

GREIF INC
Form 10-K
December 16, 2008

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

FORM 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2008

or

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number: 001-00566

Greif, Inc.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

State of Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

31-4388903
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

425 Winter Road, Delaware, Ohio
(Address of principal executive offices)

43015
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code 740-549-6000

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

| Title of Each Class | Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered |
|---------------------|---|
|---------------------|---|

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Class A Common Stock | New York Stock Exchange |
|----------------------|-------------------------|

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Class B Common Stock | New York Stock Exchange |
|----------------------|-------------------------|

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

Indicate by check mark if the Registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. 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 Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant (1) has filed all reports 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 if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained

Edgar Filing: GREIF INC - Form 10-K

herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the Registrant's knowledge, in the definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. o Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of "large accelerated filer", "accelerated filer", "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934). Yes No

The aggregate market value of voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates computed by reference to the price at which the common equity was last sold as of the last business day of the Registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter was as follows:

Non-voting common equity (Class A Common Stock) - \$1,536,481,349

Voting common equity (Class B Common Stock) - \$531,777,796

The number of shares outstanding of each of the Registrant's classes of common stock, as of December 12, 2008, was as follows:

Class A Common Stock – 24,081,998

Class B Common Stock – 22,562,266

Listed hereunder are the documents, portions of which are incorporated by reference, and the parts of this Form 10-K into which such portions are incorporated:

1. The Registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement for use in connection with the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on February 23, 2009 (the "2009 Proxy Statement"), portions of which are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K. The 2009 Proxy Statement will be filed within 120 days of October 31, 2008.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

All statements, other than statements of historical facts, included in this Form 10-K of Greif, Inc. and subsidiaries (the “Company”) or incorporated herein, including, without limitation, statements regarding the Company’s future financial position, business strategy, budgets, projected costs, goals and plans and objectives of management for future operations, are forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). Forward-looking statements generally can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as “may,” “will,” “expect,” “intend,” “estimate,” “anticipate,” “project,” “believe,” “continue” or the negative thereof or variations thereon or similar terminology. Forward-looking statements speak only as the date the statements were made. Although the Company believes that the expectations reflected in forward-looking statements have a reasonable basis, it can give no assurance that these expectations will prove to be correct. Forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual events or results to differ materially from those expressed in or implied by the statements. For a discussion of the most significant risks and uncertainties that could cause the Company’s actual results to differ materially from those projected, see “Risk Factors” in Item 1A of this Form 10-K. The Company undertakes no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Index to Form 10-K Annual Report for the year ended October 31, 2008

| Form 10-K Item | Description | Page |
|-------------------|---|------|
| Part I | 1. Business | 4 |
| | (a) General Development of Business | 4 |
| | (b) Financial Information about Segments | 4 |
| | (c) Narrative Description of Business | 4 |
| | (d) Financial Information about Geographic Areas | 6 |
| | (e) Available Information | 6 |
| | (f) Other Matters | 6 |
| | 1A. Risk Factors | 6 |
| | 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments | 9 |
| | 2. Properties | 9 |
| | 3. Legal Proceedings | 11 |
| | 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders | 11 |
| Part II | 5. Market for the Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities | 12 |
| | 6. Selected Financial Data | 15 |
| | 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations | 15 |
| | 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk | 30 |
| | 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data | 34 |
| | Consolidated Statements of Income | 34 |
| | Consolidated Balance Sheets | 35 |
| | Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows | 37 |
| | Consolidated Statements of Changes in Shareholders' Equity | 38 |
| | Note 1 - Description of Business and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies | 39 |
| | Note 2 - Acquisitions and Other Significant Transactions | 45 |
| | Note 3 - Sale of Non-United States Accounts Receivable | 46 |
| | Note 4 - Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets | 47 |
| | Note 5 - Restructuring Charges | 48 |
| | Note 6 - Significant Nonstrategic Timberland Transactions and Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities | 50 |
| | Note 7 - Long-Term Debt | 50 |
| | Note 8 - Financial Instruments | 52 |
| | Note 9 - Capital Stock | 53 |
| | Note 10 - Stock-Based Compensation | 54 |
| | Note 11 - Income Taxes | 55 |
| | Note 12 - Retirement Plans | 57 |
| | Note 13 - Postretirement Health Care and Life Insurance Benefits | 60 |
| | Note 14 - Contingent Liabilities | 62 |
| | Note 15 - Business Segment Information | 64 |
| | Note 16 - Quarterly Financial Data (Unaudited) | 66 |
| | Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm | 68 |
| | 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosures | 69 |
| | 9A. Controls and Procedures | 69 |
| | Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm | 71 |

| | | |
|-----------|--|----|
| | 9B. Other Information | 72 |
| Part III | 10. Directors and Executive Officers of the Company | 73 |
| | 11. Executive Compensation | 73 |
| | 12. Security Ownership and Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters | 73 |
| | 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence | 73 |
| | 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services | 74 |
| Part IV | 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules | 75 |
| | Signatures | 76 |
| Schedules | Schedule II | 77 |
| Exhibits | Exhibits and Certifications | 78 |

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

(a) General Development of Business

General

The Company is a leading global producer of industrial packaging products with manufacturing facilities located in over 45 countries. The Company offers a comprehensive line of industrial packaging products, such as steel, fibre and plastic drums, intermediate bulk containers, closure systems for industrial packaging products, transit protection products, and polycarbonate water bottles, and services, such as blending, filling and other packaging services, logistics and warehousing. The Company also produces containerboard and corrugated products for niche markets in North America. The Company sells timber to third parties from its timberland in the southeastern United States that it manages to maximize long-term value. The Company also owns timberland in Canada that it does not actively manage. In addition, the Company sells, from time to time, timberland and special use land, which consists of surplus land, higher and better use (“HBU”) land, and development land. The Company’s customers range from Fortune 500 companies to medium and small-sized companies in a cross section of industries.

The Company was founded in 1877 in Cleveland Ohio, as "Vanderwyst and Greif," a cooperage shop co-founded by one of four Greif brothers. One year after its founding, the other three Greif brothers were invited to join the business, renamed Greif Bros. Company, making wooden barrels, casks and kegs to transport post-Civil War goods nationally and internationally. The Company later purchased nearly 300,000 acres of timberland to provide raw materials for the cooperage plants. The Company still owns forests located in the southeastern United States and in Canada. In the latter half of the 1900s, the Company transitioned from its keg and barrel heading mills, stave mills and cooperage facilities to the manufacturing of fibre, steel, and plastic drums; corrugated containers; intermediate bulk containers; corrugated products for transit protection; multiwall shipping bags; and containerboard. In 1926, the Company incorporated as a Delaware corporation and made its public offering as The Greif Bros. Cooperage Corporation. In 1951, the Company moved its headquarters from Cleveland, Ohio to Delaware, Ohio, which is in the Columbus metro-area, where its corporate headquarters are currently located. Following the Van Leer acquisition in 2001, the Company changed its name from Greif Bros. Corporation to Greif, Inc.

The Company’s fiscal year begins on November 1 and ends on October 31 of the following year. Any references in this Form 10-K to the years 2008, 2007 or 2006, or to any quarter of those years, relate to the fiscal year ending in that year.

(b) Financial Information about Segments

The Company operates in three business segments: Industrial Packaging (formerly known as “Industrial Packaging & Services”); Paper Packaging (former known as “Paper, Packaging & Services”); and Timber. Information related to each of these segments is included in Note 15 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8 of this Form 10-K, which Note is incorporated herein by reference.

(c) Narrative Description of Business

Products and Services

In the Industrial Packaging segment, the Company offers a comprehensive line of industrial packaging products, such as steel, fibre and plastic drums, intermediate bulk containers, closure systems for industrial packaging products,

transit protection products, and polycarbonate water bottles, and services, such as blending, filling and other packaging services, logistics and warehousing. The Company sells its industrial packaging products to customers in over 45 countries in industries such as chemicals, paints and pigments, food and beverage, petroleum, industrial coatings, agricultural, pharmaceutical and mineral, among others. In addition, the Company provides a variety of blending, filling and other packaging services, logistics and warehousing to customers in many of these same industries in North America.

In the Paper Packaging segment, the Company sells containerboard, corrugated sheets and other corrugated products and multiwall bags to customers in North America in industries such as packaging, automotive, food and building products. The Company's corrugated container products are used to ship such diverse products as home appliances, small machinery, grocery products, building products, automotive components, books and furniture, as well as numerous other applications. The Company's industrial and consumer multiwall bag products are used to ship a wide range of industrial and consumer products, such as seed, fertilizers, chemicals, concrete, flour, sugar, feed, pet foods, popcorn, charcoal and salt, primarily for the agricultural, chemical, building products and food industries.

In the Timber segment, the Company is focused on the active harvesting and regeneration of its United States timber properties to achieve sustainable long-term yields. While timber sales are subject to fluctuations, the Company seeks to maintain a consistent cutting schedule, within the limits of market and weather conditions. The Company also sells, from time to time, timberland and special use land, which consists of surplus land, HBU land, and development land.

As of October 31, 2008, the Company owned approximately 268,700 acres of timber properties in the southeastern United States and approximately 27,450 acres of timber properties in Canada.

Customers

Due to the variety of its products, the Company has many customers buying different types of its products and due to the scope of the Company's sales, no one customer is considered principal in the total operations of the Company.

Backlog

The Company supplies a cross-section of industries, such as chemicals, food products, petroleum products, pharmaceuticals and metal products, and must make spot deliveries on a day-to-day basis as its products are required by its customers, the Company does not operate on a backlog to any significant extent and maintains only limited levels of finished goods. Many customers place their orders weekly for delivery during the week.

Competition

The markets in which the Company sells its products are highly competitive with many participants. Although no single company dominates, the Company faces significant competitors in each of its businesses. The Company's competitors include large vertically integrated companies as well as numerous smaller companies. The industries in which the Company competes are particularly sensitive to price fluctuations caused by shifts in industry capacity and other cyclical industry conditions. Other competitive factors include design, quality and service, with varying emphasis depending on product line.

In the industrial packaging industry, the Company competes by offering a comprehensive line of products on a global basis. In the paper and paper packaging industry, the Company competes by concentrating on providing value-added, higher-margin corrugated products to niche markets. In addition, over the past several years the Company has closed higher cost facilities and otherwise restructured its operations, which it believes has significantly improved its cost competitiveness.

Environmental Matters; Governmental Regulations

The Company's operations are subject to extensive federal, state, local and international laws, regulations, rules and ordinances relating to pollution, the protection of the environment, the generation, storage, handling, transportation, treatment, disposal and remediation of hazardous substances and waste materials and numerous other environmental laws and regulations. In the ordinary course of business, the Company is subject to periodic environmental inspections and monitoring by governmental enforcement authorities. In addition, certain of the Company's production facilities require environmental permits that are subject to revocation, modification and renewal.

Based on current information, the Company believes that the probable costs of the remediation of company-owned property will not have a material adverse effect on its financial condition or results of operations. The Company believes that its liability for these matters was adequately reserved as of October 31, 2008.

The Company does not believe that compliance with federal, state, local and international provisions, which have been enacted or adopted regulating the discharge of materials into the environment, or otherwise relating to the protection of the environment, has had or will have a material effect upon the capital expenditures, earnings or competitive position of the Company. The Company does not anticipate any material capital expenditures related to environmental control in 2009.

See also Item 7 of this Form 10-K and Note 14 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8 of this Form 10-K for additional information concerning environmental expenses and cash expenditures for 2008, 2007 and 2006, and the Company's reserves for environmental liabilities at October 31, 2008.

Raw Materials

Steel, resin and containerboard are the principal raw materials for the Industrial Packaging segment, and pulpwood, old corrugated containers for recycling and containerboard are the principal raw materials for the Paper Packaging segment. The Company satisfies most of its needs for these raw materials through purchases on the open market or under short-term and long-term supply agreements. All of these raw materials are purchased in highly competitive, price-sensitive markets, which have historically exhibited price, demand and supply cyclicity. From time to time, some of these raw materials have been in short supply, but to date these shortages have not had a significant effect on the Company's operations.

Research and Development

While research and development projects are important to the Company's continued growth, the amount expended in any year is not material in relation to the results of operations of the Company.

The Company's business is not materially dependent upon patents, trademarks, licenses or franchises.

Employees

As of October 31, 2008, the Company had approximately 9,600 full time employees. A significant number of the Company's full time employees are covered under collective bargaining agreements. The Company believes that its employee relations are generally good.

(d) Financial Information about Geographic Areas

The Company's operations are located in the Americas, Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia Pacific. Information related to each of these areas is included in Note 15 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8 of this Form 10-K, which Note is incorporated herein by reference. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk, included in Item 7A of this Form 10-K, is incorporated herein by reference.

(e) Available Information

The Company maintains an Internet Web site at www.greif.com. The Company files reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") and makes available, free of charge, on or through this Internet Web site, its annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, proxy and information statements and amendments to these reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act as soon as reasonably possible after the Company electronically files such material with, or furnishes it to, the SEC.

Any of the materials the Company files with the SEC may also be read and/or copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549. Information on the operation of the SEC's Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC maintains an Internet Web site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC at www.sec.gov.

(f) Other Matters

The Company's common equity securities are listed on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") under the symbols GEF and GEF.B. Michael J. Gasser, the Company's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, has timely certified to the NYSE that, at the date of the certification, he was unaware of any violation by the Company of the NYSE's corporate

governance listing standards. In addition, Mr. Gasser and Donald S. Huml, the Company's Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, have provided certain certifications in this Form 10-K regarding the quality of the Company's public disclosures. See Exhibits 31.1 and 31.2 to this Form 10-K.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Statements contained in this Form 10-K may be "forward-looking" within the meaning of Section 21E of the Exchange Act. Such forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause the Company's operating results to differ materially from those projected. The following factors, among others, in some cases have affected, and in the future could affect, the Company's actual financial performance. The terms "Greif," "our company," "we," "us" and "our" as used in this discussion refer to Greif, Inc. and subsidiaries.

The current and future challenging global economy may adversely affect our business.

The current economic slowdown and any further economic decline in future reporting periods could negatively affect our business and results of operations. The volatility of the current economic climate makes it difficult for us to predict the complete impact of this slowdown on our business and results of operations. Due to these current economic conditions, our customers may face financial difficulties, the unavailability of or reduction in commercial credit, or both, that may result in decreased sales and revenues of the Company. Certain of our customers may cease operations or seek bankruptcy protection, which would reduce our cash flows and adversely impact our results of operations. Our customers that are financially viable and not experiencing economic distress may elect to reduce the volume of orders for our products in an effort to remain financially stable or as a result of the unavailability of commercial credit which would negatively affect our results of operations. We may also have difficulty accessing the global credit markets due to the tightening of commercial credit availability and the financial difficulties of our customers, which would result in decreased ability to fund capital-intensive strategic projects and our ongoing acquisition strategy. Further, we may experience challenges in forecasting revenues and operating results due to these global economic conditions. The difficulty in forecasting revenues and operating results may result in volatility in the market price of our common stock.

In addition, the lenders under our Credit Agreement and other borrowing facilities described in Item 7 of this Form 10-K under “Liquidity and Capital Resources - Borrowing Arrangements” and the counterparties with whom we maintain interest rate swap agreements, cross-currency interest rate swaps, currency forward contracts and derivatives and other hedge agreements may be unable to perform their lending or payment obligations in whole or in part, or may cease operations or seek bankruptcy protection, which would negatively affect our cash flows and our results of operations.

Historically, our business has been sensitive to changes in general economic or business conditions.

Our customers generally consist of other manufacturers and suppliers who purchase industrial packaging products and containerboard and related corrugated products for their own containment and shipping purposes. Because we supply a cross section of industries, such as chemicals, food products, petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, metal products, agricultural and agrichemical products, and have operations in many countries, demand for our industrial packaging products and containerboard and related corrugated products has historically corresponded to changes in general economic and business conditions of the industries and countries in which we operate. Accordingly, our financial performance is substantially dependent upon the general economic conditions existing in these industries and countries, and any prolonged or substantial economic downturn in the markets we operate, including the current economic downturn, could have a material adverse affect on our business, results of operations or financial condition.

Our operations are subject to currency exchange and political risks that could adversely affect our results of operations.

We have operations in over 45 countries. As a result of our international operations, we are subject to certain risks that could disrupt our operations or force us to incur unanticipated costs.

Our operating performance is affected by fluctuations in currency exchange rates by:

• translations into United States dollars for financial reporting purposes of the assets and liabilities of our international operations conducted in local currencies; and

- gains or losses from transactions conducted in currencies other than the operation’s functional currency.

We are subject to various other risks associated with operating in international countries, such as the following:

- political, social and economic instability;
- war, civil disturbance or acts of terrorism;
- taking of property by nationalization or expropriation without fair compensation;
- changes in government policies and regulations;

• imposition of limitations on conversions of currencies into United States dollars or remittance of dividends and other payments by international subsidiaries;

• imposition or increase of withholding and other taxes on remittances and other payments by international subsidiaries;

- hyperinflation in certain countries and the current threat of global deflation; and
- impositions or increase of investment and other restrictions or requirements by non-United States governments.

We operate in highly competitive industries.

Each of our business segments operates in highly competitive industries. The most important competitive factors we face are price, quality and service. To the extent that one or more of our competitors become more successful with respect to any of these key competitive factors, we could lose customers and our sales could decline. In addition, due to the tendency of certain customers to diversify their suppliers, we could be unable to increase or maintain sales volumes with particular customers. Certain of our competitors are substantially larger and have significantly greater financial resources.

Our business is sensitive to changes in industry demands.

Industry demand for containerboard in the United States and certain of our industrial packaging products in our United States and international markets has varied in recent years causing competitive pricing pressures for those products. We compete in industries that are capital intensive, which generally leads to continued production as long as prices are sufficient to cover marginal costs. As a result, changes in industry demands like the current economic slowdown, including any resulting industry over-capacity, may cause substantial price competition and, in turn, negatively impact our financial performance.

The continuing consolidation of our customer base for industrial packaging, containerboard and corrugated products may intensify pricing pressures and may negatively impact our financial performance.

Over the last few years, many of our large industrial packaging, containerboard and corrugated products customers have acquired, or been acquired by, companies with similar or complementary product lines. This consolidation has increased the concentration of our largest customers, and resulted in increased pricing pressures from our customers. Any future consolidation of our customer base could negatively impact our financial performance.

Raw material and energy price fluctuations and shortages could adversely affect our ability to obtain the materials needed to manufacture our products and could adversely affect our manufacturing costs.

The principal raw materials used in the manufacture of our products are steel, resin, pulpwood, old corrugated containers for recycling, and containerboard, which we purchase in highly competitive, price sensitive markets. These raw materials have historically exhibited price and demand cyclicality. Some of these materials have been, and in the future may be, in short supply. However, we have not recently experienced any significant difficulty in obtaining our principal raw materials. We have long-term supply contracts in place for obtaining a portion of our principal raw materials. The cost of producing our products is also sensitive to the price of energy. We have, from time to time, entered into short-term contracts to hedge certain of our energy costs. Energy prices, in particular oil and natural gas, have fluctuated in recent years, with a corresponding effect on our production costs.

Environmental and health and safety matters and product liability claims could negatively impact our operations and financial performance.

We must comply with extensive rules and regulations regarding federal, state, local and international environmental matters, such as air and water quality and waste disposal. We must also comply with extensive rules and regulations regarding safety and health matters. The failure to materially comply with such rules and regulations could adversely affect our operations and financial performance. Furthermore, litigation or claims against us with respect to such matters could adversely affect our financial performance. We may also become subject to product liability claims, which could adversely affect our operations and financial performance.

Our business may be adversely impacted by work stoppages and other labor relations matters.

We are subject to risk of work stoppages and other labor relations matters because a significant number of our employees are represented by unions. We have experienced work stoppages and strikes in the past, and there may be work stoppages and strikes in the future. Any prolonged work stoppage or strike at any one of our principal manufacturing facilities could have a negative impact on our business, results of operations or financial condition.

We may encounter difficulties arising from acquisitions.

During recent years, we have invested a substantial amount of capital in acquisitions. Acquisitions involve numerous risks, including the failure to retain key customers, employees and contracts, the inability to integrate businesses without material disruption, unanticipated costs incurred in connection with integrating businesses and the incurrence of liabilities greater than anticipated or operating results that are less than anticipated. In addition, acquisitions and integration activities require time and attention of management and other key personnel, and other companies in our industries have similar acquisition strategies. There can be no assurance that any future acquisitions will be successfully integrated into our operations, that competition for acquisitions will not intensify or that we will be able to complete such acquisitions on acceptable terms and conditions. The costs of unsuccessful acquisition efforts may adversely affect our financial performance.

We may be subject to losses that might not be covered in whole or in part by existing insurance reserves or insurance coverage. These uninsured losses could adversely affect our financial performance.

We are self-insured for certain of the claims made under our employee medical and dental insurance programs and for certain of our workers' compensation claims. We establish reserves for estimated costs related to pending claims, administrative fees and claims incurred but not reported. Because establishing reserves is an inherently uncertain process involving estimates, currently established reserves may not be adequate to cover the actual liability for claims made under our employee medical and dental insurance programs and for certain of our workers' compensation claims. If we conclude that our estimates are incorrect and our reserves are inadequate for these claims, we will need to increase our reserves, which could adversely affect our financial performance.

We carry comprehensive liability, fire and extended coverage insurance on most of our facilities, with policy specifications and insured limits customarily carried for similar properties. However, there are certain types of losses, such as losses resulting from wars, acts of terrorism, or hurricanes, tornados, or other natural disasters, that generally are not insured because they are either uninsurable or not economically insurable. Should an uninsured loss or a loss in excess of insured limits occur, we could lose capital invested in that property, as well as the anticipated future revenues derived from the manufacturing activities conducted at that property, while remaining obligated for any mortgage indebtedness or other financial obligations related to the property. Any such loss would adversely impact our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We purchase insurance policies covering general liability and product liability with substantial policy limits. However, there can be no assurance that any liability claim would be adequately covered by our applicable insurance policies or it would not be excluded from coverage based on the terms and conditions of the policy. This could also apply to any applicable contractual indemnity.

The frequency and volume of our timber and timberland sales will impact our financial performance.

We have a significant inventory of standing timber and timberland and approximately 61,600 acres of special use properties in the United States and Canada. The frequency, demand for and volume of sales of timber, timberland and special use properties will have an effect on our financial performance. In addition, volatility in the real estate market for special use properties could negatively affect our results of operations.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

The following are the Company's principal operating locations and the products manufactured at such facilities or the use of such facilities. The Company considers its operating properties to be in satisfactory condition and adequate to meet its present needs. However, the Company expects to make further additions, improvements and consolidations of its properties to support its business expansion.

| Location | Products or Use | Owned | Leased |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-------|--------|
| INDUSTRIAL PACKAGING: | | | |
| Algeria | Steel drums | 1 | — |
| Argentina | | 3 | 1 |
| | | | 16 |

Edgar Filing: GREIF INC - Form 10-K

| | Steel and plastic drums, water bottles and distribution center | | |
|----------------|--|---|---|
| Australia | Closures | — | 2 |
| Austria | Steel drums and administrative office | — | 1 |
| Belgium | Steel and plastic drums and coordination center (shared services) | 2 | 1 |
| Brazil | Steel and plastic drums, water bottles, closures and general office | 5 | 5 |
| Canada | Fibre, steel and plastic drums, blending and packaging services and administrative office | 8 | 1 |
| Chile | Steel drums, water bottles and distribution center | — | 1 |
| China | Steel drums, closures and general office | — | 8 |
| Colombia | Steel and plastic drums and water bottles | 1 | 1 |
| Costa Rica | Steel drums | — | 1 |
| Czech Republic | Steel drums | 2 | — |
| Denmark | Fibre drums | 1 | — |
| Egypt | Steel drums | 1 | — |
| France | Fibre, steel and plastic drums, intermediate bulk containers, closures and distribution center | 4 | 2 |
| Germany | Fibre, steel and plastic drums and distribution center | 3 | 2 |

Edgar Filing: GREIF INC - Form 10-K

| Location | Products or Use | Owned | Leased |
|--------------|---|-------|--------|
| Greece | Steel drums and water bottles | 2 | 2 |
| Guatemala | Steel drums | 1 | — |
| Hungary | Steel drums | 1 | — |
| Ireland | Warehouse | — | 1 |
| Italy | Steel and plastic drums, water bottles and distribution center | 1 | 2 |
| Jamaica | Distribution center | — | 1 |
| Kazakhstan | Distribution center | — | 1 |
| Kenya | Steel and plastic drums | — | 1 |
| Malaysia | Steel and plastic drums | — | 2 |
| Mexico | Fibre, steel and plastic drums, closures and distribution center | 2 | 2 |
| Morocco | Steel and plastic drums and plastic bottles | 1 | — |
| Mozambique | Steel drums and plastic bottles | — | 1 |
| Netherlands | Fibre steel and plastic drums, closures, research center and general office | 5 | — |
| New Zealand | Intermediate bulk containers | — | 1 |
| Nigeria | Steel and plastic drums | — | 3 |
| Philippines | Steel drums and water bottles | — | 1 |
| Poland | Steel drums and water bottles | 2 | — |
| Portugal | Steel drums | 1 | — |
| Russia | Steel drums, water bottles and intermediate bulk containers | 9 | — |
| Saudi Arabia | Steel drums | — | 1 |
| Singapore | Steel drums, steel parts and distribution center | — | 2 |
| South Africa | Steel and plastic drums and distribution center | — | 6 |

Edgar Filing: GREIF INC - Form 10-K

| | | | |
|------------------|--|----|----|
| Spain | Steel drums and distribution center | 3 | — |
| Sweden | Fibre and steel drums and distribution center | 2 | — |
| Turkey | Steel drums and water bottles | 1 | — |
| Ukraine | Distribution center and water bottles | — | 1 |
| United Kingdom | Steel and plastic drums, water bottles and distribution center | 3 | 2 |
| United States | Fibre, steel and plastic drums, intermediate bulk containers, closures, steel parts, water bottles, load securement and distribution centers and blending and packaging services | 34 | 28 |
| Uruguay | Steel and plastic drums | — | 1 |
| Venezuela | Steel and plastic drums and water bottles | 2 | — |
| Vietnam | Steel drums | — | 1 |
| PAPER PACKAGING: | | | |
| United States | Corrugated sheets, containers and other products, containerboard, multiwall bags, investment property and distribution center | 23 | 4 |
| TIMBER: | | | |
| United States | General offices | 4 | 1 |
| CORPORATE: | | | |
| United States | Principal and general offices | 2 | — |

The Company also owns a substantial number of timber properties comprising approximately 268,700 acres in the states of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi and approximately 27,450 acres in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec in Canada as of October 31, 2008.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The Company has no pending material legal proceedings.

From time to time, various legal proceedings arise at the country, state or local levels involving environmental sites to which the Company has shipped, directly or indirectly, small amounts of toxic waste, such as paint solvents, etc. The Company, to date, has been classified as a “de minimis” participant and such proceedings do not involve potential monetary sanctions in excess of \$100,000.

ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS

There were no matters submitted to a vote of security holders during the fourth quarter of the year covered by this Form 10-K.

PART II

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

Shares of the Company's Class A and Class B Common Stock are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbols GEF and GEF.B, respectively.

Financial information regarding the Company's two classes of common stock, as well as the number of holders of each class and the high, low and closing sales prices for each class for each quarterly period for the two most recent years, is included in Note 16 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this Form 10-K, which Note is incorporated herein by reference.

