting Standards Codification "ASC" 842). Under this relief, companies can make a policy election on how to treat lease concessions resulting directly from the COVID-19 pandemic, provided that the modified contracts result in total cash flows that are substantially the same or less than the cash flows in the original contract.

The Company made the policy election to account for lease concessions that result from the COVID-19 pandemic as if they were made under enforceable rights in the original contract. Additionally, the Company made the policy election to account for these concessions outside of the lease modification framework described under ASC 842. The Company recorded accruals for deferred rental payments and recognized rent abatements or concessions as variable lease costs in the periods incurred. Accruals for rent payment deferrals are included in Accrued expenses and other in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Revenue recognition. The Company recognizes revenue at the point of sale, net of sales taxes collected and an allowance for estimated future returns as required by ASU No. 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (ASC 606). The Company recognizes allowances for estimated sales returns on a gross basis as a reduction to sales. The asset recorded for the expected recovery of merchandise inventory was \$10.5 million, \$10.7 million, and \$10.7 million and the liability recorded for the refund due to the customer was \$20.3 million, \$21.2 million, and \$20.9 million as of January 29, 2022, January 30, 2021, and February 1, 2020, respectively. Sales taxes collected that are outstanding and the allowance for estimated future returns are included in Accrued expenses and other and the asset for expected recovery of merchandise is included in Prepaid expenses and other in the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Sales of stored value cards are deferred until they are redeemed for the purchase of Company merchandise. The Company's stored value cards do not have expiration dates. Based upon historical redemption rates, a small percentage of stored value cards will never be redeemed, which represents breakage. As a result of adopting ASC 606, breakage is estimated and recognized as revenue based upon the historical pattern of customer redemptions. Breakage was not material to the consolidated financial statements in fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019.

The following sales mix table disaggregates revenue by merchandise category for fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019:

	2021	2020	2019
Home Accents and Bed and Bath	26%	28%	25%
Ladies	25%	23%	26%
Men's	14%	14%	14%
Accessories, Lingerie, Fine Jewelry, and Cosmetics	14%	14%	13%
Shoes	12%	12%	13%
Children's	9%	9%	9%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Store pre-opening. Store pre-opening costs are expensed in the period incurred.

Advertising. Advertising costs are expensed in the period incurred and are included in Selling, general and administrative expenses. Advertising costs for fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019 were \$65.1 million, \$42.5 million, and \$74.0 million, respectively.

Stock-based compensation. The Company recognizes compensation expense based upon the grant date fair value of all stock-based awards, typically over the vesting period. See Note C for more information on the Company's stock-based compensation plans.

Taxes on earnings. The Company accounts for income taxes in accordance with ASC 740, "Accounting for Income Taxes," which requires the recognition of deferred tax assets and liabilities for the expected future tax consequences of events that have been recognized in the Company's consolidated financial statements or tax returns. In estimating future tax consequences, the Company generally considers all expected future events other than changes in the tax law or tax rates. ASC 740 clarifies the criteria that an individual tax position must satisfy for some or all of the benefits of that position to be recognized in a company's consolidated financial statements. ASC 740 prescribes a recognition threshold of more-likely-than-not, and a measurement standard for all tax positions taken or expected to be taken on a tax return, in order for those tax positions to be recognized in the consolidated financial statements. See Note F.

Treasury stock. The Company records treasury stock at cost. Treasury stock includes shares purchased from employees for tax withholding purposes related to vesting of restricted stock grants.

Earnings per share ("EPS"). The Company computes and reports both basic EPS and diluted EPS. Basic EPS is computed by dividing net earnings by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted EPS is computed by dividing net earnings by the sum of the weighted-average number of common shares and dilutive common stock equivalents outstanding during the period. Diluted EPS reflects the total potential dilution that could occur from outstanding equity plan awards and unvested shares of both performance and non-performance based awards of restricted stock and restricted stock units. For periods of net loss, basic and diluted EPS are the same as the effect of the assumed vesting of restricted stock, restricted stock units, and performance share awards are anti-dilutive.

In fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019 there were 3,500, 79,500, and 27,400 weighted-average shares, respectively, that were excluded from the calculation of diluted EPS because their effect would have been anti-dilutive for those years.

The following is a reconciliation of the number of shares (denominator) used in the basic and diluted EPS computations:

Shares in (000s)	Basic EPS	Effect of dilutive common stock equivalents	Diluted EPS
2021			
Shares	351,496	2,238	353,734
Amount	\$ 4.90	\$ (0.03)	\$ 4.87
2020			
Shares	352,392	2,227	354,619
Amount	\$ 0.24	\$ —	\$ 0.24
2019			
Shares	358,462	2,720	361,182
Amount	\$ 4.63	\$ (0.03)	\$ 4.60

Comprehensive income. Comprehensive income includes net earnings and components of other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax, consisting of unrealized investment gains or losses.

Recently issued accounting standards. In November 2021, the FASB issued ASU 2021-10, *Government Assistance (Topic 832): Disclosures by Business Entities about Government Assistance*, to increase the transparency of government assistance including the disclosure of the types of assistance an entity receives, an entity's method of accounting for government assistance, and the effect of government assistance on an entity's financial statements. The guidance in this Update will be effective for the Company for its fiscal 2022 Form 10-K, with early application of the amendments permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of this guidance on its disclosures in the consolidated financial statements.

Recently adopted accounting standards. In December 2019, the FASB issued ASU 2019-12, *Simplifying the Accounting for Income Taxes (ASC 740)*. ASU 2019-12 eliminates certain exceptions in ASC 740 related to the methodology for calculating income taxes in an interim period. It also clarifies and simplifies other aspects of the accounting for income taxes. The amendments in ASU 2019-12 are effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2020. Early adoption is permitted, including adoption in any interim period. The Company adopted ASU 2019-12 on a prospective basis in the first quarter of fiscal 2020. The most significant impact to the Company is the removal of a limit on the tax benefit recognized on pre-tax losses in interim periods. The adoption of this standard did not have a material impact on the Company's fiscal 2020 results.

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-02, *Leases (ASC 842)*, which along with subsequent amendments, supersedes the lease accounting requirements in ASC 840, *Leases*. The updated guidance requires balance sheet recognition for all leases with lease terms greater than one year including a lease liability, which is a lessee's obligation to make lease payments arising from a lease, measured on a discounted basis; and a right-of-use asset, which is an asset that represents the lessee's right to use, or control the use of, a specified asset for the lease term.

The Company adopted ASC 842 as of February 3, 2019 (the "effective date"), using the optional transition method on a modified retrospective basis. The Company did not elect the transitional package of practical expedients or the use of hindsight upon adoption of the ASC. The Company elected to not record a lease liability and corresponding right-of-use asset for leases with terms of 12 months or less, and to account for lease and non-lease components as a single lease component. Upon adoption, the Company recorded lease liabilities based on the present value of the remaining minimum rental payments, using incremental borrowing rates as of the effective date, of \$2.9 billion, and the corresponding right-of-use assets of \$2.9 billion. The Company also recorded a cumulative-effect adjustment to decrease beginning retained earnings of \$19.6 million, primarily related to the write-off of previously capitalized initial direct costs that are no longer capitalized under ASC 842, partially offset by the write-off of the deferred gain on a previous sale-leaseback transaction that meets the sale definition under ASC 842. Reporting periods beginning on or after February 3, 2019 are presented under ASC 842, while prior period amounts and disclosures were not adjusted and continue to be reported under ASC 840. Adoption of ASC 842 did not have a significant impact to the Company's consolidated statements of earnings or to the consolidated statements of cash flows.

