

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

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended **November 2, 2019**

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number **0-23071**

THE CHILDRENS PLACE, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

31-1241495
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

500 Plaza Drive
Secaucus, New Jersey
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

07094
(Zip Code)

(201) 558-2400
(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act: **Common Stock, \$0.10 par value**

Trading Symbol: **PLCE**

Name of each exchange on which registered: **Nasdaq Global Select Market**

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Emerging growth company

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

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

The number of shares outstanding of the registrant's common stock with a par value of \$0.10 per share, as of December 6, 2019 was 15,064,783 shares.

THE CHILDREN'S PLACE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

QUARTERLY REPORT ON FORM 10-Q

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED NOVEMBER 2, 2019

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FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**THE CHILDREN'S PLACE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

	November 2, 2019	February 2, 2019	November 3, 2018
	(unaudited)		(unaudited)
(in thousands, except par value)			
ASSETS			
Current assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 66,059	\$ 69,136	\$ 92,950
Accounts receivable	39,471	35,123	40,111
Inventories	389,815	303,466	376,858
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	20,722	27,670	37,467
Total current assets	516,067	435,395	547,386
Long-term assets:			
Property and equipment, net	246,234	260,357	262,380
Right-of-use assets	418,151	—	—
Tradenames, net	73,386	—	—
Deferred income taxes	17,615	17,750	12,722
Other assets	14,269	13,544	14,765
Total assets	\$ 1,285,722	\$ 727,046	\$ 837,253
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY			
LIABILITIES:			
Current liabilities:			
Revolving loan	\$ 184,179	\$ 48,861	\$ 65,000
Accounts payable	235,491	194,786	223,607
Current lease liabilities	124,281	—	—
Income taxes payable	7,171	997	7,598
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	109,476	86,755	115,583
Total current liabilities	660,598	331,399	411,788
Long-term liabilities:			
Deferred rent liabilities	—	44,329	46,670
Long-term lease liabilities	331,615	—	—
Other tax liabilities	5,050	5,080	3,895
Income taxes payable	18,939	18,939	19,074
Other long-term liabilities	15,081	12,862	12,368
Total liabilities	1,031,283	412,609	493,795
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES			
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY:			
Preferred stock, \$1.00 par value, 1,000 shares authorized, 0 shares issued and outstanding	—	—	—
Common stock, \$0.10 par value, 100,000 shares authorized; 15,310, 15,873, and 16,303 issued; 15,260, 15,827, and 16,256 outstanding	1,531	1,588	1,630
Additional paid-in capital	145,219	146,991	146,811
Treasury stock, at cost (50, 47, and 47 shares)	(2,886)	(2,685)	(2,622)
Deferred compensation	2,886	2,685	2,622
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(13,442)	(14,934)	(15,734)
Retained earnings	121,131	180,792	210,751
Total stockholders' equity	254,439	314,437	343,458
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 1,285,722	\$ 727,046	\$ 837,253

See accompanying notes to these consolidated financial statements.

THE CHILDREN'S PLACE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(Unaudited)

	Thirteen Weeks Ended		Thirty-nine Weeks Ended	
	November 2, 2019	November 3, 2018	November 2, 2019	November 3, 2018
	(In thousands, except earnings and dividends per share)			
Net sales	\$ 524,796	\$ 522,495	\$ 1,357,647	\$ 1,407,526
Cost of sales (exclusive of depreciation and amortization)	326,671	318,129	868,701	888,125
Gross profit	198,125	204,366	488,946	519,401
Selling, general, and administrative expenses	120,514	123,207	364,937	365,933
Depreciation and amortization	18,821	17,404	55,877	51,405
Asset impairment charges	839	396	1,308	5,632
Other income	—	(1,246)	—	(1,255)
Operating income	57,951	64,605	66,824	97,686
Interest expense	(2,221)	(944)	(6,341)	(2,641)
Interest income	66	113	197	567
Income before provision for income taxes	55,796	63,774	60,680	95,612
Provision for income taxes	12,748	13,861	11,620	6,675
Net income	\$ 43,048	\$ 49,913	\$ 49,060	\$ 88,937
Earnings per common share				
Basic	\$ 2.78	\$ 3.04	\$ 3.12	\$ 5.33
Diluted	\$ 2.77	\$ 3.03	\$ 3.10	\$ 5.24
Weighted average common shares outstanding				
Basic	15,497	16,394	15,720	16,677
Diluted	15,546	16,496	15,837	16,982
Cash dividends declared per common share	\$ 0.56	\$ 0.50	\$ 1.68	\$ 1.50

See accompanying notes to these consolidated financial statements.

THE CHILDREN'S PLACE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
(Unaudited)

	<u>Thirteen Weeks Ended</u>		<u>Thirty-nine Weeks Ended</u>	
	<u>November 2, 2019</u>	<u>November 3, 2018</u>	<u>November 2, 2019</u>	<u>November 3, 2018</u>
	(In thousands)			
Net income	\$ 43,048	\$ 49,913	\$ 49,060	\$ 88,937
Other comprehensive income:				
Foreign currency translation adjustment	1,773	(369)	1,376	(3,063)
Change in fair value of cash flow hedges, net of income taxes	30	84	116	160
Total comprehensive income	<u>\$ 44,851</u>	<u>\$ 49,628</u>	<u>\$ 50,552</u>	<u>\$ 86,034</u>

See accompanying notes to these consolidated financial statements.

THE CHILDREN'S PLACE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY
(Unaudited)

Thirteen Weeks Ended November 2, 2019

(in thousands, except dividends per share)	Common Stock		Additional Paid-In Capital	Deferred Compensation	Retained Earnings	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	Treasury Stock		Total Stockholders' Equity
	Shares	Amount					Shares	Value	
BALANCE, August 3, 2019	15,719	\$ 1,572	\$ 149,140	\$ 2,816	\$ 113,789	\$ (15,245)	(49)	\$ (2,816)	\$249,256
Vesting of stock awards	4	—	—						—
Stock-based compensation			2,351						2,351
Purchase and retirement of shares	(414)	(41)	(6,640)		(26,657)				(33,338)
Dividends declared (\$0.56 per share)					(8,681)				(8,681)
Unvested dividends			368		(368)				—
Change in cumulative translation adjustment						1,773			1,773
Change in fair value of cash flow hedges, net of income taxes						30			30
Deferral of common stock into deferred compensation plan				70			(1)	(70)	—
Net income					43,048				43,048
BALANCE, November 2, 2019	15,309	\$ 1,531	\$ 145,219	\$ 2,886	\$ 121,131	\$ (13,442)	(50)	\$ (2,886)	\$ 254,439

Thirty-nine Weeks Ended November 2, 2019

(in thousands, except dividends per share)	Common Stock		Additional Paid-In Capital	Deferred Compensation	Retained Earnings	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	Treasury Stock		Total Stockholders' Equity
	Shares	Amount					Shares	Value	
BALANCE, February 2, 2019	15,873	\$ 1,588	\$ 146,991	\$ 2,685	\$ 180,792	\$ (14,934)	(47)	\$ (2,685)	\$314,437
ASC Topic 842 Adjustment					(1,667)				(1,667)
Vesting of stock awards	470	46	(5)						41
Stock-based compensation			13,622						13,622
Purchase and retirement of shares	(1,034)	(103)	(16,297)		(79,666)				(96,066)
Dividends declared (\$0.56 per share)					(26,480)				(26,480)
Unvested dividends			908		(908)				—
Change in cumulative translation adjustment						1,376			1,376
Change in fair value of cash flow hedges, net of income taxes						116			116
Deferral of common stock into deferred compensation plan				201			(3)	(201)	—
Net income					49,060				49,060
BALANCE, November 2, 2019	15,309	\$ 1,531	\$ 145,219	\$ 2,886	\$ 121,131	\$ (13,442)	(50)	\$ (2,886)	\$ 254,439

THE CHILDREN'S PLACE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY
(Unaudited)

Thirteen Weeks Ended November 3, 2018

(in thousands, except dividends per share)	Common Stock		Additional	Deferred	Retained	Accumulated	Treasury Stock		Total
	Shares	Amount	Paid-In				Compensation	Earnings	
			Capital			Loss			Equity
BALANCE, August 4, 2018	16,486	\$ 1,649	\$ 138,342	\$ 2,560	\$ 198,581	\$ (15,449)	(47)	\$ (2,560)	\$323,123
Vesting of stock awards	7	1	(1)						—
Stock-based compensation			4,476						4,476
Purchase and retirement of shares	(192)	(20)	3,680		(29,208)				(25,548)
Dividends declared (\$0.50 per share)					(8,221)				(8,221)
Unvested dividends			314		(314)				—
Change in cumulative translation adjustment						(369)			(369)
Change in fair value of cash flow hedges, net of income taxes						84			84
Deferral of common stock into deferred compensation plan				62				(62)	—
Net income					49,913				49,913
BALANCE, November 3, 2018	16,301	\$ 1,630	\$ 146,811	\$ 2,622	\$ 210,751	\$ (15,734)	(47)	\$ (2,622)	\$ 343,458

Thirty-nine Weeks Ended November 3, 2018

(in thousands, except dividends per share)	Common Stock		Additional	Deferred	Retained	Accumulated	Treasury Stock		Total
	Shares	Amount	Paid-In				Compensation	Earnings	
			Capital			Loss			Equity
BALANCE, February 3, 2018	17,257	\$ 1,726	\$ 258,501	\$ 2,436	\$ 226,303	\$ (12,831)	(47)	\$ (2,436)	\$473,699
ASC Topic 606 Adjustment					875				875
Vesting of stock awards	709	71	(75)						(4)
Stock-based compensation			20,693						20,693
Capitalized stock-based compensation			176						176
Purchase and retirement of shares	(1,665)	(167)	(133,517)		(79,392)				(213,076)
Dividends declared (\$0.50 per share)					(24,939)				(24,939)
Unvested dividends			1,033		(1,033)				—
Change in cumulative translation adjustment						(3,063)			(3,063)
Change in fair value of cash flow hedges, net of income taxes						160			160
Deferral of common stock into deferred compensation plan				186				(186)	—
Net income					88,937				88,937
BALANCE, November 3, 2018	16,301	\$ 1,630	\$ 146,811	\$ 2,622	\$ 210,751	\$ (15,734)	(47)	\$ (2,622)	\$ 343,458

THE CHILDREN'S PLACE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(Unaudited)

	Thirty-nine Weeks Ended	
	November 2, 2019	November 3, 2018
(In thousands)		
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net income	\$ 49,060	\$ 88,937
Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Non-cash portion of operating lease expense	112,316	—
Depreciation and amortization	55,877	51,405
Stock-based compensation	13,622	20,693
Deferred taxes	745	(244)
Asset impairment charges	1,308	5,632
Other	175	631
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Inventories	(86,440)	(53,891)
Accounts receivable and other assets	(3,027)	(14,082)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	2,622	(1,322)
Income taxes payable, net of prepayments	10,888	(6,399)
Accounts payable and other current liabilities	63,641	495
Other long-term liabilities	(120,221)	(8,377)
Net cash provided by operating activities	100,566	83,478
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Capital expenditures	(42,396)	(55,504)
Acquisition of assets	(76,951)	—
Proceeds from sale of short-term investments	—	15,000
Change in deferred compensation plan	222	(617)
Net cash used in investing activities	(119,125)	(41,121)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Repurchase of common stock, including shares surrendered for tax withholdings and transaction costs	(93,763)	(213,073)
Payment of dividends	(26,480)	(24,939)
Borrowings under revolving loan	750,981	628,096
Repayments under revolving loan	(615,663)	(584,555)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	15,075	(194,471)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	407	545
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(3,077)	(151,569)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	69,136	244,519
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 66,059	\$ 92,950

See accompanying notes to these consolidated financial statements.

THE CHILDREN'S PLACE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(Unaudited)

	Thirty-nine Weeks Ended	
	November 2, 2019	November 3, 2018
	(In thousands)	
OTHER CASH FLOW INFORMATION:		
Net cash paid during the period for income taxes	\$ 74	\$ 14,585
Cash paid during the period for interest	6,233	2,277
Increase in accrued purchases of property and equipment	797	5,660

See accompanying notes to these consolidated financial statements.

THE CHILDREN'S PLACE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)

1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

Description of Business

The Children's Place, Inc. and subsidiaries (the "Company") is the largest pure-play children's specialty apparel retailer in North America. The Company provides apparel, footwear, accessories, and other items for children. The Company designs, contracts to manufacture, sells at retail and wholesale, and licenses to sell trend right, high-quality merchandise at value prices, the substantial majority of which is under its proprietary "The Children's Place", "Place", and "Baby Place" brand names.

The Company classifies its business into two segments: The Children's Place U.S. and The Children's Place International. Included in The Children's Place U.S. segment are the Company's U.S. and Puerto Rico-based stores and revenue from its U.S.-based wholesale business. Included in The Children's Place International segment are its Canadian-based stores, revenue from the Company's Canada wholesale business, as well as revenue from international franchisees. Each segment includes an e-commerce business located at www.childrensplace.com.

Interim Financial Statements

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States ("U.S. GAAP") for interim financial information and the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). Accordingly, certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in the annual consolidated financial statements prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP have been condensed or omitted.

In the opinion of management, the accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements contain all adjustments necessary to present fairly the consolidated financial position of the Company as of November 2, 2019 and November 3, 2018 and the results of its consolidated operations for the thirteen and thirty-nine weeks ended November 2, 2019 and November 3, 2018 and cash flows for the thirty-nine weeks ended November 2, 2019 and November 3, 2018 and stockholders' equity for the thirteen and thirty-nine weeks ended November 2, 2019 and November 3, 2018. The consolidated financial position as of February 2, 2019 was derived from audited financial statements. Due to the seasonal nature of the Company's business, the results of operations for the thirty-nine weeks ended November 2, 2019 and November 3, 2018 are not necessarily indicative of operating results for a full fiscal year. These consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 2, 2019.

Terms that are commonly used in the Company's notes to consolidated financial statements are defined as follows:

- Third Quarter 2019 — The thirteen weeks ended November 2, 2019
- Third Quarter 2018 — The thirteen weeks ended November 3, 2018
- Year-To-Date 2019 — The thirty-nine weeks ended November 2, 2019
- Year-To-Date 2018 — The thirty-nine weeks ended November 3, 2018
- FASB — Financial Accounting Standards Board
- FASB ASC — FASB Accounting Standards Codification, which serves as the source for authoritative U.S. GAAP, except that rules and interpretive releases by the SEC are also sources of authoritative U.S. GAAP for SEC registrants

Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. Intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated. FASB ASC 810--*Consolidation* is considered when determining whether an entity is subject to consolidation.