The Company pays quarterly dividends of varying amounts computed on the basis described in Note 9 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8 of this Form 10-K, which Note is incorporated herein by reference. The annual dividends paid for the last two years are as follows(1):

2008 year dividends per share – Class A \$1.32; Class B \$1.97

2007 year dividends per share(1) – Class A \$0.92; Class B \$1.38

(1)Dividends per share for 2007 has been adjusted to reflect a 2-for-1 stock split of the Company's shares of Class A and Class B Common Stock distributed on April 11, 2007.

The terms of the Company's Credit Agreement limit its ability to make "restricted payments," which include dividends and purchases, redemptions and acquisitions of equity interests of the Company. The payment of dividends and other restricted payments are subject to the condition that certain defaults not exist under the terms of the Credit Agreement and are limited in amount by a formula based, in part, on the consolidated net income of the Company. See "Borrowing Arrangements" in Item 7 of this Form 10-K.

The following tables set forth the Company's purchases of its shares of Class B Common Stock during 2008. No shares of Class A Common Stock were purchased during 2008.

Issuer Purchases of Class B Common Stock

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased | Average Price Paid Per Share | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs(1) | Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased under the Plans or Programs(1) |
|----------------|---|--|---|--|
| November 2007 | — | — | — | 1,648,128 |
| December 2007 | — | — | — | 1,648,128 |
| January 2008 | 2,500 | \$ 59.04 | 2,500 | 1,645,628 |
| February 2008 | — | — | — | 1,645,628 |
| March 2008 | 5,900 | \$ 59.04 | 5,900 | 1,639,728 |
| April 2008 | 170,500 | \$ 61.22 | 170,500 | 1,469,228 |
| May 2008 | — | — | — | 1,469,228 |
| June 2008 | 2,000 | \$ 57.69 | 2,000 | 1,467,228 |
| July 2008 | 100,500 | \$ 56.41 | 100,500 | 1,366,728 |
| August 2008 | — | — | — | 1,366,728 |
| September 2008 | — | — | — | 1,366,728 |
| October 2008 | 100,000 | \$ 48.00 | 100,000 | 1,266,728 |
| Total | 381,400 | | 381,400 | |

(1) The Company's Board of Directors has authorized a stock repurchase program which permits the Company to purchase up to 4.0 million shares of the Company's Class A or Class B Common Stock, or any combination thereof. As of October 31, 2008, the maximum number of shares that could be purchased was 1,266,728, which may be any combination of Class A or Class B Common Stock.

Performance Graph

The following graph compares the performance of shares of the Company's Class A and B Common Stock to that of the Standard and Poor's 500 Index and the Company's industry group (Peer Index) assuming \$100 invested on October 31, 2003. The graph does not purport to represent the value of the Company.

The Peer Index comprises the containers and packaging index as shown by Dow Jones.

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The five-year selected financial data is as follows (Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts) (1):

| As of and for the years ended October 31, | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Net sales | \$ 3,776,756 | \$ 3,322,294 | \$ 2,628,475 | \$ 2,424,297 | \$ 2,209,282 |
| Net income | \$ 234,354 | \$ 156,368 | \$ 142,119 | \$ 104,656 | \$ 47,769 |
| Total assets | \$ 2,745,898 | \$ 2,652,711 | \$ 2,188,001 | \$ 1,883,323 | \$ 1,813,238 |
| Long-term debt, including current portion of long-term debt | \$ 673,171 | \$ 622,685 | \$ 481,408 | \$ 430,400 | \$ 457,415 |
| Basic earnings per share: | | | | | |
| Class A Common Stock | \$ 4.04 | \$ 2.69 | \$ 2.46 | \$ 1.82 | \$ 0.85 |
| Class B Common Stock | \$ 6.04 | \$ 4.04 | \$ 3.69 | \$ 2.73 | \$ 1.26 |
| Diluted earnings per share: | | | | | |
| Class A Common Stock | \$ 3.99 | \$ 2.65 | \$ 2.42 | \$ 1.78 | \$ 0.83 |
| Class B Common Stock | \$ 6.04 | \$ 4.04 | \$ 3.69 | \$ 2.73 | \$ 1.26 |
| Dividends per share: | | | | | |
| Class A Common Stock | \$ 1.32 | \$ 0.92 | \$ 0.60 | \$ 0.40 | \$ 0.30 |
| Class B Common Stock | \$ 1.97 | \$ 1.37 | \$ 0.89 | \$ 0.59 | \$ 0.44 |

(1) All share information presented in this table has been adjusted to reflect a 2-for-1 stock split of the Company's shares of Class A and Class B Common Stock distributed on April 11, 2007.

The results of operations include the effects of pretax restructuring charges of \$43.2 million, \$21.2 million, \$33.2 million, \$35.7 million and \$54.1 million for 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004, respectively; pretax debt extinguishment charges of \$23.5 million and \$2.8 million for 2007 and 2005, respectively; and large timberland gains of \$41.3 million and \$56.3 million for 2006 and 2005, respectively.

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

The purpose of this section is to discuss and analyze our consolidated financial condition, liquidity and capital resources and results of operations. This analysis should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes, which appear elsewhere in this Form 10-K. The terms "Greif," "our company," "we," "us," and "our" as used in this discussion refer to Greif, Inc. and subsidiaries.

Business Segments

We operate in three business segments: Industrial Packaging; Paper Packaging; and Timber.

We are a leading global provider of industrial packaging products, such as steel, fibre and plastic drums, intermediate bulk containers, closure systems for industrial packaging products, transit protection products and polycarbonate water bottles, and services, such as blending, filling and other packaging services, logistics and warehousing. We seek to provide complete packaging solutions to our customers by offering a comprehensive range of products and services on a global basis. We sell our products to customers in industries such as chemicals, paint and pigments, food and beverage, petroleum, industrial coatings, agricultural, pharmaceutical and mineral, among others. In addition, the Company provides a variety of blending, filling and other packaging services, logistics and warehousing to customers in many of these same industries in North America.

We sell our containerboard, corrugated sheets, corrugated containers and multiwall bags to customers in North America in industries such as packaging, automotive, food and building products. Our corrugated container products are used to ship such diverse products as home appliances, small machinery, grocery products, building products, automotive components, books and furniture, as well as numerous other applications. Our full line of multiwall bag products is used to ship a wide range of industrial and consumer products, such as seed, fertilizers, chemicals, concrete, flour, sugar, feed, pet foods, popcorn, charcoal and salt, primarily for the agricultural, chemical, building products and food industries.

As of October 31, 2008, we owned approximately 268,700 acres of timber properties in the southeastern United States, which are actively managed, and approximately 27,450 acres of timber properties in Canada. Our timber management is focused on the active harvesting and regeneration of our timber properties to achieve sustainable long-term yields on our timberland. While timber sales are subject to fluctuations, we seek to maintain a consistent cutting schedule, within the limits of available merchantable acreage of timber, market and weather conditions. We also sell, from time to time, timberland and special use land, which consists of surplus land, HBU land, and development land.

In 2003, we began a transformation to become a leaner, more market-focused, performance-driven company – what we call the “Greif Business System.” We believe the Greif Business System has and will continue to generate productivity improvements and achieve permanent cost reductions. The Greif Business System continues to focus on opportunities such as improved labor productivity, material yield and other manufacturing efficiencies, along with further plant consolidations. In addition, as part of the Greif Business System, we have launched a strategic sourcing initiative to more effectively leverage our global spending and lay the foundation for a world-class sourcing and supply chain capability. In response to the current economic slowdown, we have accelerated the implementation of certain Greif Business System initiatives. These initiatives include continuation of active portfolio management, further administrative excellence activities, and curtailed discretionary spending.

Critical Accounting Policies

The discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations are based upon our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (“GAAP”). The preparation of these consolidated financial statements, in accordance with these principles, require us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, revenues and expenses, and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of our consolidated financial statements.

A summary of our significant accounting policies is included in Note 1 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

included in Item 8 of this Form 10-K. We believe that the consistent application of these policies enables us to provide readers of the consolidated financial statements with useful and reliable information about our results of operations and financial condition. The following are the accounting policies that we believe are most important to the portrayal of our results of operations and financial condition and require our most difficult, subjective or complex judgments.

Allowance for Accounts Receivable. We evaluate the collectability of our accounts receivable based on a combination of factors. In circumstances where we are aware of a specific customer’s inability to meet its financial obligations to us, we record a specific allowance for bad debts against amounts due to reduce the net recognized receivable to the amount we reasonably believe will be collected. In addition, we recognize allowances for bad debts based on the length of time receivables are past due with allowance percentages, based on our historical experiences, applied on a graduated scale relative to the age of the receivable amounts. If circumstances change (e.g., higher than expected bad debt experience or an unexpected material adverse change in a major customer’s ability to meet its financial obligations to us), our estimates of the recoverability of amounts due to us could change by a material amount.

Inventory Reserves. Reserves for slow moving and obsolete inventories are provided based on historical experience and product demand. We continuously evaluate the adequacy of these reserves and make adjustments to these reserves as required. We also evaluate reserves for losses under firm purchase commitments for goods or inventories.

Net Assets Held for Sale. Net assets held for sale represent land, buildings and land improvements less accumulated depreciation. We record net assets held for sale in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (“SFAS”) No. 144, “Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets,” at the lower of carrying value or fair value less cost to sell. Fair value is based on the estimated proceeds from the sale of the facility utilizing recent purchase offers, market comparables and/or data obtained from our commercial real estate broker. Our estimate as to fair value is regularly reviewed and subject to changes in the commercial real estate markets and our continuing evaluation as to the facility’s acceptable sale price.

Properties, Plants and Equipment. Depreciation on properties, plants and equipment is provided on the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of our assets.

We own timber properties in the southeastern United States and in Canada. With respect to our United States timber properties, which consisted of approximately 268,700 acres at October 31, 2008, depletion expense is computed on the basis of cost and the estimated recoverable timber acquired. Our land costs are maintained by tract. Merchantable timber costs are maintained by five product classes, pine sawtimber, pine chip-n-saw, pine pulpwood, hardwood sawtimber and hardwood pulpwood, within a "depletion block," with each depletion block based upon a geographic district or subdistrict. Currently, we have 11 depletion blocks. These same depletion blocks are used for pre-merchantable timber costs. Each year, we estimate the volume of our merchantable timber for the five product classes by each depletion block. These estimates are based on the current state in the growth cycle and not on quantities to be available in future years. Our estimates do not include costs to be incurred in the future. We then project these volumes to the end of the year. Upon acquisition of a new timberland tract, we record separate amounts for land, merchantable timber and pre-merchantable timber allocated as a percentage of the values being purchased. These acquisition volumes and costs acquired during the year are added to the totals for each product class within the appropriate depletion block(s). The total of the beginning, one-year growth and acquisition volumes are divided by the total undepleted historical cost to arrive at a depletion rate, which is then used for the current year. As timber is sold, we multiply the volumes sold by the depletion rate for the current year to arrive at the depletion cost. Our Canadian timber properties, which consisted of approximately 27,450 acres at October 31, 2008, did not have any depletion expense since they are not actively managed at this time.

We believe that the lives and methods of determining depreciation and depletion are reasonable; however, using other lives and methods could provide materially different results.

Restructuring Reserves. Restructuring reserves are determined in accordance with appropriate accounting guidance, including SFAS No. 146, "Accounting for Costs Associated with Exit or Disposal Activities," and Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 100, "Restructuring and Impairment Charges," depending upon the facts and circumstances surrounding the situation. Restructuring reserves are further discussed in Note 5 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8 of this Form 10-K.

Pension and Postretirement Benefits. Pension and postretirement benefit expenses and liabilities are determined by our actuaries using assumptions about the discount rate, expected return on plan assets, rate of compensation increase and health care cost trend rates. Further discussion of our pension and postretirement benefit plans and related assumptions is contained in Notes 12 and 13 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8 of this Form 10-K. The results would be different using other assumptions.

Income Taxes. Our effective tax rate is based on income, statutory tax rates and tax planning opportunities available to us in the various jurisdictions in which we operate. Significant judgment is required in determining our effective tax rate and in evaluating our tax positions.

In the first quarter of fiscal 2008, the Company adopted the provisions of Financial Accounting Standards Boards ("FASB") Interpretation ("FIN") No. 48, "Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes." FIN No. 48 clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in the financial statements in accordance with SFAS No. 109, "Accounting for Income Taxes." This standard provides that a tax benefit from uncertain tax position may be recognized when it is more likely than not that the position will be sustained upon examination, including resolutions of any related appeals or litigation processes, based on the technical merits. The amount recognized is measured as the largest amount of tax benefit that is greater than 50 percent likely of being realized upon settlement. Our effective tax rate includes the impact of reserve provisions and changes to reserves that we consider appropriate as well as related interest and penalties.

A number of years may elapse before a particular matter, for which we have established a reserve, is audited and finally resolved. The number of years with open tax audits varies depending on the tax jurisdiction. While it is often

difficult to predict the final outcome or the timing of resolution of any particular tax matter, we believe that our reserves reflect the probable outcome of known tax contingencies. Unfavorable settlement of any particular issue would require use of our cash. Favorable resolution would be recognized as a reduction to our effective tax rate in the period of resolution.

Valuation allowances are established where expected future taxable income does not support the realization of the deferred tax assets.

Environmental Cleanup Costs. We expense environmental expenditures related to existing conditions caused by past or current operations and from which no current or future benefit is discernable. Expenditures that extend the life of the related property, or mitigate or prevent future environmental contamination, are capitalized. The capitalized cost at October 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006 was immaterial.

Environmental expenses were \$0.4 million, \$0.2 million, and \$1.6 million in 2008, 2007, and 2006, respectively. Environmental cash expenditures were \$3.2 million, \$1.6 million, and \$1.8 million in 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Our reserves for environmental liabilities at October 31, 2008 amounted to \$37.2 million, which included a reserve of \$21.5 million related to our blending facility in Chicago, Illinois, \$9.3 million related to our Blagden facilities, \$3.3 million related to our facility in Lier, Belgium and \$3.1 million related to smaller facilities not individually material. Our reserves for asserted and unasserted environmental litigation, claims and/or assessments at manufacturing sites and other locations where we believe it is probable the outcome of such matters will be unfavorable to us, were \$5.8 million, which included \$5.3 million related to our facility in Chicago, Illinois. Reserves for large environmental exposures are principally based on environmental studies and cost estimates provided by third parties, but also take into account management estimates. Reserves for less significant environmental exposures are principally based on management estimates.

We anticipate that expenditures for remediation costs at most of the sites will be made over an extended period of time. Given the inherent uncertainties in evaluating environmental exposures, actual costs may vary from those estimated at October 31, 2008. Our exposure to adverse developments with respect to any individual site is not expected to be material. Although environmental remediation could have a material effect on results of operations if a series of adverse developments occur in a particular quarter or fiscal year, we believe that the chance of a series of adverse developments occurring in the same quarter or fiscal year is remote. Future information and developments will require us to continually reassess the expected impact of these environmental matters.

Self-Insurance. We are self-insured for certain of the claims made under our employee medical and dental insurance programs. We had recorded liabilities totaling \$4.1 million and \$3.1 million for estimated costs related to outstanding claims at October 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. These costs include an estimate for expected settlements on pending claims, administrative fees and an estimate for claims incurred but not reported. These estimates are based on our assessment of outstanding claims, historical analyses and current payment trends. We record an estimate for the claims incurred but not reported using an estimated lag period based upon historical information. This lag period assumption has been consistently applied for the periods presented. If the lag period was hypothetically adjusted by a period equal to a half month, the impact on earnings would be approximately \$1.0 million. However, we believe the reserves recorded are adequate based upon current facts and circumstances.

We have certain deductibles applied to various insurance policies including general liability, product, auto and workers' compensation. Deductible liabilities are insured through our captive insurance subsidiary, which had recorded liabilities totaling \$20.6 million and \$21.9 million for anticipated costs related to general liability, product, auto and workers' compensation at October 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. These costs include an estimate for expected settlements on pending claims, defense costs and an estimate for claims incurred but not reported. These estimates are based on our assessment of outstanding claims, historical analysis, actuarial information and current payment trends.

Contingencies. Various lawsuits, claims and proceedings have been or may be instituted or asserted against us, including those pertaining to environmental, product liability, and safety and health matters. While the amounts claimed may be substantial, the ultimate liability cannot currently be determined because of the considerable uncertainties that exist.

All lawsuits, claims and proceedings are considered by the Company in establishing reserves for contingencies in accordance with SFAS No. 5, "Accounting for Contingencies." In accordance with the provisions of SFAS No. 5, the Company accrues for a litigation-related liability when it is probable that a liability has been incurred and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. Based on currently available information known to the Company, the Company believes that its reserves for these litigation-related liabilities are reasonable and that the ultimate outcome of any pending matters is not likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position or results from operations.

Goodwill, Other Intangible Assets and Other Long-Lived Assets. Goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets are no longer amortized, but instead are periodically reviewed for impairment as required by SFAS No. 142, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets." The costs of acquired intangible assets determined to have definite lives are amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated economic lives of five to 20 years. Our policy is to periodically review other intangible assets subject to amortization and other long-lived assets based upon the evaluation of such factors as the occurrence of a significant adverse event or change in the environment in which the business operates, or if the expected future undiscounted net cash flows would become less than the carrying amount of the asset. An impairment loss would be recorded in the period such determination is made based on the fair value of the related assets.

Other Items. Other items that could have a significant impact on the financial statements include the risks and uncertainties listed in Item 1A under "Risk Factors." Actual results could differ materially using different estimates and

assumptions, or if conditions are significantly different in the future.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Historically, revenues and earnings may or may not be representative of future operating results due to various economic and other factors.

In 2003, we began a transformation to become a leaner, more market-focused/performance-driven company, to what we call the “Greif Business System.” We believe the Greif Business System has and will continue to generate productivity improvements and achieve permanent cost reductions. The Greif Business System continues to focus on opportunities such as improved labor productivity, material yield and other manufacturing efficiencies, along with further plant consolidations. In addition, as part of the Greif Business System, we have launched a strategic sourcing initiative to more effectively leverage our global spending, including a transportation management system, and lay the foundation for a world-class sourcing and supply chain capability. In response to the current economic slowdown, we have accelerated the implementation of certain Greif Business System initiatives. These initiatives include continuation of active portfolio management, further administrative excellence activities, and curtailed discretionary spending.

The non-GAAP financial measure of operating profit before the impact of restructuring charges and timberland disposals, net is used throughout the following discussion of our results of operations (except with respect to the segment discussions for Industrial Packaging and Paper Packaging, where timberland disposals, net are not applicable). Operating profit before the impact of restructuring charges and timberland disposals, net is equal to operating profit plus restructuring charges less timberland gains plus timberland losses. We use operating profit before the impact of restructuring charges and timberland disposals, net because we believe that this measure provides a better indication of our operational performance because it excludes restructuring charges, which are not representative of ongoing operations, and timberland disposals, net which are volatile from period to period, and it provides a more stable platform on which to compare our historical performance.

The following table sets forth the net sales and operating profit for each of our business segments for 2008, 2007 and 2006 (Dollars in millions):

| For the year ended October 31, | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|---|------------|------------|------------|
| Net Sales | | | |
| Industrial Packaging | \$ 3,061.1 | \$ 2,653.6 | \$ 1,993.0 |
| Paper Packaging | 696.9 | 653.7 | 620.3 |
| Timber | 18.8 | 14.9 | 15.1 |
| Total net sales | \$ 3,776.8 | \$ 3,322.2 | \$ 2,628.4 |
| Operating Profit | | | |
| Operating profit, before the impact of restructuring charges and timberland disposals, net: | | | |
| Industrial Packaging | \$ 315.2 | \$ 229.4 | \$ 167.5 |
| Paper Packaging | 77.4 | 67.7 | 60.0 |
| Timber | 20.6 | 14.4 | 10.6 |
| Total operating profit before the impact of restructuring charges and timberland disposals, net | 413.2 | 311.5 | 238.1 |
| Restructuring charges: | | | |
| Industrial Packaging | 34.0 | 16.0 | 24.0 |
| Paper Packaging | 9.1 | 5.2 | 9.2 |

Edgar Filing: GREIF INC - Form 10-K

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Timber | 0.1 | - | - |
| Total restructuring charges | 43.2 | 21.2 | 33.2 |
| Timberland disposals, net: | | | |
| Timber | 0.3 | (0.7) | 41.3 |
| Operating profit | | | |
| Industrial Packaging | 281.2 | 213.4 | 143.5 |
| Paper Packaging | 68.3 | 62.5 | 50.8 |
| Timber | 20.8 | 13.7 | 51.9 |
| Total operating profit | \$ 370.3 | \$ 289.6 | \$ 246.2 |

Year 2008 Compared to Year 2007

Overview

Net sales increased 14 percent (10 percent excluding the impact of foreign currency translation) to \$3,776.8 million in 2008 compared to \$3,322.3 million in 2007. The \$454.5 million increase was due to Industrial Packaging (\$407.4 million), Paper Packaging (\$43.2 million) and Timber (\$3.9 million). Strong organic sales growth for industrial packaging products and higher selling prices, principally in response to higher raw material costs, drove the 10 percent constant-currency increase.

Operating profit was \$370.3 million and \$289.6 million in 2008 and 2007, respectively. Operating profit before the impact of restructuring charges and timberland disposals, net was \$413.1 million for 2008 compared to \$311.5 million for 2007. The \$101.6 million increase was principally due to higher operating profit in Industrial Packaging (\$85.7 million), Paper Packaging (\$9.7 million) and Timber (\$6.2 million). Operating profit, expressed as a percentage of net sales, increased to 9.8 percent for 2008 from 8.7 percent in 2007. Operating profit before restructuring charges and the impact of timberland disposals, net, expressed as a percentage of net sales, increased to 10.9 percent for 2008 from 9.4 percent in 2007.

Segment Review

Industrial Packaging

Our Industrial Packaging segment offers a comprehensive line of industrial packaging products and services, such as steel, fibre and plastic drums, intermediate bulk containers, closure systems for industrial packaging products, transit protection products, and polycarbonate water bottles, and services, such as blending, filling and other packaging services, logistics and warehousing. The key factors influencing profitability in the Industrial Packaging segment are:

- Selling prices, customer demand and sales volumes;
- Raw material costs, primarily steel, resin and containerboard;
 - Energy and transportation costs;
- Benefits from executing the Greif Business System;
 - Restructuring charges;
- Contributions from recent acquisitions;
- Divestiture of business units; and
- Impact of foreign currency translation.

In this segment, net sales increased 15 percent to \$3,061.1 million in 2008 compared to \$2,653.6 million in 2007 — an increase of 10 percent excluding the impact of foreign currency translation. Higher sales volumes across all regions, with particular strength in emerging markets, in addition to higher selling prices in response to higher raw material costs, continued to drive the segment's organic growth.

Gross profit margin for the Industrial Packaging segment was 18.5 percent in 2008 compared to 18.3 percent in 2007, primarily due to the continued implementation of the Greif Business System (lower labor, transportation and other manufacturing costs).

Operating profit was \$281.2 million in 2008 compared to \$213.4 million in 2007. Operating profit before the impact of restructuring charges increased to \$315.2 million in 2008 compared to \$229.4 million in 2007. The increase in operating profit was primarily due to improvement in sales volumes, higher selling prices and contributions from the Greif Business System, which were partially offset by higher input costs.

Paper Packaging

Our Paper Packaging segment sells containerboard, corrugated sheets, corrugated containers and multiwall bags in North America. The key factors influencing profitability in the Paper Packaging segment are:

- Selling prices, customer demand and sales volumes;
- Raw material costs, primarily old corrugated containers;
 - Energy and transportation costs;
- Benefits from executing the Greif Business System; and
 - Restructuring charges.

In this segment, net sales were \$696.9 million in 2008 compared to \$653.7 million in 2007. The increase in net sales was principally due to higher selling prices, including a containerboard price increase implemented in the fourth quarter of 2007 and the realization of a containerboard price increase implemented in the fourth quarter of 2008.

Gross profit margin for the Paper Packaging segment was 17.1 percent in 2008 compared to 17.4 percent in 2007. This decrease was primarily due to higher input costs, including energy and transportation, partially offset by higher selling prices from the containerboard increase implemented in the fourth quarter of 2007 and the partial realization of an increase implemented in the fourth quarter of 2008.

Operating Profit was \$68.3 million and \$62.5 million in 2008 and 2007, respectively. Operating profit before the impact of restructuring charges increased to \$77.4 million in 2008 compared to \$67.7 million in 2007. The increase was primarily due to higher selling prices from containerboard increases, partially offset by higher input costs, including increased energy costs and increased transportation costs.

Timber

As of October 31, 2008, our Timber segment consists of approximately 268,700 acres of timber properties in the southeastern United States, which are actively harvested and regenerated, and approximately 27,450 acres in Canada. The key factors influencing profitability in the Timber segment are:

- Planned level of timber sales;
- Selling prices and customer demand
- Gains (losses) on sale of timberland; and
- Sale of special use properties (surplus, HBU, and development properties).

Net sales were \$18.8 million in 2008 compared to and \$14.9 million in 2007. While timber sales are subject to fluctuations, we seek to maintain a consistent cutting schedule, within the limits of market and weather conditions.

Operating profit was \$20.8 million and \$13.7 million in 2008 and 2007, respectively. Operating profit before the impact of restructuring charges and timberland disposals, net was \$20.6 million in 2008 compared to \$14.4 million in 2007. Included in these amounts were profits from the sale of special use properties of \$16.8 million in 2008 and \$9.5 million in 2007.

In order to maximize the value of our timber property, we continue to review our current portfolio and explore the development of certain of these properties in Canada and the United States. This process has led us to characterize our property as follows:

- Surplus property, meaning land that cannot be efficiently or effectively managed by us, whether due to parcel size, lack of productivity, location, access limitations or for other reasons.
- HBU property, meaning land that in its current state has a higher market value for uses other than growing and selling timber.
- Development property, meaning HBU land that, with additional investment, may have a significantly higher market value than its HBU market value.
- Timberland, meaning land that is best suited for growing and selling timber.

We report the sale of surplus and HBU property in our consolidated statements of income under “gain on disposals of properties, plants and equipment, net” and report the sale of development property under “net sales” and “cost of products sold.” All HBU and development property, together with surplus property will continue to be used by us to productively grow and sell timber until sold.

Whether timberland has a higher value for uses other than growing and selling timber is a determination based upon several variables, such as proximity to population centers, anticipated population growth in the area, the topography of the land, aesthetic considerations, including access to lakes or rivers, the condition of the surrounding land, availability of utilities, markets for timber and economic considerations both nationally and locally. Given these considerations, the characterization of land is not a static process, but requires an ongoing review and re-characterization as circumstances change.

At October 31, 2008, we estimated that there were approximately 61,600 acres in Canada and the United States of special use property, which will be available for sale in the next five to seven years.

Other Income Statement Changes

Cost of Products Sold

Cost of products sold, as a percentage of net sales, decreased to 81.7 percent in 2008 from 81.8 percent in 2007. Cost of products sold, as a percentage of net sales, primarily decreased as a result of the improvement in net sales and positive contributions from the Greif Business System. These positive factors were partially offset by higher raw material, transportation and energy costs compared to 2007.

Selling, General and Administrative (“SG&A”) Expenses

SG&A expenses were \$339.2 million, or 9.0 percent of net sales, in 2008 compared to \$313.4 million, or 9.4 percent of net sales, in 2007. The dollar increase in our SG&A expense was primarily due to acquisition synergies and the impact of foreign currency translation, partially offset by tighter controls over SG&A expenses.