Note B: Fair Value Measurements

Accounting standards pertaining to fair value measurements establish a three-tier fair value hierarchy which prioritizes the inputs used in measuring fair value. The inputs used to measure fair value include: Level 1, observable inputs such as quoted prices in active markets; Level 2, inputs other than quoted prices in active markets that are either directly or indirectly observable; and Level 3, unobservable inputs in which little or no market data exists. This fair value hierarchy requires the Company to develop its own assumptions and maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. Corporate, U.S. government and agency, and mortgage-backed securities are classified within Level 1 or Level 2 because these securities are valued using quoted market prices or alternative pricing sources and models utilizing market observable inputs.

The fair value of the Company's financial instruments as of January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021 are as follows:

(\$000)		2021		2020
Cash and cash equivalents (Level 1)	\$	4,922,365	\$	4,819,293
Restricted cash and cash equivalents (Level 1)	\$	60,017	\$	134,476

The underlying assets in the Company's non-qualified deferred compensation program as of January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021 (included in Other long-term assets and in Other long-term liabilities) primarily consist of participant-directed money market, stock, and bond funds. The fair value measurement for funds with quoted market prices in active markets (Level 1) are as follows:

(\$000)		2021		2020
Level 1	\$	163,891	\$	159,116

Note C: Management Incentive Plan and Stock-Based Compensation

The Company has incentive compensation programs which provide cash incentive bonuses and performance share awards to key management and employees based on Company and individual performance.

For fiscal 2021, the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors established the performance measures for determining incentive compensation amounts based on a combination of profitability-based performance goals and the attainment of specific management priorities related to business challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, as measured and approved by the Compensation Committee. As of January 29, 2022, the Company has established an accrual for this incentive compensation based on its attainment of the profitability-based performance goals and the Compensation Committee's assessment of achievement of the specific business priorities.

For the fiscal 2020 management incentive bonus plan and performance share awards, the Compensation Committee approved modifications in August 2020 to the performance measurement goals, to be based on the attainment of specific management priorities related to business challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, as measured and approved by the Compensation Committee, as an alternative to the previously established profitability-based performance goals for 2020.

For fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019, the Company recognized stock-based compensation expense as follows:

(\$000)		2021		2020		2019
Restricted stock	\$	72,210	\$	66,908	\$	54,975
Performance awards		57,582		30,506		36,542
ESPP		4,425		4,154		3,921
Total	\$	134,217	\$	101,568	\$	95,438

Capitalized stock-based compensation cost was not significant in any year.

At January 29, 2022, the Company had one active stock-based compensation plan, which is further described in Note H. The Company recognizes expense for ESPP purchase rights equal to the value of the 15% discount given on the purchase date.

Total stock-based compensation recognized in the Company's Consolidated Statements of Earnings for fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019 is as follows:

Statements of Earnings Classification (\$000)	2021		2020		2019	
Cost of goods sold	\$	66,500	\$	52,267	\$	54,265
Selling, general and administrative		67,717		49,301		41,173
Total	\$	134,217	\$	101,568	\$	95,438

The tax benefits related to stock-based compensation expense for fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019 were \$25.6 million, \$20.6 million, and \$18.5 million, respectively.

Note D: Debt

Long-term debt. Unsecured senior debt, net of unamortized discounts and debt issuance costs, as of January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021 consisted of the following:

(\$000)	2021		2020	
6.530% Series B Senior Notes due 2021	\$	—	\$	64,910
3.375% Senior Notes due 2024		248,808		248,365
4.600% Senior Notes due 2025		695,888		694,624
0.875% Senior Notes due 2026		494,814		493,595
4.700% Senior Notes due 2027		239,470		239,049
4.800% Senior Notes due 2030		132,431		132,262
1.875% Senior Notes due 2031		494,691		494,132
5.450% Senior Notes due 2050		146,223		146,148
Total long-term debt	\$	2,452,325	\$	2,513,085
Less: current portion		—		64,910
Total due beyond one year	\$	2,452,325	\$	2,448,175

In April 2020, the Company issued an aggregate of \$2.0 billion in unsecured senior notes in four tenors as follows: 4.600% Senior Notes due April 2025 (the "2025 Notes") with an aggregate principal amount of \$700 million, 4.700% Senior Notes due April 2027 (the "2027 Notes") with an aggregate principal amount of \$400 million, 4.800% Senior Notes due April 2030 (the "2030 Notes") with an aggregate principal amount of \$400 million, and 5.450% Senior Notes due April 2050 (the "2050 Notes") with an aggregate principal amount of \$500 million. Cash proceeds, net of discounts and other issuance costs, were approximately \$1.973 billion. Interest on the 2025, 2027, 2030, and 2050 Notes is payable semi-annually beginning October 2020.

In October 2020, the Company accepted for purchase approximately \$775 million in aggregate principal amount of senior notes pursuant to cash tender offers as follows: \$351 million of the 2050 Notes, \$266 million of the 2030 Notes, and \$158 million of the 2027 Notes. The Company paid approximately \$1.003 billion in aggregate consideration (including transaction costs, and accrued and unpaid interest) and recorded an approximately \$240 million loss on the early extinguishment for the accepted notes.

In October 2020, the Company issued an aggregate of \$1.0 billion in unsecured senior notes in two tenors as follows: 0.875% Senior Notes due April 2026 (the "2026 Notes") with an aggregate principal amount of \$500 million and 1.875% Senior Notes due April 2031 (the "2031 Notes") with an aggregate principal amount of \$500 million. Cash proceeds, net of discounts and other issuance costs, were approximately \$987.2 million. Interest on the 2026 and 2031 Notes is payable semi-annually beginning April 2021. The Company used the net proceeds from the offering of the 2026 and 2031 Notes to fund the purchase of the accepted notes from its tender offers.

In December 2021, the Company repaid at maturity the \$65 million principal amount of the Series B 6.530% unsecured Senior Notes.

As of January 29, 2022, the Company also had outstanding unsecured 3.375% Senior Notes due September 2024 (the "2024 Notes") with an aggregate principal amount of \$250 million. Interest on the 2024 Notes is payable semi-annually.

As of January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021, total unamortized discount and debt issuance costs were \$22.7 million and \$26.9 million, respectively, and were classified as a reduction of long-term debt.

All of the Senior Notes are subject to prepayment penalties for early payment of principal.

As of January 29, 2022, the aggregate fair value of the seven outstanding series of Senior Notes was approximately \$2.6 billion. As of January 30, 2021, the aggregate fair value of the eight then outstanding series of Senior Notes was approximately \$2.8 billion. The fair value is estimated by obtaining comparable market quotes which are considered to be Level 1 inputs under the fair value measurements and disclosures guidance.