Fiscal Year

The Company's fiscal year is a 52-week or 53-week period ending on the Saturday on or nearest to January 31.

Use of Estimates

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

assumptions used and estimates made by management, which could have a material impact on the Company's financial position or results of operations. Significant estimates inherent in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements include: reserves for the realizability of inventory; reserves for litigation and other contingencies; useful lives and impairments of long-lived assets; fair value measurements; accounting for income taxes and related uncertain tax positions; insurance reserves; valuation of stock-based compensation awards and related estimated forfeiture rates, among others.

Reclassifications

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

Leases

The Company adopted Accounting Standards Update No. 2016-02 "Leases" ("Topic 842") as of the beginning of fiscal 2019 using the modified retrospective transition method. Topic 842 requires that all leases greater than 12 months be recorded on the balance sheet as a right-of-use asset with a corresponding liability.

See Note 3 "Leases" for further details on the Company's adoption of Topic 842.

Inventories

Inventories, which consist primarily of finished goods, are stated at the lower of cost or net realizable value, with cost determined on an average cost basis. The Company capitalizes certain supply chain costs in inventory and these costs are reflected within cost of sales as the inventories are sold. Inventory shrinkage is estimated in interim periods based upon the historical results of physical inventory counts in the context of current year facts and circumstances.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets

The Company periodically reviews its long-lived assets when events indicate that their carrying value may not be recoverable. Such events include historical trends or projected trend of cash flow losses or a future expectation that the Company will sell or dispose of an asset significantly before the end of its previously estimated useful life. In reviewing for impairment, the Company groups its long-lived assets at the lowest possible level for which identifiable cash flows are largely independent of the cash flows of other assets and liabilities.

The Company reviews all stores that have reached comparable sales status, or sooner if circumstances should dictate, on at least an annual basis. The Company believes waiting this period of time allows a store to reach a maturity level where a more comprehensive analysis of financial performance can be performed. For each store that shows indications of operating losses, the Company projects future cash flows over the remaining life of the lease, adjusted for lease payments, and compares the total undiscounted cash flows to the net book value of the related long-lived assets, including right-of-use ("ROU") assets. If the undiscounted cash flows are less than the related net book value of the long-lived assets, they are written down to their fair market value. The Company primarily uses discounted future cash flows directly associated with those assets to determine fair market value of long-lived assets and market participant rent to determine the fair market value of ROU assets. In evaluating future cash flows, the Company considers external and internal factors. External factors comprise the local environment in which the store resides, including mall traffic and competition and their effect on sales trends. Internal factors include the Company's ability to gauge the fashion taste of its customers, control variable costs such as cost of sales and payroll and, in certain cases, its ability to renegotiate lease costs.

Stock-based Compensation

The Company generally grants time vesting stock awards ("Deferred Awards") and performance-based stock awards ("Performance Awards") to employees at management levels. The Company also grants Deferred Awards to its non-employee directors. Deferred Awards are granted in the form of a defined number of restricted stock units that require each recipient to complete a service period. Deferred Awards generally vest ratably over three years, except for those granted to non-employee directors, which generally vest after one year. Performance Awards are granted in the form of restricted stock units which have performance criteria that must be achieved for the awards to vest (the "Target Shares") in addition to a service period requirement. For Performance Awards issued during fiscal 2017 (the "2017 Performance Awards"), an employee may earn from 0% to 200% of their Target Shares based on the achievement of cumulative adjusted earnings per share achieved for the applicable performance period, which is generally three years, adjusted operating margin expansion achieved for the performance period, and adjusted return on invested capital ("adjusted ROIC") achieved as of the end of the performance period. The 2017 Performance Awards cliff vest, if earned, after completion of the performance period. The fair value of the 2017 Performance Awards granted is based on the closing price of our common stock on the grant date. For Performance Awards issued during fiscal 2018 and 2019 (the "2018 and 2019 Performance Awards"), an employee may earn from 0% to 250% of their Target Shares based on cumulative adjusted earnings per share achieved for the applicable performance period, which is generally three years, adjusted operating margin expansion achieved for the performance period, adjusted ROIC achieved as of the end of the performance period, and the ranking of our adjusted ROIC relative to that of companies in our

peer group as of the end of the performance period. The 2018 and 2019 Performance Awards cliff vest, if earned, after completion of the performance period. The fair value of the 2018 and 2019 Performance Awards granted is based on the closing price of our common stock on the grant date.

Stock-based compensation expense is recognized ratably over the related service period reduced for estimated forfeitures of those awards not expected to vest due to employee turnover. Stock-based compensation expense, as it relates to Performance Awards, is also adjusted based on the Company's estimate of adjusted earnings per share and adjusted operating margin expansion and adjusted return on invested capital and, as applicable, ranking of our adjusted return on invested capital relative to that of companies in our peer group as they occur.

Deferred Compensation Plan

The Company has a deferred compensation plan (the "Deferred Compensation Plan"), which is a nonqualified plan, for eligible senior level employees. Under the plan, participants may elect to defer up to 80% of his or her base salary and/or up to 100% of his or her bonus to be earned for the year following the year in which the deferral election is made. The Deferred Compensation Plan also permits members of the Board of Directors to elect to defer payment of all or a portion of their retainer and other fees to be earned for the year following the year in which a deferral election is made. In addition, eligible employees and directors of the Company may also elect to defer payment of any shares of Company stock that is earned with respect to stock-based awards. Directors may elect to have all or a certain portion of their fees earned for their service on the Board invested in shares of the Company's common stock. Such elections are irrevocable. The Company is not required to contribute to the Deferred Compensation Plan, but at its sole discretion, can make additional contributions on behalf of the participants. Deferred amounts are not subject to forfeiture and are deemed invested among investment funds offered under the Deferred Compensation Plan, as directed by each participant. Payments of deferred amounts (as adjusted for earnings and losses) are payable following separation from service or at a date or dates elected by the participant at the time the deferral is elected. Payments of deferred amounts are generally made in either a lump sum or in annual installments over a period not exceeding 15 years. All deferred amounts are payable in the form in which they were made, except for board fees invested in shares of the Company's common stock, which will be settled in shares of Company common stock. Earlier distributions are not permitted except in the case of an unforeseen hardship.

The Company has established a rabbi trust that serves as an investment to shadow the Deferred Compensation Plan liability. The assets of the rabbi trust are general assets of the Company and, as such, would be subject to the claims of creditors in the event of bankruptcy or insolvency. Investments of the rabbi trust consist of mutual funds and Company common stock. The Deferred Compensation Plan liability, excluding Company common stock, is included within other long-term liabilities and changes in the balance, except those relating to payments, are recognized as compensation expense within selling, general, and administrative expenses. The value of the mutual funds is included in other assets and related earnings and losses are recognized as investment income or loss, which is included within selling, general, and administrative expenses. Company stock deferrals are included within the equity section of the Company's consolidated balance sheet as treasury stock and as a deferred compensation liability. Deferred stock is recorded at fair market value at the time of deferral, and any subsequent changes in fair market value are not recognized.

Fair Value Measurement and Financial Instruments-FASB ASC 820-*Fair Value Measurement* provides a single definition of fair value, together with a framework for measuring it, and requires additional disclosure about the use of fair value to measure assets and liabilities.

This topic defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date and establishes a three-level hierarchy, which encourages an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. The three levels of the hierarchy are defined as follows:

- Level 1 - inputs to the valuation techniques that are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2 - inputs to the valuation techniques that are other than quoted prices but are observable for the assets or liabilities, either directly or indirectly
- Level 3 - inputs to the valuation techniques that are unobservable for the assets or liabilities

Our cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, assets of the Company's Deferred Compensation Plan, accounts payable, current lease liabilities, and revolving loan are all short-term in nature. As such, their carrying amounts approximate fair value and fall within Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy. The Company stock included in the Deferred Compensation Plan is not subject to fair value measurement.

Our derivative assets and liabilities include foreign exchange forward contracts that are measured at fair value using observable market inputs such as forward rates, our credit risk, and our counterparties' credit risks. Based on these inputs, our derivative assets and liabilities are classified within Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

Our assets measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis include long-lived assets, such as intangible assets, fixed assets, and ROU assets. We review the carrying amounts of such assets when events indicate that their carrying amounts may not be recoverable. Any resulting asset impairment would require that the asset be recorded at its fair value. The resulting fair value measurements of the assets are considered to fall within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy.

Recently Issued Accounting Standards

Adopted in Fiscal 2019

In August 2017, the FASB issued guidance relating to the accounting for hedging activities. This guidance aims to better align an entity's risk management activities and financial reporting for hedging relationships through changes to both the designation and measurement guidance for qualifying hedging relationships and the presentation of hedge results. The amendments in the guidance expand and refine hedge accounting for both non-financial and financial risk components and align the recognition and presentation of the effects of the hedging instrument and the hedged item in the financial statements. We adopted this guidance in the first quarter of fiscal 2019. This adoption did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In February 2016, the FASB issued guidance relating to the accounting for leases. This guidance applies a ROU model that requires a lessee to record, for all leases with a lease term of more than 12 months, an asset representing its right to use the underlying asset for the lease term and a liability to make lease payments. The lease term is the noncancellable period of the lease, and includes both periods covered by an option to extend the lease, if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise that option, and periods covered by an option to terminate the lease, if the lessee is reasonably certain not to exercise that termination option. We adopted this guidance in the first quarter of fiscal 2019 using the modified-retrospective method. Refer to Note 3, "Leases", for additional information.

To Be Adopted After Fiscal 2019

In August 2018, the FASB issued guidance related to the accounting for implementation costs incurred in a cloud computing arrangement that is a service contract. The guidance aims to align the requirements for capitalizing implementation costs incurred in a hosting arrangement that is a service contract with the requirements for capitalizing implementation costs incurred to develop or obtain internal-use software and hosting arrangements that include an internal-use software license. The guidance is effective for annual reporting periods, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2019. We do not expect the guidance to have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In August 2018, the FASB issued guidance related to disclosure requirements for fair value measurement. The amendments modify current fair value measurement disclosure requirements by removing, adding, or modifying certain fair value measurement disclosures. The guidance is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2019. We plan to adopt the new disclosure requirements on a prospective basis beginning in the year of adoption. We do not expect the guidance to have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In June 2016, the FASB issued guidance related to the accounting for financial instrument credit losses. The guidance aims to provide more decision useful information about the expected credit losses on financial instruments by replacing the incurred loss impairment methodology under current GAAP with a methodology that reflects expected credit losses and requires consideration of a broader range of reasonable and supportable information to inform credit loss estimates. The guidance is effective for annual reporting periods, and interim reporting periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2019. We do not expect the guidance to have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

2. REVENUES

Revenues are recognized when control of the promised goods or services is transferred to our customers, in an amount that reflects the consideration we expect to be entitled to in exchange for those goods or services.

The following table presents our revenues disaggregated by geography:

	Thirteen Weeks Ended		Thirty-nine Weeks Ended	
	November 2, 2019	November 3, 2018	November 2, 2019	November 3, 2018
Net sales:	(In thousands)			
South	\$ 176,091	\$ 167,800	\$ 475,801	\$ 481,333
Northeast	129,325	136,134	319,468	343,951
West	77,213	74,665	206,344	212,163
Midwest	69,957	70,989	173,912	181,374
International and other	72,210	72,907	182,122	188,705
Total net sales	<u>\$ 524,796</u>	<u>\$ 522,495</u>	<u>\$ 1,357,647</u>	<u>\$ 1,407,526</u>

The Company recognizes revenue, including shipping and handling fees billed to customers, upon purchase at the Company's retail stores or when received by the customer if the product was purchased via e-commerce, net of coupon redemptions and anticipated sales returns. The Company deferred approximately \$2.5 million and \$4.3 million as of November 2, 2019 and November 3, 2018, respectively, based upon estimated time of delivery, at which point control passes to the customer, and is recorded in accrued expenses and other current liabilities. Sales tax collected from customers is excluded from revenue.

For the sale of goods with a right of return, the Company recognizes revenue for the consideration it expects to be entitled to and calculates an allowance for estimated sales returns based upon the Company's sales return experience. Adjustments to the allowance for estimated sales returns in subsequent periods are generally not material based on historical data, thereby reducing the uncertainty inherent in such estimates. The allowance for estimated sales returns, which is recorded in accrued expenses and other current liabilities, was approximately \$2.3 million and \$2.2 million as of November 2, 2019 and November 3, 2018, respectively.

Our private label credit card is issued to our customers for use exclusively at The Children's Place stores and online at www.childrensplace.com, and credit is extended to such customers by a third-party financial institution on a non-recourse basis to us. The private label credit card includes multiple performance obligations for the Company, including marketing and promoting the program on behalf of the bank and the operation of the loyalty rewards program. Included in the agreement with the third-party financial institution was an upfront bonus paid to the Company. The upfront bonus is recognized as revenue and allocated between brand and reward obligations. As the license of the Company's brand is the predominant item in the performance obligation, the amount allocated to the brand obligation is recognized on a straight-line basis over the initial term. The amount allocated to the reward obligation is recognized on a point-in-time basis as redemptions under the loyalty program occur.

In measuring revenue and determining the consideration the Company is entitled to as part of a contract with a customer, the Company takes into account the related elements of variable consideration, such as additional bonuses, including profit-sharing, over the life of the program. Similar to the upfront bonus, the usage-based royalties and bonuses are recognized as revenue and allocated between the brand and reward obligations. The amount allocated to the brand obligation is recognized on a straight-line basis over the initial term. The amount allocated to the reward obligation is recognized on a point-in-time basis as redemptions under the loyalty program occur. In addition, the annual profit-sharing amount is estimated and recognized quarterly within an annual period when earned. The additional bonuses are amortized over the contract term based on anticipated progress against future targets and level of risk associated with achieving the targets.

The Company has a points-based customer loyalty program, in which customers earn points based on purchases and other promotional activities. These points can be redeemed for coupons to discount future purchases. A contract liability is estimated based on the standalone selling price of benefits earned by customers through the program and the related redemption experience under the program. The value of each point earned is recorded as deferred revenue and is included within accrued expenses and other current liabilities. The total contract liabilities related to this program were \$2.9 million and \$1.7 million as of November 2, 2019 and November 3, 2018, respectively.