Restructuring Charges

Restructuring charges were \$43.2 million and \$21.2 million in 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Restructuring charges for 2008 consisted of \$20.5 million in employee separation costs, \$12.3 million in asset impairments, \$0.4 million in professional fees and \$10.0 million in other restructuring costs, primarily consisting of facility consolidation and lease termination costs. Six company-owned plants in the Industrial Packaging segment and four company-owned plants in the Paper Packaging segment were closed. Additionally, severance costs were incurred due to the elimination of certain operating and administrative positions throughout the world. A total of 630 employees were severed during 2008.

Restructuring charges for 2007 consisted of \$9.2 million in employee separation costs, \$0.9 million in asset impairments, \$1.0 million in professional fees, and \$10.1 million in other restructuring costs, primarily consisting of facility consolidation and lease termination costs. Two company-owned plants in the Industrial Packaging segment were closed. Additionally, severance costs were incurred due to the elimination of certain operating and administrative positions throughout the world. A total of 303 employees were severed in 2007.

See Note 5 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8 of this Form 10-K for additional disclosures regarding our restructuring activities.

Gains on Disposal of Properties, Plants and Equipment, Net

For 2008, we recorded a gain on disposal of properties, plants and equipment, net of \$59.5 million, primarily consisting of \$29.9 million pre-tax net gain on divestiture of business units in Australia and our controlling interest in a Zimbabwean operation, and \$15.2 million in net gains from the sale of surplus and HBU timber properties. During 2007, gain on disposals of properties, plants and equipment, net was \$19.4 million, primarily consisting of \$8.9 million in gains from the sale of surplus and HBU timber properties.

Interest Expense, Net

Interest expense, net, was \$49.6 million and \$45.5 million in 2008 and 2007, respectively. The increase was primarily due to higher outstanding debt, a larger mix of debt outside of the United States and Europe with higher interest rates, and interest received on lower cash balances.

Other Income (Expense), Net

Other expense, net was \$8.8 million in 2008 compared to \$9.0 million in 2007. The decrease was primarily due to the recording of \$1.7 million in net expense related to losses on foreign currency transactions in 2008 compared to \$2.2 million in 2007 and other infrequent non-operating items recorded in 2007.

Income Tax Expense

During 2008, the effective tax rate was 23.6 percent compared to 25.3 percent in 2007. The effective tax rate decreased due to a change in the mix of income in the United States compared to regions outside of the United States, where tax rates were lower. In future years, the effective tax rate may fluctuate based on the mix of income inside and outside the United States and other factors.

Equity in Earnings of Affiliates and Minority Interests

Equity in earnings of affiliates and minority interests was \$3.9 million in 2008 compared to \$1.7 million for 2007. We have majority holdings in various companies, and the minority interests of other persons in the respective net income of these companies have been recorded as an expense. These expenses were partially offset by equity in the earnings of three of our subsidiaries under the equity method, one in India and two in North America.

Net Income

Based on the foregoing, net income increased \$78.0 million to \$234.4 million in 2008 from \$156.4 million in 2007.

Year 2007 Compared to Year 2006

Overview

Net sales increased 26 percent to \$3,322.2 million in 2007 compared to \$2,628.4 million in 2006. Of this increase, 14 percent was due to the acquisitions of Blagden Packaging Group's steel drum manufacturing and closures businesses ("Blagden") in the first quarter of 2007 and Delta Petroleum Company, Inc.'s blending and filling businesses ("Delta") in the fourth quarter of 2006, and 4 percent was from currency translation. The \$693.8 million increase in net sales was primarily due to higher sales of products in our Industrial Packaging (\$665.5 million), which benefited principally from stronger sales volumes compared to 2006, and higher selling prices in Paper Packaging (\$28.6 million).

Operating profit was \$289.6 million in 2007 compared to \$246.2 million in 2006. Operating profit before the impact of restructuring charges and timberland disposals, net was \$311.5 million for 2007 compared to \$238.1 million for 2006. The \$73.4 million increase compared to the prior year was principally due to higher operating profit in all three of the Company's business segments, which include Industrial Packaging (\$62.0 million), Paper Packaging (\$7.7 million) and Timber (\$3.7 million). Operating profit before restructuring charges and the impact of timberland disposals, net, expressed as a percentage of net sales, increased to 9.4 percent for 2007 from 9.1 percent in 2006.

Segment Review

Industrial Packaging

The Industrial Packaging segment offers a comprehensive line of industrial packaging products, such as steel, fibre and plastic drums, intermediate bulk containers, closure systems for industrial packaging products, transit protection products and polycarbonate water bottles, and services, such as blending, filling and packaging services, logistics and warehousing. The key factors influencing profitability in the Industrial Packaging segment are:

- Selling prices and sales volumes;
- Raw material costs, primarily steel, resin and containerboard;
- Energy and transportation costs;
- Benefits from executing the Greif Business System;
- Restructuring charges;
- Contributions from recent acquisitions; and
- Impact of currency translation.

In this segment, net sales increased 34 percent to \$2,653.6 million in 2007 from \$1,993.0 million in 2006 – an increase of 10 percent excluding the impact of the Blagden and Delta acquisitions (19 percent) and currency translation (5 percent). This segment's organic growth was driven by higher sales volumes in most regions, with particular strength in Europe and the emerging markets.

Gross profit margin for the Industrial Packaging segment was 18.3 percent in 2007 compared to 18.5 percent in 2006. This decrease was primarily due to portfolio mix and increases in raw material costs that were partially offset by improvements in labor, transportation and other manufacturing costs which benefited from the continued execution of the Greif Business System.

Operating profit was \$213.4 million in 2007 compared to \$143.5 million in 2006. Operating profit before the impact of restructuring charges increased 38 percent to \$229.4 million in 2007 from \$167.5 million in 2006 primarily due to the improvement in net sales and the execution of the Greif Business System. Restructuring charges were \$16.0 million in 2007 compared to \$24.0 million in 2006.

Paper Packaging

The Paper Packaging segment sells containerboard, corrugated sheets and other corrugated products and multiwall bags in North America. The key factors influencing profitability in the Paper Packaging segment are:

- Selling prices and sales volumes;
- Raw material costs, primarily old corrugated containers;
- Energy and transportation costs;
- Benefits from executing the Greif Business System; and
- Restructuring charges.

In this segment, net sales were \$653.7 million in 2007 compared to \$620.3 million in 2006. The increase in net sales was principally due to higher containerboard selling prices implemented in 2006 and slightly improved volumes.

Gross profit margin for the Paper Packaging segment was 17.8 percent in 2007 compared to 17.5 percent in 2006. Higher raw material costs, especially old corrugated containers, were partially offset by contributions from further execution of the Greif Business System. The previously announced \$40 per ton containerboard price increase has been fully implemented.

Operating profit was \$62.5 million in 2007 compared to \$50.8 million in 2006. Operating profit before the impact of restructuring charges increased 12 percent to \$67.7 million in 2007 compared to \$60.0 million in 2006 primarily due to higher net sales. Restructuring charges were \$5.2 million in 2007 compared to \$9.2 million in 2006.

Timber

As of October 31, 2007, the Timber segment consisted of approximately 269,950 acres of timber properties in the southeastern United States, which are actively harvested and regenerated, and approximately 36,650 acres in Canada. The key factors influencing profitability in the Timber segment are:

- Planned level of timber sales;
- Sale of special use properties (surplus, HBU, and development properties); and
- Timberland disposals, net.

Net sales were \$14.9 million in 2007, consistent with plan, compared to \$15.1 million in 2006. While timber sales are subject to fluctuations, we seek to maintain a consistent cutting schedule, within the limits of market and weather conditions. The 2007 timber sales were in line with our expectations.

Operating profit was \$13.7 million in 2007 compared to \$51.9 million, including \$41.3 million from timberland disposals, net, in 2006. Operating profit before the impact of restructuring charges and timberland disposals, net was \$14.4 million in 2007 compared to \$10.6 million in 2006. Profit from the sale of special use property more than doubled to \$9.5 million in 2007 from \$4.6 million the prior year. Timberland disposals, net decreased by \$42.0 million in 2007 compared to 2006 as the final phases of the \$90 million sale of 56,000 acres of timberland, timber and associated assets were completed in 2006. These gains were the result of sales of timberland and are volatile from period to period. Restructuring charges were insignificant in both years.

At October 31, 2007, we estimated that there were approximately 76,000 acres in Canada and the United States of special use property, which will be available for sale in the next five to seven years.

Other Income Statement Changes

Cost of Products Sold

Cost of products sold, as a percentage of net sales, is the same at 81.8 percent for 2007 and 2006. The flat cost of products sold is due to lower labor, transportation and other manufacturing cost resulting from the Greif Business System, which was offset by the change in portfolio mix and increase in raw material costs.

Selling, General and Administrative (“SG&A”) Expenses

SG&A expenses were \$313.4 million, or 9.4 percent of net sales, in 2007 compared to \$259.1 million, or 9.9 percent of net sales, in 2006. The year over year dollar increase in SG&A was primarily due to the Blagden and Delta acquisitions and performance-based incentive accruals, which were partially offset by tight control over SG&A expenses and the positive impact from prior acquisition integration activities.

Restructuring Charges

Restructuring charges were \$21.2 million and \$33.2 million in 2007 and 2006, respectively.

Restructuring charges for 2007 consisted of \$9.2 million in employee separation costs, \$0.9 million in asset impairments, \$1.0 million in professional fees, and \$10.1 million in other restructuring costs, primarily consisting of

facility consolidation and lease termination costs. Two company-owned plants in the Industrial Packaging segment were closed. Additionally, severance costs were incurred due to the elimination of certain operating and administrative positions throughout the world. A total of 303 employees were severed in 2007.

Restructuring charges for 2006 consisted of \$16.8 million in employee separation costs, \$8.3 million in asset impairments, \$2.0 million in professional fees and \$6.1 million in other restructuring costs, primarily consisting of facility consolidation and lease terminations costs. Four company-owned plants were closed. Three plants in the Paper Packaging segment and one in the Industrial Packaging segment were closed. The Industrial Packaging segment reduced the number of plants in the United Kingdom from five to three; merged operations of businesses purchased in October 2005 into existing North American plants; and consolidated one plant in France. In addition, severance costs were incurred due to the elimination of certain operating and administrative positions throughout the world. A total of 281 employees were severed in 2006.

See Note 5 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8 of this Form 10-K for additional disclosures regarding our restructuring activities.

Gains on Disposal of Properties, Plants and Equipment, Net

The gain on disposal of properties, plants and equipment, net increased by \$1.4 million to \$19.4 million in 2007 compared to \$18.0 million in 2006. The majority of the 2007 gains related to the sale of a small Canadian Industrial Packaging operation and the sale of surplus properties.

Interest Expense, Net

Interest expense, net was \$45.5 million and \$36.0 million in 2007 and 2006, respectively. The increase was attributable to higher average debt outstanding due to our Blagden and Delta acquisitions, which was partially offset by lower interest expense for our 6 3/4 percent Senior Notes issued in the second quarter of 2007. Those Senior Notes replaced our 8 7/8 percent Senior Subordinated Notes tendered in 2007.

Debt Extinguishment Charge

On February 9, 2007, we completed a tender offer for our 8 7/8 percent Senior Subordinated Notes. In the tender offer, we purchased \$245.6 million aggregate principal amount of the outstanding \$248.0 million Senior Subordinated Notes. As a result of this transaction, a debt extinguishment charge of \$23.5 million (\$14.5 million in cash and \$9.0 million in non-cash items, such as write-off of unamortized capitalized debt issue costs) was recorded. The remaining Senior Subordinated Notes were redeemed by us during the fourth quarter of 2007. There was no debt extinguishment charge in 2006.

Other Income (Expense), Net

Other expense, net was \$8.9 million in 2007 compared to \$2.3 million in 2006. The increase was primarily due to the increase in Non-United States trade receivable program fees of \$2.5 million, and recording of \$2.2 million in expense, for currency transactions and rereasurement gains (losses) related to hyperinflationary accounting in 2007 compared to income of \$1.6 million in 2006.

Income Tax Expense

During 2007, the effective tax rate was 25.3 percent compared to 30.7 percent in 2006. The effective tax rate decreased due to the mix of income in regions outside of the United States versus inside the United States increasing where tax rates were lower.

Equity in Earnings of Affiliates and Minority Interests

Equity in earnings of affiliates and minority interests was \$1.7 million for 2007 compared to \$1.9 million for 2006. We have majority holdings in various companies, and the minority interests of other persons in the respective net income of these companies have been recorded as an expense. These expenses were partially offset by equity in the earnings of Balmer Lawrie-Van Leer Ltd, a minority interest joint venture in India.

Net Income

Based on the foregoing, net income increased \$14.3 million to \$156.4 million in 2007 from \$142.1 million in 2006.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Our primary sources of liquidity are operating cash flows, the proceeds from our trade accounts receivable credit facility, proceeds from the sale of our non-United States accounts receivable and borrowings under our Credit Agreement and Senior Notes, further discussed below. We have used these sources to fund our working capital needs, capital expenditures, cash dividends, common stock repurchases and acquisitions. We anticipate continuing to fund these items in a like manner. We currently expect that operating cash flows, the proceeds from our trade accounts receivable credit facility, proceeds from the sale of our non-United States accounts receivable and borrowings under our Credit Agreement and Senior Notes will be sufficient to fund our currently anticipated working capital, capital expenditures, debt repayment, potential acquisitions of businesses and other liquidity needs for the foreseeable future.

Capital Expenditures and Business Acquisitions

During 2008, 2007 and 2006, we invested \$143.1 million (excluding \$2.5 million for timberland properties), \$112.6 million (excluding \$2.3 million for timberland properties), and \$75.6 million (excluding \$62.1 million for timberland properties), in capital expenditures, respectively. We anticipate future capital expenditures, excluding the potential purchase of timberland property, of approximately \$85 million through October 31, 2009. These expenditures will be primarily to replace and improve equipment.

During 2008, we acquired four small industrial packaging companies and one paper packaging company and made a contingent purchase price payment related to an acquisition from October 2005 for an aggregate purchase price of \$90.3 million. These five acquisitions, one in South America (70 percent interest), one in the Middle East (51 percent interest), one in Asia, and two in North America, complemented our current businesses. During 2008, we sold our Australian drum operations, sold our 51 percent interest in a Zimbabwean operation, sold three North American paper packaging operations and sold a North American industrial packaging operation. The proceeds from these divestitures were \$36.5 million resulting in a net gain of \$31.6 million. The 2007 sales and net income from these operations were not material to our overall operations. See Note 2 to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8 of this Form 10-K for additional disclosures regarding our acquisitions.

Balance Sheet Changes

The \$46.1 million decrease in cash and cash equivalents was primarily due to the cost of 2008 North and South America, Asia, and the Middle East acquisitions, capital expenditures, debt repayments, higher priced inventories and dividends paid, partially offset by cash flows from operations.

The \$53.2 million increase in trade accounts receivable was primarily due to the 2008 North and South America, Asia, and the Middle East acquisitions and overall higher selling prices.

The \$61.0 million increase in inventories was primarily due to higher priced inventories and lower demand in the fourth quarter of 2008, coupled with the 2008 North and South America, Asia, and the Middle East acquisitions.

The \$9.8 million increase in net assets held for sale was related to various industrial packaging and paper packaging facility closures.

Long-term notes receivable decreased \$32.9 million due to the early collection of a note receivable.

The increase in other long-term assets of \$25.5 million was primarily due to the 2008 North and South America, Asia, and the Middle East acquisitions.

Accounts payable decreased \$26.4 million due to economic factors, timing of payments and foreign currency translation.

Short-term borrowings increased \$28.4 million primarily due to continued expansion and working capital needs at our Chinese subsidiaries, as well as debt acquired for the South American acquisition.

Long-term debt increased by \$50.5 million primarily due to financing the 2008 North and South America, Asia, and the Middle East acquisitions.

Borrowing Arrangements

Credit Agreement

We and certain of our international subsidiaries, as borrowers, and a syndicate of financial institutions are parties to a Credit Agreement (the "Credit Agreement") that provides us with a \$450.0 million revolving multicurrency credit facility due 2010. The revolving multicurrency credit facility is available for acquisitions, ongoing working capital and general corporate purposes. Interest is based on a euro currency rate or an alternative base rate that resets periodically plus a calculated margin amount. As of October 31, 2008, \$247.6 million was outstanding under the Credit Agreement.

The terms of the Credit Agreement limit our ability to make "restricted payments," which include dividends and purchases, redemptions and acquisitions of our equity interests. The repayment of this facility is secured by a pledge of the capital stock of substantially all of our United States subsidiaries and, in part, by the capital stock of our international borrowers.

The Credit Agreement contains certain covenants, which include financial covenants that require us to maintain a certain leverage ratio and a minimum coverage of interest expense. The leverage ratio generally requires that at the end of any quarter we will not permit the ratio of (a) our total consolidated indebtedness less cash and cash equivalents to (b) our consolidated net income plus depreciation, depletion and amortization, interest expense (including capitalized interest), income taxes, and minus certain extraordinary gains and non-recurring gains (or plus certain extraordinary losses and non-recurring losses) for the preceding twelve months ("EBITDA") to be greater than 3.5 to 1. The interest coverage ratio generally requires that at the end of any quarter we will not permit the ratio of (a) our EBITDA to (b) our interest expense (including capitalized interest) for the preceding twelve months to be less than 3 to 1. On October 31, 2008, we were in compliance with these covenants.

Senior Notes

We have issued \$300.0 million of our 6 3/4 percent Senior Notes due February 1, 2017. Proceeds from the issuance of the Senior Notes were principally used to fund the purchase of our previously outstanding senior subordinated notes and for general corporate purposes. The Senior Notes are general unsecured obligations of Greif, provide for semi-annual payments of interest at a fixed rate of 6 3/4 percent, and do not require any principal payments prior to maturity on February 1, 2017. The fair value of the Senior Notes was \$246.0 million at October 31, 2008, based upon quoted market prices. The Senior Notes are not guaranteed by any of our subsidiaries and thereby are effectively subordinated to all of our subsidiaries' existing and future indebtedness. The Indenture pursuant to which the Senior Notes were issued contains covenants which, among other things, limit our ability to create liens on our assets to secure debt and to enter into sale and leaseback transactions. These covenants are subject to a number of limitations and exceptions as set forth in the Indenture. At October 31, 2008, we were in compliance with these covenants.

United States Trade Accounts Receivable Credit Facility

On December 8, 2008, we entered into a \$135.0 million receivables financing facility (the "New Receivables Facility") with Bank of America, National Association and its affiliate (the "Purchasers"). The New Receivables Facility replaced our prior \$120.0 million receivables financing facility (the "Prior Receivables Facility") with Fortis Bank S.A./N.V and an affiliate. The maturity date of the New Receivables Facility is December 8, 2013, subject to earlier termination by the Purchasers of their purchase commitment on December 7, 2009. In addition, we can terminate the New Receivables Facility at any time upon five days prior written notice. The New Receivables Facility is secured by certain of our United States trade receivables and bears interest at a variable rate based on the commercial paper rate, or alternatively, the London InterBank Offered Rate, plus a margin. Interest is payable on a monthly basis and the principal balance is payable upon termination of the New Receivables Facility. The New Receivables Facility requires us to maintain a certain leverage ratio and a minimum coverage of interest expense. A significant portion of the initial proceeds from the New Receivables Facility was used to pay the obligations under the Prior Receivables Facility, and the proceeds will be used to pay fees, costs and expenses incurred in connection with the New Receivables Facility and for working capital and general corporate purposes.

There was a total of \$120.0 million and \$116.0 million outstanding under the Prior Receivables Facility as of October 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Other

In addition to the amounts borrowed against the Credit Agreement and proceeds from the Senior Notes and the United States trade accounts receivable credit facility, we had outstanding debt of \$49.9 million, comprised of \$5.6 million in long-term debt and \$44.3 million in short-term borrowings, at October 31, 2008 and outstanding debt of \$49.4 million, comprised of \$33.5 million in long-term debt and \$15.9 million in short-term borrowings, at October 31, 2007.

Sale of Non-United States Accounts Receivables

Certain of our international subsidiaries have entered into discounted receivables purchase agreements and factoring agreements (the "RPAs") pursuant to which trade receivables generated from certain countries other than the United States and which meet certain eligibility requirements are sold to certain international banks or their affiliates. The structure of these transactions provide for a legal true sale, on a revolving basis, of the receivables transferred from our various subsidiaries to the respective banks. The banks fund an initial purchase price of a certain percentage of eligible receivables based on a formula with the initial purchase price approximating 75 percent to 90 percent of eligible receivables. The remaining deferred purchase price is settled upon collection of the receivables. At the balance sheet reporting dates, we remove from accounts receivable the amount of proceeds received from the initial purchase price since they meet the applicable criteria of SFAS No. 140, "Accounting for Transfers and Servicing of Financial Assets and Extinguishments of Liabilities," and continue to recognize the deferred purchase price in our accounts

receivable. The receivables are sold on a non-recourse basis with the total funds in the servicing collection accounts pledged to the respective banks between the settlement dates. The maximum amount of aggregate receivables that may be sold under our various RPAs was \$156.1 million at October 31, 2008. At October 31, 2008, total accounts receivable of \$147.6 were sold under the various RPAs.

At the time the receivables are initially sold, the difference between the carrying amount and the fair value of the assets sold are included as a loss on sale and classified as "other expense" in the consolidated statements of income. Expenses associated with the various RPAs totaled \$8.1 million for the year ended October 31, 2008. Additionally, we perform collections and administrative functions on the receivables sold similar to the procedures we use for collecting all of our receivables. The servicing liability for these receivables is not material to the consolidated financial statements. See Note 3 to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8 of this Form 10-K for additional disclosures regarding these various RPAs.

Significant Nonstrategic Timberland Transactions and Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities

In connection with one of our 2005 timberland transactions with Plum Creek Timberlands, L.P. (“Plum Creek”), Soterra LLC (one of our wholly owned subsidiaries) received cash and a \$50.9 million purchase note payable by an indirect subsidiary of Plum Creek (the “Purchase Note”). Soterra LLC contributed the Purchase Note to STA Timber LLC (“STA Timber”), one of our indirect wholly owned subsidiaries. The Purchase Note is secured by a Deed of Guarantee issued by Bank of America, N.A., London Branch, in an amount not to exceed \$52.3 million (the “Deed of Guarantee”). STA Timber has issued in a private placement 5.20 percent Senior Secured Notes due August 5, 2020 (the “Monetization Notes”) in the principal amount of \$43.3 million. The Monetization Notes are secured by a pledge of the Purchase Note and the Deed of Guarantee. Greif and its other subsidiaries have not extended any form of guaranty of the principal or interest on the Monetization Notes. Accordingly, Greif and its other subsidiaries will not become directly or contingently liable for the payment of the Monetization Notes at any time.

Contractual Obligations

As of October 31, 2008, we had the following contractual obligations (Dollars in millions):

| | Total | Payments Due by Period | | | |
|--|------------|------------------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| | | Less than 1 year | 1- 3 years | 3-5 years | After 5 years |
| Long-term debt | \$ 863.6 | \$ 35.0 | \$ 420.0 | \$ 41.0 | \$ 367.6 |
| Short-term borrowing | 62.0 | 62.0 | - | - | - |
| Capital lease obligations | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.3 | - | - |
| Operating leases | 133.8 | 22.2 | 33.1 | 22.8 | 55.7 |
| Liabilities held by special purpose entities | 69.5 | 2.2 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 58.3 |
| Total | \$ 1,129.5 | \$ 121.7 | \$ 457.9 | \$ 68.3 | \$ 481.6 |

Our unrecognized tax benefits under FIN 48 have been excluded from the contractual obligations table because of the inherent uncertainty and the inability to reasonably estimate the timing of cash outflows.

Stock Repurchase Program and Other Share Acquisitions

Our Board of Directors has authorized us to purchase up to four million shares of Class A Common Stock or Class B Common Stock or any combination of the foregoing. During 2008, we repurchased no shares of Class A Common Stock, and we repurchased 381,400 shares of Class B Common Stock (see Item 5 to this Form 10-K for these repurchases). As of October 31, 2008, we had repurchased 2,733,272 shares, including 1,416,752 shares of Class A Common Stock and 1,316,520 shares of Class B Common Stock, under this program. The total cost of the shares repurchased from November 1, 2006 through October 31, 2008 was \$32.9 million.

On February 26, 2007, the Company's shareholders approved an amendment to the Company's certificate of incorporation increasing the number of the Company's authorized shares to 128,000,000 shares of Class A Common Stock and 69,120,000 shares of Class B Common Stock. Subsequent to this approval, the Company's Board of Directors authorized a 2-for-1 stock split of the Company's shares of Class A Common Stock and Class B Common Stock. The split was payable on April 11, 2007 to shareholders of record on March 19, 2007. The stock split means that each holder of Class A Common Stock as of the close of business on March 19, 2007 received on April 11, 2007 one additional share of Class A Common Stock for every share they held of Class A Common Stock and each holder of Class B Common Stock as of the close of business on March 19, 2007 received on April 11, 2007 one additional share of Class B Common Stock for every share they held of Class B Common Stock. The day on which such shares began trading on the New York Stock Exchange reflecting the stock split was April 12, 2007.

Effects of Inflation

The effects of inflation did not have a material impact on our operations during 2008, 2007 or 2006.

Recent Accounting Standards

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 157, "Fair Value Measurements." This Statement defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in GAAP and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. This Statement is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007, and interim periods within those fiscal years. In February 2008, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position No. FAS 157-2, "Effective Date of FASB Statement No. 157." This Staff position delays the effective date of SFAS No. 157 to fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2008, (2010 for us) and interim periods within those fiscal years for nonfinancial assets and nonfinancial liabilities, except for items that are recognized or disclosed at fair value in the financial statements on a recurring basis. We have evaluated the portions of the Statement that are effective for fiscal 2009 and do not expect the adoption of this Statement to have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements. We are in the process of determining the impact of adopting the remaining portions of the Statement, which will be effective in fiscal 2010.

In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 159, "The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities," which allows an entity the irrevocable option to elect fair value for the initial and subsequent measurement for certain financial assets and liabilities on a contract-by-contract basis. Subsequent changes in fair value of these financial assets and liabilities would be recognized in earnings when they occur. SFAS No. 159 further establishes certain additional disclosure requirements. SFAS No. 159 is effective for our consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year beginning on November 1, 2008 (2009 for us), with earlier adoption permitted. The adoption of SFAS No. 159 is not expected to have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 141(R), "Business Combinations," and SFAS No. 160, "Accounting and Reporting of Noncontrolling interest in Consolidated Financial Statements, an amendment of ARB No. 51." These new standards will significantly change the financial accounting and reporting of business combination transactions and noncontrolling (or minority) interests in consolidated financial statements. We will be required to adopt SFAS Nos. 141(R) and 160 on November 1, 2009 (2010 for us). We are currently evaluating the impact, if any, that the adoption of SFAS Nos. 141(R) and 160 will have on our consolidated financial statements.

In March 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 161, "Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities – an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133." The objective of SFAS No. 161 is to enhance the current disclosure framework in Statement 133 and improve the transparency of financial reporting for derivative instruments and hedging activities. SFAS No. 161 requires entities to provide enhanced disclosures about (a) how and why an entity uses derivative instruments, (b) how derivative instruments and related hedged items are accounted for under Statement 133 and its related interpretations, and (c) how derivative instruments and related hedged items affect an entity's financial position, financial performance, and cash flows. SFAS No. 161 is effective for our financial statements for the fiscal year beginning November 1, 2010 (2011 for us). We are currently evaluating the impact, if any, that the adoption of SFAS No. 161 will have on its consolidated financial statements.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Interest Rate Risk

We are subject to interest rate risk related to our financial instruments that include borrowings under our Credit Agreement, proceeds from our Senior Notes and trade accounts receivable credit facility, and interest rate swap agreements. We do not enter into financial instruments for trading or speculative purposes. The interest rate swap agreements have been entered into to manage our exposure to variability in interest rates and changes in the fair value of fixed rate debt.

