

Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

CONNS INC  
Form 10-Q  
November 29, 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 October 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 November 27, 2007:

Class	Outstanding
----- Common stock, \$.01 par value per share	----- 23,969,814

# 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 October 31, 2007.....	1
	Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three and nine months ended October 31, 2006 and 2007.....	2
	Consolidated Statement of Stockholders' Equity for the nine months ended October 31, 2007.....	3
	Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the nine months ended October 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.....	13
Item 3.	Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.....	31
Item 4.	Controls and Procedures.....	31
PART II.	OTHER INFORMATION	
Item 1.	Legal Proceedings.....	32
Item 1A.	Risk Factors.....	32
Item 2.	Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds.....	32
Item 4.	Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders.....	33
Item 5.	Other Information.....	33
Item 6.	Exhibits.....	33
SIGNATURE	.....	34

Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

i

Part I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION  
Item 1. Financial Statements

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

Assets	January 31, 2007	October 31, 2007
	-----	-----
Current assets		(unaudited)
Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$ 56,570	\$ 23,045
Accounts receivable, net.....	31,448	35,759
Interests in securitized assets.....	136,848	165,236
Inventories.....	87,098	97,466
Deferred income taxes.....	551	2,652
Prepaid expenses and other assets.....	5,247	4,573
	-----	-----
Total current assets.....	317,762	328,731
Non-current deferred income tax asset.....	2,920	-
Property and equipment		
Land.....	9,102	8,011
Buildings.....	13,896	13,083
Equipment and fixtures.....	13,650	16,672
Transportation equipment.....	3,022	2,825
Leasehold improvements.....	66,761	69,643
	-----	-----
Subtotal.....	106,431	110,234
Less accumulated depreciation.....	(46,991)	(54,872)
	-----	-----
Total property and equipment, net.....	59,440	55,362
Goodwill, net.....	9,617	9,617
Debt issuance costs and other assets, net.....	208	167
	-----	-----
Total assets.....	\$ 389,947	\$ 393,877
	=====	=====
Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity		
Current liabilities		
Current portion of long-term debt.....	\$ 110	\$ 111
Accounts payable.....	54,045	43,609
Accrued compensation and related expenses.....	9,234	9,073
Accrued expenses.....	20,424	23,785
Income taxes payable.....	3,693	416
Deferred revenues and allowances.....	9,516	13,808
	-----	-----
Total current liabilities.....	97,022	90,802
Long-term debt.....	88	28
Non-current deferred income tax liability.....	-	123
Deferred gains on sales of property.....	309	1,314
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 23,969,814 shares issued at January 31, 2007 and October 31, 2007, respectively).....	238	240
Additional paid-in capital.....	93,365	97,235
Accumulated other comprehensive income.....	6,305	-

Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

Retained earnings.....	196,417	228,672
Treasury stock, at cost, 168,000 and 1,041,185 shares, respectively.....	(3,797)	(24,537)
Total stockholders' equity.....	292,528	301,610
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity.. \$	389,947	\$ 393,877

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

1

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

	Three Months Ended October 31,		Nine Months October
	2006	2007	2006
Revenues			
Product sales.....	\$ 139,594	\$ 155,657	\$ 448,750
Service maintenance agreement commissions, net.....	6,845	8,336	21,875
Service revenues.....	5,951	6,059	17,107
Total net sales.....	152,390	170,052	487,732
Finance charges and other.....	21,303	19,314	60,353
Total revenues.....	173,693	189,366	548,085
Cost and expenses			
Cost of goods sold, including warehousing and occupancy costs.....	110,627	125,359	356,112
Cost of parts sold, including warehousing and occupancy costs.....	1,834	2,257	4,788
Selling, general and administrative expense.....	49,701	54,760	144,790
Provision for bad debts.....	526	582	959
Total cost and expenses.....	162,688	182,958	506,649
Operating income.....	11,005	6,408	41,436
Interest income, net.....	(141)	(110)	(512)
Other income, net.....	(19)	(34)	(773)
Income before income taxes.....	11,165	6,552	42,721
Provision for income taxes.....	4,011	2,531	15,074
Net income..... \$	7,154	\$ 4,021	\$ 27,647

Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

Earnings per share				
Basic.....	\$	0.30	\$	0.17
Diluted.....	\$	0.30	\$	0.17
Average common shares outstanding				
Basic.....		23,698		23,077
Diluted.....		24,165		23,550

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

2

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

	Common Stock		Accum. Other Compre- hensive Income	Additional Paid-in Capital	Retain Earnin
	Shares	Amount			
Balance January 31, 2007.....	23,810	\$ 238	\$ 6,305	\$ 93,365	\$ 196
Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles.....			(6,305)		5
Exercise of options to acquire shares of common stock, incl. tax benefit.....	151	2		1,866	
Issuance of shares of common stock under Employee Stock Purchase Plan...	9			185	
Stock-based compensation.....				1,819	
Purchase of 873,185 shares of treasury stock.....					
Net income.....					26
Balance October 31, 2007.....	23,970	\$ 240	\$ -	\$ 97,235	\$ 228

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

3

Conn's, Inc.  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

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

(unaudited) (in thousands)

	Nine Months Ended October 31,	
	2006	2007
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income.....	\$ 27,647	\$ 26,624
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Depreciation.....	9,292	9,421
Amortization.....	(336)	(545)
Provision for bad debts.....	959	1,490
Stock-based compensation.....	1,008	1,819
Discounts on promotional credit.....	1,001	742
Gains recognized on sales of receivables.....	(14,182)	(20,318)
Decrease in fair value of interests in securitized assets.....	-	4,346
Provision for deferred income taxes.....	292	(788)
Gains from sales of property and equipment....	(773)	(920)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable.....	14,728	(18,956)
Inventory.....	(3,237)	(10,368)
Prepaid expenses and other assets.....	(1,436)	674
Accounts payable.....	(8,634)	(10,436)
Accrued expenses.....	(8,392)	3,200
Income taxes payable.....	(8,148)	(1,173)
Deferred revenue and allowances.....	1,301	3,578
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities.....	11,090	(11,610)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of property and equipment.....	(15,681)	(12,043)
Proceeds from sales of property.....	2,272	8,897
Net cash used in investing activities.....	(13,409)	(3,146)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Proceeds from stock issued under employee benefit plans.....	1,695	2,053
Purchase of treasury stock.....	(684)	(20,740)
Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation.....	196	2
Borrowings under lines of credit.....	13,400	5,200
Payments on lines of credit.....	(13,400)	(5,200)
Borrowings under promissory notes.....	208	-
Payment of promissory notes.....	(145)	(84)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities.....	1,270	(18,769)
Net change in cash.....	(1,049)	(33,525)
Cash and cash equivalents		
Beginning of the year.....	45,176	56,570
End of period.....	\$ 44,127	\$ 23,045

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

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

4

Conn's, Inc.  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(unaudited)  
October 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 nine month periods ended October 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 consolidated financial statements of the Company. The Company's retained interest in the transferred receivables is valued under the requirements of SFAS No. 159, The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Liabilities, and 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

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

accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates. See the discussion under Note 2 regarding the change in the discount rate used in the Company's valuation of its Interests in securitized assets.

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 October 31,	
	2006	2007
Common stock outstanding, net of treasury stock, beginning of period.....	23,697,318	23,464,538
Weighted average common stock issued in stock option exercises.....	15,100	1,100
Weighted average common stock issued to employee stock purchase plan.....	1,184	1,109
Weighted average number of restricted shares forfeited.....	-	(1,141)
Less: Weighted average treasury shares purchased.....	(15,185)	(389,056)
	-----	-----
Shares used in computing basic earnings per share.....	23,698,417	23,076,550
Dilutive effect of stock options, net of assumed repurchase of treasury stock.....	466,741	473,808
	-----	-----
Shares used in computing diluted earnings per share.....	24,165,158	23,550,358
	=====	=====