The Company's policy with respect to gift cards is to record revenue as and when the gift cards are redeemed for merchandise. The Company recognizes gift card breakage income in proportion to the pattern of rights exercised by the customer when the Company expects to be entitled to breakage and the Company determines that it does not have a legal obligation to remit the value of the unredeemed gift card to the relevant jurisdiction as unclaimed or abandoned property and is recorded within net sales. Prior to their redemption, gift cards are recorded as a liability, included within accrued expenses and other current liabilities. The total contract liabilities related to gift cards issued were \$14.7 million and \$16.3 million as of November 2, 2019 and November 3, 2018, respectively. These liabilities is estimated based on expected breakage that considers historical patterns of redemption. The following table provides the reconciliation of the contract liability related to gift cards:

	Contract Liability
	(In thousands)
Balance at February 2, 2019	\$ 17,867
Gift cards sold	22,900
Gift cards redeemed	(21,803)
Gift card breakage	(4,246)
Balance at November 2, 2019	<u>\$ 14,718</u>

The Company has an international expansion program through territorial agreements with franchisees. The Company generates revenues from the franchisees from the sale of product and, in certain cases, sales royalties. The Company records net sales and cost of goods sold on the sale of product to franchisees when the franchisee takes ownership of the product. The Company records net sales for royalties when the applicable franchisee sells the product to their customers. Under certain agreements, the Company receives a fee from each franchisee for exclusive territorial rights and based on the opening of new stores. The Company records these territorial fees as deferred revenue and amortizes the fee into net sales over the life of the territorial agreement.

3. LEASES

Adoption of ASC Topic 842, "Leases"

On February 3, 2019, the Company adopted ASC Topic 842 "Leases" ("Topic 842") using the modified retrospective method. Results for reporting periods beginning in fiscal 2019 are presented under Topic 842, while prior period amounts are not adjusted and continue to be reported in accordance with ASC Topic 840 "Leases" ("Topic 840").

On February 3, 2019, the Company recognized a cumulative-effect charge of \$1.7 million, net of tax, to the opening balance of retained earnings, which represents the initial impairment of ROU assets related to retail stores.

For operating leases, the lease liability is initially and subsequently measured at the present value of the unpaid lease payments at the lease commencement date. The ROU asset is initially and subsequently measured throughout the lease term at the carrying amount of the lease liability, plus initial direct costs, less any accrued lease payments and unamortized lease incentives. For finance leases, the ROU asset is initially measured at cost and subsequently amortized using the straight-line method generally from the lease commencement date to the earlier of the end of its useful life or the end of the lease term.

The Company has elected the package of practical expedients permitted under the transition guidance within the new standard. Accordingly, we have adopted these practical expedients and did not reassess: (1) whether an expired or existing contract is a lease or contains an embedded lease; (2) lease classification of an expired or existing lease; (3) capitalization of initial direct costs for an expired or existing lease.

The Company has made an accounting policy election by class of underlying asset to not apply the recognition requirements of Topic 842 to leases with an initial term of 12 months or less. Leases with an initial lease term of 12 months or less are not recorded on the balance sheet. The Company recognizes lease expense for these leases on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

In certain leases, the Company has the right to exercise lease renewal options. Renewal option periods are included in the measurement of lease ROU assets and lease liabilities where the exercise is reasonably certain to occur.

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The Company has lease agreements with lease and non-lease components. The Company has elected a policy to account for lease and non-lease components as a single component for all asset classes.

The discount rate is the rate implicit in the lease unless that rate cannot be readily determined. In that case, the Company is required to use its incremental borrowing rate. The discount rate for a lease is determined based on the information available at the later of adoption of Topic 842 or at lease commencement. In general, the Company accounts for the underlying leased asset and applies a discount rate at the lease level. However, there are certain non-real estate leases for which the Company utilizes the portfolio method by aggregating similar leased assets based on the underlying lease term.

As of November 2, 2019, the Company's finance leases were not material to the consolidated balance sheets, consolidated statements of operations, or consolidated statements of cash flows.

We have certain lease agreements structured with both a fixed base rent and a contingent rent based on a percentage of sales over contractual levels, others with only contingent rent based on a percentage of sales, and some with a fixed base rent adjusted periodically for inflation or changes in fair market value of the underlying real estate. Contingent rent is recognized as sales occur. Our lease agreements do not contain any material residual value guarantees or material restrictive covenants.

We have operating leases for retail stores, corporate offices, distribution facilities, and certain equipment. Our leases have remaining lease terms of less than 1 year up to 10 years, some of which may include options to extend the leases for up to five years, and some of which may include options to early terminate the lease.

We record all occupancy costs in cost of sales, except administrative office buildings, which are recorded in selling, general, and administrative expenses.

The following components of lease expense are included in the Company's consolidated statements of operations.

	Thirteen Weeks Ended	Thirty-nine Weeks Ended
	November 2, 2019	
	(in thousands)	
Operating lease cost	\$ 36,348	\$ 112,316
Variable lease cost ¹	16,754	47,520
Total lease cost	\$ 53,102	\$ 159,836

¹Includes short term leases with lease periods of less than 12 months.

As of November 2, 2019, the weighted-average remaining operating lease term was 4.8 years, and the weighted-average discount rate for operating leases was 5.0%.

Cash paid for amounts included in the measurement of operating lease liabilities in the Third Quarter 2019 and Year-To-Date 2019 was approximately \$39.7 million and \$119.3 million, respectively.

Right-of-use assets obtained in exchange for new operating lease liabilities were approximately \$78.5 million.

As of November 2, 2019, the future minimum annual lease payments under operating lease agreements were as follows:

	November 2, 2019	
	Operating Leases	
	(in thousands)	
Remainder of 2019	\$	40,781
2020		138,220
2021		106,257
2022		75,027
2023		48,581
Thereafter		101,093
Total lease payments	\$	509,959
Less: imputed interest	\$	(54,063)
Present value of lease liabilities	\$	455,896

4. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

During the first quarter of fiscal 2019, the Company acquired certain intellectual property and related assets (the “Gymboree Assets”) of Gymboree Group, Inc. and related entities, which included the worldwide rights to the names “Gymboree” and “Crazy 8” and other intellectual property, including trademarks, domain names, copyrights, and customer databases. These intangible assets, inclusive of acquisition costs, are recorded in the long-term assets section of the consolidated balance sheets.

The Company's intangible assets were as follows as of November 2, 2019:

	Useful life	November 2, 2019		
		Gross amount	Accumulated amortization	Net amount
(in thousands)				
Gymboree tradename ⁽¹⁾	Indefinite	\$ 69,951	\$ —	\$ 69,951
Crazy 8 tradename ⁽¹⁾	5 years	4,000	565	3,435
Customer databases ⁽²⁾	3 years	3,000	583	2,417
Total intangibles, net		\$ 76,951	\$ 1,148	\$ 75,803

⁽¹⁾ Included within Tradenames, net in the consolidated balance sheets.

⁽²⁾ Included within Other assets in the consolidated balance sheets.

5. STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Share Repurchase Programs

The Company's Board of Directors has authorized the following share repurchase programs which were active during Year-To-Date 2019 and Year-To-Date 2018: (1) \$250 million in March 2017 (the "2017 Share Repurchase Program"); and (2) \$250 million in March 2018 (the "2018 Share Repurchase Program"). The 2017 Share Repurchase Program has been completed. At November 2, 2019, there was approximately \$146.0 million remaining on the 2018 Share Repurchase Program. Under these programs, the Company may repurchase shares on the open market at current market prices at the time of purchase or in privately negotiated transactions. The timing and actual number of shares repurchased under a program will depend on a variety of factors including price, corporate and regulatory requirements, and other market and business conditions. The Company may suspend or discontinue a program at any time and may thereafter reinstate purchases, all without prior announcement.

Pursuant to the Company's practice, including due to restrictions imposed by the Company's insider trading policy during black-out periods, the Company withholds and repurchases shares of vesting stock awards and makes payments to taxing authorities as required by law to satisfy the withholding tax requirements of all equity award recipients. The Company's payment of the withholding taxes in exchange for the surrendered shares constitutes a purchase of its common stock. The Company also acquires shares of its common stock in conjunction with liabilities owed under the Company's Deferred Compensation Plan, which are held in treasury.

The following table summarizes the Company's share repurchases:

	Thirty-nine Weeks Ended			
	November 2, 2019		November 3, 2018	
	Shares	Value	Shares	Value
	(In thousands)			
Shares repurchases related to:				
2017 Share Repurchase Program ⁽¹⁾	—	\$ —	1,666	\$ 213,113
2018 Share Repurchase Program ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	1,028	\$ 93,763	—	\$ —
Shares acquired and held in treasury under Deferred Compensation Plan	2.1	\$ 201	1.4	\$ 186

⁽¹⁾ Inclusive of 0.3 million shares for approximately \$43.2 million during Year-To-Date 2018 withheld to cover taxes in conjunction with the vesting of stock awards.

Inclusive of approximately 1.0 million shares for \$125.0 million repurchased pursuant to an accelerated repurchase program.

⁽²⁾ Inclusive of 0.2 million shares for approximately \$19.9 million during Year-To-Date 2019 withheld to cover taxes in conjunction with the vesting of stock awards.

⁽³⁾ Subsequent to November 2, 2019 and through December 6, 2019, the Company repurchased approximately 0.2 million shares for approximately \$15.0 million.

In accordance with the FASB ASC 505-*Equity*, the par value of the shares retired is charged against common stock and the remaining purchase price is allocated between additional paid-in capital and retained earnings. The portion charged against additional paid-in capital is determined using a pro-rata allocation based on total shares outstanding. Related to all shares retired during Year-To-Date 2019 and Year-To-Date 2018, approximately \$79.7 million and \$79.4 million, respectively, were charged to retained earnings.

Dividends

The Third Quarter 2019 dividend of \$0.56 per share was paid on October 4, 2019 to shareholders of record as of the close of business on September 23, 2019. During Year-To-Date 2019, \$27.4 million was charged to retained earnings, of which \$26.5 million related to cash dividends paid and \$0.9 million related to dividend share equivalents on unvested Deferred Awards and Performance Awards. During Year-To-Date 2018, \$26.0 million was charged to retained earnings, of which \$24.9 million related to cash dividends paid and \$1.1 million related to dividend share equivalents on unvested Deferred Awards and Performance Awards.

The Company's Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.56 per share to be paid December 27, 2019 to shareholders of record as of the close of business on December 16, 2019. Future declarations of quarterly dividends and the establishment of future record and payment dates are subject to approval by the Company's Board of Directors based on a number of factors, including business and market conditions, the Company's future financial performance, and other investment priorities.

6. STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION

The following table summarizes the Company's stock-based compensation expense:

	Thirteen Weeks Ended		Thirty-nine Weeks Ended	
	November 2, 2019	November 3, 2018	November 2, 2019	November 3, 2018
	(In thousands)			
Deferred Awards	\$ 4,494	\$ 2,685	\$ 14,237	\$ 10,031
Performance Awards	(2,143)	1,791	(615)	10,662
Total stock-based compensation expense ⁽¹⁾	\$ 2,351	\$ 4,476	\$ 13,622	\$ 20,693

⁽¹⁾ During the Third Quarter 2019 and the Third Quarter 2018, approximately \$0.9 million and \$1.1 million, respectively, were included within cost of sales. During Year-To-Date 2019 and the Year-To-Date 2018, approximately \$2.8 million and \$3.0 million, respectively, were included within cost of sales (exclusive of depreciation and amortization). All other stock-based compensation is included in selling, general, and administrative expenses.

The Company recognized a tax benefit related to stock-based compensation expense of approximately \$3.6 million and \$5.5 million during Year-To-Date 2019 and Year-To-Date 2018, respectively.

Changes in the Company's Unvested Stock Awards during Year-To-Date 2019

Deferred Awards

	Number of Shares	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value
	(In thousands)	
Unvested Deferred Awards, beginning of period	299	\$ 99.98
Granted	256	103.18
Vested	(120)	104.53
Forfeited	(44)	112.20
Unvested Deferred Awards, end of period	391	\$ 99.29

Total unrecognized stock-based compensation expense related to unvested Deferred Awards approximated \$24.5 million as of November 2, 2019, which will be recognized over a weighted average period of approximately 1.9 years.

Performance Awards

	Number of Shares ⁽¹⁾	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value
	(In thousands)	
Unvested Performance Awards, beginning of period	352	\$ 90.66
Granted	194	99.57
Shares earned in excess of target	181	75.83
Vested shares, including shares earned in excess of target	(349)	75.83
Forfeited	(26)	109.54
Unvested Performance Awards, end of period	352	\$ 101.27

⁽¹⁾ For those awards in which the performance period is complete, the number of unvested shares is based on actual shares that will vest upon completion of the service period.

For those awards in which the performance period is not yet complete, the number of unvested shares in the table above is based on the participants earning their Target Shares at 100%. However, the cumulative expense recognized reflects changes in estimated adjusted earnings per share, adjusted operating margin expansion, adjusted return on invested capital, and ranking of our adjusted return on invested capital relative to that of companies in our peer group as they occur. Total unrecognized stock-based compensation expense related to unvested Performance Awards approximated \$15.7 million as of November 2, 2019, which will be recognized over a weighted average period of approximately 2.0 years.

7. EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE

The following table reconciles net income and share amounts utilized to calculate basic and diluted earnings per common share:

	Thirteen Weeks Ended		Thirty-nine Weeks Ended	
	November 2, 2019	November 3, 2018	November 2, 2019	November 3, 2018
	(In thousands)			
Net income	\$ 43,048	\$ 49,913	\$ 49,060	\$ 88,937
Basic weighted average common shares	15,497	16,394	15,720	16,677
Dilutive effect of stock awards	49	102	117	305
Diluted weighted average common shares	15,546	16,496	15,837	16,982

8. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment, net consist of the following:

	November 2, 2019	February 2, 2019	November 3, 2018
	(In thousands)		
Property and equipment:			
Land and land improvements	\$ 3,403	\$ 3,403	\$ 3,403
Building and improvements	35,568	35,568	35,548
Material handling equipment	52,506	51,934	50,876
Leasehold improvements	299,897	301,233	304,270
Store fixtures and equipment	271,476	273,430	275,279
Capitalized software	264,574	254,064	238,218
Construction in progress	34,287	14,823	20,029
	961,711	934,455	927,623
Accumulated depreciation and amortization	(715,477)	(674,098)	(665,243)
Property and equipment, net	\$ 246,234	\$ 260,357	\$ 262,380

At November 2, 2019, the Company performed impairment testing on 955 stores with a total net book value of approximately \$70.1 million. During the Third Quarter 2019, the Company recorded asset impairment charges of \$0.8 million primarily for eight stores. During Year-To-Date 2019, the Company recorded asset impairment charges of \$1.3 million primarily for 15 stores.