We had interest rate swap agreements with an aggregate notional amount of \$100.0 million and \$230.0 million at October 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively, with various maturities through 2010. The interest rate swap agreements are used to fix a portion of the interest on our variable rate debt. Under certain of these agreements, we receive interest monthly or quarterly from the counterparties equal to London InterBank Offered Rate (“LIBOR”) and pay interest at a fixed rate over the life of the contracts. A liability for the loss on interest rate swap contracts, which represented their fair values, in the amount of \$2.8 million and \$1.5 million was recorded at October 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

The tables below provide information about our derivative financial instruments and other financial instruments that are sensitive to changes in interest rates. For the Credit Agreement, Senior Notes and trade accounts receivable credit facility, the tables present scheduled amortizations of principal and the weighted average interest rate by contractual maturity dates at October 31, 2008 and 2007. For interest rate swaps, the tables present annual amortizations of notional amounts and weighted average interest rates by contractual maturity dates. Under the cash flow swap agreements, we receive interest either monthly or quarterly from the counterparties and pay interest either monthly or quarterly to the counterparties.

The fair values of the Credit Agreement, Senior Notes and trade accounts receivable credit facility are based on rates available to us for debt of the same remaining maturity at October 31, 2008 and 2007. The fair value of the interest rate swap agreements has been determined based upon the market settlement prices of comparable contracts at October 31, 2008 and 2007.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

As of October 31, 2008

(Dollars in millions)

| | Expected Maturity Date | | | | | Total | Fair Value |
|---|------------------------|--------|-------|-------|------------|--------|------------|
| | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | After 2012 | | |
| Credit Agreement: | | | | | | | |
| Scheduled amortizations | \$ — | \$ 248 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 248 | \$ 248 |
| Average interest rate(1) | 3.98% | 3.98% | — | — | — | 3.98% | |
| Senior Notes: | | | | | | | |
| Scheduled amortizations | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 300 | \$ 300 | \$ 246 |
| Average interest rate | 6.75% | 6.75% | 6.75% | 6.75% | 6.75% | 6.75% | |
| Trade accounts receivable credit facility: | | | | | | | |
| Scheduled amortizations | \$ — | \$ 120 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 120 | \$ 120 |
| Average interest rate(1) | 4.24% | 4.24% | — | — | — | 4.24% | |
| Interest rate swaps: | | | | | | | |
| Scheduled amortizations | \$ 50 | \$ 50 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 100 | \$ (2.7) |
| Average pay rate(2) | 4.93% | 4.93% | — | — | — | 4.93% | |
| Average receive rate(3) | 3.11% | 3.11% | — | — | — | 3.11% | |

(1) Variable rate specified is based on LIBOR or an alternative base rate plus a calculated margin at October 31, 2008.

The rates presented are not intended to project our expectations for the future.

(2) The average pay rate is based upon the fixed rates we were scheduled to pay at October 31, 2008. The rates presented are not intended to project our expectations for the future.

(3) The average receive rate is based upon the LIBOR we were scheduled to receive at October 31, 2008. The rates presented are not intended to project our expectations for the future.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

As of October 31, 2007

(Dollars in millions)

| | Expected Maturity Date | | | | | | | Total | Fair Value |
|---|------------------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|------------|--------|--------|------------|
| | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | After 2012 | | | |
| Credit Agreement: | | | | | | | | | |
| Scheduled amortizations | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 173 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 173 | \$ 173 | \$ 173 |
| Average interest rate(1) | 5.50% | 5.50% | 5.50% | — | — | — | 5.50% | | |
| Senior Notes: | | | | | | | | | |
| Scheduled amortizations | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 300 | \$ 300 | \$ 298 | \$ 298 |
| Average interest rate | 6.75% | 6.75% | 6.75% | 6.75% | 6.75% | 6.75% | 6.75% | | |
| Trade accounts receivable credit facility: | | | | | | | | | |
| Scheduled amortizations | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 116 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 116 | \$ 116 | \$ 116 |
| Average interest rate(1) | 5.37% | 5.37% | 5.37% | — | — | — | 5.37% | | |
| Interest rate swaps: | | | | | | | | | |
| Scheduled amortizations | \$ 130 | \$ 50 | \$ 50 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 230 | \$ (2) | \$ (2) |
| Average pay rate(2) | 5.28% | 5.28% | 5.28% | — | — | — | 5.28% | | |
| Average receive rate(3) | 5.04% | 5.04% | 5.04% | — | — | — | 5.04% | | |

(1) Variable rate specified is based on LIBOR or an alternative base rate plus a calculated margin at October 31, 2007. The rates presented are not intended to project our expectations for the future.

(2) The average pay rate is based upon the fixed rates we were scheduled to pay at October 31, 2007. The rates presented are not intended to project our expectations for the future.

(3) The average receive rate is based upon the LIBOR we were scheduled to receive at October 31, 2007. The rates presented are not intended to project our expectations for the future.

The fair market value of the interest rate swaps at October 31, 2008 was a net liability of \$2.8 million. Based on a sensitivity analysis performed by the counterparties at October 31, 2008, a 100 basis point decrease in interest rates would increase the fair value of the swap agreements by \$0.9 million to a net liability of \$3.7 million. Conversely, a 100 basis point increase in interest rates would decrease the fair value of the swap agreements by \$1.0 million to a net liability of \$1.8 million.

Currency Risk

As a result of our international operations, our operating results are subject to fluctuations in currency exchange rates. The geographic presence of our operations mitigates this exposure to some degree. Additionally, our transaction exposure is somewhat limited because we produce and sell a majority of our products within each country in which we operate.

Prior to August 1, 2007, we had cross-currency interest rate swaps to hedge a portion of our net investment in our European subsidiaries. Under these agreements, we received interest semi-annually from the counterparties equal to a fixed rate of 8.875 percent on \$248.0 million and paid interest at a fixed rate of approximately 6.80 percent on €206.7 million. These swaps matured on August 1, 2007 and we paid €206.7 million (\$281.9 million) to the counterparties and received \$248.0 million from the counterparties.

On August 1, 2007, we entered into new cross-currency interest rate swaps to hedge our net investment in our European subsidiaries. Under these new agreements, we receive interest semi-annually from the counterparties equal to a fixed rate of 6.75 percent on \$300.0 million and pay interest at a fixed rate of 6.25 percent on €219.9 million. Upon maturity of these swaps on August 1, 2009, August 1, 2010 and August 1, 2012, we will be required to pay €73.3 million to the counterparties and receive \$100.0 million from the counterparties on each of these dates. An asset for the gain on these agreements of \$24.5 million, representing their fair values, was recorded at October 31, 2008. A liability for the loss on these agreements of \$17.4 million, which represents their fair values, was recorded at October 31, 2007.

At October 31, 2008, we had outstanding currency forward contracts in the notional amount of \$174.0 million (\$82.5 million at October 31, 2007). The purpose of these contracts is to hedge our exposure to currency translation, currency transactions and short-term intercompany loan balances with our international businesses. The fair value of these contracts resulted in a loss of \$1.5 million recorded in other comprehensive income at October 31, 2008 and an insignificant loss recorded in the consolidated statements of income for 2008.

A sensitivity analysis to changes in the foreign currencies hedged indicates that if the U.S. dollar strengthened by 10 percent, the fair value of these instruments would increase by \$29.5 million to a net gain of \$52.5 million, which would include a \$51.7 million in other comprehensive income on the balance sheet. Conversely, if the U.S. dollar weakened by 10 percent, the fair value of these instruments would decrease by \$29.3 million to a net loss of \$6.3 million, which would include a \$5.4 million in other comprehensive loss to the balance sheet.

Commodity Price Risk

We purchase commodities such as steel, resin, containerboard, pulpwood, old corrugated containers and energy. We do not currently engage in material hedging of commodities, other than small hedges in natural gas and old corrugated containers, because there has historically been a high correlation between the commodity cost and the ultimate selling price of our products. The fair value of our commodity hedging contracts resulted in a \$6.6 million loss recorded in other comprehensive income at October 31, 2008. A sensitivity analysis to changes in natural gas and old corrugated containers prices indicates that if natural gas prices decreased by 10 percent, the fair value of these instruments would decrease by \$1.5 million to a net loss of \$8.1 million. Conversely, if the natural gas and old corrugated prices increased by 10 percent, the fair value of these instruments would increase by \$1.7 million to a net loss of \$5.0 million.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

GREIF, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)

| For the years ended October 31, | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Net sales | \$ 3,776,756 | \$ 3,322,294 | \$ 2,628,475 |
| Costs of products sold | 3,083,985 | 2,716,892 | 2,149,271 |
| Gross profit | 692,771 | 605,402 | 479,204 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 339,157 | 313,377 | 259,122 |
| Restructuring charges | 43,202 | 21,229 | 33,238 |
| Timberland disposals, net | 340 | (648) | 41,302 |
| Gain on disposal of properties, plants and equipment, net | 59,534 | 19,434 | 18,017 |
| Operating profit | 370,286 | 289,582 | 246,163 |
| Interest expense, net | 49,628 | 45,512 | 35,993 |
| Debt extinguishment charge | - | 23,479 | - |
| Other income (expense), net | (8,751) | (8,956) | (2,299) |
| Income before income tax expense and equity in earnings of affiliates and minority interests | 311,907 | 211,635 | 207,871 |
| Income tax expense | 73,610 | 53,544 | 63,816 |
| Equity in earnings of affiliates and minority interests | (3,943) | (1,723) | (1,936) |
| Net income | \$ 234,354 | \$ 156,368 | \$ 142,119 |
| Basic earnings per share: | | | |
| Class A Common Stock | \$ 4.04 | \$ 2.69 | \$ 2.46 |
| Class B Common Stock | \$ 6.04 | \$ 4.04 | \$ 3.69 |
| Diluted earnings per share: | | | |
| Class A Common Stock | \$ 3.99 | \$ 2.65 | \$ 2.42 |
| Class B Common Stock | \$ 6.04 | \$ 4.04 | \$ 3.69 |

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

GREIF, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(Dollars in thousands)

| As of October 31, | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current assets | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 77,627 | \$ 123,699 |
| Trade accounts receivable, less allowance of \$13,532 and \$12,539 in 2007 | 392,537 | 339,328 |
| Inventories | 303,994 | 242,994 |
| Deferred tax assets | 33,206 | 27,917 |
| Net assets held for sale | 21,321 | 11,564 |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | 93,965 | 96,283 |
| | 922,650 | 841,785 |
| Long-term assets | | |
| Goodwill | 512,973 | 493,252 |
| Other intangible assets, net of amortization | 104,424 | 96,256 |
| Assets held by special purpose entities (Note 6) | 50,891 | 50,891 |
| Long-term notes receivable | 3,548 | 36,434 |
| Other long-term assets | 85,015 | 59,547 |
| | 756,851 | 736,380 |
| Properties, plants and equipment | | |
| Timber properties, net of depletion | 199,701 | 197,235 |
| Land | 119,679 | 126,018 |
| Buildings | 343,702 | 356,878 |
| Machinery and equipment | 1,046,347 | 1,032,677 |
| Capital projects in progress | 91,549 | 90,659 |
| | 1,800,978 | 1,803,467 |
| Accumulated depreciation | (734,581) | (728,921) |
| | 1,066,397 | 1,074,546 |
| | \$ 2,745,898 | \$ 2,652,711 |

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

GREIF, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(Dollars in thousands)

| As of October 31, | 2008 | 2007 |
|---|------------|------------|
| LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY | | |
| Current liabilities | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 384,648 | \$ 411,095 |
| Accrued payroll and employee benefits | 91,498 | 84,977 |
| Restructuring reserves | 15,147 | 15,776 |
| Short-term borrowings | 44,281 | 15,848 |
| Other current liabilities | 136,227 | 121,214 |
| | 671,801 | 648,910 |
| Long-term liabilities | | |
| Long-term debt | 673,171 | 622,685 |
| Deferred tax liabilities | 183,021 | 159,494 |
| Pension liabilities | 14,456 | 19,892 |
| Postretirement benefit liabilities | 25,138 | 32,983 |
| Liabilities held by special purpose entities (Note 6) | 43,250 | 43,250 |
| Other long-term liabilities | 75,521 | 119,180 |
| | 1,014,557 | 997,484 |
| Minority Interest | 3,729 | 6,405 |
| Shareholders' equity | | |
| Common stock, without par value | 86,446 | 75,156 |
| Treasury stock, at cost | (112,931) | (92,028) |
| Retained earnings | 1,155,116 | 1,004,300 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss): | | |
| - foreign currency translation | (39,693) | 43,260 |
| - interest rate derivatives | (1,802) | (997) |
| - energy and other derivatives | (4,299) | 226 |
| - minimum pension liabilities | (27,026) | (30,005) |
| | 1,055,811 | 999,912 |
| | 2,745,898 | 2,652,711 |

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

GREIF, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(Dollars in thousands)

| For the years ended October 31, | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Cash flows from operating activities: | | | |
| Net income | \$ 234,354 | \$ 156,368 | \$ 142,119 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | | |
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization | 106,378 | 102,295 | 90,488 |
| Asset impairments | 12,325 | 1,108 | 8,326 |
| Deferred income taxes | 18,238 | (31,644) | 12,302 |
| Gain on disposals of properties, plants and equipment, net | (59,534) | (19,434) | (18,017) |
| Loss (gain) on timberland disposals, net | (340) | 648 | (41,302) |
| Equity in earnings of affiliates, net of dividends received, and minority interests | 3,943 | 1,723 | 1,936 |
| Gain on insurance settlement | - | - | (1,542) |
| Loss on extinguishment of debt | - | 23,479 | - |
| Trade accounts receivable | (65,877) | 42,876 | (28,782) |
| Inventories | (77,263) | 24,120 | (6,506) |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | (3,467) | (11,403) | (13,977) |
| Other long-term assets | 13,240 | (49,861) | (7,158) |
| Accounts payable | 39,827 | 29,051 | 40,171 |
| Accrued payroll and employee benefits | 6,584 | 13,475 | 20,942 |
| Restructuring reserves | (629) | 5,772 | (1,801) |
| Other current liabilities | 16,310 | 55,194 | (1,027) |
| Pension and postretirement benefit liability | (13,281) | (12,136) | (11,275) |
| Other long-term liabilities | (43,659) | 41,692 | 10,591 |
| Other | (47,313) | 18,678 | 33,620 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 139,836 | 392,001 | 229,108 |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | | |
| Acquisitions of companies, net of cash acquired | (99,962) | (346,629) | (107,775) |
| Purchases of properties, plants and equipment | (143,077) | (112,600) | (75,630) |
| Purchases of timber properties | (2,500) | (2,300) | (62,110) |
| Receipt (issuance) of notes receivable | 33,178 | (32,248) | - |
| Proceeds from the sale of property, plants, equipment and other assets | 60,333 | 22,218 | 70,408 |
| Purchases of land rights and other | (9,289) | (3,765) | - |
| Proceeds from insurance settlement for properties, plants and equipment | - | - | 2,562 |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (161,317) | (475,324) | (172,545) |
| Cash flows from financing activities: | | | |
| Proceeds from issuance of long-term debt | 2,293,751 | 2,040,111 | 1,020,340 |
| Payments on long-term debt | (2,243,482) | (1,918,807) | (978,786) |
| Proceeds from (payments of) short-term borrowings | 23,020 | (14,486) | 10,839 |
| Acquisitions of treasury stock and other | (21,483) | (11,409) | (6,252) |
| Exercise of stock options | 4,540 | 19,415 | 4,541 |

Edgar Filing: GREIF INC - Form 10-K

| | | | |
|--|-----------|------------|------------|
| Dividends paid | (76,524) | (53,335) | (34,521) |
| Payments for premium for debt extinguishment | - | (14,303) | - |
| Debt issuance costs | - | (2,839) | - |
| Settlement of derivatives | - | (33,935) | - |
| Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities | (20,178) | 10,412 | 16,161 |
| Effects of exchange rates on cash | (4,413) | 9,509 | (8,034) |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | (46,072) | (63,402) | 64,690 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | 123,699 | 187,101 | 122,411 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of year | \$ 77,627 | \$ 123,699 | \$ 187,101 |

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

GREIF, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

(Dollars and shares in thousands, except per share amounts)

| | Shares | Amount | Shares | Amount | Retained Earnings | Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) | Shareholders' Equity |
|--|--------|-----------|--------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| As of October 31, 2005 | 46,142 | \$ 49,251 | 30,700 | \$ (75,956) | \$ 793,669 | \$ (36,076) | \$ 730,888 |
| Net income | | | | | 142,119 | | 142,119 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss): | | | | | | | |
| - foreign currency translation | | | | | | (7,592) | (7,592) |
| - interest rate derivative, net of income tax expense of \$37 | | | | | | 877 | 877 |
| - minimum pension liability adjustment, net of income tax expense of \$6,117 | | | | | | 11,358 | 11,358 |
| - energy derivatives, net of income tax benefit of \$509 | | | | | | (945) | (945) |
| Comprehensive income | | | | | | | 145,817 |
| Dividends paid | | | | | | | |
| Class A - \$0.60 | | | | | (13,887) | | (13,887) |
| Class B - \$0.89 | | | | | (20,634) | | (20,634) |
| Treasury shares acquired | (196) | | 196 | (6,252) | | | (6,252) |
| Stock options exercised | 326 | 4,948 | (326) | 523 | | | 5,471 |
| Tax benefit of stock options | | 1,765 | | | | | 1,765 |
| Long-term incentive shares issued | 16 | 471 | (16) | 23 | | | 494 |
| Directors shares issued | 12 | 330 | (12) | 19 | | | 349 |
| As of October 31, 2006 | 46,300 | \$ 56,765 | 30,542 | \$ (81,643) | \$ 901,267 | \$ (32,378) | \$ 844,011 |
| Net income | | | | | 156,368 | | 156,368 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|-----------|--------|----|----------|--------------|----|--------|------------|
| Other comprehensive income (loss): | | | | | | | | | |
| - foreign currency translation | | | | | | 41,735 | | | 41,735 |
| - interest rate derivative, net of income tax expense of \$466 | | | | | | 864 | | | 864 |
| - minimum pension liability adjustment, net of income tax expense of \$7,232 | | | | | | 17,360 | | | 17,360 |
| - energy derivatives, net of income tax expense of \$361 | | | | | | 1,171 | | | 1,171 |
| Comprehensive income | | | | | | | | | 217,498 |
| - Adjustment to initially apply SFAS No. 158, net of income tax benefit of \$7,769 | | | | | | (16,268) | | | (16,268) |
| Dividends paid | | | | | | | | | |
| Class A - \$0.92 | | | | | | (21,716) | | | (21,716) |
| Class B - \$1.37 | | | | | | (31,619) | | | (31,619) |
| Treasury shares acquired | (204) | | 204 | | (11,409) | | | | (11,409) |
| Stock options exercised | 559 | 7,732 | (559) | | 949 | | | | 8,681 |
| Tax benefit of stock options | | 8,076 | | | | | | | 8,076 |
| Long-term incentive shares issued | 38 | 2,104 | (38) | | 64 | | | | 2,168 |
| Directors shares issued | 6 | 479 | (6) | | 11 | | | | 490 |
| As of October 31, 2007 | 46,699 | \$ 75,156 | 30,143 | \$ | (92,028) | \$ 1,004,300 | \$ | 12,484 | \$ 999,912 |
| Net income | | | | | | 234,354 | | | 234,354 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss): | | | | | | | | | |
| - foreign currency translation | | | | | | (82,953) | | | (82,953) |
| - interest rate derivative, net of income tax benefit of \$433 | | | | | | (805) | | | (805) |
| - minimum pension liability adjustment, | | | | | | 2,979 | | | 2,979 |

Edgar Filing: GREIF INC - Form 10-K

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|-----------|--------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|----------|
| net of income tax expense of \$920 | | | | | | | | | |
| - energy derivatives, net of income tax benefit of \$1,954 | | | | | | (3,629) | | | (3,629) |
| - commodity hedge, net of income tax benefit of \$482 | | | | | | (896) | | | (896) |
| Comprehensive income | | | | | | | | | 149,050 |
| Adjustment to initially apply FIN 48 | | | | | | (7,015) | | | (7,015) |
| Dividends paid: | | | | | | | | | |
| Class A - \$1.32 | | | | | | (31,591) | | | (31,591) |
| Class B - \$1.97 | | | | | | (44,933) | | | (44,933) |
| Treasury shares acquired | (382) | | 382 | | | (21,476) | | | (21,476) |
| Stock options exercised | 283 | 3,949 | (283) | | | 484 | | | 4,433 |
| Tax benefit of stock options | | 4,709 | | | | | | | 4,709 |
| Long-term incentive shares issued | 44 | 2,633 | (44) | | | 89 | | | 2,722 |
| As of October 31, 2008 | 46,644 | \$ 86,446 | 30,198 | \$ (112,931) | \$ 1,155,116 | \$ (72,820) | \$ 1,055,811 | | |

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

GREIF, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Business

Greif, Inc. and its subsidiaries (the “Company”) principally manufacture industrial packaging products, complemented with a variety of value-added services, including blending, packaging, logistics and warehousing, and containerboard and corrugated products that it sells to customers in many industries throughout the world. The Company has operations in over 45 countries. In addition, the Company owns timber properties in the southeastern United States, which are actively harvested and regenerated, and also owns timber properties in Canada.

Due to the variety of its products, the Company has many customers buying different products and, due to the scope of the Company’s sales, no one customer is considered principal in the total operations of the Company.

Because the Company supplies a cross section of industries, such as chemicals, food products, petroleum products, pharmaceuticals and metal products, and must make spot deliveries on a day-to-day basis as its products are required by its customers, the Company does not operate on a backlog to any significant extent and maintains only limited levels of finished goods. Many customers place their orders weekly for delivery during the week.

The Company’s raw materials are principally steel, resin, containerboard, old corrugated containers for recycling and pulpwood.

There are approximately 9,600 employees of the Company at October 31, 2008.

Fiscal Year

The Company’s fiscal year begins on November 1 and ends on October 31 of the following year. Any references to the year 2008, 2007 or 2006, or to any quarter of those years, relates to the fiscal year ending in that year.

Basis of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Greif, Inc. and its subsidiaries. All intercompany transactions and balances have been eliminated in consolidation.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make certain estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes. The most significant estimates are related to the allowance for doubtful accounts, inventory reserves, expected useful lives assigned to properties, plants and equipment, goodwill and other intangible assets, incentive accruals, restructuring reserves, environmental liabilities, pension and postretirement benefits, income taxes, self-insurance reserves and contingencies. Actual amounts could differ from those estimates.

Revenue Recognition

The Company recognizes revenue when title passes to customers or services have been rendered, with appropriate provision for returns and allowances. Revenue is recognized in accordance with Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 104, "Revenue Recognition."

Timberland disposals, timber and special use property revenues are recognized when closings have occurred, required down payments have been received, title and possession have been transferred to the buyer, and all other criteria for sale and profit recognition have been satisfied.

The Company reports the sale of surplus and higher and better use ("HBU") property in our consolidated statements of income under "gain on disposals of properties, plants and equipment, net" and reports the sale of development property under "net sales" and "cost of products sold." All HBU and development property, together with surplus property is used by the Company to productively grow and sell timber until sold.

Shipping and Handling Fees and Costs

The Company includes shipping and handling fees and costs in cost of products sold.

Income Taxes

Income taxes are accounted for under Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (“SFAS”) No. 109, “Accounting for Income Taxes.” In accordance with this Statement, deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases, as measured by enacted tax rates that are expected to be in effect in the periods when the deferred tax assets and liabilities are expected to be settled or realized. Valuation allowances are established where expected future taxable income does not support the realization of the deferred tax assets.

The Company’s effective tax rate is based on income, statutory tax rates and tax planning opportunities available to the Company in the various jurisdictions in which the Company operates. Significant judgment is required in determining the Company’s effective tax rate and in evaluating its tax positions.

In the first quarter of fiscal 2008, the Company adopted the provisions of FASB Interpretation (“FIN”) No. 48, “Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes.” FIN No. 48 clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in the financial statements in accordance with SFAS No. 109, “Accounting for Income Taxes.” This standard provides that a tax benefit from uncertain tax position may be recognized when it is more likely than not that the position will be sustained upon examination, including resolutions of any related appeals or litigation processes, based on the technical merits. The amount recognized is measured as the largest amount of tax benefit that is greater than 50 percent likely of being realized upon settlement. The Company’s effective tax rate includes the impact of reserve provisions and changes to reserves that it considers appropriate as well as related interest and penalties.

A number of years may elapse before a particular matter, for which the Company has established a reserve, is audited and finally resolved. The number of years with open tax audits varies depending on the tax jurisdiction. While it is often difficult to predict the final outcome or the timing of resolution of any particular tax matter, the Company believes that its reserves reflect the probable outcome of known tax contingencies. Unfavorable settlement of any particular issue would require use of the Company’s cash. Favorable resolution would be recognized as a reduction to the Company’s effective tax rate in the period of resolution.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Company considers highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash and cash equivalents.

Concentration of Credit Risk

Financial instruments that potentially subject the Company to significant concentrations of credit risk consist primarily of trade accounts receivable. Such credit risk is considered by management to be limited due to the Company’s many customers, none of which are considered principal in the total operations of the Company and doing business in a variety of industries throughout the world.

Allowance for Accounts Receivable

The Company evaluates the collectability of its accounts receivable based on a combination of factors. In circumstances where the Company is aware of a specific customer’s inability to meet its financial obligations to the Company, the Company records a specific allowance for bad debts against amounts due to reduce the net recognized receivable to the amount the Company reasonably believes will be collected. In addition, the Company recognizes

allowances for bad debts based on the length of time receivables are past due with allowance percentages, based on its historical experiences, applied on a graduated scale relative to the age of the receivable amounts. If circumstances such as higher than expected bad debt experience or an unexpected material adverse change in a major customer's ability to meet its financial obligations to the Company were to occur, the Company estimates of the recoverability of amounts due to the Company could change by a material amount.

Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market, utilizing the first-in, first-out basis for approximately 68 percent of consolidated inventories and the last-in, first-out ("LIFO") basis for approximately 32 percent of consolidated inventories.

During 2008 and 2007, increases in certain inventory quantities caused an increase in the LIFO inventory values, which resulted in expense of \$9.2 million and \$0.2 million, net of tax, respectively. Certain inventory quantity reductions caused a liquidation of LIFO inventory values during 2006 by \$2.8 million, net of tax. The Company also evaluates reserves for inventory obsolescence and losses under firm purchase commitments for goods or inventories.

The inventories are comprised as follows at October 31 for the year indicated (Dollars in thousands):

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|------------|------------|
| Finished goods | \$ 71,659 | \$ 75,428 |
| Raw materials and work-in process | 279,186 | 202,392 |
| | 350,845 | 277,820 |
| Reduction to state inventories on last-in, first-out basis | (46,851) | (34,826) |
| | \$ 303,994 | \$ 242,994 |

Properties, Plants and Equipment

Properties, plants and equipment are stated at cost. Depreciation on properties, plants and equipment is provided on the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets as follows:

| | Years |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Buildings | 30-45 |
| Machinery and equipment | 3-19 |

Depreciation expense was \$92.9 million in 2008, \$89.6 million in 2007 and \$82.8 million in 2006. Expenditures for repairs and maintenance are charged to expense as incurred. When properties are retired or otherwise disposed of, the cost and accumulated depreciation are eliminated from the asset and related allowance accounts. Gains or losses are credited or charged to income as incurred.