The following table shows scheduled annual principal payments on long-term debt:

(\$000)	
2022	\$ —
2023	\$ —
2024	\$ 250,000
2025	\$ 700,000
2026	\$ 500,000
Thereafter	\$ 1,024,991

The table below shows the components of interest expense and income for fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019:

(\$000)	2021	2020	2019
Interest expense on long-term debt	\$ 88,286	\$ 88,544	\$ 13,139
Interest expense on short-term debt	—	7,863	—
Other interest expense	1,351	3,908	968
Capitalized interest	(14,476)	(12,251)	(4,367)
Interest income	(833)	(4,651)	(27,846)
Interest expense (income), net	\$ 74,328	\$ 83,413	\$ (18,106)

Revolving credit facilities. As of January 29, 2022, the Company's \$800 million unsecured revolving credit facility was scheduled to expire in July 2024, and contained a \$300 million sublimit for issuance of standby letters of credit. The facility also contained an option allowing the Company to increase the size of its credit facility by up to an additional \$300 million, with the agreement of the lenders. Interest on borrowings under this facility was based on LIBOR (or an alternate benchmark rate, if LIBOR was no longer available) plus an applicable margin and was payable quarterly and upon maturity. The revolving credit facility could have been extended, at the Company's option, for up to two additional one year periods, subject to customary conditions.

In March 2020, the Company borrowed \$800 million available under its revolving credit facility. Interest on the loan was based on LIBOR plus 0.875% (or 1.76%).

In May 2020, the Company amended its \$800 million unsecured revolving credit facility to temporarily suspend, for the second and third quarters of fiscal 2020, the Consolidated Adjusted Debt to EBITDAR ratio financial covenant, and to apply a transitional modification to that ratio, effective in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2020. As of January 29, 2022, the Company was in compliance with this amended covenant.

In October 2020, the Company repaid in full the \$800 million it borrowed under the unsecured revolving credit facility. The Company had no borrowings or standby letters of credit outstanding under this facility as of January 29, 2022, and the \$800 million credit facility remained in place and available.

In May 2020, the Company also entered into an additional \$500 million 364-day senior revolving credit facility which was scheduled to expire in April 2021. In October 2020, the Company terminated this senior revolving credit facility. The Company had no borrowings under that credit facility at any time.

In February 2022 (the “Effective Date”), the Company entered into a new, \$1.3 billion senior unsecured revolving Credit Agreement (the “2022 Credit Facility”). The 2022 Credit Facility replaces the Company’s previous \$800 million unsecured revolving credit facility, which was entered into in July 2019 (the “Prior Credit Facility”). The 2022 Credit Facility expires in February 2027, and may be extended, at the Company’s option, for up to two additional one year periods, subject to customary conditions. The new facility contains a \$300 million sublimit for issuance of standby letters of credit. It also contains an option allowing the Company to increase the size of its credit facility by up to an additional \$700 million, with the agreement of the committing lenders. The interest rate on borrowings under the 2022 Credit Facility is a term rate based on the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (“Term SOFR”) (or an alternate benchmark rate, if Term SOFR is no longer available) plus an applicable margin, and is payable quarterly and upon maturity. The 2022 Credit Facility is subject to a quarterly Consolidated Adjusted Debt to Consolidated EBITDAR financial leverage ratio covenant, effective the first quarter of fiscal 2022.

On the Effective Date, the Prior Credit Facility was terminated and was replaced by the new 2022 Credit Facility.

Standby letters of credit and collateral trust. The Company uses standby letters of credit outside of its revolving credit facility in addition to a funded trust to collateralize some of its insurance obligations. The Company has also used standby letters of credit outside of its revolving credit facility to collateralize some of its trade payable obligations. As of January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021, the Company had \$3.3 million and \$15.3 million, respectively, in standby letters of credit and \$56.7 million and \$56.1 million, respectively, in a collateral trust. The standby letters of credit are collateralized by restricted cash and the collateral trust consists of restricted cash, cash equivalents, and investments.

Trade letters of credit. The Company had \$19.3 million and \$16.3 million in trade letters of credit outstanding at January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021, respectively.

Note E: Leases

The Company currently leases all but two of its store locations with original, non-cancelable terms that in general range from three years to ten years. Store leases typically contain provisions for three to four renewal options of five years each. The exercise of lease renewal options is at the sole discretion of the Company. Most store leases also provide for minimum annual rentals and for payment of variable lease costs. In addition, some store leases also have provisions for additional rent based on a percentage of sales (“percentage rent”) and others include rental payments adjusted periodically for inflation. The Company’s lease agreements do not contain any material residual guarantees or material restrictive covenants. The Company does not have any financing leases.

The Company leases 15 distribution/warehouse facilities with expiration dates ranging from 2023 to 2029, and all contain renewal provisions. The Company also leases office space for its Los Angeles and Boston buying offices. The lease term for these facilities expire in 2022 and 2024, respectively. The Los Angeles buying office facility contains renewal provisions. In addition, the Company has a ground lease related to its New York buying office.

The following table presents net operating lease cost included in the Consolidated Statement of Earnings for fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019:

(\$000)	2021	2020	2019
Operating lease cost ¹	\$ 687,187	\$ 669,339	\$ 639,545
Variable lease costs ²	194,112	172,036	174,438
Net lease cost ³	\$ 881,299	\$ 841,375	\$ 813,983

¹ Net of sublease income which was immaterial.

² Includes property and rent taxes, insurance, common area maintenance, percentage rent, and rent abatements negotiated due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

³ Excludes short-term lease costs which were immaterial.

The maturity of operating lease liabilities, including the ground lease related to the New York buying office as of January 29, 2022, are as follows:

(\$000)	Operating Leases¹	
2022	\$	658,639
2023		671,450
2024		560,052
2025		455,883
2026		340,980
Thereafter		1,462,855
Total lease payments	\$	4,149,859
Less: interest		980,045
Present value of lease liabilities	\$	3,169,814
Less: current operating lease liabilities		630,517
Non-current operating lease liabilities	\$	2,539,297

¹ Operating leases exclude \$253.2 million of minimum lease payments for leases signed that have not yet commenced.

The weighted-average remaining lease term and the weighted-average discount rate for operating leases as of January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021 are as follows:

	2021	2020
Weighted-average remaining lease term (years):		
Including the long-term ground lease related to the New York buying office	10.2	10.4
Excluding the long-term ground lease related to the New York buying office	5.6	5.9
Weighted-average discount rate:		
Including the long-term ground lease related to the New York buying office	3.2%	3.4%
Excluding the long-term ground lease related to the New York buying office	2.8%	3.0%

The following table presents cash paid for amounts included in the measurement of operating lease liabilities and operating lease assets obtained in exchange for new operating lease liabilities (includes new leases and remeasurements or modifications of existing leases) for fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019:

(\$000)	2021	2020	2019
Cash paid for amounts included in the measurement of operating lease liabilities	\$ 745,110	\$ 554,620	\$ 608,565
Operating lease assets obtained in exchange for new operating lease liabilities ¹	\$ 545,401	\$ 610,552	\$ 739,326

¹ Includes new leases and remeasurements or modifications of existing leases.