At November 3, 2018, the Company performed impairment testing on 988 stores with a total net book value of approximately \$81.6 million. During the Third Quarter 2018, the Company recorded asset impairment charges of \$0.4 million primarily for five stores, all of which were fully impaired. During Year-To-Date 2018, the Company recorded asset impairment charges of \$1.2 million primarily for nine stores. Additionally, during Year-To-Date 2018, the Company recorded asset impairment charges of \$4.4 million related to the write-down of information technology systems.

9. CREDIT FACILITY

The Company and certain of its subsidiaries maintain a credit agreement (the “Credit Agreement”) with Wells Fargo Bank, National Association (“Wells Fargo”), Bank of America, N.A., HSBC Business Credit (USA) Inc., and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as lenders (collectively, the “Lenders”) and Wells Fargo, as Administrative Agent, Collateral Agent, and Swing Line Lender. The Credit Agreement was amended and restated on May 9, 2019, and the provisions below reflect the terms of the amended Credit Agreement.

The Credit Agreement, which expires in May 2024, consists of a \$325 million asset based revolving credit facility, including a \$25 million Canadian sublimit, with a \$50 million sublimit for standby and documentary letters of credit and an uncommitted accordion feature that could provide up to \$50 million of additional availability. Revolving credit loans outstanding under the Credit Agreement bear interest, at the Company’s option, at:

- (i) the prime rate, plus a margin of 0.38% to 0.50% based on the amount of the Company’s average excess availability under the facility; or
- (ii) the London InterBank Offered Rate, or “LIBOR”, for an interest period of one, two, three, or six months, as selected by the Company, plus a margin of 1.13% to 1.38% based on the amount of the Company’s average excess availability under the facility.

The Company is charged a fee of 0.20% on the unused portion of the commitments. Letter of credit fees range from 0.56% to 0.69% for commercial letters of credit and from 0.63% to 0.88% for standby letters of credit. Letter of credit fees are determined based on the amount of the Company’s average excess availability under the facility. The amount available for loans and letters of credit under the Credit Agreement is determined by a borrowing base consisting of certain credit card receivables, certain trade and franchise receivables, certain inventory, and the fair market value of certain real estate, subject to certain reserves.

The outstanding obligations under the Credit Agreement may be accelerated upon the occurrence of certain events, including, among others, non-payment, breach of covenants, the institution of insolvency proceedings, defaults under other

material indebtedness and a change of control, subject, in the case of certain defaults, to the expiration of applicable grace periods. The Company is not subject to any early termination fees.

The Credit Agreement contains covenants which include conditions on stock buybacks and the payment of cash dividends or similar payments. Credit extended under the Credit Agreement is secured by a first priority security interest in substantially all of the Company's U.S. and Canadian assets excluding intellectual property, software, equipment, and fixtures.

The Company has capitalized an aggregate of approximately \$5.0 million in deferred financing costs related to the Credit Agreement. The unamortized balance of deferred financing costs at November 2, 2019 was approximately \$1.0 million. Unamortized deferred financing costs are amortized over the remaining term of the Credit Agreement.

The table below presents the components of the Company's credit facility:

	November 2, 2019	February 2, 2019	November 3, 2018
	(In millions)		
Credit facility maximum	\$ 325.0	\$ 250.0	\$ 250.0
Borrowing base	325.0	250.0	250.0
Outstanding borrowings	184.2	48.9	65.0
Letters of credit outstanding—standby	6.2	7.0	7.0
Utilization of credit facility at end of period	190.4	55.9	72.0
Availability ⁽¹⁾	\$ 134.6	\$ 194.1	\$ 178.0
Interest rate at end of period	3.3 %	6.0 %	3.6 %
	Year-To-Date 2019	Fiscal 2018	Year-To-Date 2018
Average end of day loan balance during the period	\$ 192.1	\$ 64.4	\$ 68.7
Highest end of day loan balance during the period	262.5	156.4	151.6
Average interest rate	4.1 %	4.3 %	4.0 %

(1) The sublimit availability for the letters of credit were \$43.8 million at November 2, 2019 and \$43.0 million at February 2, 2019 and November 3, 2018, respectively.

10. LEGAL AND REGULATORY MATTERS

The Company is a defendant in *Rael v. The Children's Place, Inc.*, a purported class action, pending in the U.S. District Court, Southern District of California. In the initial complaint filed in February 2016, the plaintiff alleged that the Company falsely advertised discount prices in violation of California's Unfair Competition Law, False Advertising Law, and Consumer Legal Remedies Act. The plaintiff filed an amended complaint in April 2016, adding allegations of violations of other state consumer protection laws. In August 2016, the plaintiff filed a second amended complaint, adding an additional plaintiff and removing the other state law claims. The plaintiffs' second amended complaint seeks to represent a class of California purchasers and seeks, among other items, injunctive relief, damages, and attorneys' fees and costs.

The Company engaged in mediation proceedings with the plaintiffs in December 2016 and April 2017. The parties reached an agreement in principle in April 2017, and signed a definitive settlement agreement in November 2017, to settle the matter on a class basis with all individuals in the U.S. who made a qualifying purchase at The Children's Place from February 11, 2012 through the date of preliminary approval by the court of the settlement. The settlement is subject to court approval and provides for merchandise vouchers for class members who submit valid claims, as well as payment of legal fees and expenses and claims administration expenses. The court stayed the matter in April 2018, pending an appellate court ruling in another lawsuit to which the Company is not a party. In June 2019, the court entered an order lifting the stay. The settlement, if ultimately approved by the court, will result in the dismissal of all claims through the date of the court's preliminary approval of the settlement. However, if the settlement is rejected by the court, the parties will likely return to litigation, and in such event, no assurance can be given as to the ultimate outcome of this matter. In connection with the proposed settlement, the Company recorded a reserve for \$5.0 million in its consolidated financial statements in the first quarter of 2017.

The Company is also involved in various legal proceedings arising in the normal course of business. In the opinion of management, any ultimate liability arising out of these proceedings will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.

11. INCOME TAXES

The Company computes income taxes using the liability method. This method requires recognition of deferred tax assets and liabilities, measured by enacted rates, attributable to temporary differences between the financial statement and income tax basis of assets and liabilities. The Company's deferred tax assets and liabilities are comprised largely of differences relating to depreciation, rent expense, inventory, stock-based compensation, and various accruals and reserves.

The Company's effective tax rate for the Third Quarter 2019 was an expense of 22.8% compared to an expense of 21.7% during the Third Quarter 2018. The effective tax rate was higher during the Third Quarter 2019 primarily due to de-leveraging from a lower excess tax benefit related to the vesting of equity shares during the Third Quarter 2019 when applied to income before provision for income taxes year over year as well as an adjustment during the Third Quarter 2018 based on clarification of the tax provisions enacted under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act ("the Tax Act").

The Company's effective tax rate for Year-To-Date 2019 was an expense of 19.1%, compared to an expense of 7.0% for Year-To-Date 2018. The effective tax rate was higher for the Year-To-Date 2019 primarily due to de-leveraging from a lower excess tax benefit related to the vesting of equity shares during Year-To-Date 2019 when applied to income before provision for income taxes year over year.

On December 22, 2017, the U.S. government passed the Tax Act, which required U.S. companies to pay a mandatory one-time transition tax on historical offshore earnings that have not been repatriated to the U.S. While the Company is no longer permanently reinvested to the extent earnings were subject to the transition tax under the Tax Act, no additional income taxes have been provided on any earnings subsequent to the transition or for any additional outside basis differences inherent in these entities, as these amounts continue to be permanently reinvested in foreign operations. Determining the amount of unrecognized deferred tax liability related to any additional outside basis differences in these entities (i.e., basis differences in excess of that subject to the one-time transition tax) is not practicable.

The Company recognizes accrued interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits in provision for income taxes. The total amount of unrecognized tax benefits as of November 2, 2019, February 2, 2019, and November 3, 2018 were \$5.1 million, \$5.0 million, and \$3.9 million, respectively, and is included within non-current liabilities. The Company recognized less than \$0.1 million in each of the Third Quarter 2019 and the Third Quarter 2018, respectively, of additional interest expense related to its unrecognized tax benefits. During each of Year-To-Date 2019 and Year-To-Date 2018, the Company recognized less than \$0.1 million of additional interest expense. The Company recognizes accrued interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits in provision for income taxes.

The Company is subject to tax in the United States and foreign jurisdictions, including Canada and Hong Kong. The Company, joined by its domestic subsidiaries, files a consolidated income tax return for federal income tax purposes. The Company, with certain exceptions, is no longer subject to income tax examinations by U.S. federal, state and local, or foreign tax authorities for tax years 2013 and prior.

Management believes that an adequate provision has been made for any adjustments that may result from tax examinations; however, the outcome of tax audits cannot be predicted with certainty. If any issues addressed in the Company's tax audits are resolved in a manner not consistent with management's expectations, the Company could be required to adjust its provision for income tax in the period such resolution occurs.

12. DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS

The Company is exposed to gains and losses resulting from fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates attributable to inventory purchases denominated in a foreign currency. Specifically, our Canadian subsidiary's functional currency is the Canadian dollar but purchases inventory from suppliers in U.S. dollars. In order to mitigate the variability of cash flows associated with certain of these forecasted inventory purchases, we enter into foreign exchange forward contracts. These contracts typically mature within 12 months. We do not use forward contracts to engage in currency speculation, and we do not enter into derivative financial instruments for trading purposes.

The Company accounts for all of its derivatives and hedging activity under FASB ASC 815-*Derivatives and Hedging*.

Under the Company's risk management policy and in accordance with guidance under the topic, in order to qualify for hedge accounting treatment, a derivative must be considered highly effective at offsetting changes in either the hedged item's cash flows or fair value. Additionally, the hedge relationship must be documented to include the risk management objective and

strategy, the hedging instrument, the hedged item, the risk exposure, and how hedge effectiveness will be assessed prospectively and retrospectively. The Company formally measures effectiveness of its hedging relationships both at the hedge inception and on an ongoing basis. The Company would discontinue hedge accounting under a foreign exchange forward contract prospectively: (i) if management determines that the derivative is no longer highly effective in offsetting changes in the cash flows of a hedged item, (ii) when the derivative expires or is terminated, (iii) if the forecasted transaction being hedged by the derivative is no longer probable of occurring, or (iv) if management determines that designation of the derivative as a hedge instrument is no longer appropriate.

All derivative instruments are presented at gross fair value on the consolidated balance sheets within either prepaid expenses and other current assets or accrued expenses and other current liabilities. As of November 2, 2019, the Company had foreign exchange forward contracts with an aggregate notional amount of \$12.5 million, and the fair value of the derivative instruments was an asset of \$1.6 million. As these foreign exchange forward contracts are measured at fair value using observable market inputs such as forward rates, the Company's credit risk, and our counterparties' credit risks, they are classified within Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy. Cash settlements related to these forward contracts are recorded within cash flows from operating activities within the consolidated statements of cash flows.

For derivative instruments that are designated and qualify as cash flow hedges, the effective portion of the gain or loss on the derivative is reported as a component of other comprehensive income ("OCI") and reclassified into earnings within cost of sales (exclusive of depreciation and amortization) in the same period or periods during which the hedged transaction affects earnings. Gains and losses on the derivative representing hedge ineffectiveness are recognized in earnings within selling, general, and administrative expenses, consistent with where the Company records realized and unrealized foreign currency gains and losses on transactions in foreign denominated currencies. There were no losses related to hedge ineffectiveness during Year-To-Date 2019. Assuming November 2, 2019 exchange rates remain constant, \$0.7 million of gains, net of tax, related to hedges of these transactions are expected to be reclassified from OCI into earnings over the next 12 months. Changes in fair value associated with derivatives that are not designated and qualified as cash flow hedges are recognized as earnings within selling, general, and administrative expenses.

The Company enters into foreign exchange forward contracts with major banks and has risk exposure in the event of nonperformance by either party. However, based on our assessment, the Company believes that obligations under the contracts will be fully satisfied. Accordingly, there was no requirement to post collateral or other security to support the contracts as of November 2, 2019.

13. SEGMENT INFORMATION

In accordance with FASB ASC 280--*Segment Reporting*, the Company reports segment data based on geography: The Children's Place U.S. and The Children's Place International. Each segment includes an e-commerce business located at www.childrensplace.com. Included in The Children's Place U.S. segment are the Company's U.S. and Puerto Rico-based stores and revenue from the Company's U.S.-based wholesale business. Included in The Children's Place International segment are the Company's Canadian-based stores, revenue from the Company's Canadian wholesale business, and revenue from international franchisees. The Company measures its segment profitability based on operating income, defined as income before interest and taxes. Net sales and direct costs are recorded by each segment. Certain inventory procurement functions such as production and design as well as corporate overhead, including executive management, finance, real estate, human resources, legal, and information technology services are managed by The Children's Place U.S. segment. Expenses related to these functions, including depreciation and amortization, are allocated to The Children's Place International segment based primarily on net sales. The assets related to these functions are not allocated. The Company periodically reviews these allocations and adjusts them based upon changes in business circumstances. Net sales to external customers are derived from merchandise sales, and the Company has no major customers that account for more than 10% of its net sales. As of November 2, 2019, The Children's Place U.S. owned and operated 834 stores and The Children's Place International owned and operated 121 stores. As of November 3, 2018, The Children's Place U.S. owned and operated 862 stores and The Children's Place International owned and operated 126 stores.