The Company owns timber properties in the southeastern United States and in Canada. With respect to the Company's United States timber properties, which consisted of approximately 268,700 acres at October 31, 2008, depletion expense on timber properties is computed on the basis of cost and the estimated recoverable timber. Depletion expense was \$4.2 million, \$4.3 million and \$3.6 million in 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The Company's land costs are maintained by tract. The Company begins recording pre-merchantable timber costs at the time the site is prepared for planting. Costs capitalized during the establishment period include site preparation by aerial spray, costs of seedlings, planting costs, herbaceous weed control, woody release, labor and machinery use, refrigeration rental and trucking for the seedlings. The Company does not capitalize interest costs in the process. Property taxes are expensed as incurred. New road construction costs are capitalized as land improvements and depreciated over 20 years. Road repairs and maintenance costs are expensed as incurred. Costs after establishment of the seedlings, including management costs, pre-commercial thinning costs and fertilization costs, are expensed as incurred. Once the timber becomes merchantable, the cost is transferred from the pre-merchantable timber category to the merchantable timber category in the depletion block.

Merchantable timber costs are maintained by five product classes, pine sawtimber, pine chip-n-saw, pine pulpwood, hardwood sawtimber and hardwood pulpwood, within a "depletion block," with each depletion block based upon a geographic district or subdistrict. Currently, the Company has eleven depletion blocks. These same depletion blocks are used for pre-merchantable timber costs. Each year, the Company estimates the volume of the Company's merchantable timber for the five product classes by each depletion block. These estimates are based on the current state in the growth cycle and not on quantities to be available in future years. The Company's estimates do not include costs to be incurred in the future. The Company then projects these volumes to the end of the year. Upon acquisition of a new timberland tract, the Company records separate amounts for land, merchantable timber and pre-merchantable timber allocated as a percentage of the values being purchased. These acquisition volumes and costs acquired during the year are added to the totals for each product class within the appropriate depletion block(s). The total of the beginning, one-year growth and acquisition volumes are divided by the total undepleted historical cost to arrive at a

depletion rate, which is then used for the current year. As timber is sold, the Company multiplies the volumes sold by the depletion rate for the current year to arrive at the depletion cost.

The Company's Canadian timber properties, which consisted of approximately 27,450 acres at October 31, 2008, are not actively managed at this time, and therefore, no depletion expense is recorded.

Net Assets Held for Sale

Net assets held for sale represent land, buildings and land improvements for locations that have met the criteria of “held for sale” accounting, as specified by SFAS No.144, “Accounting for Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets.” As of October 31, 2008, there were eleven locations held for sale (nine in the Industrial Packaging segment and two in the Paper Packaging segment). In 2008, the Company recorded net sales of \$15.4 million and net loss before taxes of \$8.2 million, primarily related to the Industrial Packaging segment. As of October 31, 2007, there were seven locations held for sale (six in the Industrial Packaging segment and one in the Paper Packaging segment). In 2007, the Company recorded net sales of \$46.6 million and net income before taxes of \$4.5 million for these locations. The effect of suspending depreciation on the facilities held for sale is immaterial to the results of operations. The properties within the net assets held for sale have been listed for sale and it is the Company’s intention to complete these sales within the upcoming year.

Internal Use Software

Internal use software is accounted for under Statement of Position 98-1, “Accounting for the Costs of Computer Software Developed or Obtained for Internal Use.” Internal use software is software that is acquired, internally developed or modified solely to meet the Company’s needs and for which, during the software’s development or modification, a plan does not exist to market the software externally. Costs incurred to develop the software during the application development stage and for upgrades and enhancements that provide additional functionality are capitalized and then amortized over a three- to ten- year period.

Derivative Financial Instruments

In accordance with SFAS No. 133, “Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities,” as amended by SFAS No. 137, “Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities – Deferral of the Effective Date of FASB Statement No. 133,” and SFAS No. 138, “Accounting for Certain Derivative Instruments and Certain Hedging Activities,” the Company records all derivatives in the consolidated balance sheets as either assets or liabilities measured at fair value. Dependent on the designation of the derivative instrument, changes in fair value are recorded to earnings or shareholders’ equity through other comprehensive income (loss).

The Company uses interest rate swap agreements for cash flow hedging purposes. For derivative instruments that hedge the exposure of variability in interest rates, designated as cash flow hedges, the effective portion of the net gain or loss on the derivative instrument is reported as a component of other comprehensive income (loss) and reclassified into earnings in the same period or periods during which the hedged transaction affects earnings.

Interest rate swap agreements that hedge against variability in interest rates effectively convert a portion of floating rate debt to a fixed rate basis, thus reducing the impact of interest rate changes on future interest expense. The Company uses the “variable cash flow method” for assessing the effectiveness of these swaps. The effectiveness of these swaps is reviewed at least every quarter. Hedge ineffectiveness has not been material during all years presented herein.

The Company enters into currency forward contracts to hedge certain currency transactions and short-term intercompany loan balances with its international businesses. In addition, the Company uses cross-currency swaps to hedge a portion of its net investment in its European subsidiaries. Such contracts limit the Company’s exposure to both favorable and unfavorable currency fluctuations. These contracts are adjusted to reflect market value as of each balance sheet date, with the resulting changes in fair value being recognized in other comprehensive income (loss).

The Company uses derivative instruments to hedge a portion of its natural gas and old corrugated containers purchases. These derivatives are designated as cash flow hedges. The effective portion of the net gain or loss is reported as a component of other comprehensive income (loss) and reclassified into earnings in the same period during which the hedged transaction affects earnings.

Any derivative contract that is either not designated as a hedge, or is so designated but is ineffective, is adjusted to market value and recognized in earnings immediately. If a cash flow hedge ceases to qualify for hedge accounting or is terminated, the contract would continue to be carried on the balance sheet at fair value until settled and future adjustments to the contract's fair value would be recognized in earnings immediately. If a forecasted transaction were no longer probable to occur, amounts previously deferred in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) would be recognized immediately in earnings.

Currency Translation

In accordance with SFAS No. 52, "Foreign Currency Translation," the assets and liabilities denominated in a foreign currency are translated into United States dollars at the rate of exchange existing at year-end, and revenues and expenses are translated at average exchange rates.

The cumulative translation adjustments, which represent the effects of translating assets and liabilities of the Company's international operations, are presented in the consolidated statements of changes in shareholders' equity in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss). The transaction gains and losses are credited or charged to income. The functional currency for international operations in highly inflationary economies is the United States dollar, and any gains or losses are credited or charged to income. The amounts included in other income (expense) related to transaction gain and losses, net were \$(1.3) million, \$(2.8) million and \$2.0 million in 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively.

During the first quarter of 2008, the Company sold a business unit in Australia. Included in the gain calculation for the disposal in Australia was the reclassification to net income of a gain of \$37.4 million of accumulated foreign currency translation adjustments.

Earnings Per Share

The Company has two classes of common stock and, as such, applies the "two-class method" of computing earnings per share as prescribed in SFAS No. 128, "Earnings Per Share." In accordance with the Statement, earnings are allocated first to Class A and Class B Common Stock to the extent that dividends are actually paid and the remainder allocated assuming all of the earnings for the period have been distributed in the form of dividends.

The following is a reconciliation of the shares used to calculate basic and diluted earnings per share(1):

| For the years ended October 31, | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Class A Common Stock: | | | |
| Basic earnings per share | 23,932,045 | 23,594,814 | 23,127,522 |
| Assumed conversion of stock options | 446,560 | 577,872 | 598,586 |
| Diluted earnings per share | 24,378,605 | 24,172,686 | 23,726,108 |
| Class B Common Stock: | | | |
| Basic and diluted earnings per share | 22,797,825 | 22,994,494 | 23,055,258 |

(1) All share information presented in this table has been adjusted to reflect a 2-for-1 stock split of the Company's shares of Class A and Class B Common Stock distributed on April 11, 2007.

There were no Class A options that were antidilutive for 2008, 2007 and 2006.

Stock-Based Compensation Expense

On November 1, 2005, the Company adopted SFAS No. 123(R), "Share-Based Payment," which requires the measurement and recognition of compensation expense, based on estimated fair values, for all share-based awards made to employees and directors, including stock options, restricted stock, restricted stock units and participation in the Company's employee stock purchase plan. In adopting SFAS No. 123(R), the Company used the modified prospective application transition method, as of November 1, 2005, the first day of the Company's fiscal year 2006.

SFAS No. 123(R) requires companies to estimate the fair value of share-based awards on the date of grant using an option-pricing model. The value of the portion of the award that is ultimately expected to vest is recognized as expense in the Company's consolidated statements of income over the requisite service periods. Share-based compensation expense recognized in the Company's consolidated statements of income for 2007 and 2006, respectively, includes compensation expense for share-based awards granted prior to, but not yet vested as of November 1, 2005, based on the grant date fair value estimated in accordance with the provisions of SFAS No. 123. No options were granted in 2008, 2007 and 2006. For any options granted in the future, compensation expense will be based on the grant date fair value estimated in accordance with the provisions of SFAS No. 123(R). There was no share-based compensation expense recognized under SFAS No. 123(R) for 2008 and \$0.1 million and \$0.9 million, respectively, was recognized for 2007 and 2006.

The Company will use the straight-line single option method of expensing stock options to recognize compensation expense in its consolidated statements of income for all share-based awards. Because share-based compensation expense is based on awards that are ultimately expected to vest, share-based compensation expense will be reduced to account for estimated forfeitures. SFAS No. 123(R) requires forfeitures to be estimated at the time of grant and revised, if necessary, in subsequent periods if actual forfeitures differ from those estimates.

Restricted Stock

Under the Company's Long-Term Incentive Plan and the 2005 Outside Directors Equity Award Plan, the Company granted 35,938 and 7,664 shares of restricted stock with a weighted average grant date fair value of \$62.38 and \$62.58, respectively in 2008. The Company granted 37,624 and 6,432 shares of restricted stock with a weighted average grant date fair value of \$57.61 and \$62.14, under the Company's Long-Term Incentive Plan and the 2005 Outside Directors Equity Award Plan, respectively in 2007. All restricted stock awards are fully vested upon being awarded.

Asset Retirement Obligations

The Company accounts for asset retirement obligations in accordance with SFAS No. 143, "Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations," ("SFAS 143") and FASB Interpretation No. 47, "Accounting for Conditional Asset Retirement Obligations" ("FIN 47"). A liability and an asset are recorded equal to the present value of the estimated costs associated with the retirement of long-lived assets where a legal or contractual obligation exists and the liability can be reasonably estimated. The liability is accreted over time and the asset is depreciated over the remaining life of the related asset. Upon settlement of the liability, the Company will recognize a gain or loss for any difference between the settlement amount and the liability recorded. Asset retirement obligations with indeterminate settlement dates are not recorded until such dates can be reasonably estimated.

Environmental Cleanup Costs

The Company expenses environmental expenditures related to existing conditions resulting from past or current operations and from which no current or future benefit is discernable. Expenditures that extend the life of the related property or mitigate or prevent future environmental contamination are capitalized. The Company determines its liability on a site-by-site basis and records a liability at the time when it is probable and can be reasonably estimated. The Company's estimated liability is reduced to reflect the anticipated participation of other potentially responsible parties in those instances where it is probable that such parties are legally responsible and financially capable of paying their respective shares of the relevant costs.

Self-Insurance

The Company is self-insured with respect to certain of its medical and dental claims and certain of its workers' compensation claims. The Company has recorded an estimated liability for self-insured medical and dental claims incurred but not reported and workers' compensation claims and claims incurred but not reported of \$3.1 million and \$21.9 million, respectively, at October 31, 2008 and \$2.7 million and \$19.7 million, respectively, at October 31, 2007.

Equity Earnings and Minority Interests

Equity earnings represent investments in affiliates in which the Company does not exercise control and has a 20 percent or more voting interest. Such investments in affiliates are accounted for using the equity method of accounting. If the fair value of an investment in an affiliate is below its carrying value and the difference is deemed to be other than temporary, the difference between the fair value and the carrying value is charged to earnings. The Company has an equity interest in six affiliates, and the equity earnings of these interests were recorded in net income. Equity earnings for 2008, 2007, and 2006 were \$1.6 million, \$0.3 million and \$0.4 million, respectively. Dividends received from our equity method subsidiaries were \$0.1 million, \$0.2 million, and \$0.2 million for the years ending October 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006, respectively.

The Company records minority interest expense which reflects the portion of the earnings of majority-owned operations which are applicable to the minority interest partners. The Company has majority holdings in various companies, and the minority interests of other persons in the respective net income of these companies were recorded as an expense. Minority interest expense for 2008, 2007, and 2006 was \$5.6 million, \$1.7 million, and \$1.9 million, respectively.

Other Income (Expense), Net

Other income (expense), net primarily represents Non-United States trade receivables program fees, currency translation and remeasurement gains (losses) related to hyperinflationary accounting, and other infrequent non-operating items.

Reclassifications

Certain prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform to the 2008 presentation.

Recent Accounting Standards

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 157, "Fair Value Measurements." This Statement defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in GAAP and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. This Statement is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007, and interim periods within those fiscal years. In February 2008, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position No. FAS 157-2 "Effective Date of FASB Statement No. 157." This Staff position delays the effective date of SFAS No. 157 to fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2008 (2010 for us), and interim periods within those fiscal years for nonfinancial assets and nonfinancial liabilities, except for items that are recognized or disclosed at fair value in the financial statements on a recurring basis. The Company has evaluated the portions of the Statement that are effective for fiscal 2009 and does not expect the adoption of this Statement to have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements or results of operations. The Company is in the process of determining the impact of adopting the remaining portions of the Statement, which will be effective in fiscal 2010.

In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 159, “The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities,” which allows an entity the irrevocable option to elect fair value for the initial and subsequent measurement for certain financial assets and liabilities on a contract-by-contract basis. Subsequent changes in fair value of these financial assets and liabilities would be recognized in earnings when they occur. SFAS No. 159 further establishes certain additional disclosure requirements. SFAS No. 159 is effective for the Company’s consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year beginning on November 1, 2008 (2009 for the Company), with earlier adoption permitted. The Company’s adoption of SFAS No. 159 is not expected to have a material impact on the Company’s consolidated financial statements.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 141(R), “Business Combinations,” and SFAS No. 160, “Accounting and Reporting of Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements, an amendment of ARB No. 51.” These new standards will significantly change the financial accounting and reporting of business combination transactions and noncontrolling (or minority) interests in consolidated financial statements. The Company will be required to adopt SFAS Nos. 141(R) and 160 on November 1, 2009 (2010 for the Company). The Company is currently evaluating the impact, if any, that the adoption of SFAS Nos. 141(R) and 160 will have on its consolidated financial statements.

In March 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 161, “Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities – an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133.” The objective of SFAS No. 161 is to enhance the current disclosure framework in Statement 133 and improve the transparency of financial reporting for derivative instruments and hedging activities. SFAS No. 161 requires entities to provide enhanced disclosures about (a) how and why an entity uses derivative instruments, (b) how derivative instruments and related hedged items are accounted for under Statement 133 and its related interpretations, and (c) how derivative instruments and related hedged items affect an entity’s financial position, financial performance, and cash flows. SFAS No. 161 is effective for the Company’s financial statements for the fiscal year beginning November 1, 2010 (2011 for the Company). The Company is currently evaluating the impact, if any, that the adoption of SFAS No. 161 will have on its consolidated financial statements.

NOTE 2 – ACQUISITIONS AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT TRANSACTIONS

During 2008, the Company completed acquisitions of four industrial packaging companies and one paper packaging company and made a contingent purchase price payment related to an acquisition from October 2005 for an aggregate purchase price of \$90.3 million. These five acquisitions consisted of a joint venture in the Middle East in November 2007, acquisition of a 70 percent interest in a South American company in November 2007, the acquisition of a North American company in December 2007, the acquisition of a company in Asia in May 2008, and the acquisition of a North American paper packaging company in July 2008. These industrial packaging and paper packaging acquisitions are expected to complement the Company’s existing product lines that together will provide growth opportunities and scale. These acquisitions, included in operating results from the acquisition dates, were accounted for using the purchase method of accounting and, accordingly, the purchase prices were allocated to the assets purchased and liabilities assumed based upon their estimated fair values at the dates of acquisition. The estimated fair values of the net assets acquired were \$72.0 million (including \$12.2 million of accounts receivable and \$7.4 million of inventory) and liabilities assumed were \$43.2 million. Identifiable intangible assets, with a combined fair value of \$21.9 million, including trade-names, customer relationships, and certain non-compete agreements, have been recorded for these acquisitions. The excess of the purchase prices over the estimated fair values of the net tangible and intangible assets acquired of \$39.6 million was recorded as goodwill. The final allocation of the purchase prices may differ due to additional refinements in the fair values of the net assets acquired as well as the execution of consolidation plans to eliminate duplicate operations, in accordance with SFAS No. 141, “Business Combinations.” This is due to the valuation of certain other assets and liabilities that are subject to refinement and therefore the actual fair value may vary from the preliminary estimates. Adjustments to the acquired net assets resulting from final valuations are not expected to be significant. The Company is finalizing certain closing date adjustments with the sellers, as well as the allocation of

income tax adjustments. The Company is required to make a contingent payment in February 2009 based on a fixed percentage of EBITDA for one acquisition. Furthermore, in December 2010, the Company is required to pay \$5.0 million to purchase the land and building that is currently being leased from the seller of one acquisition. The contingent payment paid of \$5.0 million for the October 2005 acquisition was determined on a calculation of 1% of all North American (excluding Canada) fibre drum sales at the acquired plant since the acquisition date.

As of the completion date of the acquisitions made during 2008, the Company had begun to formulate various restructuring plans at certain of the acquired businesses discussed above. The Company's restructuring plans for certain of these newly acquired businesses preliminarily include plans to consolidate locations.

During 2007, the Company completed seven acquisitions of industrial packaging companies for an aggregate purchase price of \$346.4 million. These seven acquisitions were the Blagden Packaging Group in November 2006, the acquisition of two small North American companies in November 2006, the acquisition of one small North African company in January 2007, the acquisition of the remaining ownership of two of the Company's minority owned plants in Russia in July 2007, the acquisition of a North American joint venture in October 2007, and the acquisition of one small South American company in October 2007. These industrial packaging acquisitions complemented the Company's existing product lines to provide growth opportunities and scale. These acquisitions, included in operating results from the acquisition dates, were accounted for using the purchase method of accounting and, accordingly, the purchase prices were allocated to the assets purchased and liabilities assumed based upon their estimated fair values at the dates of acquisition. The estimated fair values of the assets acquired were \$172.2 million (including \$61.2 million of accounts receivable and \$43.5 million of inventory) and liabilities assumed were \$75.1 million. Identifiable intangible assets, with a combined fair value of \$57.2 million, including trade-names, customer relationships and certain non-compete agreements; have been recorded for these acquisitions. The excess of the purchase prices over the estimated fair values of the net tangible and intangible assets acquired of \$192.1 million was recorded as goodwill.

During 2007, the Company implemented various restructuring plans at certain of the 2007 acquired businesses discussed above. The Company's restructuring activities, which were accounted for in accordance with Emerging Issues Task Force Issue No. 95-3, "Recognition of Liabilities in Connection with a Purchase Business Combination" ("EITF 95-3"), primarily have included reductions in staffing levels, other exit costs associated with the consolidation of certain management or sales and marketing personnel, and the reduction of excess capacity. In connection with these restructuring activities, as part of the cost of the above acquisitions, the Company established reserves, primarily for severance and excess facilities, in the amount of \$11.7 million, of which \$1.3 million remains in the restructuring reserve at October 31, 2008. These accruals have been recorded as liabilities to the opening balance sheets (increases to goodwill) pursuant to the provisions of EITF 95-3. These charges primarily reflect severance, other exit costs associated with the consolidation of certain sales and marketing personnel, and the reduction of excess capacity.

During 2008, the Company sold a business unit in Australia, a 51 percent interest in a Zimbabwean operation, three North American paper packaging operations and a North American industrial packaging operation. The net gain from these divestitures was \$31.6 million and is included in gain on disposal of properties, plants, and equipment, net in the accompanying consolidated statement of income. Included in the gain calculation for the disposal in Australia was the reclass to net income of a gain of \$37.4 million of accumulated foreign currency translation adjustments.

Had the transactions occurred on November 1, 2005, results of operations would not have differed materially from reported results.

NOTE 3 – SALE OF NON-UNITED STATES ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Pursuant to the terms of a Receivable Purchase Agreement (the "RPA") dated October 28, 2004 between Greif Coordination Center BVBA, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Greif, Inc., and a major international bank, the seller agreed to sell trade receivables meeting certain eligibility requirements that seller had purchased from other indirect wholly-owned subsidiaries of Greif, Inc., including Greif Belgium BVBA, Greif Germany GmbH, Greif Nederland BV, Greif Spain SA and Greif UK Ltd, under discounted receivables purchase agreements and from Greif France SAS under a factoring agreement. The RPA was amended on October 28, 2005 to include receivables originated by Greif Portugal Lda, also an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Greif, Inc. In addition, on October 28, 2005, Greif Italia S.P.A., also an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Greif, Inc., entered into the Italian Receivables Purchase Agreement with the Italian branch of the major international bank (the "Italian RPA") with Greif Italia S.P.A.,

agreeing to sell trade receivables that meet certain eligibility criteria to the Italian branch of the major international bank. The Italian RPA is similar in structure and terms as the RPA. The RPA was amended April 30, 2007 to include receivables oriented by Greif Packaging Belgium NV, Greif Packaging France SAS and Greif Packaging Spain SA, all wholly-owned subsidiaries of Greif, Inc. The maximum amount of receivables that may be sold under the RPA and the Italian RPA is €115 million (\$149.4 million) at October 31, 2008.

In October 2007, Greif Singapore Pte. Ltd., an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Greif Inc., entered into the Singapore Receivable Purchase Agreement (the “Singapore RPA”) with a major international bank. The maximum amount of aggregate receivables that may be sold under the Singapore RPA is 10.0 million Singapore Dollars (\$6.7 million) at October 31, 2008.

In October 2008, Greif Embalagens Industriais do Brasil Ltda., an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Greif Inc., entered into agreements (the “Brazil Agreements”) with Brazilian banks. There is no maximum amount of aggregate receivables that may be sold under the Brazil Agreements; however, the sale of individual receivables is subject to approval by the banks.

The structure of the transactions provide for a legal true sale, on a revolving basis, of the receivables transferred from the various Greif, Inc. subsidiaries to the respective banks. The bank funds an initial purchase price of a certain percentage of eligible receivables based on a formula with the initial purchase price approximating 75 percent to 90 percent of eligible receivables. The remaining deferred purchase price is settled upon collection of the receivables. At the balance sheet reporting dates, the Company removes from accounts receivable the amount of proceeds received from the initial purchase price since they meet the applicable criteria of SFAS No. 140, “Accounting for Transfers and Servicing of Financial Assets and Extinguishments of Liabilities,” and continues to recognize the deferred purchase price in its accounts receivable. The receivables are sold on a non-recourse basis with the total funds in the servicing collection accounts pledged to the banks between settlement dates. At October 31, 2008 and 2007, €106.0 million (\$137.8 million) and €96.0 million (\$138.5 million), respectively, of accounts receivable were sold under the RPA and Italian RPA. At October 31, 2008, 7.8 million Singapore Dollars (\$5.3 million) of accounts receivable were sold under the Singapore RPA. At October 31, 2008, 9.5 million Brazilian Reais (\$4.5 million) of accounts receivable were sold under the Brazil Agreements.

At the time the receivables are initially sold, the difference between the carrying amount and the fair value of the assets sold are included as a loss on sale in the consolidated statements of income. Expenses, primarily related to the loss on sale of receivables, associated with the RPA and Italian RPA totaled €5.9 million (\$7.9 million) and €3.7 million (\$5.0 million) for the years ended October 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Expenses associated with the Singapore RPA and Brazil Agreements were not material to the consolidated financial statements. Additionally, the Company performs collections and administrative functions on the receivables sold similar to the procedures it uses for collecting all of its receivables, including receivables that are not sold under the RPA, Italian RPA, Singapore RPA and Brazil Agreements. The servicing liability for these receivables is not material to the consolidated financial statements.

NOTE 4 – GOODWILL AND OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS

The Company annually reviews goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets for impairment as required by SFAS No. 142, “Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets.” The Company’s business segments have been identified as reporting units, of which two contain goodwill that is assessed for impairment. A reporting unit is the operating segment, or a business one level below that operating segment (the component level) if discrete financial information is prepared and regularly reviewed by segment management. However, components are aggregated as a single reporting unit if they have similar economic characteristics. The Company has concluded that no impairment exists at this time.

Changes to the carrying amount of goodwill for the years ended October 31, 2008 and 2007 are as follows (Dollars in thousands):

| | Industrial Packaging | Paper Packaging | Total |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Balance at October 31, 2006 | \$ 251,805 | \$ 34,747 | \$ 286,552 |
| Goodwill acquired | 215,316 | - | 215,316 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Goodwill adjustments | (691) | (9,627) | (10,318) |
| Currency translation | 1,702 | - | 1,702 |
| Balance at October 31, 2007 | 468,132 | 25,120 | 493,252 |
| Goodwill acquired | 39,663 | 7,970 | 47,633 |
| Goodwill adjustments | (2,237) | (170) | (2,407) |
| Goodwill disposals | (8,255) | (259) | (8,514) |
| Currency translation | (16,991) | - | (16,991) |
| Balance at October 31, 2008 | \$ 480,312 | \$ 32,661 | \$ 512,973 |

The 2008 goodwill acquired of \$47.6 million is preliminary. The \$39.6 million of goodwill relates to the acquisition of industrial packaging companies in North and South America, the Middle East and Southeast Asia, and \$8.0 relates to an acquisition of a paper packaging company in North America. The goodwill disposals of \$8.5 million primarily represent the divestiture of the Australian drum operations and the sale of plants in North America. The goodwill adjustments represent a net decrease in goodwill of \$2.4 million primarily related to finalization of the purchase price allocations of prior year acquisitions.

The 2007 goodwill acquired of \$215.3 million was primarily related to the 2006 and 2007 acquisitions of industrial packaging companies in Europe, Asia, South America and North America. The 2007 goodwill adjustments represent the net reduction in goodwill of \$10.3 million for the recognition of deferred tax asset, the reversal of tax contingency reserves, and a reversal of a deferred tax liability pertaining to the Corrochoice acquisition. The adjustments to goodwill described above were made in accordance with SFAS No. 141, "Business Combinations," and applicable accounting pronouncements pertaining to tax matters existing at the business combination date.

