

Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

CONNS INC  
Form 10-Q  
August 30, 2007

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

-----  
FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended July 31, 2007 Commission File Number 000-50421

CONN'S, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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

06-1672840  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification Number)

3295 College Street  
Beaumont, Texas 77701  
(409) 832-1696

(Address, including zip code, and telephone  
number, including area code, of registrant's  
principal executive offices)

NONE

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

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 is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of "accelerated filer and large accelerated filer" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check One): Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer

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

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of August 28, 2007:

Class	Outstanding
----- Common stock, \$.01 par value per share	----- 23,214,238

# Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I.	FINANCIAL INFORMATION	Page No.
Item 1.	Financial Statements.....	1
	Consolidated Balance Sheets as of January 31, 2007 and July 31, 2007.....	1
	Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three and six months ended July 31, 2006 and 2007.....	2
	Consolidated Statement of Stockholders' Equity for the six months ended July 31, 2007.....	3
	Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the six months ended July 31, 2006 and 2007.....	4
	Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.....	5
Item 2.	Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.....	12
Item 3.	Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.....	29
Item 4.	Controls and Procedures.....	29
PART II.	OTHER INFORMATION	
Item 1.	Legal Proceedings.....	30
Item 1A.	Risk Factors.....	30
Item 2.	Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds.....	30
Item 4.	Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders.....	31
Item 5.	Other Information.....	31
Item 6.	Exhibits.....	31
SIGNATURE	.....	32

Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

Part I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION  
Item 1. Financial Statements

Conn's, Inc.  
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS  
(in thousands, except share data)

Assets	January 31, 2007	July 31, 2007
	-----	-----
		(unaudited)
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$ 56,570	\$ 43,599
Accounts receivable, net.....	31,448	27,551
Interests in securitized assets.....	136,848	166,130
Inventories.....	87,098	84,870
Deferred income taxes.....	551	1,660
Prepaid expenses and other assets.....	5,247	5,343
	-----	-----
Total current assets.....	317,762	329,153
Non-current deferred income tax asset.....	2,920	-
Property and equipment.....		
Land.....	9,102	7,915
Buildings.....	13,896	11,749
Equipment and fixtures.....	13,650	15,561
Transportation equipment.....	3,022	2,896
Leasehold improvements.....	66,761	68,347
	-----	-----
Subtotal.....	106,431	106,468
Less accumulated depreciation.....	(46,991)	(51,843)
	-----	-----
Total property and equipment, net.....	59,440	54,625
Goodwill, net.....	9,617	9,617
Debt issuance costs and other assets, net.....	208	181
	-----	-----
Total assets.....	\$ 389,947	\$ 393,576
	=====	=====
Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity		
Current liabilities		
Current portion of long-term debt.....	\$ 110	\$ 118
Accounts payable.....	54,045	38,895
Accrued compensation and related expenses.....	9,234	8,704
Accrued expenses.....	20,424	22,229
Income taxes payable.....	3,693	113
Deferred revenues and allowances.....	9,516	12,785
	-----	-----
Total current liabilities.....	97,022	82,844
Long-term debt.....	88	58
Non-current deferred income tax liability.....	-	499
Deferred gains on sales of property.....	309	1,406
Stockholders' equity		
Preferred stock (\$0.01 par value, 1,000,000 shares authorized; none issued or outstanding).....	-	-
Common stock (\$0.01 par value, 40,000,000 shares authorized; 23,809,522 and 23,963,623 shares issued at January 31, 2007 and July 31, 2007, respectively).....	238	240

Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

Additional paid-in capital.....	93,365	96,382
Accumulated other comprehensive income.....	6,305	-
Retained earnings.....	196,417	224,651
Treasury stock, at cost, 168,000 and 499,085 shares, respectively.....	(3,797)	(12,504)
	-----	-----
Total stockholders' equity.....	292,528	308,769
	-----	-----
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity.....	\$ 389,947	\$ 393,576
	=====	=====

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

1

Conn's, Inc.  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS  
(unaudited)  
(in thousands, except earnings per share)

	Three Months Ended July 31,		Six Months July 3
	2006	2007	2006
	-----	-----	-----
Revenues			
Product sales.....	\$ 150,647	\$ 163,793	\$ 309,156
Service maintenance agreement commissions, net.....	7,063	9,071	15,030
Service revenues.....	5,927	6,137	11,156
	-----	-----	-----
Total net sales.....	163,637	179,001	335,342
Finance charges and other.....	18,567	24,526	39,050
	-----	-----	-----
Total revenues.....	182,204	203,527	374,392
Cost and expenses			
Cost of goods sold, including warehousing and occupancy costs.....	119,756	132,677	245,485
Cost of parts sold, including warehousing and occupancy costs.....	1,389	2,123	2,954
Selling, general and administrative expense.....	48,425	54,733	95,089
Provision for bad debts.....	390	348	433
	-----	-----	-----
Total cost and expenses.....	169,960	189,881	343,961
	-----	-----	-----
Operating income.....	12,244	13,646	30,431
Interest income, net.....	(187)	(251)	(371)
Other income, net.....	(721)	(55)	(754)
	-----	-----	-----

Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

Income before income taxes.....	13,152	13,952	31,556
Provision for income taxes.....	4,608	4,295	11,063
Net income.....	\$ 8,544	\$ 9,657	\$ 20,493
Earnings per share			
Basic.....	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.87
Diluted.....	\$ 0.35	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.84
Average common shares outstanding			
Basic.....	23,676	23,489	23,637
Diluted.....	24,344	24,058	24,355

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

2

Conn's, Inc.  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY  
Six Months Ended July 31, 2007  
(unaudited)  
(in thousands, except descriptive shares)

	Common Stock		Accum. Other Compre- hensive Income	Additional Paid-in Capital	Retain- ed Earnings
	Shares	Amount			
Balance January 31, 2007.....	23,810	\$ 238	\$ 6,305	\$ 93,365	\$ 19,000
Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles.....			(6,305)		
Exercise of options to acquire shares of common stock, incl. tax benefit.....	148	2		1,839	
Issuance of shares of common stock under Employee Stock Purchase Plan.....	6			122	
Stock-based compensation.....				1,056	
Purchase of 331,085 shares of treasury stock.....					
Net income.....					2,000
Balance July 31, 2007.....	23,964	\$ 240	\$ -	\$ 96,382	\$ 21,000

## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

3

### Conn's, Inc. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (unaudited) (in thousands)

	Six Months Ended July 31,	
	2006	2007
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income.....	\$ 20,493	\$ 22,603
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash used in operating activities:		
Depreciation.....	6,100	6,321
Amortization.....	(214)	(351)
Provision for bad debts.....	433	908
Stock-based compensation.....	802	1,056
Discounts on promotional credit.....	159	725
Gains recognized on sales of receivables.....	(10,269)	(11,105)
Loss on mark-to-market of interests in securitized assets.....	-	878
Provision for deferred income taxes.....	730	579
Gains from sales of property and equipment.....	(754)	(886)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable.....	(1,903)	(16,361)
Inventory.....	(5,655)	2,228
Prepaid expenses and other assets.....	169	(95)
Accounts payable.....	(3,450)	(15,150)
Accrued expenses.....	(10,756)	1,275
Income taxes payable.....	(10,603)	(1,904)
Deferred revenue and allowances.....	709	2,438
Net cash used in operating activities.....	(14,009)	(6,841)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of property and equipment.....	(11,858)	(8,203)
Proceeds from sales of property.....	2,250	8,860
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities.....	(9,608)	657
Cash flows from financing activities		
Proceeds from stock issued under employee benefit plans.....	1,471	1,963
Purchase of treasury stock.....	-	(8,707)
Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation.....	135	2
Borrowings under lines of credit.....	8,000	800
Payments on lines of credit.....	(8,000)	(800)
Increase in debt issuance costs.....	(107)	-
Payment of promissory notes.....	(136)	(45)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities.....	1,363	(6,787)

## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

Net change in cash.....	(22,254)	(12,971)
Cash and cash equivalents		
Beginning of the year.....	45,176	56,570
	-----	-----
End of period.....	\$ 22,922	\$ 43,599
	=====	=====

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

4

Conn's, Inc.  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(unaudited)  
July 31, 2007

### 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

**Basis of Presentation.** The accompanying unaudited, condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for complete financial statements. The accompanying financial statements reflect all adjustments that are, in the opinion of management, necessary for a fair statement of the results for the interim periods presented. All such adjustments are of a normal recurring nature. Operating results for the three and six month periods ended July 31, 2007, are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending January 31, 2008. The financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Company's (as defined below) audited consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed on March 29, 2007.

The Company's balance sheet at January 31, 2007, has been derived from the audited financial statements at that date but does not include all of the information and footnotes required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for complete financial presentation. Please see the Company's Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2007, for a complete presentation of the audited financial statements at that date, together with all required footnotes, and for a complete presentation and explanation of the components and presentations of the financial statements.

**Principles of Consolidation.** The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Conn's, Inc. and all of its wholly-owned subsidiaries (the Company). All material intercompany transactions and balances have been eliminated in consolidation.

The Company enters into securitization transactions to sell its retail installment and revolving customer receivables and retains servicing responsibilities and subordinated interests. These securitization transactions are accounted for as sales in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 140, Accounting for Transfers and Servicing of Financial Assets and Extinguishment of Liabilities, as amended by SFAS No. 155, Accounting for Certain Hybrid Financial Instruments, because the Company has relinquished control of the receivables. Additionally, the Company has transferred the receivables to a qualifying special purpose entity (QSPE). Accordingly, neither the transferred receivables nor the accounts of the QSPE are included in the

## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

consolidated financial statements of the Company. The Company's retained interest in the transferred receivables is valued under the requirements of SFAS No. 157, Fair Value Measurements.