The following tables provide segment level financial information:

	Thirteen Weeks Ended		Thirty-nine Weeks Ended	
	November 2, 2019	November 3, 2018	November 2, 2019	November 3, 2018
(In thousands)				
Net sales:				
The Children's Place U.S.	\$ 467,834	\$ 461,286	\$ 1,217,215	\$ 1,256,363
The Children's Place International ⁽¹⁾	56,962	61,209	140,432	151,163
Total net sales	<u>\$ 524,796</u>	<u>\$ 522,495</u>	<u>\$ 1,357,647</u>	<u>\$ 1,407,526</u>
Operating income:				
The Children's Place U.S.	\$ 48,129	\$ 52,481	\$ 55,722	\$ 79,178
The Children's Place International	9,822	12,124	11,102	18,508
Total operating income	<u>\$ 57,951</u>	<u>\$ 64,605</u>	<u>\$ 66,824</u>	<u>\$ 97,686</u>
Operating income as a percent of net sales:				
The Children's Place U.S.	10.3 %	11.4 %	4.6 %	6.3 %
The Children's Place International	17.2 %	19.8 %	7.9 %	12.2 %
Total operating income as a percent of net sales	11.0 %	12.4 %	4.9 %	6.9 %
Depreciation and amortization:				
The Children's Place U.S.	\$ 16,971	\$ 15,432	\$ 50,301	\$ 45,836
The Children's Place International	1,850	1,972	5,576	5,569
Total depreciation and amortization	<u>\$ 18,821</u>	<u>\$ 17,404</u>	<u>\$ 55,877</u>	<u>\$ 51,405</u>
Capital expenditures:				
The Children's Place U.S.	\$ 20,326	\$ 27,077	\$ 41,741	\$ 54,299
The Children's Place International	230	581	655	1,205
Total capital expenditures	<u>\$ 20,556</u>	<u>\$ 27,658</u>	<u>\$ 42,396</u>	<u>\$ 55,504</u>

⁽¹⁾ Net sales from The Children's Place International are primarily derived from revenues from Canadian operations.

	November 2, 2019	February 2, 2019	November 3, 2018
(In thousands)			
Total assets:			
The Children's Place U.S.	\$ 1,179,493	\$ 651,728	\$ 756,191
The Children's Place International	106,229	75,318	81,062
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,285,722</u>	<u>\$ 727,046</u>	<u>\$ 837,253</u>

14. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Subsequent to November 2, 2019 and through December 6, 2019, the Company repurchased approximately 0.2 million shares for approximately \$15.0 million.

The Company announced that its Board of Directors has declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.56 per share to be paid on December 27, 2019 to shareholders of record as of the close of business on December 16, 2019.

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

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q contains or may contain forward-looking statements made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, including but not limited to statements relating to the Company's strategic initiatives. Forward-looking statements typically are identified by use of terms such as "may," "will," "should," "plan," "project," "expect," "anticipate," "estimate" and similar words, although some forward-looking statements are expressed differently. These forward-looking statements are based upon the Company's current expectations and assumptions and are subject to various risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results and performance to differ materially. Some of these risks and uncertainties are described in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including in the "Risk Factors" section of its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 2, 2019. Included among the risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results and performance to differ materially are the risk that the Company will be unsuccessful in gauging fashion trends and changing consumer preferences, the risks resulting from the highly competitive nature of the Company's business and its dependence on consumer spending patterns, which may be affected by changes in economic conditions, the risk that the Company's strategic initiatives to increase sales and margin are delayed or do not result in anticipated improvements, the risk of delays, interruptions and disruptions in the Company's global supply chain, including resulting from foreign sources of supply in less developed countries or more politically unstable countries, the risk that the cost of raw materials or energy prices will increase beyond current expectations or that the Company is unable to offset cost increases through value engineering or price increases, various types of litigation, including class action litigations brought under consumer protection, employment, and privacy and information security laws and regulations, the imposition of regulations affecting the importation of foreign-produced merchandise, including duties and tariffs, and the uncertainty of weather patterns. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date they were made. The Company undertakes no obligation to release publicly any revisions to these forward-looking statements that may be made to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the Company's unaudited financial statements and notes thereto included elsewhere in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and the annual audited financial statements and notes thereto included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 2, 2019.

Terms that are commonly used in our management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations are defined as follows:

- *Third Quarter 2019 — The thirteen weeks ended November 2, 2019*
- *Third Quarter 2018 — The thirteen weeks ended November 3, 2018*
- *Year-To-Date 2019 — The thirty-nine weeks ended November 2, 2019*
- *Year-To-Date 2018 — The thirty-nine weeks ended November 3, 2018*
- *Comparable Retail Sales — Net sales, in constant currency, from stores that have been open for at least 14 consecutive months and from our e-commerce store, excluding postage and handling fees. Store closures in the current fiscal year will be excluded from Comparable Retail Sales beginning in the fiscal quarter in which the store closes. A store that is closed for a substantial remodel, relocation, or material change in size will be excluded from Comparable Retail Sales for at least 14 months beginning in the fiscal quarter in which the closure occurred. However, stores that temporarily close will be excluded from Comparable Retail Sales until the store is re-opened for a full fiscal month.*
- *Gross Margin — Gross profit expressed as a percentage of net sales*
- *SG&A — Selling, general, and administrative expenses*
- *FASB — Financial Accounting Standards Board*
- *SEC — U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission*
- *U.S. GAAP — Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in the United States*
- *FASB ASC — FASB Accounting Standards Codification, which serves as the source for authoritative U.S. GAAP, except that rules and interpretive releases by the SEC are also sources of authoritative U.S. GAAP for SEC registrants*

Our Business

We are the largest pure-play children's specialty apparel retailer in North America. We design, contract to manufacture, sell at retail and wholesale, and license to sell, trend right, high quality merchandise at value prices, the substantial majority of which is under our proprietary "The Children's Place", "Place", and "Baby Place" brand names. As of November 2, 2019, we operated 955 stores across North America, our e-commerce business at www.childrensplace.com, and had 260 international points of distribution open and operated by our eight franchise partners in 19 countries.

Segment Reporting

In accordance with the “*Segment Reporting*” topic of the FASB ASC, we report segment data based on geography: The Children’s Place U.S. and The Children’s Place International. Each segment includes an e-commerce business located at www.childrensplace.com. Included in The Children’s Place U.S. segment are our U.S. and Puerto Rico-based stores and revenue from our U.S.-based wholesale business. Included in The Children’s Place International segment are our Canadian-based stores, revenue from the Company’s Canadian wholesale business, as well as revenue from international franchisees. We measure our segment profitability based on operating income, defined as income before interest and taxes. Net sales and direct costs are recorded by each segment. Certain inventory procurement functions such as production and design as well as corporate overhead, including executive management, finance, real estate, human resources, legal, and information technology services are managed by The Children’s Place U.S. segment. Expenses related to these functions, including depreciation and amortization, are allocated to The Children’s Place International segment based primarily on net sales. The assets related to these functions are not allocated. We periodically review these allocations and adjust them based upon changes in business circumstances. Net sales from external customers are derived from merchandise sales, and we have no major customers that account for more than 10% of our net sales. As of November 2, 2019, The Children’s Place U.S. owned and operated 834 stores and The Children’s Place International owned and operated 121 stores. As of November 3, 2018, The Children’s Place U.S. owned and operated 862 stores and The Children’s Place International owned and operated 126 stores.

Recent Developments

On May 10, 2019, tariffs on certain products imported from China increased from 10% to 25%. For the Company, the impacted products include backpacks, fashion bags, lunch bags, and hats. On September 1, 2019, tariffs of 15% were imposed on additional products imported from China, with the impacted products including certain apparel, accessories, and footwear. On December 15, 2019, tariffs of 15% are expected to be imposed on all of the remaining products the Company imports from China, including apparel, accessories, and footwear. As a result of these recent trade developments, we have implemented strategies to reduce our exposure on products subject to these tariffs, including migrating production to countries outside of China as well as working with our existing vendor base to reduce costs. At this time, these tariffs are not expected to have a material adverse impact on our consolidated financial statements.

Operating Highlights

Our Comparable Retail Sales increased 0.8% during the Third Quarter 2019. Net sales increased by \$2.3 million, or 0.4%, to \$524.8 million during the Third Quarter 2019 from \$522.5 million during the Third Quarter 2018. The net sales increase of \$2.3 million was primarily driven by a Comparable Retail Sales increase of 0.8% and growth in our wholesale business, partially offset by operating fewer stores.

Gross profit decreased by \$6.3 million to \$198.1 million during the Third Quarter 2019 from \$204.4 million during the Third Quarter 2018. Gross margin de-leveraged 130 basis points to 37.8% during the Third Quarter 2019 from 39.1% during the Third Quarter 2018. The decrease resulted primarily from the continued increased penetration of our e-commerce business, which operates at a lower gross margin rate due to higher fulfillment costs.

Selling, general, and administrative expenses decreased \$2.7 million to \$120.5 million during the Third Quarter 2019 from \$123.2 million during the Third Quarter 2018. As a percentage of net sales, SG&A leveraged to 23.0% during the Third Quarter 2019 from 23.6% during the Third Quarter 2018, primarily as a result of a reduction in expenses associated with our transformation initiatives and lower incentive compensation.

Provision for income taxes was an expense of \$12.7 million during the Third Quarter 2019 compared to an expense of \$13.9 million during the Third Quarter 2018. Our effective tax rate was 22.8% and 21.7% in the Third Quarter 2019 and the Third Quarter 2018, respectively. The effective tax rate was higher during the Third Quarter 2019 primarily due to de-leverage from a lower excess tax benefit related to the vesting of equity shares during the Third Quarter 2019 when applied to income before provision for income taxes year over year as well as an adjustment during the Third Quarter 2018 based on clarification of the tax provisions enacted under the Tax Act.

Net income was \$43.0 million during the Third Quarter 2019 compared to \$49.9 million during the Third Quarter 2018, due to the factors discussed above. Earnings per diluted share was \$2.77 in the Third Quarter 2019 compared to \$3.03 per diluted share in the Third Quarter 2018. This decrease in earnings per share is due to the factors noted above, partially offset by a lower weighted average common shares outstanding of approximately 1.0 million, which is the result of our share repurchase program.

We continue to make significant progress on our key strategic growth initiatives—superior product, business transformation through technology, alternate channels of distribution, and fleet optimization.

Focus on product remains our top priority and strong product acceptance and our inventory management are anticipated to deliver gross margin and inventory productivity benefits.

Our business transformation through technology initiative has two key components: digital transformation and inventory management. With respect to digital transformation, our goal is to deliver one-to-one personalization, focusing on improving customer acquisition and increasing customer engagement with our brand and to continue to gain market share. The transformation of our digital capabilities has continued during fiscal 2019 as we continue to make foundational enhancements to further support our digital platform, including: implementing responsive design for our e-commerce website, which will provide a consistent customer experience across all computer and mobile devices; adding a content management system; adding a digital asset management system; cross-device linking to drive personalization; and supporting the increased customer acceptance of our store fulfillment capabilities. With respect to inventory management, we have implemented assortment planning, allocation, replenishment, order planning, and forecasting tools.

With respect to alternate channels of distribution, we continued our international expansion program during Year-To-Date 2019 through our franchise partners and added additional international points of distribution (stores, shop-in-shops, e-commerce site) bringing our total count to 260 points of distribution operating in 19 countries. Semir, our partner in China and China's largest specialty children's apparel retailer, opened eight locations in the China market in fiscal 2019.

We continue to evaluate our store fleet as part of our fleet optimization initiative to improve store productivity and plan to close approximately 300 stores through fiscal 2020, which includes the 238 stores closed since the announcement of this initiative. We have identified 25 new store openings through our Gymboree due diligence and have opened ten new stores during Year-To-Date 2019. However, we will remain a net closer of stores.

During Year-To-Date 2019, we repurchased approximately 1.0 million shares for approximately \$93.8 million, inclusive of shares surrendered to cover tax withholdings associated with the vesting of equity awards. As of November 2, 2019, there was approximately \$146.0 million in aggregate remaining pursuant to the 2018 Share Repurchase Program. We also paid cash dividends of \$26.5 million during Year-To-Date 2019 and announced that our Board of Directors has declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.56 per share to be paid on December 27, 2019 to shareholders of record at the close of business on December 16, 2019.

We have subsidiaries whose operating results are based in foreign currencies and are thus subject to the fluctuations of the corresponding translation rates into U.S. dollars. The table below summarizes those average translation rates that most impact our operating results:

	Thirteen Weeks Ended		Thirty-nine Weeks Ended	
	November 2, 2019	November 3, 2018	November 2, 2019	November 3, 2018
<u>Average Translation Rates</u> ⁽¹⁾				
Canadian Dollar	0.7560	0.7673	0.7534	0.7728
Hong Kong Dollar	0.1276	0.1275	0.1276	0.1275
China Yuan Renminbi	0.1410	0.1454	0.1451	0.1518

⁽¹⁾ The average translation rates are the average of the monthly translation rates used during each period to translate the respective income statements. The rates represent the U.S. dollar equivalent of a unit of each foreign currency.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, as well as the reported revenues and expenses during the reported period. In many cases, there are alternative policies or estimation techniques that could be used. We continuously review the application of our accounting policies and evaluate the appropriateness of the estimates used in preparing our financial statements; however, estimates routinely require adjustment based on changing circumstances and the receipt of new or better information. Consequently, actual results could differ from our estimates.

The accounting policies and estimates discussed below include those that we believe are the most critical to aid in fully understanding and evaluating our financial results. Senior management has discussed the development and selection of our critical accounting policies and estimates with the Audit Committee of our Board of Directors, which has reviewed our related disclosures herein.

Inventory Valuation- We value inventory at the lower of cost or net realizable value, with cost determined using an average cost method. The estimated market value of inventory is determined based on an analysis of historical sales trends of our individual product categories, the impact of market trends and economic conditions, and a forecast of future demand, as well as plans to sell through inventory. Estimates may differ from actual results due to the quantity, quality, and mix of products in inventory, consumer and retailer preferences, and market conditions. Our historical estimates have not differed materially from actual results and a 10% difference in our reserve as of November 2, 2019 would have impacted net income by approximately \$0.1 million. Our reserve balance at November 2, 2019 was approximately \$1.5 million compared to \$1.8 million at November 3, 2018.

Reserves for inventory shrinkage, representing the risk of physical loss of inventory, are estimated based on historical experience and are adjusted based upon physical inventory counts. A 0.5% difference in our shrinkage rate as a percentage of cost of goods sold could impact each quarter's net income by approximately \$0.7 million.

Stock-Based Compensation- We account for stock-based compensation according to the provisions of FASB ASC 718--*Compensation-Stock Compensation*.