	Nine Months Ended October 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.....	87,919	85,344
Weighted average common stock issued to employee stock purchase plan.....	3,282	4,180
Weighted average number of restricted shares forfeited.....	-	(385)
Less: Weighted average treasury shares purchased.....	(5,117)	(355,389)
	-----	-----
Shares used in computing basic earnings per share.....	23,657,648	23,375,272
Dilutive effect of stock options, net of assumed repurchase of treasury stock.....	659,870	532,176
	-----	-----
Shares used in computing diluted earnings per share.....	24,317,518	23,907,448
	=====	=====

Application of APB 21 to Promotional Credit Programs that Exceed One Year in



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

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 October 31, 2006 and 2007, Product sales were reduced by \$1.7 million and \$1.5 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 nine months ended October 31, 2006 and 2007, Product sales were reduced by \$3.3 million and \$5.1 million, respectively, and Finance charges and other was increased by \$2.3 million and \$4.3 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 nine months ended October 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 nine months ended October 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 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

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

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. 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 principally from the Company's historical experience, with input from its investment bankers and financial advisors, include the estimated portfolio yield, credit loss rate, discount rate, payment rate and delinquency rate and reflect the Company's judgments 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, market participant risk premiums required, 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.

For the three and nine months ended October 31, 2007, Finance charges and other included non-cash decreases in the fair value our interests in securitized assets of \$4.0 million and \$4.3 million, respectively, reflecting primarily a higher risk premium added to the discount rate assumption resulting from the volatility in the financial markets, plus adjustments for other changes in the fair value assumptions, partially offset by lower interest rates, including the risk-free interest rate (see reconciliation of the balance of Interests in securitized assets below). During the three month period ended October 31, 2007, returns required by market participants on many investments increased

significantly as a result of disruption in the asset-backed securities markets due to increased losses and delinquencies on sub-prime real estate mortgages. Though the Company does not anticipate any significant variation from the current earnings and cash flow performance of the securitized credit portfolio, it increased the risk premium included in the discount rate assumption used in the determination of the fair value of its interests in securitized assets to reflect the higher estimated return on investment it believes a market participant would require if purchasing the asset. Based on a review of the changes in market risk premiums during the three months ended October 31, 2007,

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

and discussions with its investment bankers and financial advisors, the Company estimated that a market participant would require an approximately 300 basis point increase in the required return. As a result, the Company increased the weighted average discount rate assumption from 14.3% at July 31, 2007, to 16.4% at October 31, 2007, after reflecting a 90 basis point decrease in the risk-free interest rate included in the discount rate assumption. This change in estimate for the risk premium on the discount rate, net of the change in the risk-free rate, resulted in a charge to pretax income of \$3.7 million, a charge to net income of \$2.4 million, and reduced basic and diluted earnings per share by \$0.10, for the three and nine months ended October 31, 2007. If the credit operations perform in-line with the assumptions for losses, borrowing costs and the other portfolio related assumptions, none of which have changed significantly from those used at July 31, 2007, this increase in the discount rate will have the effect of deferring income to future periods, but not permanently reducing securitization income or the earnings of the Company. The deferred earnings will be recognized in future periods as interest income on the Interests in securitized assets as the actual cash flows on the receivables are realized. If a market participant were to require a return on investment that is 100 basis points higher than estimated in the Company's calculation, the fair value of its interests in securitized assets would be decreased by an additional \$1.7 million. The Company will continue to monitor financial market conditions and, each quarter, as it reassesses the assumptions used may adjust its assumptions of the return a market participant will require up or down. As the discount rate or other assumptions change, the Company expects to record additional non-cash gains or losses in future periods.