Note F: Taxes on Earnings

The provision for income taxes consisted of the following:

(\$000)	2021	2020	2019
Current			
Federal	\$ 442,152	\$ 44,164	\$ 414,823
State	78,024	4,563	56,528
	520,176	48,727	471,351
Deferred			
Federal	21,103	(27,487)	28,244
State	(5,328)	(325)	3,765
	15,775	(27,812)	32,009
Total	\$ 535,951	\$ 20,915	\$ 503,360

The provision for taxes for financial reporting purposes is different from the tax provision computed by applying the statutory federal income tax rate. The differences are reconciled below:

	2021	2020	2019
Federal income taxes at the statutory rate	21.0%	21.0%	21.0%
State income taxes (net of federal benefit)	3.2%	4.1%	3.2%
Hiring tax credits	(0.5)%	(5.4)%	(0.4)%
Tax audit settlements	— %	— %	(0.5)%
Total	23.7%	19.7%	23.3%

Certain items in the prior years have been reclassified to conform to current year's presentation.

In fiscal 2019, the Company resolved uncertain tax positions with a state tax authority. As a result, the Company recognized a tax benefit of approximately \$10.0 million in the Consolidated Statement of Earnings.

The components of deferred taxes at January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021 are as follows:

(\$000)	2021	2020
Deferred Tax Assets		
Accrued liabilities	\$ 34,211	\$ 30,415
Deferred compensation	38,685	34,545
Stock-based compensation	45,840	39,302
State taxes and credits	18,501	10,926
Employee benefits	28,430	37,779
Operating lease liabilities	801,186	829,946
Other	9,632	6,239
Gross Deferred Tax Assets	976,485	989,152
Less: Valuation allowance	(1,931)	(4,089)
Deferred Tax Assets	974,554	985,063
Deferred Tax Liabilities		
Depreciation	(293,065)	(285,161)
Merchandise inventory	(27,699)	(25,434)
Supplies	(12,280)	(11,589)
Operating lease assets	(764,557)	(775,183)
Other	(14,595)	(9,563)
Deferred Tax Liabilities	(1,112,196)	(1,106,930)
Net Deferred Tax Liabilities	\$ (137,642)	\$ (121,867)

At the end of fiscal 2021 and 2020, the Company's state tax credit carryforwards for income tax purposes were approximately \$12.0 million and \$13.7 million, respectively. The state tax credit carryforwards will begin to expire in fiscal 2022. The Company has provided a valuation allowance of \$1.9 million as of the end of fiscal 2021 for deferred tax assets related to state tax credits that are not expected to be realized.

The changes in amounts of unrecognized tax benefits (gross of federal tax benefits and excluding interest and penalties) at fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019 are as follows:

(\$000)	2021	2020	2019
Unrecognized tax benefits - beginning of year	\$ 60,240	\$ 59,887	\$ 65,787
Gross increases:			
Tax positions in current period	10,381	12,310	13,864
Tax positions in prior period	1,494	2,860	2,672
Gross decreases:			
Tax positions in prior periods	(1,795)	(2,624)	(9,559)
Lapse of statutes of limitations	(9,757)	(9,861)	(8,653)
Settlements	(16)	(2,332)	(4,224)
Unrecognized tax benefits - end of year	\$ 60,547	\$ 60,240	\$ 59,887

At the end of fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019, the reserves for unrecognized tax benefits were \$68.1 million, \$67.9 million, and \$67.1 million inclusive of \$7.6 million, \$7.7 million, and \$7.2 million of related reserves for interest and penalties, respectively. In fiscal 2019, the Company resolved uncertain tax positions with a state tax authority. As a result, the Company recognized a decrease in reserves for tax positions in prior periods of \$16.2 million, inclusive of \$6.6 million of related reserves for interest and penalties. The Company accounts for interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits as a part of its provision for taxes on earnings. If recognized, \$54.6 million would impact the Company's effective tax rate. The difference between the total

amount of unrecognized tax benefits and the amounts that would impact the effective tax rate relates to amounts attributable to deferred tax assets and liabilities. These amounts are net of federal and state income taxes.

It is reasonably possible that certain federal and state tax matters may be concluded or statutes of limitations may lapse during the next twelve months. Accordingly, the total amount of unrecognized tax benefits may decrease by up to \$10.1 million.

The Company is open to audit by the Internal Revenue Service under the statute of limitations for fiscal years 2018 through 2021. The Company's state income tax returns are generally open to audit under the various statutes of limitations for fiscal years 2017 through 2021. Certain state tax returns are currently under audit by various tax authorities. The Company does not expect the results of these audits to have a material impact on the consolidated financial statements.

Note G: Employee Benefit Plans

The Company has a defined contribution plan that is available to certain employees. Under the plan, employee and Company contributions and accumulated plan earnings qualify for favorable tax treatment under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code. This plan permits employees to make contributions up to the maximum limits allowable under the Internal Revenue Code. The Company matches up to 4% of the employee's salary up to the plan limits. Company matching contributions to the 401(k) plan were \$23.6 million, \$20.8 million, and \$19.2 million in fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019, respectively.

The Company also makes available to management a Non-qualified Deferred Compensation Plan which allows management to make payroll contributions on a pre-tax basis in addition to the 401(k) plan. Other long-term assets include \$163.9 million and \$159.1 million at January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021, respectively, of long-term plan investments, at market value, set aside or designated for the Non-qualified Deferred Compensation Plan (See Note B). Plan investments are designated by the participants, and investment returns are not guaranteed by the Company. The Company has a corresponding liability to participants of \$163.9 million and \$159.1 million at January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021, respectively, included in Other long-term liabilities in the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

In addition, the Company has certain individuals who receive or will receive post-employment medical benefits. The estimated liability for these benefits of \$15.5 million and \$8.9 million is included in Accrued expenses and other in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets as of January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021, respectively.

Note H: Stockholders' Equity

Common stock. In March 2019, the Company's Board of Directors approved a two-year \$2.55 billion stock repurchase program through fiscal 2020. Due to the economic uncertainty stemming from the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Company suspended its stock repurchase program as of March 2020, at which time the Company had repurchased \$1.407 billion under the \$2.55 billion stock repurchase program.

In May 2021, the Company's Board of Directors authorized a program to repurchase up to \$1.5 billion of the Company's common stock through fiscal 2022, with plans to buy back \$650 million in fiscal 2021 and \$850 million in fiscal 2022.

In March 2022, the Company's Board of Directors approved a new two-year program to repurchase up to \$1.9 billion of the Company's common stock through fiscal 2023. This new program replaces the previous \$1.5 billion stock repurchase program, effective at the end of fiscal 2021 (at which time the Company had repurchased \$650 million under the \$1.5 billion program).

The following table summarizes the Company's stock repurchase activity in fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019:

Fiscal Year	Shares repurchased (in millions)	Average repurchase price	Repurchased (in millions)
2021	5.7	\$114.29	\$650
2020	1.2	\$113.10	\$132
2019	12.3	\$103.99	\$1,275

Preferred stock. The Company has 4.0 million shares of preferred stock authorized, with a par value of \$.01 per share. No preferred stock is issued or outstanding.