Time Vesting and Performance-Based Awards

We generally grant time vesting and performance-based stock awards to employees at management levels and above. We also grant time vesting stock awards to our non-employee directors. Time vesting awards are granted in the form of restricted stock units that require each recipient to complete a service period ("Deferred Awards"). Deferred Awards granted to employees generally vest ratably over three years. Deferred Awards granted to non-employee directors generally vest after one year. Performance-based stock awards are granted in the form of restricted stock units which have a performance criteria that must be achieved for the awards to be earned in addition to a service period requirement ("Performance Awards"), and each Performance Award has a defined number of shares that an employee can earn (the "Target Shares"). With the approval of the Board's Compensation Committee, the Company may settle vested Deferred Awards and Performance Awards to the employee in shares, in a cash amount equal to the market value of such shares at the time all requirements for delivery of the award have been met, or in part shares and cash. For Performance Awards issued during fiscal 2017 (the "2017 Performance Awards"), an employee may earn from 0% to 200% of their Target Shares based on the cumulative adjusted earnings per share achieved for the applicable performance period, which is generally three years, adjusted operating margin expansion achieved for the performance period, and adjusted return on invested capital ("adjusted ROIC") achieved at the end of the performance period. The 2017 Performance Awards cliff vest, if earned, after completion of the applicable performance period. The fair value of the 2017 Performance Awards granted is based on the closing price of our common stock on the grant date. For Performance Awards issued during fiscal 2018 and fiscal 2019 (the "2018 and 2019 Performance Awards"), an employee may earn from 0% to 250% of their Target Shares based on the cumulative adjusted earnings per share achieved for the applicable performance period, which is generally three years, adjusted operating margin expansion achieved for the performance period, adjusted ROIC achieved as of the end of the performance period, and our adjusted ROIC relative to that of companies in our peer group as of the end of the performance period. The 2018 and 2019 Performance Awards cliff vest, if earned, after completion of the performance period. The fair value of the 2018 and 2019 Performance Awards granted is based on the closing price of our common stock on the grant date. Compensation expense is recognized ratably over the related service period reduced for estimated forfeitures of those awards not expected to vest due to employee turnover. While actual forfeitures could vary significantly from those estimated, a 10% change in our estimated forfeiture rate would impact our fiscal 2019 net income by approximately \$0.4 million.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets- We periodically review our long-lived assets when events indicate that their carrying value may not be recoverable. Such events include a historical or projected trend of cash flow losses or a future expectation that we will sell or dispose of an asset significantly before the end of its previously estimated useful life. In reviewing for impairment, we group our long-lived assets at the lowest possible level for which identifiable cash flows are largely independent of the cash flows of other assets and liabilities.

We review all stores that have reached comparable sales status, or sooner if circumstances should dictate, on at least an annual basis. We believe waiting this period of time allows a store to reach a maturity level where a more comprehensive analysis of financial performance can be performed. For each store that shows indications of operating losses, we project future cash flows over the remaining life of the lease, adjusted for lease payments, and compare the total undiscounted cash flows to the net book value of the related long-lived assets, including ROU assets. If the undiscounted cash flows are less than the related net book value of the long-lived assets, they are written down to their fair market value. We primarily use discounted future cash flows directly associated with those assets to determine fair market value of long-lived assets and market participant rent to determine the fair market value of ROU assets. In evaluating future cash flows, we consider external and internal factors. External factors comprise the local environment in which the store resides, including mall traffic and competition and their effect on sales trends. Internal factors include our ability to gauge the fashion taste of our customers, control variable costs such as cost of sales and payroll, and in certain cases, our ability to renegotiate lease costs. If external factors should change unfavorably, if actual sales should differ from our projections, or if our ability to control costs is insufficient to sustain the

necessary cash flows, future impairment charges could be material. At November 2, 2019, the average net book value per store was approximately \$0.1 million.

Income Taxes- We utilize the liability method of accounting for income taxes as set forth in FASB ASC 740-*Income Taxes*. Under the liability method, deferred taxes are determined based on the temporary differences between the financial statement and tax basis of assets and liabilities, as well as for net operating losses and tax credit carryforwards. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using currently enacted tax rates that apply to taxable income in effect for the years in which the basis differences and tax assets are expected to be realized. A valuation allowance is recorded when it is more likely than not that some of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. In determining the need for valuation allowances, we consider projected future taxable income, the availability of tax planning strategies, taxable income in prior carryback years, and future reversals of existing taxable temporary differences. If, in the future, we determine that we would not be able to realize our recorded deferred tax assets, an increase in the valuation allowance would decrease earnings in the period in which such determination is made.

We assess our income tax positions and record tax benefits for all years subject to examination based upon our evaluation of the facts, circumstances, and information available at the reporting date. For those tax positions where it is more likely than not that a tax benefit will be sustained, we have recorded the largest amount of tax benefit with a greater than 50% likelihood of being realized upon ultimate settlement with a taxing authority that has full knowledge of all relevant information. For those income tax positions where it is not more likely than not that a tax benefit will be sustained, no tax benefit has been recognized in the financial statements.

Fair Value Measurement and Financial Instruments-FASB ASC 820-*Fair Value Measurement* provides a single definition of fair value, together with a framework for measuring it, and requires additional disclosure about the use of fair value to measure assets and liabilities.

This topic defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date and establishes a three-level hierarchy, which encourages an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. The three levels of the hierarchy are defined as follows:

- Level 1 - inputs to the valuation techniques that are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2 - inputs to the valuation techniques that are other than quoted prices but are observable for the assets or liabilities, either directly or indirectly
- Level 3 - inputs to the valuation techniques that are unobservable for the assets or liabilities

Our cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, assets of the Company's Deferred Compensation Plan, accounts payable, current lease liabilities, and revolving loan are all short-term in nature. As such, their carrying amounts approximate fair value and fall within Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy. The Company stock included in the Deferred Compensation Plan is not subject to fair value measurement.

Our derivative assets and liabilities include foreign exchange forward contracts that are measured at fair value using observable market inputs such as forward rates, our credit risk, and our counterparties' credit risks. Based on these inputs, our derivative assets and liabilities are classified within Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

Our assets measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis include long-lived assets, such as intangible assets, fixed assets, and ROU assets. We review the carrying amounts of such assets when events indicate that their carrying amounts may not be recoverable. Any resulting asset impairment would require that the asset be recorded at its fair value. The resulting fair value measurements of the assets are considered to fall within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy.

Insurance and Self-Insurance Liabilities- Based on our assessment of risk and cost efficiency, we self-insure as well as purchase insurance policies to provide for workers' compensation, general liability and property losses, cyber-security coverage, as well as directors' and officers' liability, vehicle liability, and employee medical benefits. We estimate risks and record a liability based upon historical claim experience, insurance deductibles, severity factors, and other actuarial assumptions. These estimates include inherent uncertainties due to the variability of the factors involved, including type of injury or claim, required services by the providers, healing time, age of claimant, case management costs, location of the claimant, and governmental regulations. While we believe that our risk assessments are appropriate, these uncertainties or a deviation in future claims trends from recent historical patterns could result in our recording additional or reduced expenses, which may be material to our results of operations. Our historical estimates have not differed materially from actual results and a 10% difference in our insurance reserves as of November 2, 2019 would have impacted net income by approximately \$0.4 million.

Recently Issued Accounting Standards

Adopted in Fiscal 2019

In August 2017, the FASB issued guidance relating to the accounting for hedging activities. This guidance aims to better align an entity's risk management activities and financial reporting for hedging relationships through changes to both the designation and measurement guidance for qualifying hedging relationships and the presentation of hedge results. The amendments in the guidance expand and refine hedge accounting for both non-financial and financial risk components and align the recognition and presentation of the effects of the hedging instrument and the hedged item in the financial statements. We adopted this guidance in the first quarter of 2019. This adoption did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In February 2016, the FASB issued guidance relating to the accounting for leases. This guidance applies a ROU model that requires a lessee to record, for all leases with a lease term of more than 12 months, an asset representing its right to use the underlying asset for the lease term and a liability to make lease payments. The lease term is the noncancellable period of the lease, and includes both periods covered by an option to extend the lease, if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise that option, and periods covered by an option to terminate the lease, if the lessee is reasonably certain not to exercise that termination option. We adopted this guidance in the first quarter of 2019 using the modified-retrospective method. Refer to Note 3, "Leases", for additional information.

To Be Adopted After Fiscal 2019

In August 2018, the FASB issued guidance related to the accounting for implementation costs incurred in a cloud computing arrangement that is a service contract. The guidance aims to align the requirements for capitalizing implementation costs incurred in a hosting arrangement that is a service contract with the requirements for capitalizing implementation costs incurred to develop or obtain internal-use software and hosting arrangements that include an internal-use software license. The guidance is effective for annual reporting periods, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2019. We do not expect the guidance to have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In August 2018, the FASB issued guidance related to disclosure requirements for fair value measurement. The amendments modify current fair value measurement disclosure requirements by removing, adding, or modifying certain fair value measurement disclosures. The guidance is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2019. We plan to adopt the new disclosure requirements on a prospective basis beginning in the year of adoption. We do not expect the guidance to have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In June 2016, the FASB issued guidance related to the accounting for financial instrument credit losses. The guidance aims to provide more decision useful information about the expected credit losses on financial instruments by replacing the incurred loss impairment methodology under current GAAP with a methodology that reflects expected credit losses and requires consideration of a broader range of reasonable and supportable information to inform credit loss estimates. The guidance is effective for annual reporting periods, and interim reporting periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2019. We do not expect the guidance to have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, selected statements of operations data expressed as a percentage of net sales. We primarily evaluate the results of our operations as a percentage of net sales rather than in terms of absolute dollar increases or decreases by analyzing the year over year change in our business expressed as a percentage of net sales (i.e., "basis points"). For example, gross profit decreased approximately 130 basis points to 37.8% of net sales during the Third Quarter 2019 from 39.1% during the Third Quarter 2018. Accordingly, to the extent that our sales have increased at a faster rate than our costs (i.e., "leveraging"), the more efficiently we have utilized the investments we have made in our business. Conversely, if our sales decrease or if our costs grow at a faster pace than our sales (i.e., "de-leveraging"), we have less efficiently utilized the investments we have made in our business.

	Thirteen Weeks Ended		Thirty-nine Weeks Ended	
	November 2, 2019	November 3, 2018	November 2, 2019	November 3, 2018
Net sales	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %
Cost of sales (exclusive of depreciation and amortization)	62.2	60.9	64.0	63.1
Gross profit	37.8	39.1	36.0	36.9
Selling, general, and administrative expenses	23.0	23.6	26.9	26.0
Depreciation and amortization	3.6	3.3	4.1	3.7
Asset impairment charges	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.4
Other income	—	(0.2)	—	(0.1)
Operating income	11.0	12.4	4.9	6.9
Interest (expense), net	(0.4)	(0.2)	(0.3)	(0.2)
Income before provision for income taxes	10.6	12.2	4.5	6.8
Provision for income taxes	2.4	2.7	0.9	0.5
Net income	8.2 %	9.6 %	3.6 %	6.3 %
Number of Company-operated stores, end of period	955	988	955	988

Table may not add due to rounding.

The following tables set forth net sales by segment, for the periods indicated.

	Thirteen Weeks Ended		Thirty-nine Weeks Ended	
	November 2, 2019	November 3, 2018	November 2, 2019	November 3, 2018
Net sales:	(In thousands)			
The Children's Place U.S.	\$ 467,834	\$ 461,286	\$ 1,217,215	\$ 1,256,363
The Children's Place International	56,962	61,209	140,432	151,163
Total net sales	\$ 524,796	\$ 522,495	\$ 1,357,647	\$ 1,407,526

Third Quarter 2019 Compared to the Third Quarter 2018

Net sales increased by \$2.3 million, or 0.4%, to \$524.8 million during the Third Quarter 2019 from \$522.5 million during the Third Quarter 2018. The net sales increase of \$2.3 million was primarily driven by a Comparable Retail Sales increase of 0.8% and growth in our wholesale business, partially offset by operating fewer stores.

We believe that our e-commerce and brick-and-mortar retail store operations are highly interdependent, with both sharing common customers purchasing from a common pool of product inventory. Accordingly, we believe that consolidated omni-channel reporting presents the most meaningful and appropriate measure of our performance, including Comparative Retail Sales and net sales.

The Children's Place U.S. net sales increased \$6.5 million, or 1.4%, to \$467.8 million in the Third Quarter 2019 compared to \$461.3 million in the Third Quarter 2018. This increase primarily resulted from a U.S. Comparable Retail Sales increase of 1.2% and growth in our wholesale business, partially offset by operating fewer stores.

The Children's Place International net sales decreased \$4.2 million, or 6.9%, to \$57.0 million in the Third Quarter 2019 compared to \$61.2 million in the Third Quarter 2018. The decrease resulted primarily from operating fewer stores, a decrease in revenue from international franchisees, and unfavorable changes in the Canadian exchange rate.

Total e-commerce sales, which include postage and handling, increased to 35.4% of net sales during the Third Quarter 2019 from 28.9% during the Third Quarter 2018.

Gross profit decreased by \$6.3 million to \$198.1 million during the Third Quarter 2019 from \$204.4 million during the Third Quarter 2018. Gross margin de-leveraged 130 basis points to 37.8% during the Third Quarter 2019 from 39.1% during the Third Quarter 2018. The decrease resulted primarily from the continued increased penetration of our e-commerce business, which operates at a lower gross margin rate due to higher fulfillment costs.

Gross profit as a percentage of net revenues is dependent upon a variety of factors, including changes in the relative sales mix among distribution channels, changes in the mix of products sold, the timing and level of promotional activities, foreign currency exchange rates, and fluctuations in material costs. These factors, among others, may cause gross profit as a percentage of net sales to fluctuate from period to period.

Selling, general, and administrative expenses decreased \$2.7 million to \$120.5 million during the Third Quarter 2019 from \$123.2 million during the Third Quarter 2018. As a percentage of net sales, SG&A leveraged to 23.0% during the Third Quarter 2019 from 23.6% during the Third Quarter 2018, primarily as a result of a reduction in expenses associated with our transformation initiatives and lower incentive compensation.

Asset impairment charges were \$0.8 million during the Third Quarter 2019, primarily related to eight stores. Asset impairment charges during the Third Quarter 2018 were \$0.4 million, which related to the full impairment of primarily five stores.