Use of Estimates. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

5

Earnings Per Share. In accordance with SFAS No. 128, Earnings per Share, the Company calculates basic earnings per share by dividing net income by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding. Diluted earnings per share include the dilutive effects of any stock options granted, as calculated under the treasury-stock method. The following table sets forth the shares outstanding for the earnings per share calculations:

	Three Months Ended July 31,	
	2006	2007
Common stock outstanding, net of treasury stock, beginning of period.....	23,665,335	23,504,760
Weighted average common stock issued in stock option exercises.....	9,852	58,074
Weighted average common stock issued to employee stock purchase plan.....	958	933
Less: Weighted average treasury shares purchased.....	-	(74,789)
Shares used in computing basic earnings per share.....	23,676,145	23,488,978
Dilutive effect of stock options, net of assumed repurchase of treasury stock.....	667,915	569,283
Shares used in computing diluted earnings per share....	24,344,060	24,058,261

	Six Months Ended July 31,	
	2006	2007
Common stock outstanding, net of treasury stock, beginning of period.....	23,571,564	23,641,522
Weighted average common stock issued in stock option exercises.....	63,465	52,871
Weighted average common stock issued to employee stock purchase plan.....	1,896	2,706
Less: Weighted average treasury shares purchased.....	-	(169,991)
Shares used in computing basic earnings per share.....	23,636,925	23,527,108
Dilutive effect of stock options, net of assumed repurchase of treasury stock.....	718,347	561,843
Shares used in computing diluted earnings per share....	24,355,272	24,088,951



## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

Application of APB 21 to Promotional Credit Programs that Exceed One Year in Duration. The Company offers promotional credit payment plans, on certain products, that extend beyond one year. In accordance with APB 21, Interest on Receivables and Payables, such sales are discounted to their fair value resulting in a reduction in sales and receivables, and the amortization of the discount amount over the term of the deferred interest payment plan. The difference between the gross sale and the discounted amount is reflected as a reduction of Product sales in the consolidated statements of operations and the amount of the discount being amortized in the current period is recorded in Finance charges and other. For the three months ended July 31, 2006 and 2007, Product sales were reduced by \$0.7 million and \$1.6 million, respectively, and Finance charges and other was increased by \$0.8 million and \$1.5 million, respectively, to effect the adjustment to fair value and to reflect the appropriate amortization of the discount. For the six months ended July 31, 2006 and 2007, Product sales were reduced by \$1.6 million and \$3.5 million, respectively, and Finance charges and other was increased by \$1.5 million and \$2.8 million, respectively, to effect the adjustment to fair value and to reflect the appropriate amortization of the discount.

Texas Tax Law Changes. On May 18, 2006, the Governor of Texas signed a tax bill that modified the existing franchise tax, with the most significant change being the replacement of the existing base with a tax based on margin. Taxable margin is generally defined as total federal tax revenues minus the greater of (a) cost of goods sold or (b) compensation. The tax rate to be paid by retailers and wholesalers is 0.5% on taxable margin. This will result in an increase in taxes paid by the Company, as franchise taxes paid have totaled less than \$50,000 per year for the last several years.

During June 2007, the Company completed a reorganization to simplify its legal entity structure, by merging certain of its Texas limited partnerships into their corporate partners. The reorganization also resulted in the one-time elimination of the Texas margin tax owed by those partnerships, representing virtually all of the margin tax owed by the Company. Accordingly, the Company reversed approximately \$0.9 million of accrued Texas margin tax as of June 2007, net of federal income tax. The Company began accruing the margin tax for the entities that acquired the operations through the mergers in July 2007.

6

Sale and Leaseback Transactions. During the six months ended July 31, 2007, the Company completed transactions involving certain real estate assets that qualify for sales-leaseback treatment. As a result, a portion of the gains resulting from the transactions are being deferred and amortized as a reduction of rent expense on a straight-line basis over the minimum lease term. The deferred gains of \$1.3 million recorded during the six months ended July 31, 2007, are included in Deferred gains on sales of property.

Sales Taxes. The Company records and reports all sales taxes collected on a net basis in the financial statements.

Reclassifications. Certain reclassifications have been made in the prior year's financial statements to conform to the current year's presentation.

### 2. Adoption of New Accounting Pronouncements

On February 1, 2007, the Company was required to adopt SFAS No. 155, Accounting for Certain Hybrid Financial Instruments. Among other things, this statement establishes a requirement to evaluate interests in securitized financial assets to identify interests that are freestanding derivatives or that

## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

are hybrid financial instruments that contain an embedded derivative requiring bifurcation. Additionally, the Company had the option to choose to early adopt the provisions of SFAS No. 159, The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities. Essentially, the Company had to decide between bifurcation of the embedded derivative and the fair value option in determining how it would account for its Interests in securitized assets. The Company elected to early adopt SFAS No. 159 because it believes it provides a more easily understood presentation for financial statement users. Historically, the Company had valued and reported its interests in securitized assets at fair value, though most changes in the fair value were recorded in Other comprehensive income. The fair value option simplifies the treatment of changes in the fair value of the asset, by reflecting all changes in the fair value of its Interests in securitized assets in current earnings, in Finance charges and other, beginning February 1, 2007. For the three and six months ended July 31, 2007, Finance charges and other included losses of \$0.4 million and \$0.3 million, respectively, reflecting higher projected borrowing costs and a slightly faster portfolio turnover rate, partially offset by the growth of the portfolio, and mark-to-market adjustments for other changes in the fair value assumptions (see discussion of SFAS No. 157 below). SFAS Nos. 155 and 159 do not allow for retrospective application of these changes in accounting principle and, as such, no adjustments have been made to the amounts disclosed in the financial statements for periods ending prior to February 1, 2007. However, the balance in Other comprehensive income, as of January 31, 2007, of \$6.3 million, which represented unrecognized gains on the fair value of the Interests in securitized assets, was included in a cumulative-effect adjustment that was recorded in Retained earnings, effective February 1, 2007.

Because of its adoption of SFAS No. 159, effective February 1, 2007, the Company was required to adopt the provisions of SFAS No. 157, Fair Value Measurements. This statement establishes a framework for measuring fair value and 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." The Company estimates the fair value of its Interests in securitized assets using a discounted cash flow model with most of the inputs used being unobservable inputs. The primary unobservable inputs, which are derived from the Company's historical experience, include the portfolio yield, credit loss rate, discount rate, payment rate and delinquency rate and reflect the Company's own assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in determining fair value. In determining the cost of borrowings, the Company uses current actual borrowing rates, and adjusts them, as appropriate, using interest rate futures data from market sources to project interest rates over time. Changes in the assumptions over time, including varying credit portfolio performance, market interest rate changes or a shift in the mix of funding sources, could result in significant volatility in the fair value of the Interest in securitized assets, and thus the earnings of the Company.

7

The following is a reconciliation of the beginning and ending balances of the Interests in securitized assets for the three and six months ended July 31, 2007 (in thousands):

Balance of Interests in securitized assets at April 30, 2007.....	\$ 150,552
Amounts recorded in Finance charges and other:	
Fair value increase associated with portfolio growth.....	305
Fair value decrease due to changing portfolio yield.....	(65)
Fair value increase due to lower interest rates.....	221
Fair value decrease due to higher expected borrowing cost.....	(565)

## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

Fair value decrease due to higher portfolio turnover rate.....	(443)
Other changes.....	99
	-----
Net Losses included in Finance charges and other.....	(448)
Increase in principal balance of subordinated security due to transfers of receivables.....	16,026
	-----
Balance of Interests in securitized assets at July 31, 2007.....	\$ 166,130
	=====
Balance of Interests in securitized assets at January 31, 2007.....	\$ 136,848
Amounts recorded in Finance charges and other:	
Fair value increase associated with portfolio growth.....	531
Fair value increase due to higher expected portfolio yield.....	204
Fair value increase due to lower interest rates.....	556
Fair value decrease due to higher expected borrowing cost.....	(1,198)
Fair value decrease due to higher portfolio turnover rate.....	(443)
Other changes.....	3
	-----
Net Losses included in Finance charges and other.....	(347)
Increase in principal balance of subordinated security due to transfers of receivables.....	29,629
	-----
Balance of Interests in securitized assets at July 31, 2007.....	\$ 166,130
	=====

Effective February 1, 2007, the Company was required to adopt the provisions SFAS No. 156, Accounting for Servicing of Financial Assets, an Amendment of FASB Statement No. 140. This statement requires companies to measure servicing assets or servicing liabilities at fair value at each reporting date and report changes in fair value in earnings in the period the changes occur, or amortize servicing assets or servicing liabilities in proportion to and over the estimated net servicing income or loss and assess servicing assets or servicing liabilities for impairment or increased obligation based on the fair value at each reporting date. The Company receives a servicing fee each month equal to 0.25% of the average outstanding sold portfolio balance, plus late fees and other customer fees collected. Servicing fees collected during the three months ended July 31, 2006 and 2007, totaled \$5.1 million and \$6.0 million, respectively, and are reflected in Finance charges and other. Servicing fees collected during the six months ended July 31, 2006 and 2007, totaled \$10.1 million and \$11.8 million, respectively, and are reflected in Finance charges and other. In connection with the adoption of SFAS No. 156 the Company elected to measure its servicing asset or liability at fair value, and report changes in the fair value in earnings in the period of change. As such, a \$0.7 million cumulative-effect adjustment was recorded to Retained earnings at February 1, 2007, net of related tax effects, to recognize a \$1.1 million servicing liability. The Company uses a discounted cash flow model to estimate its servicing liability using the portfolio performance and discount rate assumptions discussed above, and an estimate of the servicing fee a market participant would require to service the portfolio. In developing its estimate, based on the provisions of SFAS No. 157, the Company reviewed available information regarding the servicing fees received by other companies and estimated an expected risk premium a market participant would add to the current fee structure to receive adequate compensation. During the three and six months ended July 31, 2007, the Company recorded \$23,000 and \$59,000, respectively, of expense related to the increase in the estimated fair value of the servicing liability, in Finance charges and other. The increase in the

## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

liability was largely driven by the increase in the balance of the sold portfolio.