All intangible assets for the periods presented, excluding the goodwill items discussed above and except for \$8.0 million, related to the Tri-Sure Trademark, Blagden Express Tradename and Closed-loop Tradename, are subject to amortization and are being amortized using the straight-line method over periods that range from 5 to 20 years. The details of other intangible assets by class as of October 31, 2008 and October 31, 2007 are as follows (Dollars in thousands):

| | Gross Intangible Assets | Accumulated Amortization | Net Intangible Assets |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| October 31, 2008: | | | |
| Trademarks and patents | \$ 29,996 | \$ 13,066 | \$ 16,930 |
| Non-compete agreements | 16,514 | 3,470 | 13,044 |
| Customer relationships | 80,017 | 10,741 | 69,276 |
| Other | 9,624 | 4,450 | 5,174 |
| Total | \$ 136,151 | \$ 31,727 | \$ 104,424 |
| October 31, 2007: | | | |
| Trademarks and patents | \$ 31,983 | \$ 10,922 | \$ 21,061 |
| Non-compete agreements | 19,708 | 5,328 | 14,380 |
| Customer relationships | 61,145 | 6,470 | 54,675 |
| Other | 10,032 | 3,892 | 6,140 |
| Total | \$ 122,868 | \$ 26,612 | \$ 96,256 |

During 2008, other intangible assets, net of accumulated amortization, increased by \$13.3 million. The cost increased \$23.3 million due to acquisitions of Industrial Packaging companies in Europe, Asia, Middle East and North America, as well as a Paper Packaging company in North America, and was decreased by \$0.7 million related to the sale of a Paper Packaging company in North America. Currency translation decreased the other intangible assets by \$6.0 million. The weighted average amortization period of the intangibles acquired in 2008 is 10.2 years. Amortization expense was \$9.2 million, \$8.3 million and \$4.1 million for 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Amortization expense for the next five years is expected to be \$13.1 million in 2009, \$12.5 million in 2010, \$11.5 million in 2011, \$9.4 million in 2012 and \$6.6 million in 2013.

NOTE 5 – RESTRUCTURING CHARGES

The focus for restructuring activities in 2008 was on the integration of recent acquisitions in the Industrial Packaging (formerly known as “Industrial Packaging & Services”) segment and on alignment to market focused strategy and on the integration of a recent acquisition and closing of two paper packaging facilities in the Paper Packaging (formerly known as “Paper, Packaging & Services”) segment. During 2008, the Company recorded restructuring charges of \$43.2 million, consisting of \$20.6 million in employee separation costs, \$12.3 million in asset impairments, \$0.4 million in professional fees, and \$9.9 million in other restructuring costs, primarily consisting of facility consolidation and lease termination costs. Six company-owned plants in the Industrial Packaging segment and four company-owned plants in the Paper Packaging segment were closed. The total employees severed during 2008 were 630.

Edgar Filing: GREIF INC - Form 10-K

For each relevant business segment, costs incurred in 2008 are as follows (Dollars in thousands):

| | Amounts Incurred in 2008 | Total Amounts Expected to be Incurred |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Industrial Packaging: | | |
| Employee separation costs | \$ 14,822 | \$ 20,855 |
| Asset impairments | 11,670 | 11,670 |
| Professional fees | 446 | 450 |
| Other restructuring costs | 7,033 | 8,623 |
| | 33,971 | 41,598 |
| Paper Packaging: | | |
| Employee separation costs | 5,652 | 7,100 |
| Asset impairments | 631 | 631 |
| Other restructuring costs | 2,872 | 3,537 |
| | 9,155 | 11,268 |
| Timber: | | |
| Employee separation costs | 76 | 76 |
| | \$ 43,202 | \$ 52,942 |

Following is a reconciliation of the beginning and ending restructuring reserve balances for the years ended October 31, 2008 and 2007 (Dollars in thousands):

| | Cash Charges | | Non-Cash Charges | | Total |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------|-------|
| | Employee Separation Costs | Other costs | Asset Impairments | | |
| Balance at October 31, 2006 | \$ 8,391 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 8,391 | |
| Costs incurred and charged to expense | 9,170 | 11,144 | 915 | 21,229 | |
| Reserves established in the purchase price of business combinations | 8,566 | 2,195 | - | 10,761 | |
| Costs paid or otherwise settled | (13,831) | (9,859) | (915) | (24,605) | |
| Balance at October 31, 2007 | \$ 12,296 | \$ 3,480 | \$ - | \$ 15,776 | |
| Costs incurred and charged to expense | 20,550 | 10,277 | 12,375 | 43,202 | |
| Reserves established in the purchase price of business combinations | 1,111 | 147 | - | 1,258 | |
| Costs paid or otherwise settled | (19,544) | (13,170) | (12,375) | (45,089) | |
| Balance at October 31, 2008 | \$ 14,413 | \$ 734 | \$ - | \$ 15,147 | |

The focus for restructuring activities in 2007 was on integration of acquisitions in the Industrial Packaging segment and on alignment to market-focused strategy and implementation of the Greif Business System in the Paper Packaging segment. During 2007, the Company recorded restructuring charges of \$21.2 million, consisting of \$9.2 million in employee separation costs, \$0.9 million in asset impairments, \$1.0 million in professional fees, and \$10.1 million in other restructuring costs, primarily consisting of facility consolidation and lease termination costs. Two company-owned plants in the Industrial Packaging segment were closed. Additionally, severance costs were incurred

due to the elimination of certain operating and administrative positions throughout the world. The total employees severed in 2007 were 303.

During 2006, the Company recorded restructuring charges of \$33.2 million, consisting of \$16.8 million in employee separation costs, \$8.3 million in asset impairments, \$2.0 million in professional fees, and \$6.1 million in other restructuring costs, primarily consisting of facility consolidation and lease termination costs. Four company-owned plants were closed during 2006. Three plants in the Paper Packaging segment, and one in the Industrial Packaging segment were closed. The Industrial Packaging segment reduced the number of plants in the United Kingdom from five to three; merged operations of businesses purchased in October 2005 into existing North American plants; and consolidated one plant in France. In addition, severance costs were incurred due to the elimination of certain operating and administrative positions throughout the world. The total employees severed in 2006 was 281.

NOTE 6 – SIGNIFICANT NONSTRATEGIC TIMBERLAND TRANSACTIONS AND CONSOLIDATION OF VARIABLE INTEREST ENTITIES

On March 28, 2005, Soterra LLC (a wholly owned subsidiary) entered into two real estate purchase and sale agreements with Plum Creek Timberlands, L.P. (“Plum Creek”) to sell approximately 56,000 acres of timberland and related assets located primarily in Florida for an aggregate sales price of approximately \$90 million, subject to closing adjustments. In connection with the closing of one of these agreements, Soterra LLC sold approximately 35,000 acres of timberland and associated assets in Florida, Georgia and Alabama for \$51.0 million, resulting in a pretax gain of \$42.1 million, on May 23, 2005. The purchase price was paid in the form of cash and a \$50.9 million purchase note payable by an indirect subsidiary of Plum Creek (the “Purchase Note”). Soterra LLC contributed the Purchase Note to STA Timber LLC (“STA Timber”), one of the Company’s indirect wholly owned subsidiaries. The Purchase Note is secured by a Deed of Guarantee issued by Bank of America, N.A., London Branch, in an amount not to exceed \$52.3 million (the “Deed of Guarantee”), as a guarantee of the due and punctual payment of principal and interest on the Purchase Note.

The Company completed the second phase of these transactions in the first quarter of 2006. In this phase, the Company sold 15,300 acres of timberland holdings in Florida for \$29.3 million in cash, resulting in a pre-tax gain of \$27.4 million. The final phase of this transaction, approximately 5,700 acres sold for \$9.7 million, occurred on April 28, 2006 and the Company recognized additional timberland gains in its consolidated statements of income in the periods that these transactions occurred resulting in a pre-tax gain of \$9.0 million.

On May 31, 2005, STA Timber issued in a private placement its 5.20 percent Senior Secured Notes due August 5, 2020 (the “Monetization Notes”) in the principal amount of \$43.3 million. In connection with the sale of the Monetization Notes, STA Timber entered into note purchase agreements with the purchasers of the Monetization Notes (the “Note Purchase Agreements”) and related documentation. The Monetization Notes are secured by a pledge of the Purchase Note and the Deed of Guarantee. The Monetization Notes may be accelerated in the event of a default in payment or a breach of the other obligations set forth therein or in the Note Purchase Agreements or related documents, subject in certain cases to any applicable cure periods, or upon the occurrence of certain insolvency or bankruptcy related events. The Monetization Notes are subject to a mechanism that may cause them, subject to certain conditions, to be extended to November 5, 2020. The proceeds from the sale of the Monetization Notes were primarily used for the repayment of indebtedness.

The Company has consolidated the assets and liabilities of STA Timber in accordance with FASB Interpretation No. 46R, “Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities.” Because STA Timber is a separate and distinct legal entity from Greif, Inc. and its other subsidiaries, the assets of STA Timber are not available to satisfy the liabilities and obligations of these entities and the liabilities of STA Timber are not liabilities or obligations of these entities. In addition, Greif, Inc. and its other subsidiaries have not extended any form of guaranty of the principal or interest on the Monetization Notes. Accordingly, Greif, Inc. and its other subsidiaries will not become directly or contingently liable for the payment of the Monetization Notes at any time.

The Company has also consolidated the assets and liabilities of the buyer-sponsored special purpose entity (the “Buyer SPE”) involved in these transactions as the result of Interpretation 46R. However, because the Buyer SPE is a separate and distinct legal entity from the Company, the assets of the Buyer SPE are not available to satisfy the liabilities and obligations of the Company and the liabilities of the Buyer SPE are not liabilities or obligations of the Company.

Assets of the Buyer SPE at October 31, 2008 and 2007 consist of restricted bank financial instruments of \$50.9 million. STA Timber had long-term debt of \$43.3 million as of October 31, 2008 and 2007. STA Timber is exposed to credit-related losses in the event of nonperformance by the issuer of the Deed of Guarantee. The accompanying consolidated income statements for the years ended October 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 includes interest expense on STA Timber debt of \$2.3 million per year and interest income on Buyer SPE investments of \$2.4 million per year.

NOTE 7 – LONG-TERM DEBT

Long-term debt is summarized as follows (Dollars in thousands):

| | October 31, 2008 | October 31, 2007 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Credit Agreement | \$ 247,597 | \$ 173,131 |
| Senior Notes | 300,000 | 300,000 |
| Trade accounts receivable credit facility | 120,000 | 116,024 |
| Other long-term debt | 5,574 | 33,530 |
| | \$ 673,171 | \$ 622,685 |

50

Credit Agreement

In 2005, the Company and certain of its international subsidiaries, as borrowers, entered into a Credit Agreement (the "Credit Agreement") with a syndicate of financial institutions that provides for a \$350.0 million revolving multicurrency credit facility. On October 31, 2006, the Credit Agreement was amended to increase the revolving multicurrency credit facility from \$350.0 million to \$450.0 million. The revolving multicurrency credit facility is available for acquisitions, ongoing working capital and general corporate purposes. Interest is based on a euro currency rate or an alternative base rate that resets periodically plus a calculated margin amount. As of October 31, 2008, \$247.6 million was outstanding under the Credit Agreement. The weighted average interest rate on the Credit Agreement was 3.98 percent and 5.26 percent for the years ended October 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The interest rate was 3.62 percent and 5.50 percent at October 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

The Credit Agreement contains certain covenants, which include financial covenants that require the Company to maintain a certain leverage ratio and a minimum coverage of interest expense. At October 31, 2008, the Company was in compliance with these covenants.

Senior Notes

On February 9, 2007, the Company issued \$300.0 million of 6 3/4 percent Senior Notes due February 1, 2017. Interest on the Senior Notes is payable semi-annually. Proceeds from the issuance of the Senior Notes were principally use to fund the purchase of the Senior Subordinated Notes in the tender offer and for general corporate purposes.

The fair value of the Senior Notes was \$246.0 million at October 31, 2008 based upon quoted market prices. The Indenture pursuant to which the Senior Notes were issued contains certain covenants. At October 31, 2008, the Company was in compliance with these covenants.

United States of America Trade Accounts Receivable Credit Facility

On October 31, 2003, the Company entered into a five-year, up to \$120.0 million, credit facility with an affiliate of a bank in connection with the securitization of certain of the Company's trade accounts receivable in the United States. On October 24, 2007, the credit facility was amended to extend the maturity date to October 20, 2010. The facility is secured by certain of the Company's trade accounts receivable in the United States and bears interest at a variable rate based on LIBOR plus a margin or other agreed upon rate (4.69 percent and 5.38 percent interest rate as of October 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively). The Company can terminate this facility at any time upon 60 days prior written notice. In connection with this transaction, the Company established Greif Receivables Funding LLC ("GRF"), which is included in the Company's consolidated financial statements. However, because GRF is a separate and distinct legal entity from the Company, the assets of GRF are not available to satisfy the liabilities and obligations of the Company and the liabilities of GRF are not liabilities or obligations of the Company. This entity purchases and services the Company's trade accounts receivable that are subject to this credit facility. There was a total of \$120.0 million and \$116.0 million outstanding under the trade accounts receivable credit facility as of October 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

The trade accounts receivable credit facility provides that in the event the Company breaches any of its financial covenants under the Credit Agreement, and the majority of the lenders there under consent to a waiver thereof, but the provider of the trade accounts receivable credit facility does not consent to any such waiver, then the Company must within 90 days of providing notice of the breach, pay all amounts outstanding under the trade accounts receivable credit facility.

On December 8, 2008, the Company entered into a \$135.0 million receivables financing facility with a financial institution and its affiliate, with a maturity date of December 8, 2013, subject to earlier termination of their purchase commitment on December 7, 2009, or such later date to which the purchase commitment may be extended by agreement of the parties. In addition, the Company can terminate the receivables facility at any time upon five days prior written notice. A significant portion of the proceeds from this receivables facility were used to pay the obligations under the facility described above, which was then terminated. The remaining proceeds will be used to pay certain fees, costs and expenses incurred in connection with the receivables facility and for working capital and general corporate purposes.

Senior Subordinated Notes

On February 9, 2007, the Company completed a tender offer for its 8 7/8 percent Senior Subordinated Notes. In the tender offer, the Company purchased \$245.6 million aggregate principal amount of the outstanding \$248.0 million Senior Subordinated Notes. As a result of this transaction, a debt extinguishment charge of \$23.5 million (\$14.5 million in cash and \$9.0 million in non-cash items, such as write-off of unamortized capitalized debt issue costs) was recorded. The remaining Senior Subordinated Notes were redeemed by the Company during the fourth quarter of 2007.

Other

In addition to the amounts borrowed against the Credit Agreement and proceeds from the Senior Notes and the United States of America trade accounts receivable credit facility, the Company had outstanding debt of \$49.9 million, comprised of \$5.6 million in long-term debt and \$44.3 million in short-term borrowings, at October 31, 2008 and outstanding debt of \$49.3 million, comprised of \$33.5 million in long-term debt and \$15.9 million in short-term borrowings, at October 31, 2007.

Annual maturities of the Company's long-term debt are \$373.1 million in 2010 and \$300.0 million after 2013.

At October 31, 2008 and 2007, the Company had deferred financing fees and debt issuance costs of \$4.6 million and \$6.2 million, respectively, which are included in other long-term assets.

During 2008, the Company paid \$74.3 million of interest (\$52.9 million in 2007 and \$44.9 million in 2006) related to its long-term obligations. Interest of \$2.7 million in 2008, \$1.7 million in 2007 and \$0.1 million in 2006 was capitalized.

Non-Cancelable Operating Leases

The Company has entered into non-cancelable operating leases for buildings, trucks and computer equipment. The future minimum lease payments for the non-cancelable operating leases are \$22.2 million in 2009, \$18.0 million in 2010, \$15.1 million in 2011, \$13.2 million in 2012, \$9.6 million in 2013, and \$55.7 million thereafter. Rent expense was \$20.7 million in 2008, \$22.8 million in 2007 and \$23.2 million in 2006.

NOTE 8 – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The carrying amounts of cash and cash equivalents, trade accounts receivable, accounts payable, current liabilities and short-term borrowings at October 31, 2008 and 2007 approximate their fair values because of the short-term nature of these items.

The estimated fair values of the Company's long-term debt were \$619.2 million and \$620.4 million compared to the carrying amounts of \$673.2 million and \$622.7 million at October 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The fair values of the Company's long-term obligations are estimated based on either the quoted market prices for the same or similar issues or the current interest rates offered for debt of the same remaining maturities.

The Company uses derivatives from time to time to partially mitigate the effect of exposure to interest rate movements, exposure to currency fluctuations, and energy cost fluctuations. The Company records derivatives based on SFAS No. 133, "Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities," and related amendments. This Statement requires that all derivatives be recognized as assets or liabilities in the balance sheet and measured at fair value. Changes in the fair value of derivatives are recognized in either net income or in other comprehensive income, depending on the designated purpose of the derivative.

The Company had interest rate swap agreements with an aggregate notional amount of \$100.0 million and \$230.0 million at October 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively, with various maturities through 2010. Under certain of these agreements, the Company receives interest quarterly from the counterparties equal to LIBOR and pays interest at a fixed rate (4.93 percent at October 31, 2008) over the life of the contracts.

Prior to August 1, 2007, the Company had cross-currency interest rate swaps that matured on August 1, 2007 and the Company paid €206.7 million (\$281.9 million) to the counterparties and received \$248.0 million from the counterparties.

On August 1, 2007, the Company entered into cross-currency interest rate swaps. Under these agreements, the Company receives interest semi-annually from the counterparties equal to a fixed rate of 6.75 percent on \$300.0 million and pays interest at a fixed rate of 6.25 percent on €219.9 million. Upon maturity of these swaps on August 1, 2009, August 1, 2010, and August 1, 2012, the Company will be required to pay €73.3 million to the counterparties and receive \$100.0 million from the counterparties on each of these dates. An asset for the gain on these agreements of \$24.5 million, representing their fair values, was recorded at October 31, 2008. A liability for the loss on these agreements of \$17.4 million, representing their fair values, was recorded at October 31, 2007.

At October 31, 2008, the Company had outstanding currency forward contracts in the notional amount of \$174.0 million (\$82.5 million at October 31, 2007). The purpose of these contracts is to hedge the Company's exposure to currency transactions and short-term inter-company loan balances with its international businesses. The fair value of these contracts resulted in a loss of \$1.5 million recorded in other comprehensive income and a loss of \$0.03 million recorded in the consolidated statements of income for the year ended October 31, 2008. The fair value of similar contracts resulted in a gain of \$1.1 million recorded in other comprehensive income and a loss of \$0.4 million recorded in the consolidated statements of income for the year ended October 31, 2007.

During 2008, the Company entered into certain cash flow hedges to mitigate its exposure to cost fluctuations in natural gas prices through October 31, 2008. The fair value of the energy hedges was in an unfavorable position of \$5.2 million (\$3.4 million net of tax) at October 31, 2008, compared to an unfavorable position of \$0.3 million (\$0.2 million net of tax) at October 31, 2007. As a result of the high correlation between the hedged instruments and the underlying transactions, ineffectiveness has not had a material impact on the Company's consolidated statements of income for the year ended October 31, 2008.

During 2008, the Company has entered into certain cash flow hedges to mitigate its exposure to cost fluctuations in old corrugated containers prices through August 31, 2009. The fair value of these hedges was in an unfavorable position of \$1.4 million (\$0.9 million net of tax) at October 31, 2008. As a result of the high correlation between the hedging instruments and the underlying transactions, ineffectiveness has not had a material impact on the Company's consolidated statements of income for the year end October 31, 2008.

The counterparties to its derivative financial instrument contracts may expose the Company to credit losses in the event of their nonperformance.

The fair values of all derivative financial instruments are estimated based on current settlement prices of comparable contracts obtained from dealer quotes. The values represent the estimated amounts the Company would pay or receive to terminate the agreements at the reporting date.

During the next twelve months, the Company expects to reclassify into earnings a net gain from accumulated other comprehensive loss of approximately \$2.7 million after tax at the time the underlying hedge transactions are realized.

NOTE 9 – CAPITAL STOCK

Class A Common Stock is entitled to cumulative dividends of one cent a share per year after which Class B Common Stock is entitled to non-cumulative dividends up to a half-cent a share per year. Further distribution in any year must be made in proportion of one cent a share for Class A Common Stock to one and a half cents a share for Class B Common Stock. The Class A Common Stock has no voting rights unless four quarterly cumulative dividends upon the Class A Common Stock are in arrears. The Class B Common Stock has full voting rights. There is no cumulative voting for the election of directors.

The following table summarizes the Company's capital stock, without par value (shares of Class A and Class B Common Stock), and treasury shares at the specified dates:

| | Authorized Shares | Issued Shares | Outstanding Shares | Treasury Shares |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| October 31, 2008 | | | | |
| Class A | 128,000,000 | 42,281,920 | 24,081,998 | 18,199,922 |
| Class B | 69,120,000 | 34,560,000 | 22,562,266 | 11,997,734 |
| October 31, 2007 | | | | |
| Class A | 128,000,000 | 42,281,920 | 23,754,753 | 18,527,167 |
| Class B | 69,120,000 | 34,560,000 | 22,943,666 | 11,616,334 |

All share information in the above table has been adjusted to reflect the following: On February 26, 2007, the Company's shareholders approved an amendment to the Company's certificate of incorporation increasing the number of the Company's authorized shares to 128,000,000 shares of Class A Common Stock from 32,000,000 and 69,120,000 shares of Class B Common Stock from 17,280,000. Subsequent to the aforementioned approval, the Company's Board of Directors authorized a 2-for-1 stock split of the Company's shares of Class A Common Stock and Class B Common Stock. The split was payable on April 11, 2007 to shareholders of record on March 19, 2007. The stock split means that each holder of Class A Common Stock as of the close of business on March 19, 2007 received on April 11, 2007 one additional share of Class A Common Stock for every share they held of Class A Common Stock and each holder of Class B Common Stock as of the close of business on March 19, 2007 received on April 11, 2007 one additional share of Class B Common Stock for every share they held of Class B Common Stock. The day on which such shares began trading on the New York Stock Exchange reflecting the stock split was April 12, 2007.

All share information, including the number of shares and per share amounts, included in the Consolidated Financial Statements has been adjusted to reflect the aforementioned 2-for-1 stock split.

53

NOTE 10 – STOCK BASED COMPENSATION

In 2001, the Company adopted the 2001 Management Equity Incentive and Compensation Plan (the “2001 Plan”). The provisions of the 2001 Plan allow the awarding of incentive and nonqualified stock options and restricted and performance shares of Class A Common Stock to key employees. The maximum number of shares that may be issued each year is determined by a formula that takes into consideration the total number of shares outstanding and is also subject to certain limits. In addition, the maximum number of incentive stock options that will be issued under the 2001 Plan during its term is 5,000,000 shares.

Prior to 2001, the Company had adopted a Nonstatutory Stock Option Plan (the “2000 Plan”) that provides the discretionary granting of nonstatutory options to key employees, and an Incentive Stock Option Plan (the “Option Plan”) that provides the discretionary granting of incentive stock options to key employees and nonstatutory options for non-employees. The aggregate number of the Company’s Class A Common Stock options that may be granted under the 2000 Plan and Option Plan may not exceed 400,000 shares and 2,000,000 shares, respectively.

Under the terms of the 2001 Plan, the 2000 Plan and the Option Plan, stock options may be granted at exercise prices equal to the market value of the common stock on the date options are granted and become fully vested two years after date of grant. Options expire 10 years after date of grant.

In 2005, the Company adopted the 2005 Outside Directors Equity Award Plan (the “2005 Directors Plan”), which provides the granting of stock options, restricted stock or stock appreciation rights to directors who are not employees of the Company. Prior to 2005, the Directors Stock Option Plan (the “Directors Plan”) provided the granting of stock options to directors who are not employees of the Company. The aggregate number of the Company’s Class A Common Stock options that may be granted may not exceed 200,000 shares under each of these plans. Under the terms of both plans, options are granted at exercise prices equal to the market value of the common stock on the date options are granted and become exercisable immediately. Options expire 10 years after date of grant.

No stock options were granted during 2008, 2007 or 2006.

Stock option activity for the years ended October 31 was as follows (Shares in thousands):

| | 2008 | | 2007 | | 2006 | |
|-------------------|--------|--|--------|--|--------|--|
| | Shares | Weighted Average Exercise price | Shares | Weighted Average Exercise price | Shares | Weighted Average Exercise price |
| Beginning balance | 1,072 | \$ 15.75 | 1,633 | \$ 15.62 | 1,958 | \$ 15.34 |
| Granted | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Forfeited | 2 | 11.50 | 2 | 12.71 | - | - |
| Exercised | 285 | 15.03 | 559 | 15.38 | 325 | 13.94 |
| Ending balance | 785 | \$ 16.01 | 1,072 | \$ 15.75 | 1,633 | \$ 15.62 |

The Company’s results of operations for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2008 include no share based compensation expense for stock options. The Company’s results of operations for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2007 include \$0.1 million of share based compensation expense for stock options (net of an insignificant tax effect). The Company’s results for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2006 include \$0.6 million of share based compensation expense for stock options (net of \$0.3 million of income taxes).

As of October 31, 2008, outstanding stock options had exercise prices and contractual lives as follows (Shares in thousands):

54

| Range of Exercise Prices | Number Outstanding | Weighted- Average Remaining Contractual Life |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| \$9 - \$15 | 433 | 4 |
| \$15 - \$24 | 332 | 5 |
| \$24 - \$32 | 20 | 8 |

All outstanding options were exercisable at October 31, 2008 and October 31, 2007 (1,415,644 options were exercised at October 31, 2006).

All references to the number of shares and per share amounts in the Consolidated Financial Statements are presented on a post-split basis.

NOTE 11—INCOME TAXES

The provision for income taxes consists of the following (Dollars in thousands):

| For the years ended October 31, | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Current | | | |
| Federal | \$ 34,369 | \$ 24,422 | \$ 22,112 |
| State and local | 3,589 | 3,877 | 754 |
| International | 31,167 | 33,739 | 30,142 |
| | 69,125 | 62,038 | 53,008 |
| Deferred | | | |
| Federal | (1,180) | (9,874) | 14,368 |
| State and local | (269) | (1,480) | 1,845 |
| International | 5,934 | 2,860 | (5,405) |
| | 4,485 | (8,494) | 10,808 |
| | \$ 73,610 | \$ 53,544 | \$ 63,816 |

International income before income tax expense amounted to \$213.7 million in 2008 (\$156.4 million in 2007 and \$105.1 million in 2006).

The following is a reconciliation of the provision for income taxes based on the federal statutory rate to the Company's effective income tax rate:

| For the years ended October 31, | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| United States federal tax rate | 35.0% | 35.0% | 35.0% |
| International tax rate differential | (8.6)% | (8.6)% | (5.4)% |
| State and local taxes, net of federal tax benefit | 1.1% | 0.9% | 1.8% |
| Other non-recurring items | (3.9)% | (2.0)% | (0.7)% |
| | 23.6% | 25.3% | 30.7% |

Significant components of the Company's deferred tax assets and liabilities at October 31 for the years indicated were as follows (Dollars in thousands):

| Deferred tax assets: | 2008 | 2007 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Vacation accruals | \$ 1,721 | \$ 2,444 |
| Allowance for doubtful accounts | 2,532 | 2,467 |
| Incentives | 10,637 | 8,974 |
| Inventories | 3,535 | 1,639 |
| Restructuring reserves | 3,156 | 3,881 |
| Interest | 2,342 | 8 |
| Severance | 3,128 | 3,552 |
| Stock Options | 3,939 | 4,638 |
| Net operating loss carryforwards | 123,112 | 117,565 |
| Derivatives instruments | 3,285 | 412 |
| Minimum pension liabilities | 19,926 | 19,394 |
| Deferred compensation | 1,720 | 2,029 |
| Environmental reserves | 10,666 | 11,180 |
| Foreign tax credits | 1,936 | 1,758 |
| Workers compensation accruals | 113 | 1,651 |
| Postretirement | 6,956 | 8,091 |
| Insurance operations | 11,815 | 9,957 |
| State income tax | 8,903 | 8,575 |
| Other | 4,149 | 7,522 |
| Total deferred tax assets | 223,571 | 215,737 |
| Valuation allowance | (85,633) | (81,049) |
| Net deferred tax assets | 137,938 | 134,688 |
| Deferred tax liabilities: | | |
| Properties, plants and equipment | 107,722 | 115,094 |
| Goodwill and other intangible assets | 53,853 | 49,632 |
| Timberland transactions | 91,430 | 89,867 |
| Pension | 13,293 | 11,672 |
| Total deferred tax liabilities | (266,298) | (266,265) |
| Net deferred tax asset (liability) | \$ (128,360) | \$ (131,577) |

At October 31, 2008, the Company had tax benefits from international net operating loss carryforwards of approximately \$118.0 million and approximately \$5.0 million of state net operating loss carryforwards. A majority of the international net operating losses will begin expiring in 2011. At October 31, 2008, valuation allowances of approximately \$84.0 million have been provided against the tax benefits from international net operating loss carryforwards. Of these, \$49.5 million of valuation allowances are provided for international net operating loss carryforwards acquired in the Van Leer Industrial Packaging acquisition for which subsequently recognized tax benefits will be allocated to reduce goodwill.