Depreciation and amortization was \$18.8 million during the Third Quarter 2019 compared to \$17.4 million during the Third Quarter 2018 reflecting increased depreciation associated with our investment in business transformation initiatives.

Provision for income taxes was an expense of \$12.7 million during the Third Quarter 2019 compared to an expense of \$13.9 million during the Third Quarter 2018. Our effective tax rate was 22.8% and 21.7% in the Third Quarter 2019 and the Third Quarter 2018, respectively. The effective tax rate was higher during the Third Quarter 2019 primarily due to de-leveraging from a lower excess tax benefit related to the vesting of equity shares during the Third Quarter 2019 when applied to income before provision for income taxes year over year as well as an adjustment during the Third Quarter 2018 based on clarification of the tax provisions enacted under the Tax Act.

Net income was \$43.0 million during the Third Quarter 2019 compared to \$49.9 million during the Third Quarter 2018, due to the factors discussed above. Earnings per diluted share was \$2.77 in the Third Quarter 2019 compared to \$3.03 per diluted share in the Third Quarter 2018. This decrease in earnings per share is due to the factors noted above, partially offset by a lower weighted average common shares outstanding of approximately 1.0 million, which is the result of our share repurchase program.

Year-To-Date 2019 Compared to the Year-To-Date 2018

Net sales decreased by \$49.9 million, or 3.5%, to \$1,357.6 million during Year-To-Date 2019 from \$1,407.5 million during Year-To-Date 2018. The net sales decrease was primarily driven by a Comparable Retail Sales decrease of 2.3%, the adverse impact of competitor liquidations, and operating fewer stores.

We believe that our e-commerce and brick-and-mortar retail store operations are highly interdependent, with both sharing common customers purchasing from a common pool of product inventory. Accordingly, we believe that consolidated omni-channel reporting presents the most meaningful and appropriate measure of our performance, including Comparative Retail Sales and net sales.

The Children's Place U.S. net sales decreased \$39.2 million, or 3.1%, to \$1,217.2 million during Year-To-Date 2019 compared to \$1,256.4 million during Year-To-Date 2018. This decrease primarily resulted from a U.S. Comparable Retail Sales decrease of 2.3%, the adverse impact of competitor liquidations, and operating fewer stores.

The Children's Place International net sales decreased \$10.8 million, or 7.1%, to \$140.4 million during Year-To-Date 2019 compared to \$151.2 million during Year-To-Date 2018. The decrease resulted primarily from a Canadian Comparable Retail Sales decrease of 2.9%, operating fewer stores, and unfavorable changes in the Canadian exchange rate.

Total e-commerce sales, which include postage and handling, increased to 31.4% of net sales during Year-To-Date 2019 from 27.2% during Year-To-Date 2018.

Gross profit decreased by \$30.5 million to \$488.9 million during Year-To-Date 2019 from \$519.4 million during Year-To-Date 2018. Gross margin de-leveraged 90 basis points to 36.0% during Year-To-Date 2019 from 36.9% during Year-To-Date 2018. The de-leverage resulted primarily from de-leverage of fixed expenses due to negative Comparable Retail Sales and increased penetration of our e-commerce business, which operates at a lower gross margin rate due to higher fulfillment costs.

Gross profit as a percentage of net revenues is dependent upon a variety of factors, including changes in the relative sales mix among distribution channels, changes in the mix of products sold, the timing and level of promotional activities, foreign currency exchange rates, and fluctuations in material costs. These factors, among others, may cause gross profit as a percentage of net sales to fluctuate from period to period.

Selling, general, and administrative expenses decreased \$1.0 million to \$364.9 million during Year-To-Date 2019 from \$365.9 million during Year-To-Date 2018. As a percentage of net sales, SG&A increased 90 basis points to 26.9% during

Year-To-Date 2019 from 26.0% during Year-To-Date 2018. The de-leverage was primarily as a result of the de-leverage of fixed expenses due to negative Comparable Retail Sales.

Asset impairment charges were \$1.3 million during Year-To-Date 2019, primarily related to the impairment of 15 stores. Asset impairment charges during Year-To-Date 2018 were \$5.6 million, of which \$1.2 million related to the full impairment of primarily nine stores and \$4.4 million related to the write-down of information technology systems.

Depreciation and amortization was \$55.9 million during Year-To-Date 2019 compared to \$51.4 million during Year-To-Date 2018 reflecting increased depreciation associated with our investment in business transformation initiatives.

Provision for income taxes was \$11.6 million during Year-To-Date 2019 compared to \$6.7 million during Year-To-Date 2018. Our effective tax rate was 19.1% and 7.0% during Year-To-Date 2019 and Year-To-Date 2018, respectively. The effective tax rate was higher for the Year-To-Date 2019 primarily due to de-leveraging from a lower excess tax benefit related to the vesting of equity shares during Year-To-Date 2019 when applied to income before provision for income taxes year over year.

Net income was \$49.1 million during Year-To-Date 2019 compared to \$88.9 million during Year-To-Date 2018, due to the factors discussed above. Earnings per diluted share was \$3.10 during Year-To-Date 2019 compared to \$5.24 per diluted share during Year-To-Date 2018. This decrease in earnings per share is due to the factors noted above, partially offset by a lower weighted average common shares outstanding of approximately 1.1 million, which is the result of our share repurchase program.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Liquidity

Our working capital needs follow a seasonal pattern, peaking during the third fiscal quarter based on seasonal inventory purchases. Our primary uses of cash are for working capital requirements, which are principally inventory purchases, and the financing of capital projects, including investments in new systems, and the repurchases of our common stock and payment of dividends.

Our working capital decreased \$280.1 million to a deficit of \$144.5 million at November 2, 2019 compared to \$135.6 million at November 3, 2018, primarily due to the funding of the Gymboree assets acquisition and the adoption of Topic 842, which resulted in an increase in current lease liabilities. During Year-To-Date 2019, we repurchased approximately 1.0 million shares for approximately \$93.8 million. During Year-To-Date 2018, we repurchased approximately 1.7 million shares for approximately \$213.1 million. We also paid cash dividends of \$26.5 million and \$24.9 million during Year-To-Date 2019 and Year-To-Date 2018, respectively. Subsequent to November 2, 2019 and through December 6, 2019, we repurchased approximately 0.2 million shares for approximately \$15.0 million and declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.56 per share to be paid on December 27, 2019 to shareholders of record at the close of business on December 16, 2019.

Our credit facility provides for borrowings up to the lesser of \$325.0 million or our borrowing base, as defined by the credit facility agreement (see “Credit Facility” below). At November 2, 2019, we had \$184.2 million of outstanding borrowings and \$134.6 million available for borrowing. In addition, at November 2, 2019, we had \$6.2 million of outstanding letters of credit with an additional \$43.8 million available for issuing letters of credit.

We expect to be able to meet our working capital and capital expenditure requirements for the foreseeable future by using our cash on hand, cash flows from operations, and availability under our credit facility.

Credit Facility

We and certain of our subsidiaries maintain a credit agreement with Wells Fargo Bank, National Association (“Wells Fargo”), Bank of America, N.A., HSBC Business Credit (USA) Inc., and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as lenders (collectively, the “Lenders”) and Wells Fargo, as Administrative Agent, Collateral Agent, and Swing Line Lender (the “Credit Agreement”). The Credit Agreement was amended and restated on May 9, 2019, and the provisions below reflect the terms of the amended Credit Agreement.

The Credit Agreement, which expires in May 2024, consists of a \$325 million asset based revolving credit facility, including a \$25 million Canadian sublimit, with a \$50 million sublimit for standby and documentary letters of credit and an uncommitted accordion feature that could provide up to \$50 million of additional availability. Revolving credit loans outstanding under the Credit Agreement bear interest, at the Company’s option, at:

- (i) the prime rate plus a margin of 0.38% to 0.50% based on the amount of our average excess availability under the facility; or

- (ii) the London InterBank Offered Rate, or “LIBOR”, for an interest period of one, two, three, or six months, as selected by us, plus a margin of 1.13% to 1.38% based on the amount of our average excess availability under the facility.

We are charged an unused line fee of 0.20% on the unused portion of the commitments. Letter of credit fees range from 0.56% to 0.69% for commercial letters of credit and range from 0.63% to 0.88% for standby letters of credit. Letter of credit fees are determined based on the amount of our average excess availability under the facility. The amount available for loans and letters of credit under the Credit Agreement is determined by a borrowing base consisting of certain credit card receivables, certain trade and franchise receivables, certain inventory, and the fair market value of certain real estate, subject to certain reserves.

The outstanding obligations under the Credit Agreement may be accelerated upon the occurrence of certain events, including, among others, non-payment, breach of covenants, the institution of insolvency proceedings, defaults under other material indebtedness and a change of control, subject, in the case of certain defaults, to the expiration of applicable grace periods. We are not subject to any early termination fees.

The Credit Agreement contains covenants, which include conditions on stock repurchases and the payment of cash dividends or similar payments. Credit extended under the Credit Agreement is secured by a first priority security interest in substantially all of the Company’s U.S. and Canadian assets excluding intellectual property, software, equipment, and fixtures.

We have capitalized an aggregate of approximately \$5.0 million in deferred financing costs related to the Credit Agreement. The unamortized balance of deferred financing costs at November 2, 2019 was approximately \$1.0 million. Unamortized deferred financing costs are amortized over the remaining term of the Credit Agreement.

Cash Flows/Capital Expenditures

During Year-To-Date 2019, cash flows provided by operating activities were \$100.6 million compared to \$83.5 million during Year-To-Date 2018. The increase was primarily as a result of working capital management.

During Year-To-Date 2019, cash flows used in investing activities were \$119.1 million compared to \$41.1 million during Year-To-Date 2018. This change was primarily due to the Gymboree intellectual property and related assets acquisition.

During Year-To-Date 2019, cash flows provided by financing activities were \$15.1 million compared to cash flows used in financing activities of \$194.5 million during Year-To-Date 2018. The increase primarily resulted from an increase in borrowings under our revolving credit facility and a decrease in purchases of our common stock, primarily related to our accelerated share repurchase program during Year-To-Date 2018.

We anticipate that total capital expenditures will be approximately \$60 to \$65 million in fiscal 2019, primarily related to our business transformation initiatives, system integration costs associated with our re-launch of the Gymboree brand, and new store openings, compared to \$71 million in fiscal 2018. Our ability to continue to meet our capital requirements in fiscal 2019 depends on our cash on hand, our ability to generate cash flows from operations, and our available borrowings under our credit facility. Cash flow generated from operations depends on our ability to achieve our financial plans. During Year-To-Date 2019, we were able to fund our capital expenditures with cash on hand and cash generated from operating activities supplemented by funds from our credit facility. We believe that our existing cash on hand, cash generated from operations, and funds available to us through our credit facility will be sufficient to fund our capital and other cash requirements for the foreseeable future.

Derivative Instruments

We are exposed to gains and losses resulting from fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates attributable to inventory purchases denominated in a foreign currency. Specifically, our Canadian subsidiary’s functional currency is the Canadian dollar but purchases inventory from suppliers in U.S. dollars. In order to mitigate the variability of cash flows associated with certain of these forecasted inventory purchases, we enter into foreign exchange forward contracts. These contracts typically mature within 12 months. We do not use forward contracts to engage in currency speculation, and we do not enter into derivative financial instruments for trading purposes.

All derivative instruments are presented at gross fair value on the consolidated balance sheets within either prepaid expenses and other current assets or accrued expenses and other current liabilities. As of November 2, 2019, we had foreign exchange forward contracts with an aggregate notional amount of \$12.5 million, and the fair value of the derivative instruments was an asset of \$1.6 million.

13. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK.

In the normal course of business, our financial position and results of operations are routinely subject to market risk associated with interest rate movements on borrowings and investments and currency rate movements on non-U.S. dollar denominated assets, liabilities, income, and expenses. We utilize cash from operations and short-term borrowings to fund our working capital and investment needs.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are normally invested in short-term financial instruments that will be used in operations within 90 days of the balance sheet date. Because of the short-term nature of these instruments, changes in interest rates would not materially affect the fair value of these financial instruments.

Interest Rates

Our credit facility bears interest at a floating rate equal to the prime rate or LIBOR, plus a calculated spread based on our average excess availability. As of November 2, 2019, we had \$184.2 million in borrowings under our credit facility. A 10% change in the prime rate or LIBOR interest rates would not have had a material impact on our interest expense.

Foreign Assets and Liabilities

Assets and liabilities outside the United States are primarily located in Canada and Hong Kong. Our investments in our Canadian and Hong Kong subsidiaries are considered long-term. As of November 2, 2019, net assets in Canada and Hong Kong were approximately \$30.5 million and \$40.1 million, respectively. A 10% increase or decrease in the Canadian and Hong Kong exchange rates would increase or decrease the corresponding net investment by approximately \$3.1 million and \$4.0 million, respectively. All changes in the net investment of our foreign subsidiaries are recorded in other comprehensive income as unrealized gains or losses.

As of November 2, 2019, we had approximately \$60.1 million of our cash and cash equivalents held in foreign countries, of which approximately \$13.2 million was in Canada, approximately \$42.1 million was in Hong Kong, and approximately \$4.8 million was in other foreign countries.

Foreign Operations

We have exchange rate exposure primarily with respect to certain revenues and expenses denominated in Canadian dollars. As a result, fluctuations in exchange rates impact the amount of our reported sales and expenses. Assuming a 10% change in foreign exchange rates, Year-To-Date 2019 net sales could have decreased or increased by approximately \$12.2 million, and total costs and expenses could have decreased or increased by approximately \$15.3 million. Additionally, we have foreign currency denominated receivables and payables that when settled, result in transaction gains or losses. At November 2, 2019, we had foreign currency denominated receivables and payables, including inter-company balances, of \$2.9 million and \$5.8 million, respectively.

Our Canadian subsidiary's functional currency is the Canadian dollar but purchases inventory from suppliers in U.S. dollars. In order to mitigate the variability of cash flows associated with certain of these forecasted inventory purchases, we enter into foreign exchange forward contracts. As of November 2, 2019, we had foreign exchange forward contracts with an aggregate notional amount of \$12.5 million, and the fair value of the derivative instruments was an asset of \$1.6 million. Assuming a 10% change in Canadian foreign exchange rates, the fair value of these instruments could have decreased by or increased by approximately \$1.3 million. Any resulting changes in the fair value of the instruments would be partially offset by changes in the underlying balance sheet positions. We do not hedge all transactions denominated in foreign currency.