8

Effective February 1, 2007, the Company adopted FASB Interpretation No. 48, Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes, an interpretation of FASB Statement 109 (FIN 48). This statement clarifies the criteria that an individual tax position must satisfy for some or all of the benefits of that position to be recognized in a company's financial statements. FIN 48 prescribes a recognition threshold of more-likely-than-not, and a measurement attribute for all tax positions taken or expected to be taken on a tax return, in order to be recognized in the financial statements. No cumulative adjustment was required to effect the adoption of FIN 48 and the Company currently has no liability accrued or potential penalties or interest recorded for uncertain tax positions. To the extent penalties and interest are incurred, the Company records these charges as a component of its Provision for income taxes. The Company is subject to U.S. federal income tax as well as income tax in multiple state jurisdictions. Tax returns for the fiscal years subsequent to January 31, 2003, remain open for examination by the Company's major taxing jurisdictions.

### 3. Supplemental Disclosure of Revenue and Comprehensive Income

The following is a summary of the classification of the amounts included as Finance charges and other for the three and six months ended July 31, 2006 and 2007 (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended July 31,		Six Months Ended July 31,	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
Securitization income.....	\$ 13,274	\$ 18,378	\$ 28,511	\$ 36,338
Income from receivables not sold.....	323	251	658	516
Insurance commissions.....	4,729	5,573	8,995	10,834
Other.....	241	324	886	783
	\$ 18,567	\$ 24,526	\$ 39,050	\$ 48,471
	=====	=====	=====	=====

The components of total comprehensive income for the three and six months ended July 31, 2006 and 2007, are presented in the table below (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended July 31,		Six Months Ended July 31,	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
Net income.....	\$ 8,544	\$ 9,657	\$ 20,493	\$ 22,603
Adjustment of fair value of securitized assets..	(789)	-	(16)	-
Taxes on adjustment of fair value.....	145	-	(119)	-
	\$ 7,900	\$ 9,657	\$ 20,358	\$ 22,603
	=====	=====	=====	=====

Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

4. Supplemental Disclosure Regarding Managed Receivables

The following tables present quantitative information about the receivables portfolios managed by the Company (in thousands):

	Total Principal Amount of Receivables		Principal Amount 60 Day or More Past Due (1)	
	January 31, 2007	July 31, 2007	January 31, 2007	July 31, 2007
Primary portfolio:				
Installment.....	\$ 382,482	\$ 414,113	\$ 24,853	\$ 24,050
Revolving.....	53,125	50,467	1,171	1,171
Subtotal.....	435,607	464,580	26,024	25,221
Secondary portfolio:				
Installment.....	133,944	141,581	11,638	13,970
Total receivables managed.....	569,551	606,161	37,662	39,191
Less receivables sold.....	559,619	596,876	35,677	37,290
Receivables not sold.....	9,932	9,285	\$ 1,985	\$ 1,901
Non-customer receivables.....	21,516	18,266		
Total accounts receivable, net.....	\$ 31,448	\$ 27,551		

(1) Amounts are based on end of period balances. The principal amount 60 days or more past due relative to total receivables managed is not necessarily indicative of relative balances expected at other times during the year due to seasonal fluctuations in delinquency.

	Average Balances		Credit Charge-offs (1)	
	Three Months Ended July 31, 2006	Three Months Ended July 31, 2007	Three Months Ended July 31, 2006	Three Months Ended July 31, 2007
Primary portfolio:				
Installment.....	\$ 368,939	\$ 399,909		
Revolving.....	43,541	52,215		
Subtotal.....	412,480	452,124	\$ 4,225	\$ 2,560
Secondary portfolio:				
Installment.....	113,821	142,970	830	920

Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

	Average Balances		Credit Charge-offs (1)	
	Six Months Ended July 31,		Six Months Ended July 31,	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
Total receivables managed.....	526,301	595,094	5,055	3,49
Less receivables sold.....	515,865	585,672	4,874	3,31
Receivables not sold.....	\$ 10,436	\$ 9,422	\$ 181	\$ 17
Primary portfolio:				
Installment.....	\$ 371,493	\$ 392,376		
Revolving.....	42,957	52,571		
Subtotal.....	414,450	444,947	\$ 7,875	\$ 5,49
Secondary portfolio:				
Installment.....	109,102	140,768	1,858	1,88
Total receivables managed.....	523,552	585,715	9,733	7,37
Less receivables sold.....	513,144	576,144	9,399	7,00
Receivables not sold.....	\$ 10,408	\$ 9,571	\$ 334	\$ 37

(1) Amounts represent total credit charge-offs, net of recoveries, on total receivables. The increased level of credit losses for the three and six months ended July 31, 2006, is primarily a result of the bankruptcy law change in October 2005 and the impact on our credit operations of Hurricane Rita that hit the Gulf Coast during September 2005.

10

5. Debt and Letters of Credit

At July 31, 2007, the Company had \$49.1 million of its \$50 million revolving credit facility available for borrowings. The amounts utilized under the revolving credit facility reflected \$0.9 million related to letters of credit issued under the facility.

There were no amounts outstanding under a short-term revolving bank agreement that provides up to \$8.0 million of availability on an unsecured basis. This unsecured facility matures in June 2008.

The Company utilizes unsecured letters of credit to secure a portion of the QSPE's asset-backed securitization program, deductibles under the Company's property and casualty insurance programs and international product purchases. At July 31, 2007, the Company had outstanding unsecured letters of credit of \$22.3 million. These letters of credit were issued under the three following separate facilities:

- o The Company has a \$5.0 million sub limit provided under its revolving line of credit for stand-by and import letters of credit. At July 31, 2007, \$0.9 million of letters of credit were outstanding and callable at the option of the Company's property and casualty insurance carriers if the Company does not honor its requirement to fund deductible amounts as

## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

billed under its insurance programs.

- o The Company has arranged for a \$20.0 million stand-by letter of credit to provide assurance to the trustee of the asset-backed securitization program that funds collected by the Company, as the servicer, would be remitted as required under the base indenture and other related documents. The letter of credit has a term of one year and expires in August 2008.
- o The Company obtained a \$10.0 million commitment for trade letters of credit to secure product purchases under an international arrangement. At July 31, 2007, there was \$1.4 million outstanding under this commitment. The letter of credit commitment expires in May 2008. No letter of credit issued under this commitment can have an expiration date more than 180 days after the commitment expiration date.

The maximum potential amount of future payments under these letter of credit facilities is considered to be the aggregate face amount of each letter of credit commitment, which total \$35.0 million as of July 31, 2007.

### 6. Contingencies

**Legal Proceedings.** The Company is involved in routine litigation incidental to its business from time to time. Currently, the Company does not expect the outcome of any of this routine litigation to have a material affect on its financial condition, results of operations or cash flows. However, the results of these proceedings cannot be predicted with certainty, and changes in facts and circumstances could impact the Company's estimate of reserves for litigation.

**Service Maintenance Agreement Obligations.** The Company sells service maintenance agreements that extend the period of covered warranty service on the products the Company sells. For certain of the service maintenance agreements sold, the Company is the obligor for payment of qualifying claims. The Company is responsible for administering the program, including setting the pricing of the agreements sold and paying the claims. The typical term for these agreements is between 12 and 36 months. The pricing is set based on historical claims experience and expectations about future claims. While the Company is unable to estimate maximum potential claim exposure, it has a history of overall profitability upon the ultimate resolution of agreements sold. The revenues related to the agreements sold are deferred at the time of sale and recorded in revenues in the statement of operations over the life of the agreements. The revenues deferred related to these agreements totaled \$3.6 million and \$4.2 million, respectively, as of January 31, 2007 and July 31, 2007, and are included on the face of the balance sheet in Deferred revenues and allowances.

11

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

#### Forward-Looking Statements

This report contains forward-looking statements. We sometimes use words such as "believe," "may," "will," "estimate," "continue," "anticipate," "intend," "expect," "project" and similar expressions, as they relate to us, our management and our industry, to identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements relate to our expectations, beliefs, plans, strategies, prospects, future performance, anticipated trends and other future

## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

events. We have based our forward-looking statements largely on our current expectations and projections about future events and financial trends affecting our business. Actual results may differ materially. Some of the risks, uncertainties and assumptions about us that may cause actual results to differ from these forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to:

- o the success of our growth strategy and plans regarding opening new stores and entering adjacent and new markets, including our plans to continue expanding in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, and South Texas;
- o our intention to update or expand existing stores;
- o our ability to obtain capital for required capital expenditures and costs related to the opening of new stores or to update or expand existing stores;
- o our cash flows from operations, borrowings from our revolving line of credit and proceeds from securitizations to fund our operations, debt repayment and expansion;
- o the ability of the QSPE to obtain additional funding for the purpose of purchasing our receivables;
- o the effect of rising interest rates that could increase our cost of borrowing or reduce securitization income;
- o the effect of rising interest rates on sub-prime mortgage borrowers that could impair our customers' ability to make payments on outstanding credit accounts;
- o inability to make customer financing programs available that allow consumers to purchase products at levels that can support our growth;
- o the potential for deterioration in the delinquency status of the sold or owned credit portfolios or higher than historical net charge-offs in the portfolios could adversely impact earnings;
- o the long-term effect of the change in bankruptcy laws could effect net charge-offs in the credit portfolio which could adversely impact earnings;
- o technological and market developments, growth trends and projected sales in the home appliance and consumer electronics industry, including, with respect to digital products, DVD players, HDTV, digital radio, home networking devices and other new products, and our ability to capitalize on such growth;
- o the potential for price erosion or lower unit sales that could result in declines in revenues;
- o higher oil and gas prices that could adversely affect our customers' shopping decisions and patterns, as well as the cost of our delivery and service operations and our cost of products, if vendors pass on their additional fuel costs through increased pricing for products;
- o the ability to attract and retain qualified personnel;



## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

- o both short-term and long-term impact of adverse weather conditions (e.g. hurricanes) that could result in volatility in our revenues and increased expenses and casualty losses;
- o changes in laws and regulations and/or interest, premium and commission rates allowed by regulators on our credit, credit insurance and service maintenance agreements as allowed by those laws and regulations;
- o our relationships with key suppliers;
- o the adequacy of our distribution and information systems and management experience to support our expansion plans;
- o the accuracy of our expectations regarding competition and our competitive advantages;
- o the potential for market share erosion that could result in reduced revenues;
- o the accuracy of our expectations regarding the similarity or dissimilarity of our existing markets as compared to new markets we enter; and
- o the outcome of litigation affecting our business.