8

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

Balance of Interests in securitized assets at July 31, 2007.....	\$	166,130
Amounts recorded in Finance charges and other:		
Fair value increase associated with change in portfolio balances.....		118
Fair value increase due to changing portfolio yield.....		17
Fair value increase due to lower projected interest rates....		267
Fair value decrease due to changes in funding mix.....		(492)
Fair value decrease due to higher portfolio turnover rate....		(191)
Fair value increase due to change in risk-free interest rate component of discount rate.....		1,367
Fair value decrease due to higher risk premium included in discount rate.....		(5,034)
Other changes.....		(51)
Net Losses included in Finance charges and other.....		(3,999)
Change in balance of subordinated security and equity interest due to transfers of receivables.....		3,105
Balance of Interests in securitized assets at October 31, 2007...	\$	165,236
=====		
Balance of Interests in securitized assets at January 31, 2007...	\$	136,848

Amounts recorded in Finance charges and other:

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

Fair value increase associated with change in portfolio balances.....	727
Fair value increase due to change in portfolio yield.....	221
Fair value increase due to lower projected interest rates....	463
Fair value decrease due to higher expected funding mix.....	(1,778)
Fair value decrease due to higher portfolio turnover rate....	(634)
Fair value increase due to change in risk-free interest rate component of discount rate.....	1,772
Fair value decrease due to higher risk premium included in discount rate.....	(5,034)
Other changes.....	(83)
	-----
Net Losses included in Finance charges and other.....	(4,346)
 Change in balance of subordinated security and equity interest due to transfers of receivables.....	 32,734
	-----
Balance of Interests in securitized assets at October 31, 2007... \$	165,236
	=====

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 October 31, 2006 and 2007, totaled \$5.3 million and \$6.2 million, respectively, and are reflected in Finance charges and other. Servicing fees collected during the nine months ended October 31, 2006 and 2007, totaled \$15.4 million and \$17.9 million,

9

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 nine months ended October 31, 2007, the Company recorded \$15,000 of income and \$45,000 of expense, respectively, in Finance charges and other.

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

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

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, 2004, 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 nine months ended October 31, 2006 and 2007 (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended October 31,		Nine Months Ended October 31,	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
Securitization income.....	\$ 16,783	\$ 14,115	\$ 45,294	\$ 50,453
Insurance commissions.....	4,074	5,114	13,069	15,948
Other.....	446	85	1,990	1,384
Finance charges and other.....	\$ 21,303	\$ 19,314	\$ 60,353	\$ 67,785

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

	Three Months Ended October 31,		Nine Months Ended October 31,	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
Net income.....	\$ 7,154	\$ 4,021	\$ 27,647	\$ 26,624
Adjustment of fair value of securitized assets..	(6,628)	-	(6,644)	-
Taxes on adjustment of fair value.....	2,395	-	2,276	-
Total comprehensive income.....	\$ 2,921	\$ 4,021	\$ 23,279	\$ 26,624

10

### 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	Principal Amount 60 Days
------------------------	--------------------------

Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

	of Receivables		or More Past Due (1)	
	January 31, 2007	October 31, 2007	January 31, 2007	October 31, 2007
Primary portfolio:				
Installment.....	\$ 382,482	\$ 430,015	\$ 24,853	\$ 28,673
Revolving.....	53,125	48,710	1,171	1,562
Subtotal.....	435,607	478,725	26,024	30,235
Secondary portfolio:				
Installment.....	133,944	139,836	11,638	17,468
Total receivables managed.....	569,551	618,561	37,662	47,703
Less receivables sold.....	559,619	609,425	35,677	45,579
Receivables not sold.....	9,932	9,136	\$ 1,985	\$ 2,124
Non-customer receivables.....	21,516	26,623		
Total accounts receivable, net.....	\$ 31,448	\$ 35,759		

(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		Net Credit Charge-offs (1)	
	Three Months Ended October 31,		Three Months Ended October 31,	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
Primary portfolio:				
Installment.....	\$ 366,440	\$ 423,115		
Revolving.....	46,637	48,930		
Subtotal.....	413,077	472,045	\$ 2,897	\$ 3,407
Secondary portfolio:				
Installment.....	119,884	140,832	906	1,456
Total receivables managed.....	532,961	612,877	3,803	4,863
Less receivables sold.....	522,722	603,728	3,517	4,548
Receivables not sold.....	\$ 10,239	\$ 9,149	\$ 286	\$ 315