Dividends. On March 1, 2022, the Company's Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.310 per common share, payable on March 31, 2022. The Company's Board of Directors declared cash dividends of \$0.285 per common share in March, May, August, and November 2021. The Company's Board of Directors declared a cash dividend of \$0.285 per common share in March 2020. In May 2020, the Company temporarily suspended its quarterly dividends, due to the economic uncertainty stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Company's Board of Directors declared cash dividends of \$0.255 per common share in March, May, August, and November 2019.

2017 Equity Incentive Plan. On May 17, 2017, the Company's stockholders approved the Ross Stores, Inc. 2017 Equity Incentive Plan (the "2017 Plan") which replaced the Company's 2008 Equity Incentive Plan ("Predecessor Plan"). The 2017 Plan, which was authorized to issue a maximum of 12.0 million shares, was immediately effective upon approval and no further awards were granted under the Predecessor Plan, which was terminated.

The 2017 Plan has an initial share reserve of 12.0 million shares of the Company's common stock which can be increased by a maximum of 5.5 million shares from certain expired, withheld, or forfeited shares from the 2017 Plan or the Predecessor Plan. The 2017 Plan provides for various types of incentive awards, which may potentially include the grant of stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock purchase rights, restricted stock bonuses, restricted stock units, performance shares, performance units, and deferred compensation awards. As of January 29, 2022, there were 9.3 million shares available for grant under the 2017 Plan.

A summary of restricted stock and performance share award activity for fiscal 2021 is presented below:

	Number of shares (000)	Weighted-average grant date fair value
Unvested at January 30, 2021	4,230	\$ 85.15
Awarded	1,521	120.03
Released	(1,229)	75.76
Forfeited	(144)	96.14
Unvested at January 29, 2022	4,378	\$ 99.58

The market value of shares of restricted stock and performance shares at the date of grant is amortized to expense over the vesting period of generally three years to five years. The unamortized compensation expense at January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021 was \$181.8 million and \$161.3 million, respectively, which is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average remaining period of 1.8 years and 1.9 years, respectively. Intrinsic value for restricted stock, defined as the closing market value on the last business day of fiscal year 2021 (or \$95.77), was \$419.3 million. A total of 9.3 million, 10.2 million, and 10.7 million shares were available for new restricted stock awards at the end of fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019, respectively. During fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019, shares purchased by the Company for tax withholding totaled 0.5 million, 0.5 million, and 0.6 million shares, respectively, and are considered treasury shares which are available for reissuance. As of January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021, the Company held 14.8 million and 14.3 million shares of treasury stock, respectively.

Performance share awards. The Company has a performance share award program for senior executives. A performance share award represents a right to receive shares of restricted stock on a specified settlement date based on the Company's attainment of a performance goal during the performance period, which is the Company's fiscal year. If attained, the restricted stock then vests over a service period, generally two years to three years from the date the performance award was granted. The Company issued approximately 626,000, 380,000, and 414,000 shares in settlement of the fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019 awards.

Employee Stock Purchase Plan. Under the Employee Stock Purchase Plan (“ESPP”), eligible employees participating in the quarterly offering period can choose to have up to the lesser of 10% of their annual base earnings or the IRS annual share purchase limit of \$25,000 in aggregate market value to purchase the Company’s common stock. The purchase price of the stock is 85% of the closing market price on the date of purchase. Purchases occur on a quarterly basis (on the last trading day of each calendar quarter). The Company recognizes expense for ESPP purchase rights equal to the value of the 15% discount given on the purchase date.

During fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019, employees purchased approximately 0.3 million, 0.3 million, and 0.3 million shares, respectively, of the Company’s common stock under the plan at weighted-average per share prices of \$99.07, \$81.45, and \$88.45, respectively. Through January 29, 2022, approximately 40.7 million shares had been issued under this plan and 4.2 million shares remained available for future issuance.

Note I: Related Party Transactions

The Company has a consulting agreement with Norman Ferber, its former Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Directors, under which the Company paid him \$1.8 million, \$2.1 million, and \$2.1 million in fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019, respectively. In addition, the agreement provides for administrative support and health and other benefits for him and his dependents, which totaled approximately \$0.4 million, \$0.4 million, and \$0.4 million in fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019, respectively, along with amounts to cover premiums through May 2022 on a life insurance policy with a death benefit of \$2.0 million. Mr. Ferber’s current consulting agreement paid him an annual consulting fee of \$2.3 million from May 31, 2020 through May 31, 2021 and pays him \$1.6 million from June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022. On termination of Mr. Ferber’s consultancy with the Company, the Company will pay Mr. Ferber \$75,000 per year for a period of 10 years.

Robert Ferber, the son of Norman Ferber, is a Vice President, Divisional Merchandise Manager with the Company. The Company paid Robert Ferber compensation including salary and bonus of approximately \$254,000, \$248,000, and \$209,000 in fiscal 2021, 2020, and 2019, respectively.

Note J: Litigation, Claims, and Assessments

Like many retailers, the Company has been named in class/representative action lawsuits, primarily in California, alleging violations of wage and hour laws and consumer protection laws. Class/representative action litigation remains pending as of January 29, 2022.

The Company is also party to various other legal and regulatory proceedings arising in the normal course of business. Actions filed against the Company may include commercial, product and product safety, consumer, intellectual property, environmental, and labor and employment-related claims, including lawsuits in which private plaintiffs or governmental agencies allege that the Company violated federal, state, and/or local laws. Actions against the Company are in various procedural stages. Many of these proceedings raise factual and legal issues and are subject to uncertainties.

In the opinion of management, the resolution of pending class/representative action litigation and other currently pending legal and regulatory proceedings will not have a material adverse effect on the Company’s financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows.

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Stockholders and the Board of Directors of Ross Stores, Inc.

Opinions on the Financial Statements and Internal Control over Financial Reporting

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Ross Stores, Inc. and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021, the related consolidated statements of earnings, comprehensive income, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the fiscal years ended January 29, 2022, January 30, 2021, and February 1, 2020 and the related notes (collectively referred to as the "financial statements"). We also have audited the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of January 29, 2022, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the fiscal years ended January 29, 2022, January 30, 2021, and February 1, 2020, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Also, in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of January 29, 2022, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* (2013) issued by COSO.

Basis for Opinions

The Company's management is responsible for these financial statements, for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying "Management's Annual Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting." Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's financial statements and an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB) and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud, and whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects.

Our audits of the financial statements included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures to respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

Definition and Limitations of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed 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. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Critical Audit Matters

Critical audit matters are matters arising from the current-period audit of the financial statements that were communicated or required to be communicated to the audit committee and that (1) relate to accounts or disclosures that are material to the financial statements and (2) involved our especially challenging, subjective, or complex judgments. We determined that there are no critical audit matters.

/s/DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

San Francisco, California
March 29, 2022

We have served as the Company's auditor since 1982.

ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our “disclosure controls and procedures,” (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(e)), as of the end of the period covered by this report. Our disclosure controls and procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurance of achieving their objectives. Based on that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at that reasonable assurance level as of the end of the period covered by this report.

It should be noted that any system of controls, however well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, and not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the system will be met. In addition, the design of any control system is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events.