Additional important factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from our expectations are discussed under "Risk Factors" in our Form 10-K filed with the Securities Exchange Commission on March 29, 2007. In light of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, the forward-looking events and circumstances discussed in this report might not happen.

The forward-looking statements in this report reflect our views and assumptions only as of the date of this report. We undertake no obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law.

All forward-looking statements attributable to us, or to persons acting on our behalf, are expressly qualified in their entirety by these cautionary statements.

### General

We intend for the following discussion and analysis to provide you with a better understanding of our financial condition and performance in the indicated periods, including an analysis of those key factors that contributed to our financial condition and performance and that are, or are expected to be, the key "drivers" of our business.

On February 1, 2007, we were required to adopt Statement of Financial Accounting Standard (SFAS) No. 155, Accounting for Certain Hybrid Financial Instruments. Among other things, this statement established a requirement to evaluate interests in securitized financial assets to identify interests that are freestanding derivatives or that are hybrid financial instruments that contain an embedded derivative requiring bifurcation. Additionally, we had the option to choose to early adopt the provisions of SFAS No. 159, The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities. We elected to early adopt SFAS No. 159 because we believe it provides a more easily understood presentation for financial statement users. This election resulted in us including all changes in the fair value of our Interests in securitized assets

## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

in current earnings, in Finance charges and other, beginning February 1, 2007. Previously, most changes in the fair value of our Interests in securitized assets were recorded in Other comprehensive income, which was included in Stockholders' equity. SFAS Nos. 155 and 159 do not allow for retrospective application of these changes in accounting principle, as such, no adjustments have been made to the amounts disclosed in the financial statements for periods ending prior to February 1, 2007. Additionally, effective February 1, 2007, we adopted SFAS No. 157, Fair Value Measurements, which established a framework for measuring fair value, based on the assumptions we believe market participants would use to value assets or liabilities to be exchanged. Changes in the assumptions over time, including varying credit portfolio performance, market interest rate changes or a shift in the mix of funding sources, could result in significant volatility in the fair value of the Interest in securitized assets, and thus our earnings. We were also required to adopt the provisions of SFAS No. 156, Accounting for Servicing of Financial Assets, effective on February 1, 2007. As a result of the adoption of this pronouncement, along with the requirements of SFAS No. 157, we recorded a \$1.1 million servicing liability on the balance sheet in Deferred revenues and allowances. Any changes in the fair value of the liability will be recorded in the period of change in the statement of operations in Finance charges and other. As with the other changes discussed above, no adjustments have been made to the financial statements for periods ending prior to February 1, 2007. See the notes to the financial statements for discussion of the impacts on the financial statements for the three and six months ended July 31, 2007.

13

We are a specialty retailer that sells major home appliances, including refrigerators, freezers, washers, dryers, dishwashers and ranges, a variety of consumer electronics, including micro-display projection, plasma and LCD flat-panel televisions, camcorders, digital cameras, DVD players and home theater products, lawn and garden products, mattresses and furniture. We also sell home office equipment, including computers and computer accessories and continue to introduce additional product categories for the consumer and home to help increase same store sales and to respond to our customers' product needs. We require our sales associates to be knowledgeable of all of our products, but to specialize in certain specific product categories.

We currently operate 63 retail locations in Texas and Louisiana, and have several other stores under development.

Unlike many of our competitors, we provide flexible in-house credit options for our customers. In the last three years, we financed, on average, approximately 58% of our retail sales through our internal credit programs. We finance a large portion of our customer receivables through an asset-backed securitization facility, and we derive servicing fee income and interest income from these assets. As part of our asset-backed securitization facility, we have created a qualifying special purpose entity, which we refer to as the QSPE or the issuer, to purchase customer receivables from us and to issue asset-backed and variable funding notes to third parties to finance its acquisition of the receivables. We transfer receivables, consisting of retail installment and revolving account receivables extended to our customers, to the issuer in exchange for cash and subordinated securities.

We also derive revenues from repair services on the products we sell and from product delivery and installation services we provide to our customers. Additionally, acting as an agent for unaffiliated companies, we sell credit insurance and service maintenance agreements to protect our customers from credit losses due to death, disability, involuntary unemployment and property damage and product failure not covered by a manufacturers' warranty. We also

## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

derive revenues from the sale of extended service maintenance agreements, under which we are the primary obligor, to protect the customers after the original manufacturer's warranty or service maintenance agreement has expired.

Our business is moderately seasonal, with a slightly greater share of our revenues, pretax and net income realized during the quarter ending January 31, due primarily to the holiday selling season.

### Executive Overview

This narrative is intended to provide an executive level overview of our operations for the three and six months ended July 31, 2007. A detailed explanation of the changes in our operations for these periods as compared to the prior year is included under Results of Operations. As explained in that section, our pretax income for the quarter and six months ended July 31, 2007, increased approximately 6.1% and 8.7%, respectively, primarily as a result of higher revenues and gross margin dollars. Some of the more specific items impacting our operating and pretax income were:

- o Same store sales for the quarter and six months increased by 5.0% and 2.1%, respectively, as compared to 7.2% and 11.7%, respectively, in the prior year. Prior year same store sales growth benefited significantly as a result of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina.
- o The addition of stores in our existing Houston, Dallas/Fort Worth and San Antonio markets had a positive impact on our revenues. We achieved approximately \$10.6 million and \$22.1 million of increases in product sales and service maintenance agreement commissions for the three and six months ended July 31, 2007, respectively, from the new stores that were opened in these markets after February 1, 2006. Our plans provide for the opening of additional stores in and around existing markets during fiscal 2008 as we focus on leveraging our existing infrastructure.

14

- o Deferred interest and "same as cash" plans continue to be an important part of our sales promotion plans and are utilized to provide a wide variety of financing to enable us to appeal to a broader customer base. For the three and six months ended July 31, 2007, \$44.0 million, or 26.9%, and \$88.1 million, or 26.7%, respectively of our product sales were financed by deferred interest and "same as cash" plans. This volume of promotional credit as a percent of product sales is consistent with our use of this type of credit product before the hurricanes in late 2005. For the comparable periods in the prior year, gross product sales financed by deferred interest and "same as cash" sales were \$33.0 million, or 21.9% and \$65.8 million, or 21.3%, respectively. Our promotional credit programs (same as cash and deferred interest programs), which require monthly payments, are reserved for our highest credit quality customers, thereby reducing the overall risk in the portfolio, and is used primarily to finance sales of our highest margin products. We expect to continue to offer extended term promotional credit in the future.
- o Our gross margin increased from 33.5% to 33.8% for the three months ended July 31, 2007, and from 33.6% to 34.4% for the six months ended July 31, 2007, when compared to the same period in the prior year, primarily as a result of a change in our revenue mix as higher margin Service maintenance agreement commissions and Finance charges and other grew faster than Product sales. The benefit to the gross margin due to the change in the mix was partially offset by a decline in product gross margins from 20.5% to 19.0% for the three months ended July 31, 2007, and from 20.6% to 19.9% for the

## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

six months ended July 31, 2007, when compared to the same period in the prior year. The product gross margin was negatively impacted by a highly price-competitive retail market during the three months ended July 31, 2007.

- o Finance charges and other increased 32.1% and 24.1% for the quarter and six months ended July 31, 2007, respectively, as:
  - o securitization income increased by 38.5% and 27.5% for the three and six months ended July 31, 2007, respectively. The improvement for the three and six month periods ended July 31, 2007, was driven by 30.7% and 24.5%, respectively, decreases in net credit losses from the prior year period. The decreases were a result of improved staffing levels and case loads in our credit collection operations, after the disruption to our operations in the prior year caused by Hurricane Rita.
  - o insurance commissions grew 17.8% and 20.4% for the three and six months ended July 31, 2007, respectively, primarily as a result of increased sales and lower credit charge-offs, which resulted in reduced insurance cancellations.
- o During the three and six months ended July 31, 2007, Selling, general and administrative (SG&A) expense increased as a percent of revenues to 26.9% from 26.6%, and to 26.0% from 25.4%, respectively, when compared to the prior year, primarily from increased compensation and employee related expenses and occupancy cost, including property taxes, as a percent of revenues.
- o The provision for income taxes benefited from a \$0.9 million reduction attributable to the reversal of previously accrued Texas margin tax as a result of the legal entity reorganization completed during the three months ended July 31, 2007.

### Operational Changes and Resulting Outlook

We have several locations in and around Texas that we believe are promising and, along with new stores in existing markets, are in various stages of development for opening in fiscal year 2008.

On May 18, 2006, the Governor of Texas signed a tax bill that modified the existing franchise tax, with the most significant change being the replacement of the existing base with a tax based on margin. Taxable margin is generally defined as total federal tax revenues minus the greater of (a) cost of goods sold or (b) compensation. The tax rate to be paid by retailers and wholesalers is 0.5% on taxable margin. During June 2007, we completed a reorganization to simplify our legal entity structure, by merging certain of our Texas limited partnerships into their corporate partners. The reorganization also resulted in the one-time elimination of the Texas margin tax owed by those partnerships, representing virtually all of the margin tax owed by us. Accordingly, we reversed approximately \$0.9 million of accrued Texas margin tax as of June 2007, net of federal tax. The Company began accruing the margin tax for the entities that acquired the operations through the mergers in July 2007 and expects its effective tax rate to be between 36.0% and 37.0% in future quarters.

The consumer electronics industry depends on new products to drive same store sales increases. Typically, these new products, such as high-definition televisions, DVD players, digital cameras and MP3 players are introduced at relatively high price points that are then gradually reduced as the product

## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

becomes mainstream. To sustain positive same store sales growth, unit sales must increase at a rate greater than the decline in product prices. The affordability of the product helps drive the unit sales growth. However, as a result of relatively short product life cycles in the consumer electronics industry, which limit the amount of time available for sales volume to increase, combined with rapid price erosion in the industry, retailers are challenged to maintain overall gross margin levels and positive same store sales. This has historically been our experience, and we continue to adjust our marketing strategies to address this challenge through the introduction of new product categories and new products within our existing categories.