At October 31, 2008 the Company had undistributed earnings from certain non-U.S. subsidiaries that are intended to be permanently reinvested in non-U.S. operations. Because these earnings are considered permanently reinvested, no U.S. tax provision has been accrued related to the repatriation of these earnings. It is not practicable to determine the additional tax, if any, which would result from the remittance of these amounts.

On November 1, 2007, the Company adopted FASB Interpretation "FIN" No. 48, "Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes," FIN No. 48 is an interpretation of SFAS No. 109, "Accounting for Income Taxes," and clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income tax positions. FIN No. 48 prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement process for recording in the financial statements uncertain tax positions taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. Additionally, FIN No. 48 provides guidance regarding uncertain tax positions relating to de-recognition,

classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure and transition.

The recognition and measurement guidelines of FIN 48 were applied to all of the Company's material income tax positions as of the beginning of fiscal year 2008, resulting in an increase in the Company's tax liabilities of \$7.0 million with a corresponding decrease to beginning retained earnings for the cumulative effect of the change in accounting principle.

A reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of unrecognized tax benefits is as follows:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Balance at November 1, 2007 | \$ 60,476 |
| Increases in tax positions for prior years | 2,295 |
| Decreases in tax positions for prior years | (928) |
| Increases in tax positions for current years | 378 |
| Settlements with taxing authorities | (186) |
| Lapse in statute of limitations | (3,872) |
| Currency translation | (6,448) |
| Balance at October 31, 2008 | \$ 51,715 |

The unrecognized benefits balance included \$7.3 million at October 31, 2008 that, if recognized, would not reduce the Company's tax rate.

The Company recognizes accrued interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits in income tax expense. As of October 31, 2008 and November 1, 2007, the Company had \$11.9 million and \$13.2 million, respectively, accrued for the payment of interest and penalties. For the year ended October 31, 2008, the Company recognized \$1.3 million of interest and penalties in the consolidated statement of income, which was recorded as part of income tax expense.

The Company has estimated the reasonably possible expected net change in unrecognized tax benefits through October 31, 2009 based on lapses of the applicable statutes of limitations of unrecognized tax benefits. The estimated net decrease in unrecognized tax benefits for the next 12 months ranges from \$2.2 million to \$2.4 million. Actual results may differ materially from this estimate.

The Company has concluded all tax authority audits and has closed all periods through 2003.

During 2008, the Company paid \$57.3 million in income taxes (\$43.2 million in 2007 and \$33.7 million in 2006).

NOTE 12 – RETIREMENT PLANS

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 158, "Employers' Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans" ("SFAS No. 158"). SFAS No. 158 requires that employers recognize the funded status of their defined benefit pension and other postretirement plans on the consolidated balance sheet and record as a component of other comprehensive income, net of tax, the gains or losses and prior service costs or credits that have not been recognized as components of the net periodic benefit cost. The Company adopted the recognition and related disclosure provisions of SFAS No. 158, prospectively, on October 31, 2007.

Under SFAS No. 158, companies must change the plan measurement date to the end of the employer's fiscal year. During fiscal year 2009, the Company will change its measurement date from August 31 to October 31 for all of the Company's defined benefit plans. This can be done using either of two methods: the re-measurement method or the alternative method. If the re-measurement method is adopted, then, in accordance with the measurement date transition provisions of SFAS 158, the Company will re-measure benefit obligations and plan assets as of the beginning of the fiscal year using economic assumptions updated as of October 31, 2008.

Edgar Filing: GREIF INC - Form 10-K

The incremental effect of applying SFAS No. 158 on individual line items in the consolidated balance sheet at October 31, 2007 was as follows (Dollars in thousands):

| | Before Application of SFAS No. 158 | Adjustments | After Appliation of SFAS No. 158 |
|--|--|-------------|--|
| Prepaid costs | \$ 79,457 | \$ (35,872) | \$ 43,585 |
| Intangible asset | \$ 5,586 | \$ (5,586) | \$ - |
| Pension liabilities | \$ 57,138 | \$ (4,122) | \$ 53,016 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income, before tax | \$ 21,001 | \$ 37,336 | \$ 58,337 |

57

The Company has certain non-contributory defined benefit pension plans in the United States, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, South Africa and United Kingdom. The Company's Australian defined benefit pension plan was settled in 2008 (which resulted in a settlement loss of \$3.4 million). The Company uses a measurement date of August 31 for its pension plans. The salaried plans' benefits are based primarily on years of service and earnings. The hourly plans' benefits are based primarily upon years of service. The Company contributes an amount that is not less than the minimum funding or more than the maximum tax-deductible amount to these plans. The plans' assets consist of large cap, small cap and international equity securities, fixed income investments and the allowable number of shares of the Company's common stock, which was 247,504 Class A shares and 160,710 Class B shares at both August 31, 2008 and 2007.

The components of net periodic pension cost include the following (Dollars in thousands):

| For the years ended October 31, | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Service cost | \$ 11,932 | \$ 14,497 | \$ 14,743 |
| Interest cost | 28,410 | 29,149 | 25,379 |
| Expected return on plan assets | (33,460) | (32,941) | (30,229) |
| Amortization of prior service cost | 811 | 1,211 | 1,047 |
| Amortization of initial net asset | 19 | (618) | (791) |
| Recognized net actuarial loss | 3,822 | 5,688 | 6,639 |
| Curtailment, settlement and other | 3,512 | 652 | (484) |
| | \$ 15,046 | \$ 17,638 | \$ 16,304 |

The significant weighted average assumptions used in determining benefit obligations and net periodic pension costs were as follows:

| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Discount rate | 6.66% | 5.88% | 5.25% |
| Expected return on plan assets (1) | 7.56% | 7.32% | 7.53% |
| Rate of compensation increase | 3.91% | 3.71% | 3.64% |

(1) To develop the expected long-term rate of return on assets assumption, the Company considered the historical returns and the future expectations for returns for each asset class, as well as the target asset allocation of the pension portfolio. This rate is gross of any investment or administrative expenses.

Edgar Filing: GREIF INC - Form 10-K

The following table sets forth the plans' change in benefit obligation, change in plan assets and amounts recognized in the consolidated financial statements (Dollars in thousands):

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Change in benefit obligation: | | |
| Benefit obligation at beginning of year | \$ 546,060 | \$ 515,179 |
| Benefit obligation adjustments | (2,039) | 8,952 |
| Service cost | 11,932 | 14,497 |
| Interest cost | 28,410 | 29,149 |
| Plan participant contributions | 618 | 823 |
| Amendments | 1,384 | 713 |
| Actuarial gain | (34,326) | (23,812) |
| Foreign currency effect | (46,822) | 31,721 |
| Benefits paid | (24,952) | (30,969) |
| Curtailment/settlement gain | (9,502) | (193) |
| Benefit obligation at end of year | \$ 470,763 | \$ 546,060 |
| Change in plan assets: | | |
| Fair value of plan assets at beginning of year | \$ 528,529 | \$ 455,962 |
| Other adjustments | (1,580) | (6,063) |
| Settlement gain | (11,004) | - |
| Actual return on plan assets | (3,695) | 53,898 |
| Expenses paid | (700) | (649) |
| Plan participant contributions | 618 | 823 |
| Foreign currency effects | (52,331) | 31,340 |
| Employer contributions | 22,291 | 22,695 |
| Benefits paid | (23,506) | (29,477) |
| Fair value of plan assets at end of year | \$ 458,622 | \$ 528,529 |
| Funded status | | |
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| | \$ (12,141) | \$ (17,531) |
| Unrecognized net actuarial loss | 48,067 | 51,813 |
| Unrecognized prior service cost | 6,345 | 5,760 |
| Unrecognized initial net obligation | 404 | 764 |
| Additional contributions (September 1 to October 31) | 4,538 | 8,100 |
| Net amount recognized | \$ 47,213 | \$ 48,906 |
| Amounts recognized in the Consolidated Balance Sheets consist of: | | |
| Prepaid benefit cost | \$ 40,621 | \$ 43,585 |
| Accrued benefit liability | (48,224) | (53,016) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | 54,816 | 58,337 |
| Net amount recognized | \$ 47,213 | \$ 48,906 |

Aggregated accumulated benefit obligations for all plans were \$440.1 million and \$505.3 million at August 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively. The projected benefit obligation, accumulated benefit obligation and fair value of plan assets for the pension plans with accumulated benefit obligations in excess of plan assets were \$125.2 million, \$119.6 million and \$87.7 million, respectively, as of August 31, 2008. The projected benefit obligation, accumulated benefit obligation and fair value of plan assets for the international pension plans were \$111.0 million, \$107.5 million and \$87.7 million, respectively, as of August 31, 2008.

Pension plan contributions totaled \$18.7 million, \$27.4 million, and \$18.9 million during 2008, 2007 and 2006, respectively. Contributions during 2009 are expected to be approximately \$17.6 million.

The Company's weighted average asset allocations at the measurement date and the target asset allocations by category are as follows:

| Asset Category | 2008 Actual | Target |
|-------------------|-------------|--------|
| Equity securities | 61% | 64% |
| Debt securities | 30% | 28% |
| Other | 9% | 8% |
| Total | 100% | 100% |

The investment policy reflects the long-term nature of the plans' funding obligations. The assets are invested to provide the opportunity for both income and growth of principal. This objective is pursued as a long-term goal designed to provide required benefits for participants without undue risk. It is expected that this objective can be achieved through a well-diversified asset portfolio. All equity investments are made within the guidelines of quality, marketability and diversification mandated by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act and other relevant statutes. Investment managers are directed to maintain equity portfolios at a risk level approximately equivalent to that of the specific benchmark established for that portfolio.

Future benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, as appropriate, during the next five years, and in the aggregate for the five fiscal years thereafter, are as follows (Dollars in thousands):

| Year | Expected benefit payments |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| 2009 | \$ 27,079 |
| 2010 | \$ 26,456 |
| 2011 | \$ 27,976 |
| 2012 | \$ 30,469 |
| 2013 | \$ 32,245 |
| 2014-2018 | \$ 176,038 |

The Company has several voluntary 401(k) savings plans that cover eligible employees. For certain plans, the Company matches a percentage of each employee's contribution up to a maximum percentage of base salary. Company contributions to the 401(k) plans were \$3.3 million in 2008, \$2.2 million in 2007 and \$1.9 million in 2006. Beginning

in 2009, contributions by the Company will be suspended in response to the current economic slowdown.

NOTE 13 – POSTRETIREMENT HEALTH CARE AND LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS

The incremental effect of applying SFAS No. 158 (see Note 12 for explanation) on individual line items in the consolidated balance sheet at October 31, 2007 was as follows:

60

| | Before Application of SFAS No. 158 | Adjustments | After Application of SFAS No. 158 |
|--|--|-------------|---|
| Postretirement benefit liabilities | \$ 45,266 | \$ (13,299) | \$ 31,967 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income, before tax | \$ - | \$ (13,299) | \$ (13,299) |

The Company has certain postretirement health and life insurance benefit plans in the United States and South Africa. The Company uses a measurement date of August 31 for its postretirement benefit plans.

In conjunction with a prior acquisition of the industrial containers business from Sonoco Products Company (“Sonoco”) in 1998, the Company assumed an obligation to reimburse Sonoco for its actual costs incurred in providing postretirement health care benefits to certain employees. Contributions by the Company are limited to an aggregate annual payment of \$1.4 million for eligible employees at the date of purchase. Further, the Company is responsible for the cost of certain union hourly employees who were not eligible at the date of closing. The Company intends to fund these benefits from its operations.

The components of net periodic cost for the postretirement benefits include the following (Dollars in thousands):

| For the years ended October 31, | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|-------------------------------------|---------|----------|----------|
| Service cost | \$ 23 | \$ 46 | \$ 30 |
| Interest cost | 1,880 | 2,141 | 2,302 |
| Amortization of prior service cost | (1,234) | (1,336) | (1,298) |
| Recognized net actuarial loss(gain) | (5) | 228 | 695 |
| | \$ 664 | \$ 1,079 | \$ 1,729 |

The following table sets forth the plans’ change in benefit obligation, change in plan assets and amounts recognized in the consolidated financial statements (Dollars in thousands):

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Change in benefit obligation: | | |
| Benefit obligation at beginning of year | \$ 31,967 | \$ 35,382 |
| Service cost | 23 | 46 |
| Interest cost | 1,880 | 2,141 |
| Actuarial gain | (5,069) | (3,240) |
| Amendments | - | 1 |
| Foreign currency effect | (1,300) | 513 |
| Benefits paid | (2,739) | (2,876) |
| Benefit obligation at end of year | \$ 24,762 | \$ 31,967 |
| Funded status | \$ (24,762) | \$ (31,967) |
| Unrecognized net actuarial loss (gain) | (2,428) | 2,161 |
| Unrecognized prior service credit | (13,200) | (15,460) |
| Net amount recognized | \$ (40,390) | \$ (45,266) |

The accumulated postretirement health and life insurance benefit obligation and fair value of plan assets for the international plan were \$2.9 million and \$0 respectively, as of October 31, 2008 compared to \$4.0 million and \$0, respectively as of August 31, 2007.

The measurements assume a discount rate of 6.25 percent in the United States and 10.0 percent in South Africa. The health care cost trend rates on gross eligible charges are as follows:

61

Medical

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Current trend rate | 9.0% |
| Ultimate trend rate | 5.03% |
| Year ultimate trend rate reached | 2017 |

A one-percentage point change in assumed health care cost trend rates would have the following effects (Dollars in thousands):

| | 1-Percentage-Point Increase | 1-Percentage-Point Decrease |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Effect on total of service and interest cost components | \$ 114 | \$ (100) |
| Effect on postretirement benefit obligation | \$ 1,192 | \$ (1,052) |

Future benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, as appropriate, during the next five years, and in the aggregate for the five fiscal years thereafter, are as follows (Dollars in thousands):

| Year | Expected benefit payments |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 2009 | \$ 3,557 |
| 2010 | \$ 2,571 |
| 2011 | \$ 2,599 |
| 2012 | \$ 2,527 |
| 2013 | \$ 2,470 |
| 2014-2018 | \$ 11,409 |

Under the SFAS No. 158, companies must change the plan measurement date to the end of the employer's fiscal year. During fiscal year 2009, the Company will change its measurement date from August 31 to October 31 for all of the Company's defined benefit plans. This can be done using either of two methods: the re-measurement method or the alternative method. If the re-measurement method is adopted, then, in accordance with the measurement date transition provisions of SFAS 158, the Company will re-measure benefit obligations and plan assets as of the beginning of the fiscal year using economic assumptions updated as of October 31, 2008.

NOTE 14 – CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Various lawsuits, claims and proceedings have been or may be instituted or asserted against the Company, including those pertaining to environmental, product liability and safety and health matters. While the amounts claimed may be substantial, the ultimate liability cannot now be determined because of considerable uncertainties that exist. Therefore,

it is possible that results of operations or liquidity in a particular period could be materially affected by certain contingencies.

All lawsuits, claims and proceedings are considered by the Company in establishing reserves for contingencies in accordance with SFAS No. 5, "Accounting for Contingencies." In accordance with the provisions of SFAS No. 5, the Company accrues for a litigation-related liability when it is probable that a liability has been incurred and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. Based on currently available information known to the Company, the Company believes that its reserves for these litigation-related liabilities are reasonable and that the ultimate outcome of any pending matters is not likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position or results from operations.

The Company is also subject to risk of work stoppages and other labor relations matters because a significant number of the Company's employees are represented by unions. The Company has experienced work stoppages and strikes in the past, and there may be work stoppages and strikes in the future. Any prolonged work stoppage or strike at any one of the Company's principal manufacturing facilities could have a negative impact on our business, results of operations or financial condition.

The most significant contingencies of the Company relate to environmental liabilities. Following is additional information with respect to these matters.

At October 31, 2008 and 2007, the Company had recorded liabilities of \$37.2 million and \$40.6 million, respectively, for estimated environmental remediation costs. The liabilities were recorded on an undiscounted basis and are included in other long-term liabilities. At October 31, 2008 and 2007, the Company had recorded an environmental liability reserves of \$21.5 million and \$22.5 million, respectively, for its blending facility in Chicago, Illinois; \$9.3 million and \$10.4 million, respectively, for various Blagden facilities acquired in November 2006; and \$3.3 million and \$3.8 million, respectively, related to our facility in Lier, Belgium. These reserves are principally based on environmental studies and cost estimates provided by third parties, but also take into account management estimates.

The Company also has recorded liabilities of \$3.1 million and \$3.9 million at October 31, 2008 and 2007, respectively, for asserted and unasserted litigation, claims and/or assessments at some of its manufacturing sites and other locations where it believes the outcome of such matters will be unfavorable to the Company. These environmental liabilities were not individually material. The Company only reserves for those unasserted claims that it believes are probable of being asserted at some time in the future. The liabilities recorded are based upon an evaluation of currently available facts with respect to each individual site, including the results of environmental studies and testing, and considering existing technology, presently enacted laws and regulations, and prior experience in remediation of contaminated sites. The Company initially provides for the estimated cost of environmental-related activities when costs can be reasonably estimated. If the best estimate of costs can only be identified as a range and no specific amount within that range can be determined more likely than any other amount within the range, the minimum of the range is accrued.

The estimated liabilities are reduced to reflect the anticipated participation of other potentially responsible parties in those instances where it is probable that such parties are legally responsible and financially capable of paying their respective shares of relevant costs. For sites that involve formal actions subject to joint and several liability, these actions have formal agreements in place to apportion the liability. The Company's potential future obligations for environmental contingencies related to facilities acquired in the 2001 Van Leer Industrial Packaging acquisition may, under certain circumstances, be reduced by insurance coverage and seller cost sharing provisions. In connection with that acquisition, the Company was issued a 10-year term insurance policy, which insures the Company against environmental contingencies unidentified at the acquisition date, subject to a \$50.0 million aggregate self-insured retention. Liability for this first \$50.0 million of unidentified environmental contingencies is shared 70 percent by the seller and 30 percent by the Company if such contingency is identified within 10 years following the acquisition date. The Company is liable for identified environmental contingencies at the acquisition date up to an aggregate \$10.0 million, and thereafter the liability is shared 70 percent by the Company and 30 percent by the seller.

The Company anticipates that cash expenditures in future periods for remediation costs at identified sites will be made over an extended period of time. Given the inherent uncertainties in evaluating environmental exposures, actual costs may vary from those estimated at October 31, 2008. The Company's exposure to adverse developments with respect to any individual site is not expected to be material. Although environmental remediation could have a material effect on results of operations if a series of adverse developments occur in a particular quarter or fiscal year, the Company believes that the chance of a series of adverse developments occurring in the same quarter or fiscal year is remote. Future information and developments will require the Company to continually reassess the expected impact of these environmental matters.

NOTE 15 – BUSINESS SEGMENT INFORMATION

The Company operates in three business segments: Industrial Packaging, Paper Packaging and Timber.

Operations in the Industrial Packaging segment involve the production and sale of industrial packaging and related services. These products are manufactured and sold in over 45 countries throughout the world.

Operations in the Paper Packaging segment involve the production and sale of containerboard, both semi-chemical and recycled, corrugated sheets, corrugated containers and multiwall bags and related services. These products are manufactured and sold in North America.

Operations in the Timber segment involve the management and sale of timber and special use properties from approximately 268,700 acres of timber properties in the southeastern United States. The Company also owns approximately 27,450 acres of timber properties in Canada, which are not actively managed at this time. In addition, the Company sells, from time to time, timberland and special use land, which consists of surplus land, higher and better use land, and development land.

The Company's reportable segments are strategic business units that offer different products. The accounting policies of the reportable segments are substantially the same as those described in the "Description of Business and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies."

The following segment information is presented for each of the three years in the period ended October 31, 2008, except as to information relating to assets which is at October 31, 2008 and 2007 (Dollars in thousands):

| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Net sales: | | | |
| Industrial Packaging | \$ 3,061,059 | \$ 2,653,646 | \$ 1,993,009 |
| Paper Packaging | 696,902 | 653,734 | 620,337 |
| Timber | 18,795 | 14,914 | 15,129 |
| Total net sales | \$ 3,776,756 | \$ 3,322,294 | \$ 2,628,475 |
| Operating profit: | | | |
| Operating profit before restructuring charges and timberland disposals, net: | | | |
| Industrial Packaging | \$ 315,157 | \$ 229,361 | \$ 167,487 |
| Paper Packaging | 77,420 | 67,725 | 59,986 |
| Timber | 20,571 | 14,373 | 10,626 |
| Total operating profit before restructuring charges and timberland disposals, net | 413,148 | 311,459 | 238,099 |
| Restructuring charges: | | | |
| Industrial Packaging | 33,971 | 16,010 | 24,035 |
| Paper Packaging | 9,155 | 5,219 | 9,192 |
| Timber | 76 | - | 11 |
| Total restructuring charges | 43,202 | 21,229 | 33,238 |
| Timberland disposals, net | | | |
| Timber | 340 | (648) | 41,302 |
| Total operating profit | \$ 370,286 | \$ 289,582 | \$ 246,163 |

Edgar Filing: GREIF INC - Form 10-K

| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|------|
| Assets: | | | |
| Industrial Packaging | \$ 1,831,010 | \$ 1,687,069 | |
| Paper Packaging | 360,263 | 345,789 | |
| Timber | 254,771 | 252,540 | |
| Total segment | 2,446,044 | 2,285,398 | |
| Corporate and other | 299,854 | 367,313 | |
| Total assets | \$ 2,745,898 | \$ 2,652,711 | |

| | | | |
|--|------------|------------|-----------|
| Depreciation, depletion and amortization expense: | | | |
| Industrial Packaging | \$ 73,730 | \$ 69,035 | \$ 57,613 |
| Paper Packaging | 28,309 | 28,751 | 29,133 |
| Timber | 4,339 | 4,509 | 3,742 |
| Total depreciation, depletion and amortization expense | \$ 106,378 | \$ 102,295 | \$ 90,488 |

| | | | |
|--|------------|------------|--|
| Additions to long-lived assets: | | | |
| Industrial Packaging | \$ 104,000 | \$ 82,700 | |
| Paper Packaging | 30,900 | 18,000 | |
| Timber | 2,500 | 2,300 | |
| Total segment | 137,400 | 103,000 | |
| Corporate and other | 8,200 | 11,900 | |
| Total additions to long-lived assets | \$ 145,600 | \$ 114,900 | |

The following geographic information is presented for each of the three years in the period ended October 31, 2008, except as to asset information that is at October 31, 2008 and 2007 (Dollars in thousands):

| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Net Sales | | | |
| North America | \$ 1,987,589 | \$ 1,820,721 | \$ 1,546,381 |
| Europe | 1,214,275 | 1,043,623 | 711,641 |
| Other | 574,892 | 457,950 | 370,453 |
| Total net sales | \$ 3,776,756 | \$ 3,322,294 | \$ 2,628,475 |

The following table presents total assets by geographic region (Dollars in thousands):

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Assets: | | |
| North America | \$ 1,836,049 | \$ 1,587,022 |
| Europe | 528,709 | 734,649 |
| Other | 381,140 | 331,040 |
| Total assets | \$ 2,745,898 | \$ 2,652,711 |

NOTE 16 – QUARTERLY FINANCIAL DATA (UNAUDITED)

The quarterly results of operations for 2008 and 2007 are shown below (Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)(1):

| 2008 | January 31 | April 30 | July 31 | October 31 |
|--|------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| Net sales | \$ 846,292 | \$ 918,019 | \$ 1,034,081 | \$ 978,364 |
| Gross profit | \$ 148,324 | \$ 159,168 | \$ 192,860 | \$ 192,419 |
| Net income | \$ 60,687 | \$ 48,654 | \$ 64,590 | \$ 60,423 |
| Earnings per share | | | | |
| Basic: | | | | |
| Class A Common Stock | \$ 1.05 | \$ 0.84 | \$ 1.11 | \$ 1.04 |
| Class B Common Stock | \$ 1.56 | \$ 1.25 | \$ 1.67 | \$ 1.56 |
| Diluted: | | | | |
| Class A Common Stock | \$ 1.03 | \$ 0.82 | \$ 1.10 | \$ 1.04 |
| Class B Common Stock | \$ 1.56 | \$ 1.25 | \$ 1.67 | \$ 1.56 |
| Earnings per share were calculated using the following number of shares: | | | | |
| Basic: | | | | |
| Class A Common Stock | 23,789,223 | 23,911,860 | 23,980,226 | 23,932,045 |
| Class B Common Stock | 22,942,913 | 22,882,611 | 22,733,619 | 22,797,825 |
| Diluted: | | | | |
| Class A Common Stock | 24,348,872 | 24,447,449 | 24,476,560 | 24,378,605 |
| Class B Common Stock | 22,942,913 | 22,882,611 | 22,733,619 | 22,797,825 |
| Market price (Class A Common Stock): | | | | |
| High | \$ 68.30 | \$ 71.67 | \$ 73.00 | \$ 73.45 |
| Low | \$ 53.19 | \$ 61.27 | \$ 55.42 | \$ 32.55 |
| Close | \$ 65.53 | \$ 64.60 | \$ 60.84 | \$ 40.58 |
| Market price (Class B Common Stock): | | | | |
| High | \$ 64.05 | \$ 70.86 | \$ 67.50 | \$ 62.00 |
| Low | \$ 49.73 | \$ 55.40 | \$ 49.24 | \$ 27.16 |
| Close | \$ 61.04 | \$ 56.89 | \$ 54.02 | \$ 33.59 |
| 2007 | | | | |
| Net sales | \$ 750,759 | \$ 815,043 | \$ 874,237 | \$ 882,255 |
| Gross profit | \$ 130,086 | \$ 142,531 | \$ 162,289 | \$ 170,496 |
| Net income | \$ 33,979 | \$ 18,624 | \$ 48,781 | \$ 54,984 |
| Earnings per share | | | | |
| Basic: | | | | |
| Class A Common Stock | \$ 0.59 | \$ 0.32 | \$ 0.84 | \$ 0.95 |
| Class B Common Stock | \$ 0.87 | \$ 0.48 | \$ 1.26 | \$ 1.42 |
| Diluted: | | | | |
| Class A Common Stock | \$ 0.58 | \$ 0.32 | \$ 0.82 | \$ 0.93 |
| Class B Common Stock | \$ 0.87 | \$ 0.48 | \$ 1.26 | \$ 1.42 |
| Earnings per share were calculated using the following number of shares: | | | | |
| Basic: | | | | |
| Class A Common Stock | 23,426,112 | 23,638,578 | 23,632,990 | 23,683,030 |
| Class B Common Stock | 23,031,066 | 23,016,580 | 22,976,707 | 22,953,622 |

Edgar Filing: GREIF INC - Form 10-K

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Diluted: | | | | |
| Class A Common Stock | 24,109,156 | 24,304,748 | 24,266,057 | 24,280,526 |
| Class B Common Stock | 23,031,066 | 23,016,580 | 22,976,707 | 22,953,622 |
| Market price (Class A Common Stock): | | | | |
| High | \$ 61.39 | \$ 63.97 | \$ 64.20 | \$ 64.26 |
| Low | \$ 45.00 | \$ 47.81 | \$ 49.76 | \$ 49.13 |
| Close | \$ 57.16 | \$ 55.60 | \$ 55.00 | \$ 63.60 |
| Market price (Class B Common Stock): | | | | |
| High | \$ 54.54 | \$ 58.66 | \$ 59.00 | \$ 59.99 |
| Low | \$ 40.60 | \$ 48.43 | \$ 45.15 | \$ 46.70 |
| Close | \$ 52.49 | \$ 50.80 | \$ 51.39 | \$ 58.51 |

(1) All share information presented in these tables has been adjusted to reflect a 2-for-1 stock split of the Company's shares of Class A and Class B Common Stock distributed on April 11, 2007.