Management’s Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f). Our internal control over financial reporting is designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of consolidated financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, we conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting based on the framework established by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) as set forth in *Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013)*. Based on our evaluation under the framework in *Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013)*, our management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of January 29, 2022.

Our internal control over financial reporting as of January 29, 2022 has also been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, and their opinion as to the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting is stated in their report, dated March 29, 2022, which is included in Item 8 in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. It should be noted that any system of controls, however well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, and not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the system will be met. In addition, the design of any control system is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Quarterly Evaluation of Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, also conducted an evaluation of our internal control over financial reporting to determine whether any change occurred during the fourth fiscal quarter of 2021 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting. Based on that evaluation, our management concluded that there was no such change during the fourth fiscal quarter.

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

None

ITEM 9C. DISCLOSURE REGARDING FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS THAT PREVENT INSPECTIONS

None

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Information required by Item 401 of Regulation S-K is incorporated herein by reference to the sections entitled “Executive Officers of the Registrant” at the end of Part I of this report; and to the sections of the Ross Stores, Inc. Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 (the “Proxy Statement”) entitled “Information Regarding Nominees and Incumbent Directors.” Information required by Item 405 of Regulation S-K is incorporated by reference to the Proxy Statement under the section titled “Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance.” Since our last Annual Report on Form 10-K, we have not made any material changes to the procedures by which our stockholders may recommend nominees to the Board of Directors. Information required by Item 407(d)(4) and (d)(5) of Regulation S-K is incorporated by reference to the Proxy Statement under the section entitled “Information Regarding Nominees and Incumbent Directors” under the caption “Audit Committee.”

Our Board of Directors has adopted a Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers that applies to our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer (who is also our principal accounting officer), along with other of our senior operating and financial executives. This Code of Ethics is posted on our corporate website (www.rossstores.com) under Corporate Governance in the Investors Section. We intend to satisfy the disclosure requirements of Item 5.05 of Form 8-K regarding any future amendments to, or waivers from, our Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers by posting any changed version on the same corporate website.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The information required by Item 402 of Regulation S-K is incorporated herein by reference to the sections of the Proxy Statement entitled “Compensation of Directors” and “Executive Compensation” under the captions “Compensation Discussion and Analysis,” “Summary Compensation Table,” “All Other Compensation,” “Perquisites,” “Discussion of Summary Compensation,” “Grants of Plan-Based Awards During Fiscal Year,” “Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End,” “Option Exercises and Stock Vested,” “Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation,” and “Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control.”

The information required by Items 407(e)(4) and (e)(5) of Regulation S-K are incorporated herein by reference to the sections of the Proxy Statement entitled “Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation” and “Compensation Committee Report.”

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

Equity compensation plan information. The following table summarizes the equity compensation plans under which the Company's common stock may be issued as of January 29, 2022:

Shares in (000s)	(a) Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options and rights	(b) Weighted-average exercise price per share of outstanding options and rights	(c) Number of securities remaining available for future issuance (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) ¹
Equity compensation plans			
approved by security holders	625 ²	—	13,523 ³
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	—	—	—
Total	625	—	13,523

¹ After approval by stockholders of the 2017 Equity Incentive Plan in May 2017, any shares remaining available for grant in the share reserves of the 2008 Equity Incentive Plan were automatically canceled.

² Securities include shares underlying outstanding performance share awards where the performance measurement has occurred but that remain unsettled and unissued as of January 29, 2022. The weighted-average exercise price in column (b) does not take these awards into account.

³ Includes 4.2 million shares reserved for issuance under the Employee Stock Purchase Plan and 9.3 million shares reserved for issuance under the 2017 Equity Incentive Plan.

The information required by Item 403 of Regulation S-K is incorporated herein by reference to the section of the Proxy Statement entitled "Stock Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management."

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

The information required by Items 404 and 407(a) of Regulation S-K is incorporated herein by reference to the section of the Proxy Statement entitled "Information Regarding Nominees and Incumbent Directors" including the captions "Audit Committee," "Compensation Committee," and "Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee," and the section of the Proxy Statement entitled "Certain Transactions."

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

Information concerning principal accountant fees and services will appear in the Proxy Statement in the Ross Stores, Inc. Board of Directors Audit Committee Report under the caption "Summary of Audit, Audit-Related, Tax and All Other Fees." Such information is incorporated herein by reference.

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a) The following consolidated financial statements, schedules, and exhibits are filed as part of this report or are incorporated herein as indicated:

1. List of Consolidated Financial Statements.

The following consolidated financial statements are included herein under Item 8:

Consolidated Statements of Earnings for the years ended January 29, 2022, January 30, 2021, and February 1, 2020.

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the years ended January 29, 2022, January 30, 2021, and February 1, 2020.

Consolidated Balance Sheets at January 29, 2022 and January 30, 2021.

Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for the years ended January 29, 2022, January 30, 2021, and February 1, 2020.

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended January 29, 2022, January 30, 2021, and February 1, 2020.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm (PCAOB ID: 34).

2. List of Consolidated Financial Statement Schedules.

Schedules are omitted because they are not required, not applicable, or such information is included in the consolidated financial statements or notes thereto which are included in this Report.

3. List of Exhibits (in accordance with Item 601 of Regulation S-K).

Incorporated herein by reference to the list of Exhibits contained in the Exhibit Index within this Report.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15 (d) 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.

ROSS STORES, INC.

(Registrant)

Date: March 29, 2022

By: /s/Barbara Rentler
Barbara Rentler
Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
<u>/s/Barbara Rentler</u> Barbara Rentler	Chief Executive Officer, Director	March 29, 2022
<u>/s/Adam Orvos</u> Adam Orvos	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, and Principal Accounting Officer	March 29, 2022
<u>/s/K. Gunnar Bjorklund</u> K. Gunnar Bjorklund	Director	March 29, 2022
<u>/s/Michael J. Bush</u> Michael J. Bush	Director	March 29, 2022
<u>/s/Sharon D. Garrett</u> Sharon D. Garrett	Director	March 29, 2022
<u>/s/Michael J. Hartshorn</u> Michael J. Hartshorn	Group President and Chief Operating Officer, Director	March 29, 2022
<u>/s/Stephen D. Milligan</u> Stephen D. Milligan	Director	March 29, 2022
<u>/s/Patricia H. Mueller</u> Patricia H. Mueller	Director	March 29, 2022
<u>/s/George P. Orban</u> George P. Orban	Director	March 29, 2022
<u>/s/Gregory L. Quesnel</u> Gregory L. Quesnel	Director	March 29, 2022
<u>/s/Larree M. Renda</u> Larree M. Renda	Director	March 29, 2022
<u>/s/Doniel N. Sutton</u> Doniel N. Sutton	Director	March 29, 2022