### Application of Critical Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies that we use to prepare our consolidated financial statements, we necessarily make accounting estimates that affect our reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses. Some of these accounting estimates require us to make assumptions about matters that are highly uncertain at the time we make the accounting estimates. We base these assumptions and the resulting estimates on authoritative pronouncements, historical information and other factors that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances, and we evaluate these assumptions and estimates on an ongoing basis. We could reasonably use different accounting estimates, and changes in our accounting estimates could occur from period to period, with the result in each case being a material change in the financial statement presentation of our financial condition or results of operations. We refer to accounting estimates of this type as "critical accounting estimates." We believe that the critical accounting estimates discussed below are among those most important to an understanding of our consolidated financial statements as of July 31, 2007.

**Transfers of Financial Assets.** We transfer customer receivables to a QSPE that issues asset-backed securities to third party lenders using these accounts as collateral, and we continue to service these accounts after the transfer. We recognize the sale of these accounts when we relinquish control of the transferred financial asset in accordance with SFAS No. 140, Accounting for Transfers and Servicing of Financial Assets and Extinguishment of Liabilities, as amended by SFAS No. 155, Accounting for Certain Hybrid Financial Instruments. As we transfer the accounts we record an asset representing our interest in the cash flows of the QSPE, which is the difference between the interest earned on customer accounts and the cost associated with financing and servicing the transferred accounts, including a provision for bad debts associated with the transferred accounts, plus our retained interest in the transferred receivables, discounted using a market rate of interest. We recognize the income from our interest in these transferred accounts as gains on the transfer of the asset, interest income and servicing fees. This income is recorded as Finance charges and other in our consolidated statements of operations. Additionally, as a result of our adoption of SFAS No. 159, The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities, effective February 1, 2007, we record all changes in the fair value of our Interest in securitized assets in current earnings, in Finance charges and other. Previously, most changes in the fair value of our Interests in securitized assets were recorded in Other comprehensive income. Effective February 1, 2007, we adopted SFAS No. 157, Fair Value Measurements, which established a framework for measuring fair value, based on the assumptions a company believes market participants would use to value assets or liabilities to be exchanged. The gain or loss recognized on the sales of the receivables is based on our best estimates of key assumptions, including forecasted credit losses, payment rates, forward yield curves, costs of servicing the accounts and appropriate discount rates, based on our expectations of the assumptions that a market participant would use. We were required to adopt the provisions of SFAS No. 156, Accounting for Servicing of Financial Assets, effective on February 1, 2007. As a result of the adoption of this pronouncement we recorded a servicing liability on the balance sheet in Deferred revenues and allowances and any changes in the fair value of the

## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

liability are recorded in the period of change in the statement of operations in Finance charges and other. We estimate the fair value of our servicing liability using the portfolio performance and discount rate assumptions discussed above, and an estimate of the servicing fee a market participant would require to service the portfolio. The use of different estimates or assumptions in the valuation of our Interest in securitized assets or servicing liability could produce different financial results. Additionally, changes in the assumptions over time, including varying credit portfolio performance, market interest rate changes or a shift in the mix of funding sources, could result in significant volatility in the fair value of the Interest in securitized assets, and thus our earnings. For example, if we had assumed a 10.0% reduction in net interest spread (which might be caused by rising interest rates or reductions in rates charged on the accounts transferred), our interest in securitized assets and Finance charges and other would have been reduced by \$6.1 million as of July 31, 2007. If the assumption used for estimating credit losses was increased by 0.5%, the impact to Finance charges and other would have been a reduction in revenues and pretax income of \$2.3 million.

16

**Deferred Taxes.** We have net deferred tax assets of approximately \$1.2 million as of July 31, 2007. If we had assumed that the future tax rate at which these deferred items would reverse was 50 basis points lower than currently anticipated, we would have decreased the net deferred tax asset and decreased net income by approximately \$16,000.

**Revenue Recognition.** Revenues from the sale of retail products are recognized at the time the product is delivered to the customer. Such revenues are recognized net of any adjustments for sales incentive offers such as discounts, coupons, rebates, or other free products or services and discounts of promotional credit sales that will extend beyond one year. We sell service maintenance agreements and credit insurance contracts on behalf of unrelated third parties. For contracts where the third parties are the obligors on the contract, commissions are recognized in revenues at the time of sale, and in the case of retrospective commissions, at the time that they are earned. Where we sell service maintenance renewal agreements in which we are deemed to be the obligor on the contract at the time of sale, revenue is recognized ratably, on a straight-line basis, over the term of the service maintenance agreement. These service maintenance agreements are renewal contracts that provide our customers protection against product repair costs arising after the expiration of the manufacturer's warranty and the third party obligor contracts. These agreements typically range from 12 months to 36 months. These agreements are separate units of accounting under Emerging Issues Task Force No. 00-21, Revenue Arrangements with Multiple Deliverables. The amount of service maintenance agreement revenue deferred at July 31, 2007 and January 31, 2007 was \$4.2 million and \$3.6 million, respectively, and is included in Deferred revenues and allowances in the accompanying balance sheets.

**Vendor Allowances.** We receive funds from vendors for price protection, product rebates, marketing and training and promotion programs which are recorded on the accrual basis as a reduction to the related product cost or advertising expense according to the nature of the program. We accrue rebates based on the satisfaction of terms of the program and sales of qualifying products even though funds may not be received until the end of a quarter or year. If the programs are related to product purchases, the allowances, credits or payments are recorded as a reduction of product cost; if the programs are related to promotion or marketing of the product, the allowances, credits, or payments are recorded as a reduction of advertising expense in the period in which the expense is incurred.

## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

Accounting for Share-Based Compensation. We adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123R, Share-Based Payment, effective February 1, 2006, using the modified retrospective application transition. This statement establishes standards for accounting for transactions in which an entity exchanges its equity instruments for goods or services, focusing primarily on accounting for transactions in which an entity obtains an employee's services. The statement requires a public entity to measure the cost of employee services received in exchange for an award of equity instruments, based on the grant-date fair value of the award, and record that cost over the period during which the employee is required to provide service in exchange for the award. The fair value assigned to awards of share-based compensation are based on assumptions about the risk-free interest rate, average expected life of the award and expected stock price volatility over the life of the award. The use of different estimates or assumptions could produce different financial results.

17

Accounting for Leases. The accounting for leases is governed primarily by SFAS No. 13, Accounting for Leases. As required by the standard, we analyze each lease, at its inception, to determine whether it should be accounted for as an operating lease or a capital lease. Additionally, monthly lease expense for each operating lease is calculated as the average of all payments required under the minimum lease term, including rent escalations. Generally, the minimum lease term begins with the date we take possession of the property and ends on the last day of the minimum lease term, and includes all rent holidays, but excludes renewal terms that are at our option. Any tenant improvement allowances received are deferred and amortized into income as a reduction of lease expense on a straight line basis over the minimum lease term. The amortization of leasehold improvements is computed on a straight line basis over the shorter of the remaining lease term or the estimated useful life of the improvements. For transactions that qualify for treatment as a sale-leaseback, any gain or loss is deferred and amortized as rent expense on a straight-line basis over the minimum lease term. Any deferred gain would be included in Deferred revenues and allowances and any deferred loss would be included in Other assets on the consolidated balance sheets.

### Results of Operations

The following table sets forth certain statement of operations information as a percentage of total revenues for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended July 31,	
	2006	2007
Revenues:		
Product sales.....	82.6%	80.4%
Service maintenance agreement commissions (net).....	3.9	4.5
Service revenues.....	3.3	3.0
	89.8	87.9
Total net sales.....		
Finance charges and other.....	10.2	12.1
	100.0	100.0
Total revenues.....		
Costs and expenses:		

## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

Cost of goods sold, including warehousing and occupancy cost.....	65.7	65.2
Cost of parts sold, including warehousing and occupancy cost.....	0.8	1.0
Selling, general and administrative expense.....	26.6	26.9
Provision for bad debts.....	0.2	0.2
	-----	-----
Total costs and expenses.....	93.3	93.3
	-----	-----
Operating income.....	6.7	6.7
Interest income, net.....	(0.1)	(0.1)
Other income, net.....	(0.4)	(0.0)
	-----	-----
Income before income taxes.....	7.2	6.8
Provision for income taxes.....	2.5	2.1
	-----	-----
Net income.....	4.7%	4.7%
	=====	=====

The table above identifies several changes in our operations for the current quarter, including changes in revenue and expense categories expressed as a percentage of revenues. These changes are discussed in the Executive Overview, and in more detail in the discussion of operating results beginning in the analysis below.

Same store sales growth is calculated by comparing the reported sales by store for all stores that were open throughout a period to reported sales by store for all stores that were open throughout the prior year period. Sales from closed stores have been removed from each period. Sales from relocated stores have been included in each period because each store was relocated within the same general geographic market. Sales from expanded stores have been included in each period.

18

The presentation of gross margins may not be comparable to other retailers since we include the cost of our in-home delivery service as part of Selling, general and administrative expense. Similarly, we include the cost related to operating our purchasing function in Selling, general and administrative expense. It is our understanding that other retailers may include such costs as part of their cost of goods sold. Additionally, while we include a portion of our advertising expense in cost of goods sold, we understand that other retailers may include such costs as part of their Selling, general and administrative expense.

Three Months Ended July 31, 2007 Compared to Three Months Ended July 31, 2006

Revenues. Total revenues increased by \$21.3 million, or 11.7%, from \$182.2 million for the three months ended July 31, 2006, to \$203.5 million for the three months ended July 31, 2007. The increase was attributable to increases in net sales of \$15.4 million, or 9.4%, and \$5.9 million, or 32.1%, in finance charges and other revenue.