	Average Balances		Net Credit Charge-offs (1)	
	Nine Months Ended October 31,		Nine Months Ended October 31,	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
Primary portfolio:				
Installment.....	\$ 369,660	\$ 402,498		

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

Revolving.....	44,345	51,325		
	-----	-----		
Subtotal.....	414,005	453,823	\$ 10,772	\$ 8,900
Secondary portfolio:				
Installment.....	112,598	140,712	2,764	3,337
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total receivables managed.....	526,603	594,535	13,536	12,237
Less receivables sold.....	516,263	585,104	12,916	11,552
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Receivables not sold.....	\$ 10,340	\$ 9,431	\$ 620	\$ 685
	=====	=====	=====	=====

(1) Amounts represent total credit charge-offs, net of recoveries, on total receivables. The increased level of net credit losses for the nine months ended October 31, 2006, were primarily a result of the impact on our credit collection operations of Hurricane Rita that hit the Gulf coast during September 2005.

11

### 5. Debt and Letters of Credit

At October 31, 2007, the Company had \$47.6 million of its \$50 million revolving credit facility available for borrowings. The amounts utilized under the revolving credit facility reflected \$2.4 million related to letters of credit issued under the facility. This credit facility matures in October 2010.

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 October 31, 2007, the Company had outstanding unsecured letters of credit of \$24.2 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 October 31, 2007, \$2.4 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 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 October 31, 2007, there was \$1.8 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

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

credit commitment, which total \$35.0 million as of October 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 \$4.3 million, respectively, as of January 31, 2007 and October 31, 2007, and are included on the face of the balance sheet in Deferred revenues and allowances.

12

## 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 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 ability to open and profitably operate new stores in existing, adjacent and new geographic markets;
- 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;



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

- 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, including limitations on the ability of the QSPE to obtain financing through its commercial paper-based funding sources;
- 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;

13

- o the ability to attract and retain qualified personnel;
- 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;

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

- o changes in the assumptions used in the valuation of our interests in securitized assets at fair value;
- 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 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

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

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, market participant risk premiums required, 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.

During the three month period ended October 31, 2007, risk premiums required by market participants on many investments increased significantly as a result of disruption in the asset-backed securities markets due to increased losses and delinquencies in sub-prime real estate mortgages. Though we do not anticipate any significant variation from the current earnings and cash flow performance of the securitized credit portfolio, we increased the risk premium included in the discount rate assumption used in the determination of the fair value of our interests in securitized assets to reflect the higher estimated return on investment we believe a market participant would require if purchasing the asset. Based on a review of the changes in market risk premiums during the three months ended October 31, 2007, and discussions with our investment bankers and financial advisors, we estimated that a market participant would require an approximately 300 basis point increase in the required return. As a result, we increased the weighted average discount rate assumption from 14.3% at July 31, 2007, to 16.4% at October 31, 2007, after reflecting a 90 basis point decrease in the risk-free interest rate included in the discount rate assumption. If the credit operations perform in-line with the assumptions for losses, borrowing costs and the other portfolio related assumptions, none of which have changed significantly from those used at July 31, 2007, this increase in the discount rate will have the effect of deferring income to future periods, but not permanently reducing securitization income or our earnings. The deferred earnings will be recognized in future periods as interest income on our Interests in securitized assets as the actual cash flows on the receivables are realized. If a market participant were to require a return on investment that is 100 basis points higher than we estimated in the fair value calculation, the fair value of our interests in securitized assets would be decreased by an additional \$1.7 million.

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 are 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 nine months ended October 31, 2007.

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 (both standard and high definition), video game equipment, portable audio 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 their 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 65 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

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

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 issue medium-term and variable funding notes secured by the receivables 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.