Shares of the Company's Class A Common Stock and Class B Common Stock are listed on the New York Stock Exchange where the symbols are GEF and GEF.B, respectively.

As of December 12, 2008, there were 439 stockholders of record of the Class A Common Stock and 111 stockholders of record of the Class B Common Stock.

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Shareholders and
Board of Directors of
Greif, Inc.:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Greif, Inc. and subsidiaries as of October 31, 2008 and 2007, and the related consolidated statements of income, changes in shareholders' equity and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended October 31, 2008. Our audits also included the financial statement schedule listed in the Index at Item 15(a)(2). These consolidated financial statements and schedule are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and schedule based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Greif, Inc. and subsidiaries at October 31, 2008 and 2007, and the consolidated results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended October 31, 2008, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Also, in our opinion, the related financial statement schedule, when considered in relation to the basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole, presents fairly in all material respects the information set forth therein.

As discussed in Note 11 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company adopted the provisions of FASB Interpretation No. 48, "Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes," in 2008.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), Greif, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of October 31, 2008, based on criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated December 15, 2008, expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Columbus, Ohio
December 15, 2008

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

None.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

With the participation of our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, the Company's management has evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act")), as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based upon that evaluation, our principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded that, as of the end of the period covered by this report:

Information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the rules and forms of the Securities and Exchange Commission;

Information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure; and

- Our disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There has been no change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the most recent fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Management's Annual Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Management's annual report on internal control over financial reporting required by Item 308(a) of Regulation S-K follows. The report of the independent registered public accounting firm required by Item 308(b) of Regulation S-K is found under the caption "Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm" below.

The following report is provided by the Company's management on the Company's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) of the Exchange Act):

1. The Company's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting as such term is defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f) for the Company.
2. The Company's management has used the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission ("COSO") framework to evaluate the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Management believes that the COSO framework is a suitable framework for its evaluation of the Company's internal control over financial reporting because it is free from bias, permits reasonably qualitative and quantitative measurements of the Company's internal controls, is sufficiently complete so that those relevant factors that would alter a conclusion about the effectiveness of the Company's internal controls are not omitted and is relevant to an

evaluation of internal control over financial reporting.

3. Management has assessed the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting at October 31, 2008, and has concluded that such internal control over financial reporting is effective. There are no material weaknesses in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that have been identified by management.
4. This assessment excluded the internal control over financial reporting of a Middle Eastern joint venture acquired in November 2007, a South American acquisition of a 70 percent interest in November 2007, a North American company acquired in December 2007, an Asian company acquired in May 2008, and a North American paper packaging company acquired in July 2008, whose financial statements reflected total assets and net sales constituting 0.4% and 0.2%, respectively for the Middle Eastern joint venture, 1.8% and 1.3% respectively for the South American company, 3.0% and 1.4% respectively for the North American company, 0.1% and 0.1% respectively for the Asian company, and 0.6% and 0.0% respectively for the North American paper packaging company, of the Company's consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended October 31, 2008.

The Company's internal control over financial reporting as of October 31, 2008, has been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report, which follows below.

70

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Shareholders and
Board of Directors of
Greif, Inc.

We have audited Greif, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of October 31, 2008, based on criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (the COSO criteria). Greif, Inc.'s management is responsible 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 internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

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.

In our opinion, Greif, Inc. maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting at October 31, 2008, based on the COSO criteria.

As indicated in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting, management's assessment of and conclusion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting did not include the internal controls of a Middle Eastern joint venture acquired in November 2007, a South American acquisition of a 70 percent interest in November 2007, a North American company acquired in December 2007, one small Asian company acquired in May 2008, and a North American paper packaging company acquired in July 2008, which are included in the 2008 Consolidated Financial Statements of Greif, Inc. and constituted total assets and net sales of 0.4% and 0.2%, respectively, for the Middle Eastern joint venture; 1.8% and 1.3%, respectively, for the South American company; 3.0% and 1.4%, respectively, for the North American company; 0.1% and 0.1%, respectively, for one small Asian company; and 0.6% and 0.0%, respectively, for the North American paper packaging company, of the

consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended October 31, 2008. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting of the Company also did not include an evaluation of the internal control over financial reporting of the acquired operations referred to above.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the 2008 consolidated financial statements and schedule of Greif, Inc. and our report dated December 15, 2008, expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Columbus, Ohio
December 15, 2008

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

72

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE COMPANY

Information regarding directors of the Company required by Items 401(a) and (d)-(f) of Regulation S-K will be found under the caption “Proposal Number 1 – Election of Directors” in the 2009 Proxy Statement, which information is incorporated herein by reference. Information regarding executive officers of the Company required by Items 401(b) and (d)-(f) of Regulation S-K will be contained under the caption “Executive Officers of the Company” in the 2009 Proxy Statement, which information is incorporated herein by reference.

The Company has a separately-designated standing Audit Committee established in accordance with Section 3(a)(58)(A) of the Exchange Act. As of the date of this filing, the members of the Audit Committee were Vicki L. Avril, John F. Finn and Bruce A. Edwards. Ms. Avril is Chairperson of the Audit Committee. The Company’s Board of Directors has determined that Ms. Avril is an “audit committee financial expert,” as that term is defined in Item 401(h)(2) of Regulation S-K, and “independent,” as that term is defined in Rule 10A-3 of the Exchange Act.

Information regarding the filing of reports of ownership under Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act by the Company’s officers and directors and persons owning more than 10% of a registered class of the Company’s equity securities required by Item 405 of Regulation S-K will be found under the caption “Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance” in the 2009 Proxy Statement, which information is incorporated herein by reference.

Information concerning the procedures by which stockholders may recommend nominees to the Company’s Board of Directors will be found under the caption “Corporate Governance—Nomination of Directors” in the 2009 Proxy Statement. There has been no material change to the nomination procedures previously disclosed by the Company in its proxy statement for its 2008 annual meeting of stockholders.

The Company’s Board of Directors has adopted a code of ethics that applies to the Company’s principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer, controller, and persons performing similar functions. This code of ethics is posted on the Company’s Internet Web site at www.greif.com under “Investor Center—Corporate Governance.” Copies of this code of ethics are also available to any person, without charge, by making a written request to the Company. Requests should be directed to Greif, Inc., Attention: Corporate Secretary, 425 Winter Road, Delaware, Ohio 43015. Any amendment (other than any technical, administrative or other non-substantive amendment) to, or waiver from, a provision of this code will be posted on the Company’s Internet Web site described above within four business days following its occurrence.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The 2009 Proxy Statement will contain information regarding the following matters: information regarding executive compensation required by Item 402 of Regulation S-K will be found under the caption “Compensation Discussion and Analysis”; information required by Item 407(e)(4) of Regulation S-K will be found under the caption “Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation”; information required by Item 407(e)(5) of Regulation S-K will be found under the caption “Compensation Committee Report.” This information is incorporated herein by reference.

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

Information regarding security ownership of certain beneficial owners and management required by Item 403 of Regulation S-K will be found under the caption “Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management” in the 2009 Proxy Statement, which information is incorporated herein by reference.

Information regarding equity compensation plan information required by Item 201(d) of Regulation S-K will be found under the caption “Elements of Compensation” in the 2009 Proxy Statement, which information is incorporated herein by reference.

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

Information regarding certain relationships and related transactions required by Item 404 of Regulation S-K will be found under the caption “Certain Relationships and Related Transactions” in the 2009 Proxy Statement, which information is incorporated herein by reference.

Information regarding the independence of the Company’s directors required by Item 407(a) of Regulation S-K will be found under the caption “Corporate Governance - Director Independence” in the 2009 Proxy Statement, which information is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

Information regarding principal accounting fees and services required by Item 9(e) of Schedule 14A will be found under the caption "Independent Auditor Fee Information" in the 2009 Proxy Statement, which information is incorporated herein by reference.

74

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a) The following documents are filed as part of this Form 10-K:

| (1) Consolidated Financial Statements of Greif, Inc.: | Page |
|---|------|
| Consolidated Statements of Income for each of the three years in the period ended October 31, 2008 | 34 |
| Consolidated Balance Sheets at October 31, 2008 and 2007 | 35 |
| Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for each of the three years in the period ended October 31, 2008 | 37 |
| Consolidated Statements of Changes in Shareholders' Equity for each of the three years in the period ended October 31, 2008 | 38 |
| Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements | 39 |
| Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm | 68 |

The individual financial statements of the Company have been omitted since the Company is primarily an operating company and all subsidiaries included in the consolidated financial statements, in the aggregate, do not have minority equity interests and/or indebtedness to any person other than the Company or its consolidated subsidiaries in amounts which exceed 5 percent of total consolidated assets at October 31, 2008.

| (2) Financial Statement Schedule: | Page |
|---|------|
| Consolidated Valuation and Qualifying Accounts and Reserves (Schedule II) | 72 |

All other schedules are omitted because they are not applicable or the required information is shown in the financial statements or notes thereto.

(3) Exhibits—See the Exhibit Index, which is incorporated herein by reference.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Company has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Greif, Inc.
(Registrant)

Date: December 15, 2008

By: /S/ MICHAEL J. GASSER
Michael J. Gasser
Chairman of the Board of Directors
and 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 Company and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

/S/ MICHAEL J. GASSER
Michael J. Gasser
Chairman of the Board of Directors
and Chief Executive Officer
(principal executive officer)

/s/ DONALD S. HUML
Donald S. Huml
Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer
(principal financial officer)

/S/ KENNETH B. ANDRE III
Kenneth B. Andre III
Vice President, Corporate Controller
and Chief Information Officer
(principal accounting officer)

PATRICK J. NORTON *
Patrick J. Norton
Member of the Board of Directors

VICKI L. AVRIL *
Vicki L. Avril
Member of the Board of Directors

JOHN F. FINN*
John F. Finn
Member of the Board of Directors

MICHAEL H. DEMPSEY *
Michael H. Dempsey
Member of the Board of Directors

BRUCE A. EDWARDS *
Bruce A. Edwards
Member of the Board of Directors

DANIEL J. GUNSETT *
Daniel J. Gunsett
Member of the Board of Directors

JUDITH D. HOOK *
Judith D. Hook
Member of the Board of Directors

MARK A. EMKES*
Mark A. Emkes
Member of the Board of
Directors

*The undersigned, Michael J. Gasser, by signing his name hereto, does hereby execute this Form 10-K on behalf of each of the above-named persons pursuant to powers of attorney duly executed by such persons and filed as an exhibit to this Form 10-K.

By:

/S/ MICHAEL J.
GASSER
Michael J. Gasser
Chairman of the Board of
Directors
and Chief Executive
Officer

Each of the above signatures is affixed as of December 15, 2008.

76

GREIF, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

(Dollars in millions)

| Description | Balance at Beginning of Period | Charged to Costs and Expenses | Charged to Other Accounts | Deductions | Balance at End of Period |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| Year ended October 31, 2006: | | | | | |
| Allowance for doubtful accounts | \$ 8.5 | \$ 3.4 | \$ (0.2) | \$ (3.1) | \$ 8.6 |
| Environmental reserves | \$ 8.1 | \$ 2.2 | \$ 6.4 | \$ (1.8) | \$ 14.9 |
| Year ended October 31, 2007: | | | | | |
| Allowance for doubtful accounts | \$ 8.6 | \$ 1.6 | \$ 3.2 | \$ (0.9) | \$ 12.5 |
| Environmental reserves | \$ 14.9 | \$ 0.1 | \$ 28.0 | \$ (2.4) | \$ 40.6 |
| Year ended October 31, 2008: | | | | | |
| Allowance for doubtful accounts | \$ 12.5 | \$ 2.8 | \$ (3.0) | \$ 1.2 | \$ 13.5 |
| Environmental reserves | \$ 40.6 | \$ 0.4 | \$ (3.2) | \$ (0.6) | \$ 37.2 |

EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit No. | Description of Exhibit | If Incorporated by Reference, Document with which Exhibit was Previously Filed with SEC |
|-------------|--|--|
| 3(a) | Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Greif, Inc. | Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 31, 1997, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 3(a) therein). |
| 3(b) | Amendment to Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Greif, Inc. | Definitive Proxy Statement on Form 14A dated January 27, 2003, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit A therein). |
| 3(c) | Amendment to Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Greif, Inc. | Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended April 30, 2007, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 3.1 therein). |
| 3(d) | Second Amended and Restated By-Laws of Greif, Inc. | Current Report on Form 8-K dated August 29, 2008, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 99.2 therein) |
| 4(a) | Indenture dated as of February 9, 2007, among Greif, Inc., as Issuer, and U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, regarding 6-3/4% Senior Notes due 2017 | Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended January 31, 2007, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 4.2 therein). |
| 10(a)* | Greif, Inc. Directors' Stock Option Plan. | Registration Statement on Form S-8, File No. 333-26977 (see Exhibit 4(b) therein). |
| 10(b)* | Greif, Inc. Incentive Stock Option Plan, as Amended and Restated. | Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 31, 1997, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 10(b) therein). |
| 10(c)* | Greif, Inc. Amended and Restated Directors' Deferred Compensation Plan. | Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended April 30, 2006, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 10.2 therein). |
| 10(d)* | Employment Agreement between Michael J. Gasser and Greif, Inc. | Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 31, 1998, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 10(d) therein). |
| 10(e)* | Supplemental Retirement Benefit Agreement. | Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 31, 1999, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 10(i) therein). |
| 10(f)* | Second Amended and Restated Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan. | Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal year ended October 31, 2007, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 10(f) therein). |

Edgar Filing: GREIF INC - Form 10-K

| Exhibit No. | Description of Exhibit | If Incorporated by Reference, Document with which Exhibit was Previously Filed with SEC |
|-------------|--|--|
| 10(g) | Share Purchase Agreement, dated October 27, 2000, as amended on January 5, 2001 and February 28, 2001, between Hühnamaki Van Leer Oyj, as the seller and Greif, Inc. as the buyer. | Current report on Form 8-K dated March 15, 2001, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 2 therein). |
| 10(h)* | Greif, Inc. Amended and Restated Long-Term Incentive Plan. | Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended April 30, 2006, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 10.1 therein). |
| 10(i)* | Greif, Inc. Performance-Based Incentive Compensation Plan. | Definitive Proxy Statement on Form 14A dated January 25, 2002, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit B therein). |
| 10(j)* | Greif, Inc. 2001 Management Equity Incentive and Compensation Plan. | Definitive Proxy Statement on Form DEF 14A dated January 26, 2001, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit A therein). |
| 10(k)* | Greif, Inc. 2000 Nonstatutory Stock Option Plan. | Registration Statement on Form S-8, File No. 333-61058 (see Exhibit 4(c) therein). |
| 10(l)* | 2005 Outside Directors Equity Award Plan | Definitive Proxy Statement on Form DEF 14A, File No. 001-00566, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 21, 2005 (see Exhibit A therein). |
| 10(m)* | Form of Stock Option Award Agreement for the 2005 Outside Directors Equity Award Plan of Greif, Inc. | Registration Statement on Form S-8, File No. 333-123133 (see Exhibit 4(c) therein). |
| 10(n)* | Form of Restricted Share Award Agreement for the 2005 Outside Directors Equity Award Plan of Greif, Inc. | Registration Statement on Form S-8, File No. 333-123133 (see Exhibit 4(d) therein). |
| 10(o) | Credit Agreement dated as of March 2, 2005, among Greif, Inc., Greif Spain Holdings, S.L., Greif Bros. Canada Inc., Greif (UK) Ltd., Greif International Holdings B.V., and Greif Australia Pty. Ltd., as borrowers, various lending institutions, as lenders, Deutsche Bank AG, New York Branch, as administrative agent, Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., as joint lead arranger and sole book runner, KeyBank National Association, as joint lead arranger and syndication agent, and National City Bank, Fleet National Bank, and ING Capital LLC, as co-documentation agents. | Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended January 31, 2005, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 10.1 therein). |
| 10(p) | First Amendment to Credit Agreement dated as of October 16, 2006, among Greif, Inc., Greif Spain Holdings, S.L., as | Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal year ended October 31, 2006, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 10(u) therein). |

borrowers, various lending institutions, as lenders, and Deutsche Bank AG, New York Branch, as administrative agent for the lenders.

- 10(q) Second Amendment to Credit Agreement dated as of October 31, 2006, among Greif, Inc., Greif Spain Holdings, S.L., as borrowers, various lending institutions, as lenders, Deutsche Bank AG, New York Branch, as administrative agent for the lenders, and Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., as lead arranger for the revolver increase referenced therein. Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal year ended October 31, 2006, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 10(v) therein).

Edgar Filing: GREIF INC - Form 10-K

| Exhibit No. | Description of Exhibit | If Incorporated by Reference, |
|-------------|---|---|
| 10(r) | Third Amendment to Credit Agreement dated as of January 19, 2007, among Greif, Inc. and Greif Spain Holdings, S.L., as borrowers, the various lending institutions named therein, as lenders, and Deutsche Bank AG, New York Branch, administrative agent for the lenders. | Document with which Exhibit was Previously Filed with SEC Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended January 31, 2007, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 10.1 therein). |
| 10(s) | Receivables Purchase Agreement, dated October 31, 2003, by and among Greif Receivables Funding LLC (as seller), Greif, Inc. (as originator and servicer), Greif Containers Inc., (as originator), Scaldis Capital LLC (as purchaser) and Fortis Bank S.A./N.V. (as administrative agent). | Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2003, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 10(m) therein). |
| 10(t) | Amended and Restated Receivables Purchase Agreement dated as of April 30, 2007, among Greif Coordination Center BVBA (an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Greif, Inc.), as Seller, Greif Belgium BVBA (an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Greif, Inc.), as Servicer, and ING Belgium S.A., as Purchaser and Transaction Administrator. | Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended April 30, 2007, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 10.1 therein). |
| 10(u) | Receivables Purchase Agreement dated as of October 28, 2005, among Greif Italia S.p.A. (an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Greif, Inc.), as Seller and Servicer, Greif Belgium BVBA (an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Greif, Inc.), as Master Servicer, and ING Belgium S.A., as Purchaser and Transaction Administrator. | Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended April 30, 2007, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 10.2 therein). |
| 10(v) | Amendment to Receivables Purchase Agreement dated as of June 29, 2006, among Greif Italia S.p.A. (an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Greif, Inc.), as Seller and Servicer, Greif Belgium BVBA (an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Greif, Inc.), as Master Servicer, and ING Belgium S.A., as Purchaser and Transaction Administrator. | Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended April 30, 2007, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 10.3 therein). |
| 10(w) | | |

Edgar Filing: GREIF INC - Form 10-K

Amendment to Receivables Purchase Agreement dated as of October 27, 2006, among Greif Italia S.p.A. (an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Greif, Inc.), as Seller and Servicer, Greif Belgium BVBA (an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Greif, Inc.), as Master Servicer, and ING Belgium S.A., as Purchaser and Transaction Administrator.

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended April 30, 2007, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 10.4 therein).

10(x)

Amendment to Receivables Purchase Agreement dated as of April 30, 2007, among Greif Italia S.p.A. (an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Greif, Inc.), as Seller and Servicer, Greif Belgium BVBA (an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Greif, Inc.), as Master Servicer, and ING Belgium S.A., as Purchaser and Transaction Administrator.

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended April 30, 2007, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 10.5 therein).

Edgar Filing: GREIF INC - Form 10-K

- | | | |
|--------|---|--|
| 10(y) | Amendment to Receivables Purchase Agreement dated as of November 15, 2007, among Greif Italia S.p.A. (an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Greif, Inc.), as Seller and Servicer, Greif Belgium BVBA (an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Greif, Inc.), as Master Servicer, and ING Belgium S.A., as Purchaser and Transaction Administrator. | Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal year ended October 31, 2007, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 10(y) therein). |
| 10(z) | Sale and Contribution Agreement, dated as of October 31, 2003, by and among Greif, Inc., Greif Containers Inc., Great Lakes Corrugated Corp. (collectively as sellers) and Greif Receivables Funding LLC (as purchaser). | Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2003, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 10(n) therein). |
| 10(aa) | Amendment No.2 dated October 24, 2007 for the Sale and Contribution Agreement, dated as of October 31, 2003, by and among Greif, Inc., Greif Containers Inc., Great Lakes Corrugated Corp. (collectively as sellers) and Greif Receivables Funding LLC (as purchaser). | Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal year ended October 31, 2007, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 10(aa) therein). |
| 10(bb) | Share and Assets Sale Agreement dated October 25, 2006, between Blagden Packaging Nederland B.V., Blagden Packaging Rumbeke NV, Blagden Packaging Michelin NV, Blagden Packaging Swollen B.V. and Vanloon Consulting Services B.V., as Vendors, and Greif Belgium BVBA, Greif Bros. Canada Inc., Greif France Holdings S.A.S, Greif International Holding B.V., Greif Nederland B.V. and Paauw Holdings, B.V., as Purchasers, relating to the acquisition of shares and assets constituting the new steel drum and other packaging business of the Blagden Group. | Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 1, 2006, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 10.1 therein). |
| 10(cc) | Transfer and Administration Agreement dated as of December 8, 2008, by and among Greif Receivables Funding LLC, Greif Packaging LLC, YC SUSI Trust, as Conduit Investor and Uncommitted Investor, and Bank of America, National Association, as Agent, a Managing Agent, an Administrator and a Committed Investor. | Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 12, 2008, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 99.1 therein). |
| 10(dd) | Greif, Inc. Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan.* | Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended January 31, 2008, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 10.CC therein). |
| 10(ee) | Fourth Amendment to Credit Agreement dated as of April 23, 2008, among Greif, Inc. and Greif Spain Holdings, S.L., as borrowers, the various lending institutions named therein, as lenders, and Duetsche | Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended April 30, 2008, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 10.DD therein). |

Edgar Filing: GREIF INC - Form 10-K

Bank A.G., New York Branch, as administrative agent for lenders.

| | | |
|-------|--|--|
| 21 | Subsidiaries of the Registrant. | Contained herein. |
| 23 | Consent of Ernst & Young LLP. | Contained herein. |
| 24(a) | Powers of Attorney for Michael J. Gasser, Michael H. Dempsey, and Daniel J. Gunsett. | Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 31, 1997, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 24(a) therein). |

Edgar Filing: GREIF INC - Form 10-K

- | | | |
|-------|--|---|
| 24(b) | Powers of Attorney for Judith D. Hook and Patrick J. Norton. | Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2003, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 24(c) therein). |
| 24(c) | Power of Attorney for Vicki L. Avril. | Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2004, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 24(c) therein). |
| 24(d) | Power of Attorney for Bruce A. Edwards. | Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2006, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 24(d) therein). |
| 24(e) | Powers of Attorney for John F. Finn and Mark A. Emkes. | Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended January 31, 2008, File No. 001-00566 (see Exhibit 24.E therein). |

| Exhibit No. | Description of Exhibit | If Incorporated by Reference, Document with which Exhibit was Previously Filed with SEC |
|----------------|--|--|
| 31.1 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. | Contained herein. |
| 31.2 | Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. | Contained herein. |
| 32.1 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer required by Rule 13a-14(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code. | Contained herein. |
| 32.2 | Certification of Chief Financial Officer required by Rule 13a-14(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code. | Contained herein. |

*Executive compensation plans and arrangements required to be filed pursuant to Item 601(b)(10) of Regulation S-K.

GREIF, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

GAAP PRESENTATIONS AND RECONCILIATIONS FOR THE 2008 ANNUAL REPORT TO STOCKHOLDERS

(Dollars in millions)

The graphs titled "Operating Profit Margin" and "Return on Net Assets" included in this Annual Report contain certain non-GAAP financial measures. The following provides a presentation of the most of directly comparable GAAP financial measure to the applicable non-GAAP financial measure and a reconciliation of the GAAP financial measure to the non-GAAP financial measure for such graphs:

Operating Profit Margin

| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| GAAP Operating Profit | \$ 370.3 | \$ 289.6 | \$ 246.2 | \$ 191.9 | \$ 108.7 |
| Restructuring charges | 43.2 | 21.2 | 33.2 | 35.7 | 54.1 |
| Timberland gains, net | (0.3) | 0.7 | (41.3) | (56.3) | (7.5) |
| Non-GAAP operating profit before the impact of restructuring charges and timberland disposals, net | \$ 413.1 | \$ 311.5 | \$ 238.1 | \$ 171.3 | \$ 155.3 |
| GAAP Net sales | \$ 3,776.8 | \$ 3,322.3 | \$ 2,628.5 | \$ 2,424.3 | \$ 2,209.3 |

| | | | | | |
|---|-------|------|------|------|------|
| GAAP operating profit margin (GAAP operating profit divided by GAAP net sales) | 9.8% | 8.7% | 9.4% | 7.9% | 4.9% |
| Non-GAAP operating profit margin (non-GAAP operating profit before the impact of restructuring charges and timberland disposals, net divided by GAAP net sales) | 10.9% | 9.4% | 9.1% | 7.1% | 7.0% |

Return on Net Assets

| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| GAAP Operating Profit | \$ 370.3 | \$ 289.6 | \$ 246.2 | \$ 191.9 | \$ 108.7 |
| Restructuring charges | 43.2 | 21.2 | 33.2 | 35.7 | 54.1 |
| Timberland gains, net | (0.3) | 0.7 | (41.3) | (56.3) | (7.5) |
| Non-GAAP operating profit before the impact of restructuring charges and timberland disposals, net | \$ 413.1 | \$ 311.5 | \$ 238.1 | \$ 171.3 | \$ 155.3 |
| Average cash(1) | \$ (101.0) | \$ (120.4) | \$ (148.9) | \$ (67.9) | \$ (36.1) |
| Average short-term borrowings(1) | 48.4 | 34.9 | 24.6 | 17.8 | 16.6 |
| Average current portion of long-term debt(1) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.2 |
| Average long-term debt(1) | 687.0 | 645.2 | 449.7 | 446.8 | 592.8 |
| Average shareholders' equity (1) | 1030.4 | 903.9 | 779.6 | 677.9 | 590.0 |
| Average net assets | \$ 1,664.8 | \$ 1,463.6 | \$ 1,105.0 | \$ 1,074.6 | \$ 1,164.5 |

| | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| GAAP return on net assets (GAAP operating profit divided by average net assets) | 22.2% | 19.8% | 22.3% | 17.9% | 9.3% |
| Non-GAAP return on net assets (non-GAAP operating profit before the impact of restructuring charges and timberland disposals, net divided by average net assets) | 24.8% | 21.3% | 21.5% | 15.9% | 13.3% |

(1) Amounts used in the calculation for this graph are based on the balances as of the beginning of the fiscal year and end of each fiscal quarter for the years presented, averaged for the five points of measurement.