The \$15.4 million increase in net sales was made up of the following:

- o a \$7.9 million same store sales increase of 5.0%, driven by strength in consumer electronics, furniture and lawn and garden sales;
- o a \$8.2 million increase generated by six retail locations that were not open for three consecutive months in each period;



## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

- o a \$0.9 million decrease resulted from an increase in discounts on extended-term promotional credit sales (those with terms longer than 12 months); and
- o a \$0.2 million increase resulted from an increase in service revenues.

The components of the \$15.4 million increase in net sales were a \$13.2 million increase in Product sales and a \$2.2 million increase in service maintenance agreement commissions and service revenues. The \$13.2 million increase in product sales resulted from the following:

- o approximately \$6.9 million increase attributable to increases in unit sales, due primarily to increased consumer electronics and furniture sales, and
- o approximately \$6.3 million increase attributable to increases in unit price points. The price point impact was driven by a shift to higher-priced flat-panel televisions, high-efficiency laundry items and higher priced tractors and zero turn radius mowers, partially offset by a decline in the average price points on our furniture and mattresses categories and the \$0.9 million increase in discounts on extended-term promotional credit sales.

The \$2.2 million increase in service maintenance agreement sales and service revenues was driven by increased sales of service maintenance agreements and reduced service maintenance agreement cancellations, as credit charge-offs decreased as compared to the prior year period.

19

The following table presents the makeup of net sales by product category in each quarter, including service maintenance agreement commissions and service revenues, expressed both in dollar amounts and as a percent of total net sales. Classification of sales has been adjusted from previous filings to ensure comparability between the categories.

Category	Three Months Ended July 31,				Percent Increase
	2006		2007		
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	
Major home appliances.....	\$ 59,931	36.6%	\$ 60,737	33.9%	1.3%
Consumer electronics.....	46,421	28.4	53,426	29.8	15.1
Track.....	20,246	12.4	21,055	11.8	4.0
Delivery.....	2,845	1.7	3,301	1.8	16.0
Lawn and garden.....	6,576	4.0	8,555	4.8	30.1
Mattresses.....	4,908	3.0	4,237	2.4	(13.7)
Furniture.....	8,243	5.1	11,047	6.2	34.0
Other.....	1,477	0.9	1,435	0.8	(2.8)
<b>Total product sales.....</b>	<b>150,647</b>	<b>92.1</b>	<b>163,793</b>	<b>91.5</b>	<b>8.7</b>
Service maintenance agreement commissions.....	7,063	4.3	9,071	5.1	28.4
Service revenues.....	5,927	3.6	6,137	3.4	3.5

## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

Total net sales.....	\$ 163,637	100.0%	\$ 179,001	100.0%	9.4%
	=====	=====	=====	=====	

- 
- (1) This increase was smaller than the overall increase in product sales due to higher than normal demand for these products in the prior year due to consumers replacing appliances after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
  - (2) This increase is due to increased unit volume in the area of flat-panel and micro-display televisions, which also have higher price points than traditional tube and projection televisions.
  - (3) The increase in track sales (consisting largely of computers, computer peripherals, portable electronics and small appliances) is driven primarily by increased laptop computer sales and was partially offset by reduced sales of portable electronics, including camcorders, digital cameras and portable CRT televisions.
  - (4) This increase was due to an increase in the delivery fee charged to our customers and the overall increase in product sales.
  - (5) A higher than normal level of rainfall impacted this category in the current year.
  - (6) This decrease is due to the impact of our change in strategy as we move to a multi-vendor relationship.
  - (7) This increase is due to the increased emphasis on the sales of furniture, primarily sofas, recliners and entertainment centers, and new products added to this category.
  - (8) This increase is due to the increase in product sales, increased sales penetration as we introduced SMA coverage on some of our furniture products and decreased SMA cancellations as credit charge-offs declined as compared to the prior year period.
  - (9) This increase is driven by increased units in operation as we continue to grow product sales and an increase in the cost of parts used to repair higher-priced technology (flat-panel and micro-display televisions, etc.).

Revenues from Finance charges and other increased by approximately \$5.9 million, or 32.1%, from \$18.6 million for the three months ended July 31, 2006, to \$24.5 million for the three months ended July 31, 2007. It increased due primarily to an increase in securitization income of \$5.1 million, or 38.5% and an increase in insurance commissions of \$0.8 million. The securitization income comparison was impacted by a \$1.5 million impairment charge recorded in the prior year for higher projected credit losses and a 30.7% decrease in net credit losses for the quarter ended July 31, 2007, due to the impact in the prior year of Hurricane Rita on our credit collection operations and increased bankruptcy filings due to the new bankruptcy laws that took effect in October 2005. Our net credit loss rate of 2.3% for the three months ended July 31, 2007, was slightly below our expected long-term net loss rate of between 2.5% and 3.0%. Additionally, securitization income, for the three months ended July 31, 2007, was negatively impacted, in the amount of \$0.4 million, as we recorded a decrease in the fair value of our Interests in securitized assets in current earnings, due to the mark-to-market adjustment now required under SFAS No. 159. This decrease in fair value was driven primarily by higher projected borrowing costs and a slightly faster portfolio turnover rate, partially offset by the benefit of the growth of the portfolio (see the notes to the financial statements for additional information). Insurance commissions increased primarily due to increased sales and reduced insurance cancellations as credit charge-offs declined from the prior year period.

## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

**Cost of Goods Sold.** Cost of goods sold, including warehousing and occupancy cost, increased by \$12.9 million, or 10.8%, from \$119.8 million for the three months ended July 31, 2006, to \$132.7 million for the three months ended July 31, 2007. This increase was due primarily to the 8.7% growth in product sales during the three months ended July 31, 2007. Cost of products sold was 81.0% of product sales in the quarter ended July 31, 2007, and 79.5% in the quarter ended July 31, 2006, and was higher due to increased price competition, especially in the consumer electronics and track categories.

**Cost of Parts Sold.** Cost of parts sold, including warehousing and occupancy cost, increased approximately \$0.7 million, or 52.8%, for the three months ended July 31, 2007, as compared to the three months ended July 31, 2006, primarily due to a 20.8% increase in parts sales, valuation adjustments on our parts inventory and realignment of staffing.

**Selling, General and Administrative Expense.** Selling, general and administrative expense increased by \$6.3 million, or 13.3%, from \$48.4 million for the three months ended July 31, 2006, to \$54.7 million for the three months ended July 31, 2007. As a percentage of total revenues, it increased from 26.6% to 26.9%. The increase in expense resulted primarily from higher compensation and employee related expenses and occupancy cost, including property taxes, as a percent of revenues. The occupancy cost increase is attributable primarily to the additions of new stores.

**Provision for Bad Debts.** The provision for bad debts on non-credit portfolio receivables and credit portfolio receivables retained by the Company and not transferred to the QSPE decreased by \$42,000, during the three months ended July 31, 2007, as compared to the three months ended July 31, 2006. See the notes to the financial statements for information regarding the performance of the credit portfolio.

**Interest Income, net.** Net interest income improved by \$64,000, from net interest income of \$187,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2006 to net interest income of \$251,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2007. The net improvement in interest income was primarily attributable to increased interest income from invested funds, driven primarily by higher average invested balances, with a smaller portion of the increase due to higher yields.

**Other Income, net.** Other income declined by \$666,000, from \$721,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2006, to \$55,000 for the three months ended July 31, 2007, primarily resulting from a \$0.7 million gain recognized in the prior year period on the sale of a building and the related land.

**Provision for Income Taxes.** The provision for income taxes decreased by \$0.3 million, or 6.8%, from \$4.6 million for the three months ended July 31, 2006, to \$4.3 million for the three months ended July 31, 2007. The decrease in the Provision for income taxes is attributable to the reversal of previously accrued Texas margin tax as a result of the legal entity reorganization completed during the three months ended July 31, 2007. This decrease was partially offset by the impact of the 6.1% increase in pretax income. In July 2007, we began accruing margin tax for the entities that acquired the operations through the mergers completed during the quarter.

### Six Months Ended July 31, 2007 Compared to Six Months Ended July 31, 2006

**Revenues.** Total revenues increased by \$34.4 million, or 9.2%, from \$374.4 million for the six months ended July 31, 2006, to \$408.8 million for the six months ended July 31, 2007. The increase was attributable to increases in net

## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

sales of \$25.0 million, or 7.5%, and \$9.4 million, or 24.1%, in finance charges and other revenue.

The \$25.0 million increase in net sales was made up of the following:

- o a \$6.9 million same store sales increase of 2.1%, driven by strength in consumer electronics, furniture and lawn and garden sales, partially offset by declines in appliance and track sales. The decline in appliance same store sales was due to the positive impact in the prior year period of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina on our sales in the storm-impacted markets;
- o a \$19.6 million increase generated by six retail locations that were not open for six consecutive months in each period;
- o a \$1.9 million decrease resulted from an increase in discounts on extended-term promotional credit sales (those with terms longer than 12 months); and
- o a \$0.4 million increase resulted from an increase in service revenues.

The components of the \$25.0 million increase in net sales were a \$21.3 million increase in Product sales and a \$3.7 million increase in service maintenance agreement commissions and service revenues. The \$21.3 million increase in product sales resulted from the following:

- o approximately \$10.9 million increase attributable to increases in unit sales, due primarily to increased consumer electronics and furniture sales, and
- o approximately \$10.4 million increase attributable to increases in unit price points. The price point impact was driven by a shift to higher-priced flat-panel televisions, high-efficiency laundry items and higher priced tractors and zero turn radius mowers, partially offset by a decline in the average price points on our furniture and mattresses categories and the \$1.9 million increase in discounts on extended-term promotional credit sales.

The \$3.7 million increase in service maintenance agreement sales and service revenues was driven by increased sales of service maintenance agreements and reduced service maintenance agreement cancellations, as credit charge-offs decreased as compared to the prior year period.

22

The following table presents the makeup of net sales by product category in each period, including service maintenance agreement commissions and service revenues, expressed both in dollar amounts and as a percent of total net sales. Classification of sales has been adjusted from previous filings to ensure comparability between the categories.