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit Number	Exhibit
3.1	Certificate of Incorporation of Ross Stores, Inc. as amended (Corrected First Restated Certificate of Incorporation, dated March 17, 1999, together with amendments thereto through Amendment of Certificate of Incorporation dated May 29, 2015) incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended August 1, 2015.
3.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Ross Stores, Inc. (as amended March 8, 2017), incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Form 10-K filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its fiscal year ended January 28, 2017.
4.1	Description of Common Stock of Ross Stores, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.5 to the Form 10-K filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its year ended February 1, 2020.
4.2	Indenture, dated as of September 18, 2014, between Ross Stores, Inc. and U.S. Bank National Association, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Form 8-K filed by Ross Stores on September 18, 2014.
4.3	Officers' Certificate, dated as of September 18, 2014, establishing the terms and form of the Notes, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Form 8-K filed by Ross Stores on September 18, 2014.
4.4	Form of the 3.375% Senior Notes Due 2024, included in and incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Form 8-K filed by Ross Stores on September 18, 2014.
4.5	Officers' Certificate, dated as of April 6, 2020, establishing the aggregate amounts, terms and form of the Notes, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Form 8-K filed by Ross Stores, Inc. on April 7, 2020.
4.6	Form of 4.600% Senior Notes Due 2025, included in and incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Form 8-K filed by Ross Stores, Inc. on April 7, 2020.
4.7	Form of 4.700% Senior Notes Due 2027, included in and incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Form 8-K filed by Ross Stores, Inc. on April 7, 2020.
4.8	Form of 4.800% Senior Notes Due 2030, included in and incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Form 8-K filed by Ross Stores, Inc. on April 7, 2020.
4.9	Form of 5.450% Senior Notes Due 2050, included in and incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Form 8-K filed by Ross Stores, Inc. on April 7, 2020.
4.10	Officers' Certificate, dated as of October 21, 2020 establishing the aggregate amounts, terms and forms of the Notes., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Form 8-K filed by Ross Stores, Inc. on October 22, 2020.
4.11	Form of the 0.875% Senior Notes Due 2026, included in and incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Form 8-K filed by Ross Stores, Inc. on October 22, 2020.
4.12	Form of the 1.875% Senior Notes Due 2031, included in and incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Form 8-K filed by Ross Stores, Inc. on October 22, 2020.
10.1	Amended and Restated Credit Agreement dated July 1, 2019 among Ross Stores, Inc., various lenders and Bank of America, N.A., as Administrative Agent, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended August 3, 2019.
10.2	First Amendment to Amended and Restated Credit Agreement dated as of May 1, 2020 among Ross Stores, Inc., various lenders, and Bank of America, N.A., as Administrative Agent, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended May 2, 2020.
10.3	Underwriting Agreement, dated as of April 2, 2020, by and among Ross Stores, Inc., BofA Securities, Inc. and J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, as representatives of the underwriters named therein, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.1 to the Form 8-K filed by Ross Stores on April 7, 2020.
10.4	Underwriting Agreement, dated as of October 19, 2020, by and among Ross Stores, Inc., J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and BofA Securities, Inc., as representatives of the several underwriters named therein, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.1 to the Form 8-K filed by Ross Stores on October 22, 2020.

MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS AND COMPENSATORY PLANS (EXHIBITS 10.5 - 10.39)

- 10.5 Form of Indemnity Agreement for Directors and Executive Officers, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.26 to the Form 10-K filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its fiscal year ended February 2, 2013.
- 10.6 Third Amended and Restated Ross Stores, Inc. Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Plan effective December 31, 2008 (as amended effective January 1, 2015 and October 1, 2017), incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its fiscal year ended February 3, 2018.
- 10.7 Second Amended and Restated Ross Stores, Inc. Incentive Compensation Plan, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended October 31, 2020.
- 10.8 Ross Stores, Inc. 2008 Equity Incentive Plan (as amended through May 21, 2014), incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.18 to the Form 10-K filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its fiscal year ended January 30, 2016.
- 10.9 Ross Stores, Inc. 2017 Equity Incentive Plan, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99 to the Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed by Ross Stores, Inc. on May 17, 2017 (Registration No. 333-218052).
- 10.10 Amended Ross Stores, Inc. 2017 Equity Incentive Plan, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended October 31, 2020.
- 10.11 Form of Restricted Stock Agreement, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended May 3, 2014.
- 10.12 Form of Restricted Stock Agreement, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended July 29, 2017.
- 10.13 Form of Restricted Stock Agreement, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended May 5, 2018.
- 10.14 Form of Restricted Stock Agreement for Nonemployee Director, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended July 29, 2017.
- 10.15 Form of Performance Share Agreement, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended July 29, 2017.
- 10.16 Form of Performance Shares Grant Agreement, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended May 5, 2018.
- 10.17 Ross Stores, Inc. Notice of Grant of Performance Shares, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended July 31, 2021.
- 10.18 Forms of Executive Employment Agreement for Executive Officers, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended May 5, 2018.
- 10.19 Forms of Executive Employment Agreement for Executive Officers, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended May 4, 2019.
- 10.20 Form of Executive Employment Agreement for Executive Officers (CA), incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended May 2, 2020.
- 10.21 Form of Executive Employment Agreement for Executive Officers (NON-CA), incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended May 2, 2020.
- 10.22 Form of Executive Employment Agreement for Executive Officers (CA), incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended May 1, 2021.
- 10.23 Form of Executive Employment Agreement for Executive Officers (NON-CA), incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended May 1, 2021.
- 10.24 Employment Agreement effective June 1, 2012 between Michael Balmuth and Ross Stores, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended October 27, 2012.
- 10.25 First Amendment to Employment Agreement between Michael Balmuth and Ross Stores, Inc. dated March 15, 2015, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended August 1, 2015.
- 10.26 Second Amendment to Employment Agreement effective January 1, 2016 between Michael Balmuth and Ross Stores, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.49 to the Form 10-K filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its fiscal year ended January 30, 2016.
- 10.27 Third Amendment to the Employment Agreement effective May 18, 2016 between Michael Balmuth and Ross Stores, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended July 30, 2016.
- 10.28 Fourth Amendment to the Employment Agreement effective April 15, 2017 between Michael Balmuth and Ross Stores, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended April 29, 2017.

- 10.29 Fifth Amendment to the Employment Agreement effective July 3, 2018 between Michael Balmuth and Ross Stores, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended August 4, 2018.
- 10.30 Sixth Amendment to the Employment Agreement effective November 23, 2018 between Michael Balmuth and Ross Stores, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.35 to the Form 10-K filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its fiscal year ended February 2, 2019.
- 10.31 Seventh Amendment to the Employment Agreement effective July 13, 2019 between Michael Balmuth and Ross Stores, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended August 3, 2019.
- 10.32 Eighth Amendment to the Employment Agreement effective September 24, 2020 between Michael Balmuth and Ross Stores, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended October 31, 2020.
- 10.33 Employment Agreement effective March 16, 2019 between Barbara Rentler and Ross Stores, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended May 4, 2019.
- 10.34 Employment Agreement effective March 16, 2021 between Barbara Rentler and Ross Stores, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended May 1, 2021.
- 10.35 Employment Agreement effective August 16, 2019 between Michael Hartshorn and Ross Stores, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended November 2, 2019.
- 10.36 Employment Agreement effective March 16, 2020 between Brian Morrow and Ross Stores, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended May 2, 2020.
- 10.37 Employment Agreement effective August 16, 2019 between Michael Kobayashi and Ross Stores, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.13 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended May 2, 2020.
- 10.38 Employment Agreement effective March 16, 2021 between Travis Marquette and Ross Stores, Inc, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended May 1, 2021.
- 10.39 Employment Agreement effective October 1, 2021 between Adam Orvos and Ross Stores, Inc., incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Form 10-Q filed by Ross Stores, Inc. for its quarter ended October 30, 2021.
- 21 Subsidiaries.
- 23 Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
- 31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Sarbanes-Oxley Act Section 302(a).
- 31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Sarbanes-Oxley Act Section 302(a).
- 32.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350.
- 32.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350.
- 101.INS XBRL Instance Document. (The instance document does not appear in the Interactive Data File because its XBRL tags are embedded within the Inline XBRL document.)
- 101.SCH Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema
- 101.CAL Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase
- 101.DEF Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase
- 101.LAB Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase
- 101.PRE Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase
- 104 Cover Page Interactive Data File. (The cover page interactive data file does not appear in the Interactive Data File because its XBRL tags are embedded within the Inline XBRL document.)