15

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 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 nine months ended October 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 ended October 31, 2007, decreased approximately \$4.6 million, or 41.3%, primarily as a result of a \$4.0 million non-cash decrease in the fair value of our interests in securitized assets. Some of the more specific items impacting our operating and pretax income were:

- o Same store sales for the quarter and nine months increased by 6.8% and 3.5%, respectively, as compared to a 3.7% decrease and 6.5% increase, respectively, in the prior year.
- o The addition of stores in our existing Houston, Dallas/Fort Worth and San Antonio markets and a new store in Brownsville had a positive impact on our revenues. We achieved approximately \$7.3 million and \$27.3 million of increases in product sales and service maintenance agreement commissions for the three and nine months ended October 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.
- 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 nine months ended October 31, 2007, \$55.0 million, or 35.3%, and \$143.1 million, or 29.4%, 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, product sales financed by deferred interest and

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

"same as cash" sales were \$39.5 million, or 28.3% and \$105.3 million, or 23.5%, 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 are 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 decreased from 35.3% to 32.6% for the three months ended October 31, 2007, and from 34.2% to 33.8% for the nine months ended October 31, 2007, when compared to the same period in the prior year. The decline for the three and nine month periods ended October 31, 2007, resulted primarily from a \$4.0 million and \$4.3 million, respectively, non-cash decrease in the fair value of our interests in securitized assets, in addition to a decrease in product margin. The gross margin would have been 34.0% and 34.2%, excluding the fair value decrease, for the three and nine months ended October 31, 2007, respectively. The product gross margins decreased from 20.8% to 19.5% for the three months ended October 31, 2007, and from 20.6% to 19.8% for the nine months ended October 31, 2007, when compared to the same period in the prior year, and were negatively impacted by a highly price competitive retail market, especially on consumer electronics and appliances. In the nine month period, partially offsetting these negative impacts, there was a decline in net credit losses, included in Finance charges and other.
- o Finance charges and other decreased 9.3% for the quarter ended October 31, 2007, and increased 12.3% for the nine months ended October 31, 2007, as:

16

- o securitization income decreased by 15.9% for the three months ended October 31, 2007, and increased by 11.4% for the nine months ended October 31, 2007, respectively. The decline for the three month period and the slower growth for the nine month period ended October 31, 2007, were driven primarily by the \$4.0 million non-cash decrease in the fair value of our interests in securitized assets, recorded during the three months ended October 31, 2007. The decrease in the fair value of our Interests in securitized assets was primarily a result of an increase in the estimated risk premium expected by a market participant included in the discount rate assumption used in the discounted cash flow model used to determine the fair value of our interests in securitized assets. The risk premium included in the discount rate assumption was increased due to the disruption in the financial markets during the period caused by the sub-prime mortgage issues and is not related to the performance of the credit portfolio or our credit collection operations.
- o insurance commissions grew 25.5% and 22.0% for the three and nine months ended October 31, 2007, respectively, primarily as a result of increased sales. Lower credit charge-offs in the nine months ended October 31, 2007, which resulted in reduced insurance cancellations, also benefited insurance commissions.
- o During the three months ended October 31, 2007, Selling, general and administrative (SG&A) expense increased as a percent of revenues to 28.9% from 28.7% in the prior year period. During the nine months ended October 31, 2007, SG&A increased as a percent of revenues to 26.9% from 26.4%, when compared to the prior year. Had total revenues for the periods not been negatively effected by the \$4.0 million non-cash decrease in the fair value of our Interests in securitized assets recorded during the quarter, SG&A as

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

a percent of revenues would have been 28.3% and 26.7% for the three and nine month periods, respectively. The 40 basis point decline for the three months ended October 31, 2007, was driven primarily by lower advertising expense.

- o The provision for income taxes for the three months ended October 31, 2007, was negatively impacted by the Texas margin tax, which is based on gross margin, and resulted in an increase in our effective tax rate from 35.9% to 38.6%. The provision for income taxes for the nine months ended October 31, 2007, 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 nine months ended October 31, 2007.

### Operational Changes and Resulting Outlook

We have under development and expect to open 11 stores by July 31, 2008, including two replacement stores and a new store in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. We have additional sites under consideration for future development.