Category	Six Months Ended July 31,				Percent Increase
	2006		2007		
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	

Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

Major home appliances.....	\$ 121,581	36.3%	\$ 118,444	32.9%	(2.6)%
Consumer electronics.....	100,057	29.8	112,249	31.1	12.2
Track.....	43,510	13.0	42,736	11.9	(1.8)
Delivery.....	5,717	1.7	6,365	1.8	11.3
Lawn and garden.....	11,848	3.5	14,711	4.1	24.2
Mattresses.....	10,003	3.0	8,641	2.4	(13.6)
Furniture.....	13,649	4.1	24,560	6.8	79.9
Other.....	2,791	0.8	2,726	0.7	(2.3)
<hr/>					
Total product sales.....	309,156	92.2	330,432	91.7	6.9
Service maintenance agreement commissions.....	15,030	4.5	18,352	5.1	22.1
Service revenues.....	11,156	3.3	11,582	3.2	3.8
<hr/>					
Total net sales.....	\$ 335,342	100.0%	\$ 360,366	100.0%	7.5%
<hr/>					

- (1) This decrease is due to higher than normal demand for these products in the prior year due to consumers replacing appliances after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, especially during the first three months of the period.
- (2) This increase is due to increased unit volume in the area of flat-panel and micro-display televisions, which also have higher price points than traditional tube and projection televisions.
- (3) The decrease in track sales (consisting largely of computers, computer peripherals, portable electronics and small appliances) is due primarily to reduced sales of portable electronics, including camcorders, digital cameras and portable CRT televisions.
- (4) This increase was due to an increase in the delivery fee charged to our customers and the overall increase in product sales.
- (5) A higher than normal level of rainfall impacted this category in the current year.
- (6) This decrease is due to the impact of our change in strategy as we move to a multi-vendor relationship and a change in the price points offered that negatively impacted our sales efforts.
- (7) This increase is due to the increased emphasis on the sales of furniture, primarily sofas, recliners and entertainment centers, and new products added to this category.
- (8) This increase is due to the increase in product sales, increased sales penetration as we introduced SMA coverage on some of our furniture products and decreased SMA cancellations as credit charge-offs declined as compared to the prior year period.
- (9) This increase is driven by increased units in operation as we continue to grow product sales and an increase in the cost of parts used to repair higher-priced technology (flat-panel and micro-display televisions, etc.).

Revenues from Finance charges and other increased by approximately \$9.4 million, or 24.1%, from \$39.1 million for the six months ended July 31, 2006 to \$48.5 million for the six months ended July 31, 2007. It increased due primarily to an increase in securitization income of \$7.8 million, or 27.5% and an increase in insurance commissions of \$1.8 million, partially offset by a decrease in income from receivables not sold and other items of \$0.2 million. The securitization income comparison was impacted by a \$1.5 million impairment charge recorded in the prior year for higher projected credit losses and a 24.5% decrease in net credit losses for the six months ended July 31, 2007, due to the impact in the prior year of Hurricane Rita on our credit collection operations and increased bankruptcy filings due to the new bankruptcy laws that took effect in October 2005. Our net credit loss rate of 2.5% for the six months ended July

## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

31, 2007, was in-line with our expected long-term net loss rate of between 2.5% and 3.0%. Additionally, securitization income, for the six months ended July 31, 2007, was negatively impacted, in the amount of \$0.3 million, as we recorded a decrease in the fair value of our Interests in securitized assets in current earnings, due to the mark-to-market adjustment now required under SFAS No. 159. This decrease in fair value was driven primarily by higher projected borrowing costs, partially offset by the benefit of the growth of the portfolio (see the notes to the financial statements for additional information). Insurance commissions increased primarily due to increased sales and reduced insurance cancellations as credit charge-offs declined from the prior year period.

23

**Cost of Goods Sold.** Cost of goods sold, including warehousing and occupancy cost, increased by \$19.1 million, or 7.8%, from \$245.5 million for the six months ended July 31, 2006, to \$264.6 million for the six months ended July 31, 2007. This increase was due primarily to the 6.9% growth in product sales during the six months ended July 31, 2007. Cost of products sold was 80.1% of product sales in the six months ended July 31, 2007, and 79.4% in the six months ended July 31, 2006, and was higher due to increased price competition, especially in the consumer electronics and track categories.

**Cost of Parts Sold.** Cost of parts sold, including warehousing and occupancy cost, increased approximately \$1.0 million, or 35.0%, for the six months ended July 31, 2007, as compared to the six months ended July 31, 2006, due primarily to a 22.4% increase in parts sales, valuation adjustments on our parts inventory and realignment of staffing.

**Selling, General and Administrative Expense.** Selling, general and administrative expense increased by \$11.3 million, or 11.9%, from \$95.1 million for the six months ended July 31, 2006, to \$106.4 million for the six months ended July 31, 2007. As a percentage of total revenues, it increased from 25.4% to 26.0%. The increase in expense resulted primarily from higher net advertising expenses, compensation and employee related expenses and occupancy cost, including property taxes, as a percent of revenues. The occupancy cost increase is attributable primarily to the additions of new stores.

**Provision for Bad Debts.** The provision for bad debts on non-credit portfolio receivables and credit portfolio receivables retained by the Company and not transferred to the QSPE increased by \$0.5 million, during the six months ended July 31, 2007, as compared to the six months ended July 31, 2006, primarily as a result of provision adjustments due to increased credit losses. Additionally, the provision for bad debts in the six months ended July 31, 2006, benefited from a \$0.1 million reserve adjustment related to the special reserves recorded as a result of the hurricanes in 2005. See the notes to the financial statements for information regarding the performance of the credit portfolio.

**Interest Income, net.** Net interest income improved by \$120,000, from net interest income of \$371,000 for the six months ended July 31, 2006 to net interest income of \$491,000 for the six months ended July 31, 2007. The net improvement in interest income was primarily attributable to increased interest income from invested funds, driven by higher yields and higher average invested balances.

**Other Income, net.** Other income increased by \$132,000, from \$754,000 for the six months ended July 31, 2006, to \$886,000 for the six months ended July 31, 2007. Both periods included gains recognized on the sales of company assets. Additionally, during the six months ended July 31, 2007, there were gains realized, but not recognized, on transactions qualifying for sale-leaseback accounting that have been deferred and will be amortized as a reduction of rent

## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

expense on a straight-line basis over the minimum lease terms.

Provision for Income Taxes. The provision for income taxes increased by \$0.6 million, or 5.7%, from \$11.1 million for the six months ended July 31, 2006, to \$11.7 million for the six months ended July 31, 2007. The effective tax rate declined from 35.1% for the six months ended July 31, 2006, to 34.1% for the six months ended July 31, 2007. The decrease in the effective tax rate is attributable to the reversal of previously accrued Texas margin tax as a result of the legal entity reorganization completed during the three months ended July 31, 2007. This decrease was partially offset by the impact of the 8.7% increase in pretax income. In July 2007, we began accruing margin tax for the entities that acquired the operations through the mergers completed during the quarter.

24

### Liquidity and Capital Resources

#### Current Activities

Historically we have financed our operations through a combination of cash flow generated from operations, and external borrowings, including primarily bank debt, extended terms provided by our vendors for inventory purchases, acquisition of inventory under consignment arrangements and transfers of receivables under our asset-backed securitization facilities.

As of July 31, 2007, we had approximately \$37.9 million in excess cash, the majority of which was generated through the operations of the Company, and was invested in short-term, tax-free instruments. In addition to the excess cash, we had \$49.1 million under our revolving line of credit, net of standby letters of credit issued, and \$8.0 million under our unsecured bank line of credit available to us for general corporate purposes, \$24.9 million under extended vendor terms for purchases of inventory and \$107.5 million in commitments available to our QSPE for the transfer of receivables.

In its regularly scheduled meeting on August 24, 2006, our Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$50 million of our common stock, dependent on market conditions and the price of the stock. We expect to fund these purchases with a combination of excess cash, cash flow from operations, borrowings under our revolving credit facilities and proceeds from the sale of owned properties. Through July 31, 2007, we had spent \$12.5 million under this authorization to acquire 499,085 shares of our common stock.

A summary of the significant financial covenants that govern our bank credit facility compared to our actual compliance status at July 31, 2007, is presented below:

	Actual	Re Mi Ma
Debt service coverage ratio must exceed required minimum	4.53 to 1.00	2.00
Total adjusted leverage ratio must be lower than required maximum	1.62 to 1.00	3.00
Consolidated net worth must exceed required minimum	\$302.7 million	\$198.
Charge-off ratio must be lower than required maximum	0.02 to 1.00	0.06
Extension ratio must be lower than required maximum	0.03 to 1.00	0.05
Thirty-day delinquency ratio must be lower than required maximum	0.08 to 1.00	0.13

## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

Note: All terms in the above table are defined by the bank credit facility and may or may not agree directly to the financial statement captions in this document.

We will continue to finance our operations and future growth through a combination of cash flow generated from operations and external borrowings, including primarily bank debt, extended vendor terms for purchases of inventory, acquisition of inventory under consignment arrangements and the QSPE's asset-backed securitization facilities. Based on our current operating plans, we believe that cash generated from operations, available borrowings under our bank credit facility and unsecured credit line, extended vendor terms for purchases of inventory, acquisition of inventory under consignment arrangements and access to the unfunded portion of the variable funding portion of the QSPE's asset-backed securitization program will be sufficient to fund our operations, store expansion and updating activities, stock repurchases, if any, and capital programs for at least 12 months. However, there are several factors that could decrease cash provided by operating activities, including:

- o reduced demand for our products;
- o more stringent vendor terms on our inventory purchases;
- o loss of ability to acquire inventory on consignment;
- o increases in product cost that we may not be able to pass on to our customers;
- o reductions in product pricing due to competitor promotional activities;

25

- o changes in inventory requirements based on longer delivery times of the manufacturers or other requirements which would negatively impact our delivery and distribution capabilities;
- o increases in the retained portion of our receivables portfolio under our current QSPE's asset-backed securitization program as a result of changes in performance or types of receivables transferred (promotional versus non-promotional and primary versus secondary portfolio), or as a result of a change in the mix of funding sources available to the QSPE, requiring higher collateral levels;
- o inability to expand our capacity for financing our receivables portfolio under new or replacement QSPE asset-backed securitization programs or a requirement that we retain a higher percentage of the credit portfolio under such new programs;
- o increases in program costs (interest and administrative fees relative to our receivables portfolio associated with the funding of our receivables); and
- o increases in personnel costs.