We import a vast majority of our merchandise from foreign countries, primarily China, Bangladesh, Vietnam, India, and Indonesia. Consequently, any significant or sudden change in these foreign countries' political, foreign trade, financial, banking or currency policies and practices, or the occurrence of significant labor unrest, could have a material adverse impact on our financial position, results of operations, and cash flows.

14. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Disclosure controls and procedures are designed only to provide "reasonable assurance" that the controls and procedures will meet their objectives. A control system, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met. Further, the design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints, and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs. Because of the inherent

limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, within our Company have been detected.

Management, including our Chief Executive Officer and President and our Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer, evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), as of November 2, 2019. Based on that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and President and our Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at the reasonable assurance level, as of November 2, 2019, to ensure that all information required to be disclosed in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified in SEC rules and forms and is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our principal executive, principal accounting, and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during our most recently completed fiscal quarter to which this report relates that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II - OTHER INFORMATION**Item 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.**

Certain legal proceedings in which we are involved are discussed in Note 10 to the consolidated financial statements and Part I, Item 3 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 2, 2019. See Note 10 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements for a discussion of the recent developments concerning our legal proceedings.

Item 1A. RISK FACTORS.

There were no material changes to the risk factors disclosed in Item 1A of Part I in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 2, 2019.

Item 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS.

In March 2018, the Board of Directors authorized a \$250 million share repurchase program (the "2018 Share Repurchase Program"). Under the Share Repurchase Program, the Company may repurchase shares on the open market at current market prices at the time of purchase or in privately negotiated transactions. The timing and actual number of shares repurchased under the programs will depend on a variety of factors including price, corporate and regulatory requirements, and other market and business conditions. We may suspend or discontinue the program at any time, and may thereafter reinstitute purchases, all without prior announcement.

The following table provides a month-by-month summary of our share repurchase activity during the Third Quarter 2019:

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Approximate Dollar Value (in thousands) of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
8/4/19-8/31/19 ⁽¹⁾	140,454	\$ 81.97	139,653	\$ 167,969
9/1/19-10/5/19 ⁽²⁾	175,077	82.68	175,077	153,493
10/6/19-11/2/19	99,360	75.34	99,360	146,007
Total	414,891	\$ 80.68	414,090	\$ 146,007

⁽¹⁾ Consists of 801 shares acquired as treasury stock as directed by participants in the Company's deferred compensation plan and 963 shares withheld to cover taxes in conjunction with the vesting of stock awards.

⁽²⁾ Consists of 277 shares withheld to cover taxes in conjunction with the vesting of stock awards.

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16. Exhibits.

The following exhibits are filed with this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q:

10.1(+)(*)	Letter agreement dated June 18, 2019 between The Children's Place Services Company, LLC and Robert Karpf
31.1(+)	Certificate of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2(+)	Certificate of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002.
32(+)	Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
101.INS*	XBRL Instance Document.
101.SCH*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema.
101.CAL*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase.
101.DEF*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase.
101.LAB*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase.
101.PRE*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase.

(+) Filed herewith.

(*) Compensation arrangement.

* Pursuant to Rule 406T of Regulation S-T, these interactive data files are deemed not filed or part of a registration statement or prospectus for purposes of Sections 11 or 12 of the Securities Act of 1933 or Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and otherwise are not subject to liability.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this Report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

THE CHILDREN'S PLACE, INC.

Date: December 11, 2019

By: /S/ JANE T. ELFERS

JANE T. ELFERS

Chief Executive Officer and President

(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: December 11, 2019

By: /S/ ROBERT HELM

ROBERT HELM

Senior Vice President, Finance and Inventory Management

(Principal Accounting Officer)

June 18, 2019

Robert Karpf

Dear Rob,

On behalf of The Children's Place, it is my pleasure to confirm your promotion to the position of Senior Vice President, Deputy General Counsel. You will assume the role of General Counsel at the time of the incumbent's retirement and will then report to me. Details of your promotion are as follows:

- EFFECTIVE DATE: June 30, 2019
- ANNUAL BASE SALARY: \$425,000.00
- BONUS: You will be eligible to participate in our annual management incentive plan. Your target bonus will be 50% of your annual salary, and, among other things, you must be employed on the date of the bonus payout to be eligible to receive your bonus. Bonus payments are determined by Company performance and factor in personal performance, and are subject to the terms of the Management Incentive Plan. Please review the Annual Management Incentive Plan summary for additional details.
- PROMOTION EQUITY AWARD: Based upon your position with the Company, you will receive an equity award. All equity awards are subject to the Company's 2011 Equity Incentive Plan ("2011 Equity Plan") and must be awarded in accordance with the Company's Policy Regarding the Award of Equity-Based Incentives to Executives Officers and Other Employees (the "Equity Award Policy").
 - a. Value of Award: An award valued at \$550,000.00 with the number of shares constituting the award based on the closing stock price on the Grant Date, as defined below.
 - b. Types of Awards. (i) \$255,000 will be in the form of Time-Based RSUs and (ii) \$295,000 will be in the form of Performance-Based RSUs.
 - c. Grant Date. The grant date for these awards will be July 8, 2019 (the "Grant Date").
 - d. Vesting of Time-Based RSUs. The Time-Based RSUs will vest ratably over three years on each anniversary of the Grant Date, subject to your continued employment on the applicable vesting dates.

- e. Earning of Performance-Based RSUs. The Performance-Based RSUs may be earned provided the Company achieves the performance goals to be set by the Compensation Committee for a three-year performance period consisting of fiscal 2019-2021. Subject to your continued employment with the Company on the delivery date, any earned shares will be delivered to you at the same time in 2022 as earned shares are delivered to other senior executives of the Company.
- ANNUAL EQUITY AWARD: In 2020, you will be eligible to receive an equity award under the 2011 Equity Plan at the same time as other associates in the Company, subject to the approval of the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors and the Equity Award Policy.
- BENEFITS: You remain eligible for benefits available to other associates at your level.
- CHANGE IN CONTROL: Subject to your execution and delivery to the Company of a Change in Control Severance Agreement (the “Change in Control Severance Agreement”), you will receive severance if you are terminated other than for Cause (as defined in the Change in Control Severance Agreement) or resign for Good Reason (as defined in the Change in Control Severance Agreement) in anticipation of, or subsequent to, a Change in Control (as defined in the Change in Control Severance Agreement). Under the Change in Control Severance Agreement, the severance period is 18 months. During the severance period, you will continue to be covered under the Company’s health plan. The terms of the equity award agreements are subject to change by the Compensation Committee at any time. Unless the Change in Control Severance Agreement is otherwise terminated earlier pursuant to its terms, it will remain in force for two years from the execution thereof and it will renew for additional one year periods unless the Company provides you with notice of nonrenewal at least 90 days prior to the second anniversary date thereof or, if renewed, at least 90 days prior to each subsequent renewal.
- SEVERANCE: In the event that you are terminated by the Company without Cause (as defined in the Change in Control Severance Agreement), the amount you will be entitled to will be the greater of (i) twelve month’s severance in the form of salary continuation payments at your then current salary or (ii) the amount available to other associates at your level under the Company’s severance guidelines, provided, in all cases, that such severance shall automatically and immediately be reduced by the amount of salary or other like compensation you receive from employment or engagement as an independent contractor, during the severance period, with any other person or entity. Further, the Company agrees to waive the applicable premium cost that you would otherwise be required to pay for continued group health benefit coverage under COBRA for the corresponding period of severance as provided above unless otherwise prohibited under applicable law. All such payments are intended to comply with Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”) and the regulations there under such that no payment made, or benefit provided, to you hereunder shall be subject to an “additional tax” within the meaning of the Code. Receipt of the payments set forth in this paragraph are conditioned upon the execution and delivery of an agreement containing a release of claims, an agreement of confidentiality, and an agreement of non-solicitation and non-competition in accordance with the terms set forth below for a period of 12 months following termination in such form as the Company shall reasonably determine, which release of claims shall, to the extent permitted by law, waive all claims and actions against the Company and its officers, directors, affiliates and such other related parties and entities as the Company chooses to include in the release.

- **WITHHOLDING:** The Company is authorized to withhold from any payment to be made hereunder to you such amounts for income tax, social security, unemployment compensation, excise taxes and other taxes and penalties as in the Company's judgment is required to comply with applicable laws and regulations.
- **409A COMPLIANCE:** Notwithstanding anything in this offer letter to the contrary, if you are a "specified employee" (determined in accordance with Section 409A of the Code and Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-3(i)(2)) as of the termination of your employment with the Company, and, if any payment, benefit or entitlement provided for in this offer letter or otherwise both (i) constitutes a "deferral of compensation" within the meaning of Section 409A of the Code and (ii) cannot be paid or provided in a manner otherwise provided herein or otherwise without subjecting you to additional tax, interest, and/or penalties under Section 409A of the Code, then any such payment, benefit or entitlement that is payable during the first six months following the date of your termination of employment shall be paid or provided to you (or your estate, if applicable) in a lump sum cash payment (together with interest on such amount during the period of such restriction at a rate, per annum, equal to the applicable federal short-term rate (compounded monthly) in effect under Section 1274(d) of the Code on the date of termination) on the earlier of (x) your death or (y) the first business day of the seventh calendar month immediately following the month in which your termination of employment occurs.
- **CONFIDENTIALITY, ETC.:** As a condition of your employment, you remain subject to the Company's Confidentiality, Work Product, and Non-solicitation Agreement.
- **INDEMNIFICATION/D&O:** As an officer of the Company, you will be indemnified on the same terms and conditions, and will be covered by the Company's directors' and officers' insurance coverage as other senior executives of the Company.
- **NON-COMPETE:** You agree that for a period of twelve (12) months following the date that you are no longer in the employ of the Company or any of its subsidiaries for any reason (the "Separation Date"), you will not, without the express prior written consent of the Company, anywhere, either directly or indirectly, whether alone or as an owner, shareholder, partner, member, joint venturer, officer, director, consultant, independent contractor, agent, employee or otherwise of any company or other business enterprise, assist in, engage in, be connected with or otherwise provide services or advice to any of the following companies, entities, or organizations, or any business enterprise that, directly or indirectly, owns, operates or is affiliated with any of the following companies or brands operated by any of the following companies: Carter's, Inc., The Gap, Inc., Target Corporation, Kohl's Corporation, Walmart Inc., Amazon.com, Inc., or, in any case, any of their respective subsidiaries, affiliates or related businesses (a "Competitive Business"). Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing herein shall be deemed to prohibit your ownership of less than 1% of the outstanding shares of any publicly traded corporation that conducts a Competitive Business.

You acknowledge and agree that the restrictions on the activities in which you may engage that are set forth above, and the location and period of time for which such restrictions apply, are reasonable and necessary to protect the Company's legitimate business interests. You acknowledge and agree that the Company's business is global and, accordingly, the foregoing restrictions cannot be limited to any particular geographic area. You acknowledge and agree that the foregoing restrictions will not prevent you from earning a livelihood.

In consideration for the Company's agreements in this offer letter, you also acknowledge and agree that, in the event that you are no longer in the employ of the Company or any of its subsidiaries for any reason (whether termination of employment is voluntary or involuntary and whether termination of employment is affected by you or by the Company), the foregoing non-competition agreement will remain in full force and effect, and that the Company would not have entered into this offer letter unless such was the case.

- STOCK OWNERSHIP GUIDELINES: As a senior executive of the Company, you will be subject to stock ownership guidelines adopted from time to time by the Compensation Committee of the Company's Board of Directors. Please refer to the Stock Ownership Guidelines for Senior Executives document. With respect to your one-time special grant of \$125,000 RSUs (the "Special Award RSUs") granted pursuant to that certain Time-Based Restricted Stock Unit Award Agreement, effective as of April 8, 2018, by and between you and the Company, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in such agreement and/or the Company's Stock Ownership Guidelines for Senior Executives (the "Stock Ownership Guidelines"), the shares of common stock delivered upon the vesting of such Special Award RSUs shall not be subject to the holding (non-sale) requirements set forth in the Stock Ownership Guidelines.
- GOVERNING LAW: This offer letter shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Delaware, without regard to conflict of laws principles.

Unless specifically stated in this offer letter, all terms and conditions of your employment are as provided by the policies and practices of The Children's Place, Inc. and its affiliates as in effect from time to time.

This offer of employment is not to be construed as an employment contract, expressed or implied, and it is specifically understood that your employment is at-will (this means that either you or the Company may terminate your employment at any time with or without cause) and further that there is no intent on the part of the Company or yourself, for continued employment of any specified period of time.

Please indicate your acceptance of and agreement with the foregoing by executing this offer letter and returning a copy to me.

Congratulations on your promotion Rob! We are confident that you will make a strong contribution to our continued growth and success.

Sincerely,

/s/ Leah Swan

Leah Swan

Chief Administrative Officer

Agreed and Accepted:

/s/ Robert Karpf 6/19/2019

Robert Karpf Date

**Certificate of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to
Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002**

I, Jane T. Elfers, certify that:

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

Date: December 11, 2019

By: /S/ JANE T. ELFERS

JANE T. ELFERS
Chief Executive Officer and President
(Principal Executive Officer)

**Certificate of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to
Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002**

I, Michael Scarpa, certify that:

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

Date: December 11, 2019

By: /S/ MICHAEL SCARPA

MICHAEL SCARPA
*Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)*

**Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant
to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002**

I, Jane T. Elfers, Chief Executive Officer and President of The Children's Place, Inc. (the "Company"), pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, do hereby certify that to my knowledge:

1. The Quarterly Report of the Company on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended November 2, 2019 fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
2. The information contained in such quarterly report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed this Certification this 11th day of December, 2019.

By: /S/ JANE T. ELFERS
Chief Executive Officer and President
(Principal Executive Officer)

I, Michael Scarpa, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer of The Children's Place, Inc. (the "Company"), pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, do hereby certify that to my knowledge:

1. The Quarterly Report of the Company on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended November 2, 2019 fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
2. The information contained in such quarterly report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed this Certification this 11th day of December, 2019.

By: /S/ MICHAEL SCARPA
Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)

This certification accompanies the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of The Children's Place, Inc. for the quarter ended November 2, 2019 pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and shall not, except to the extent required by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, be deemed filed by the Company for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

A signed original copy of this written statement required by Section 906 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002 has been provided to the Company and will be retained by the Company and furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission and its staff upon request.