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 36.5% and 37.5% 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 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

17

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, advice of experts and other factors that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances, and we evaluate these assumptions and

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

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 October 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 return that would be expected by a third-party investor. 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 Interests 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 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 risk premiums required, or a shift in the mix of funding sources, could result in significant volatility in the fair value of the Interests in securitized assets, and thus our earnings. During the three month period ended October 31, 2007, returns required by market participants on many investments increased significantly as a result of disruption in the asset-backed securities markets due to increased losses and delinquencies in sub-prime mortgages. Though we do not anticipate any significant variation from the current earnings and cash flow performance of the securitized credit portfolio, we increased the risk premium included in the discount rate assumption used in the determination of the fair value of our interests in securitized assets to reflect the higher expected return on investment we believe a market participant would require if

purchasing the interests. Based on a review of the changes in market risk premiums during the three months ended October 31, 2007, and discussions with our investment bankers and financial advisors, we estimated that a market participant would require an approximately 300 basis point increase in the required return. As a result, the Company increased the weighted average discount rate assumption from 14.3% at July 31, 2007, to 16.4% at October 31, 2007, after reflecting a 90 basis point decrease in the risk-free interest rate included in the discount rate assumption. If the credit operations perform in-line with the assumptions for losses, borrowing costs and the other portfolio related assumptions, none of which have changed significantly from those used at July 31, 2007, this increase in the discount rate will have the effect of deferring income to future periods, but not permanently reducing securitization income or our earnings. If a market participant were to require a return on investment that is 100 basis points higher than we estimated in the fair value calculation, the fair value of our interests in securitized assets would be decreased by an additional \$1.7 million. 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 October 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 \$2.3million.

**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 October 31, 2007 and January 31, 2007 was \$4.3 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.

**Accounting for Share-Based Compensation.** We adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123R, Share-Based Payment, effective February 1, 2006,



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

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.

19

**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 and any subsequent renewal, 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 gain on sale of property 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		Nine Months Ended	
	October 31,		October 31,	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
<b>Revenues:</b>				
Product sales.....	80.4 %	82.2 %	81.9 %	81.3 %
Service maintenance agreement commissions (net).....	3.9	4.4	4.0	4.5
Service revenues.....	3.4	3.2	3.1	2.9
<b>Total net sales.....</b>	<b>87.7</b>	<b>89.8</b>	<b>89.0</b>	<b>88.7</b>
Finance charges and other.....	12.3	10.2	11.0	11.3
<b>Total revenues.....</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Costs and expenses:</b>				
Cost of goods sold, including warehousing and occupancy cost.....	63.7	66.2	65.0	65.2
Cost of parts sold, including warehousing and occupancy				

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

cost.....	1.0	1.2	0.8	1.0
Selling, general and administrative expense.....	28.7	28.9	26.4	26.9
Provision for bad debts.....	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total costs and expenses.....	93.7	96.6	92.4	93.4
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Operating income.....	6.3	3.4	7.6	6.6
Interest income, net.....	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)
Other income, net.....	0.0	0.0	(0.1)	(0.1)
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Income before income taxes.....	6.4	3.5	7.8	6.8
Provision for income taxes.....	2.3	1.4	2.8	2.4
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net income.....	4.1 %	2.1 %	5.0 %	4.4 %
	=====	=====	=====	=====

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.

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.

20

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

Revenues. Total revenues increased by \$15.7 million, or 9.0%, from \$173.7 million for the three months ended October 31, 2006, to \$189.4 million for the three months ended October 31, 2007. The increase was attributable to increases in net sales of \$17.7 million, or 11.6%, and a decrease of \$2.0 million, or 9.3%, in finance charges and other revenue.

The \$17.7 million increase in net sales was made up of the following:

- o a \$10.1 million same store sales increase of 6.8%, driven by strength in consumer electronics, furniture, lawn and garden and track sales;
- o a \$7.3 million increase generated by six retail locations that were not open for three consecutive months in each period;
- o a \$0.2 million increase resulted from a decrease in discounts on

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

extended-term promotional credit sales (those with terms longer than 12 months); and

- o a \$0.1 million increase resulted from an increase in service revenues.