During the six months ended July 31, 2007, net cash used in operating activities improved \$7.2 million from \$14.0 million for the six months ended July 31, 2006, to \$6.8 million for the six months ended July 31, 2007. Operating cash flows for both periods were negatively impacted by higher than normal payments on accounts payable and accrued expenses, as discussed below. The cash used in operations for the six months ended July 31, 2007, was driven primarily



## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

by payments on accounts payable, which was driven by the timing of receipts of inventory, and increased investment in accounts receivable. Our increased investment in accounts receivable was due primarily to increased balances in the sold portfolio and a lower funding rate as a percentage of the sold portfolio. The lower funding rate is being impacted by the QSPE's pay down of its 2002 Series B bond issuance, the increase in the balance of the 2002 Series A variable funding note, and other collateral requirements. The lower funding rate results in a negative impact on operating cash flows of approximately \$22.2 million in the current year period. The cash used in operations for the six months ended July 31, 2006, resulted primarily from the timing of payments of accounts payable and federal income and employment taxes, which had been extended due to the impact of hurricanes in the prior fiscal year. Those extended terms ended and deadlines were reached in the quarter ended April 30, 2006, and we were required to satisfy those obligations, negatively impacting our operating cash flows by approximately \$18.9 million.

As noted above, we offer promotional credit programs to certain customers that provide for "same as cash" or deferred interest interest-free periods of varying terms, generally three, six, 12, 18, 24 and 36 months, and require monthly payments beginning in the month after the sale. The various "same as cash" promotional accounts and deferred interest program accounts are eligible for securitization up to the limits provided for in our securitization agreements. This limit is currently 30.0% of eligible securitized receivables. If we exceed this 30.0% limit, we would be required to use some of our other capital resources to carry the unfunded balances of the receivables for the promotional period. The percentage of eligible securitized receivables represented by promotional receivables was 17.0% and 21.0%, as of July 31, 2006 and 2007, respectively. The weighted average promotional period was 11.5 months and 14.5 months for promotional receivables outstanding as of July 31, 2006 and 2007, respectively. The weighted average remaining term on those same promotional receivables was 7.2 months and 10.8 months as of both July 31, 2006 and 2007, respectively. While overall these promotional receivables have a much shorter weighted average term than non-promotional receivables, we receive less income on these receivables, resulting in a reduction of the net interest margin used in the calculation of the gain on the sale of receivables.

Net cash from investing activities increased by \$10.3 million, from \$9.6 million used in the fiscal 2007 period to \$0.7 million provided in the fiscal 2008 period. The increase in cash provided by investing activities resulted primarily from the sales of property and equipment, partially offset by purchases of property and equipment. We entered into leases for certain of the properties sold. The cash expended for property and equipment was used primarily for construction of new stores and the reformatting of existing stores to better support our current product mix. Based on current plans, we expect to increase expenditures for property and equipment in the remainder of fiscal 2008 as we open additional stores.

26

Net cash from financing activities decreased by \$8.2 million from \$1.4 million provided during the six months ended July 31, 2006 to \$6.8 million used during the six months ended July 31, 2007. The increase in cash used by financing activities resulted primarily from an increase in the cash used to purchase treasury stock. During the six months ended July 31, 2007, we used \$8.7 million to purchase 331,085 shares of our common stock.

### Off-Balance Sheet Financing Arrangements

Since we extend credit in connection with a large portion of our retail, service maintenance and credit insurance sales, we have created a qualified

## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

special purpose entity, which we refer to as the QSPE or the issuer, to purchase customer receivables from us and to issue asset-backed and variable funding notes to third parties to obtain cash for these purchases. We transfer receivables, consisting of retail installment contracts and revolving accounts extended to our customers, to the issuer in exchange for cash and subordinated, unsecured promissory notes. To finance its acquisition of these receivables, the issuer has issued the notes and bonds described below to third parties. The unsecured promissory notes issued to us are subordinate to these third party notes and bonds.

At July 31, 2007, the issuer had issued three series of notes and bonds: the 2002 Series A variable funding note with a total availability of \$300 million, three classes of 2002 Series B bonds with an aggregate amount outstanding of \$100 million, of which \$8.0 million was required to be placed in a restricted cash account for the benefit of the bondholders, and three classes of 2006 Series A bonds with an aggregate amount outstanding of \$150 million, of which \$6.0 million was required to be placed in a restricted cash account for the benefit of the bondholders. The 2002 Series A variable funding note is composed of a \$100 million 364-day tranche, and a \$200 million tranche that matures in 2011. The 364-day commitment was recently renewed by the note holder until July 31, 2008. If the net portfolio yield, as defined by agreements, falls below 5.0%, then the issuer may be required to fund additions to the cash reserves in the restricted cash accounts. At July 31, 2007, the net portfolio yield was in compliance with this requirement. Private institutional investors, primarily insurance companies, purchased the 2002 Series B bonds at a weighted fixed rate of 5.25% and 2006 Series A bonds at a weighted fixed rate of 5.75%.

The issuer is currently in the process of marketing an additional series of fixed rate bonds, but no assurance can be given that a transaction can be completed on terms favorable to it. It is currently anticipated that the transaction will be completed in the third or fourth quarter of the current fiscal year. The proceeds of the new issuance will provide the issuer additional capacity for the purchase of our receivables. If the issuer is unable to complete the new bond issuance or increase the total availability under the 2002 Series A variable funding note, then, after its current funding sources are exhausted, we may have to fund growth in the receivables portfolio until the issuer can obtain additional funding. At July 31, 2007, the issuer had \$107.5 million of available capacity under the 2002 Series A variable funding note to fund receivables purchases and the required \$10 million principal payments on the 2002 Series B bonds. Additionally, at July 31, 2007, we had \$37.9 million of excess cash and \$57.1 million of availability under our revolving credit facilities, among other liquidity sources, to provide funding, if needed, to fund receivable portfolio growth.

We continue to service the transferred accounts for the QSPE, and we receive a monthly servicing fee, so long as we act as servicer, in an amount equal to .25% multiplied by the average aggregate principal amount of receivables serviced, including the amount of average aggregate defaulted receivables. The issuer records revenues equal to the interest charged to the customer on the receivables less losses, the cost of funds, the program administration fees paid in connection with either the 2002 Series A, 2002 Series B or 2006 Series A bond holders, the servicing fee and additional earnings to the extent they are available.

The 2002 Series A variable funding note permits the issuer to borrow funds up to \$300 million to purchase receivables from us or make principal payments on other bonds, thereby functioning as a "basket" to accumulate receivables. As issuer borrowings under the 2002 Series A variable funding note approach \$300 million, the issuer is required to request an increase in the 2002 Series A amount or issue a new series of bonds and use the proceeds to pay down the then outstanding balance of the 2002 Series A variable funding note, so that the basket will once again become available to accumulate new receivables or meet

## Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

other obligations required under the transaction documents. As of July 31, 2007, borrowings under the 2002 Series A variable funding note were \$192.5 million.

27

We are not directly liable to the lenders under the asset-backed securitization facility. If the issuer is unable to repay the 2002 Series A note, 2002 Series B bonds and 2006 Series A bonds due to its inability to collect the transferred customer accounts, the issuer could not pay the subordinated notes it has issued to us in partial payment for transferred customer accounts, and the 2002 Series B and 2006 Series A bond holders could claim the balance in its \$14.0 million restricted cash account. We are also contingently liable under a \$20.0 million letter of credit that secures the performance of our obligations or services under the servicing agreement as it relates to the transferred assets that are part of the asset-backed securitization facility.

The issuer is subject to certain affirmative and negative covenants contained in the transaction documents governing the 2002 Series A variable funding note, and the 2002 Series B and 2006 Series A bonds, including covenants that restrict, subject to specified exceptions: the incurrence of non-permitted indebtedness and other obligations and the granting of additional liens; mergers, acquisitions, investments and disposition of assets; and the use of proceeds of the program. The issuer also makes representations and warranties relating to compliance with certain laws, payment of taxes, maintenance of its separate legal entity, preservation of its existence, protection of collateral and financial reporting. In addition, the program requires the issuer to maintain a minimum net worth.

A summary of the significant financial covenants that govern the 2002 Series A variable funding note compared to actual compliance status at July 31, 2007, is presented below:

	As reported	
	-----	-----
Issuer interest must exceed required minimum	\$66.9 million	\$63.4
Gross loss rate must be lower than required maximum	3.0%	1
Net portfolio yield must exceed required minimum	9.0%	
Payment rate must exceed required minimum	6.7%	

Note: All terms in the above table are defined by the asset backed credit facility and may or may not agree directly to the financial statement captions in this document.

Events of default under the 2002 Series A variable funding note and the 2002 Series B and 2006 Series A bonds, subject to grace periods and notice provisions in some circumstances, include, among others: failure of the issuer to pay principal, interest or fees; violation by the issuer of any of its covenants or agreements; inaccuracy of any representation or warranty made by the issuer; certain servicer defaults; failure of the trustee to have a valid and perfected first priority security interest in the collateral; default under or acceleration of certain other indebtedness; bankruptcy and insolvency events; failure to maintain certain loss ratios and portfolio yield; change of control provisions and certain other events pertaining to us. The issuer's obligations

Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

under the program are secured by the receivables and proceeds.

28

Securitization Facilities

We finance most of our customer receivables through asset-backed securitization facilities

Customer Receivables		
		2002 Series
		\$300 mill
		Credit Rating
		Three Pillars F
		2002 Series
		\$100 mill
Retail	Qualifying Special Purpose	