EXHIBIT 21

SUBSIDIARIES & AFFILIATES

Certain subsidiaries and affiliates of the Registrant and their subsidiaries are listed below. The names of certain subsidiaries, which considered in the aggregate would not constitute a significant subsidiary, have been omitted.

Subsidiary Name	Domiciled	Date of Incorporation
Ross Procurement Inc.	Delaware	November 22, 2004
Ross Merchandising Inc.	Delaware	January 12, 2004
Ross Dress For Less, Inc.	Virginia	January 14, 2004
Retail Assurance Group, Inc.	Hawaii	October 15, 1991
Ross Distribution Company, LLC	Delaware	March 15, 2018

EXHIBIT 23

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We consent to the incorporation by reference in Registration Statements No. 333-06119, No. 333-34988, No. 333-51478, No. 333-56831, No. 333-115836, No. 333-151116, No. 333-210465, and No. 333-218052 on Form S-8, and No. 333-237546 on Form S-3 of our report dated March 29, 2022, relating to the consolidated financial statements of Ross Stores, Inc. and subsidiaries (the "Company"), and the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting, appearing in this Annual Report on Form 10-K of the Company for the year ended January 29, 2022.

/s/DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

San Francisco, California
March 29, 2022

EXHIBIT 31.1

Ross Stores, Inc.
Certification of Chief Executive Officer
Pursuant to Sarbanes-Oxley Act Section 302(a)

I, Barbara Rentler, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Ross Stores, 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(s) 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 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(s) 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 functions):
 - (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: March 29, 2022

/s/Barbara Rentler
Barbara Rentler
Chief Executive Officer

EXHIBIT 31.2

Ross Stores, Inc.
Certification of Chief Financial Officer
Pursuant to Sarbanes-Oxley Act Section 302(a)

I, Adam Orvos, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Ross Stores, 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(s) 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 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(s) 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 functions):
 - (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: March 29, 2022

/s/Adam Orvos

Adam Orvos
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer,
and Principal Accounting Officer

EXHIBIT 32.1

Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350,
As Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

In connection with the annual report of Ross Stores, Inc. (the "Company") on Form 10-K for the year ended January 29, 2022 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Barbara Rentler, as 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 ("Section 906"), that, to the best of my knowledge:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m); and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: March 29, 2022

/s/Barbara Rentler

Barbara Rentler
Chief Executive Officer

EXHIBIT 32.2

Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350,
As Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

In connection with the annual report of Ross Stores, Inc. (the "Company") on Form 10-K for the year ended January 29, 2022 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Adam Orvos, as 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 ("Section 906"), that, to the best of my knowledge:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m); and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: March 29, 2022

/s/Adam Orvos

Adam Orvos
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer,
and Principal Accounting Officer

Directors and Officers

Board of Directors

George P. Orban³
Chairman of the Board
Ross Stores, Inc.;
Managing Partner,
Orban Partners

Barbara Rentler
Vice Chair of the Board,
Chief Executive Officer
Ross Stores, Inc.

K. Gunnar Bjorklund^{2,3}
Chairman,
Rev360 LLC

Michael J. Bush^{2,3}
Managing Member,
B IV Investments, LLC;
Former Executive Chairman,
Trumaker, Inc.

Sharon D. Garrett^{1,3}
Management Consultant;
Former Board Member,
Jerome's Furniture and
Scott's Liquid Gold-Inc.

Michael J. Hartshorn
Chief Operating Officer,
Ross Stores, Inc.

Stephen D. Milligan^{1,3}
Board Member, Autodesk;
Former Chief Executive Officer
and Board Member,
Western Digital Corporation

Patricia H. Mueller^{2,3}
Management Consultant;
Board Member, Dave & Buster's
Entertainment

Gregory L. Quesnel^{1,3}
Former Chief Executive Officer,
CNF, Inc.;
Former Board Member,
SYNNEX Corporation and
Potlatch Corporation

Larree M. Renda^{1,3}
Former Executive Vice President,
Safeway, Inc.;
Board Member, Casey's General
Stores, Inc.

Doniel N. Sutton^{2,3}
Chief People Officer, Fastly, Inc.;
Former Senior Vice President, People,
PayPal Holdings, Inc.

Corporate Officers

Barbara Rentler
Chief Executive Officer

Michael J. Hartshorn
Group President and
Chief Operating Officer

Michael Kobayashi
President and
Chief Capability Officer

Brian Morrow
President,
dd's DISCOUNTS

Adam Orvos
Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

¹ Audit Committee

² Compensation Committee

³ Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee

Corporate Data

Corporate Headquarters

Ross Stores, Inc.
5130 Hacienda Drive
Dublin, CA 94568-7579
(925) 965-4400

Corporate Website

www.rossstores.com

New York Buying Office

Ross Stores, Inc.
1372 Broadway
New York, NY 10018-6141

Los Angeles Buying Office

Ross Stores, Inc.
110 East 9th Street, Suite A-979
Los Angeles, CA 90079-1711

Annual Report (Form 10-K)

A copy of the Company's 2021 Annual Report on Form 10-K as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is available on our corporate website, or without charge, by contacting the following:

Investor Relations Department
Ross Stores, Inc.
5130 Hacienda Drive
Dublin, CA 94568-7579

Transfer Agent and Registrar

Computershare
P.O. Box 505000
Louisville, KY 40233-5000

or

Overnight Correspondence
462 South 4th Street, Suite 1600
Louisville, KY 40202

Inquiries by:

Website

www.computershare.com/investor

or

Online

<https://www-us.computershare.com/investor/Contact>

Telephone

1-866-455-3120 (domestic holders)
1-800-231-5469 (TDD#)
1-201-680-6578 (foreign holders)
1-201-680-6610 (foreign TDD#)



Ross Stores, Inc.

5130 Hacienda Drive
Dublin, CA 94568-7579
(925) 965-4400
www.rossstores.com

Sustainable Choice. Reduce, Reuse & Recycle.

To minimize our environmental impact, the Ross Stores 2021 Annual Report was printed on paper containing fibers from environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable forest resources.