The components of the \$17.7 million increase in net sales were a \$16.1 million increase in Product sales and a \$1.6 million increase in service maintenance agreement commissions and service revenues. The \$16.1 million increase in product sales resulted from the following:

- o approximately \$8.2 million increase attributable to increases in total unit sales, due primarily to increased consumer electronics and furniture sales, and
- o approximately \$7.9 million increase attributable to an overall increase in the average unit price. The increase was due primarily to a change in the mix of product sales, driven by an increase in the consumer electronics category, which has the highest average price point of any category, as a percentage of total product sales. Additionally, there were category price point increases as a result of a shift to higher-priced high-efficiency laundry items, higher priced tractors and zero turn radius mowers and increase in laptop computer and video game equipment sales, partially offset by a decline in the average price points on our electronics, furniture and mattresses categories.

The \$1.6 million increase in service maintenance agreement commissions and service revenues was driven by increased sales of service maintenance agreements.

21

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 October 31,				Percent Change	
	2006		2007			
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent		
Major home appliances.....	\$ 55,080	36.1 %	\$ 54,209	31.9 %	(1.6) %	(1)
Consumer electronics.....	46,767	30.7	55,435	32.6	18.5	(2)
Track.....	18,346	12.0	22,274	13.1	21.4	(3)
Delivery.....	2,771	1.8	3,090	1.8	11.5	(4)
Lawn and garden.....	3,995	2.6	5,450	3.2	36.4	(5)
Mattresses.....	3,601	2.4	4,068	2.4	13.0	(6)
Furniture.....	7,936	5.3	9,854	5.8	24.2	(7)
Other.....	1,098	0.7	1,277	0.8	16.3	
<b>Total product sales.....</b>	<b>139,594</b>	<b>91.6</b>	<b>155,657</b>	<b>91.6</b>	<b>11.5</b>	
Service maintenance agreement commissions.....	6,845	4.5	8,336	4.9	21.8	(8)
Service revenues.....	5,951	3.9	6,059	3.5	1.8	(9)
<b>Total net sales.....</b>	<b>\$ 152,390</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>\$ 170,052</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>	<b>11.6 %</b>	

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

=====

- (1) While the industry is down nationally, we expect to outperform the national trend and are taking steps to improve our performance relative to merchandising, advertising and promotion of this category.
- (2) This increase is due to increased unit volume in the area of flat-panel and micro-display televisions, partially offset by a decline in the sale of tube and projection televisions.
- (3) The increase in track sales (consisting largely of computers, computer peripherals, video game equipment, portable electronics and small appliances) is driven primarily by increased laptop computer and video game equipment 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, as the total number of deliveries declined slightly as compared to the prior year.
- (5) This category benefited from an increase in the sales of higher priced lawn and garden equipment, such as zero turn radius mowers and tractors.
- (6) This increase is due to the benefit 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 and increased sales penetration.
- (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 decreased by approximately \$2.0 million, or 9.3%, from \$21.3 million for the three months ended October 31, 2006, to \$19.3 million for the three months ended October 31, 2007. The decrease in Finance charge and other income was comprised of a decline in securitization income of \$2.7 million, an increase in insurance income of \$1.0 million and a decrease in other items of \$0.3 million. The securitization income decline of \$2.7 million was due primarily to a non-cash, decrease in the fair value of our interests in securitized assets, which was partially offset by growth in the gains on sales and interest on our retained interest due to the growth in the sold portfolio. The non-cash fair value adjustment of \$4.0 million was primarily a result of the recent turmoil in the financial markets. We increased the risk premium included in the discount rate assumption in the determination of the fair value of our interests in securitized assets based on our estimate of the return we believe a market participant would require if they purchased our Interests in securitized assets at October 31, 2007. (See the Note 2 to the financial statements for additional information). Insurance commissions increased primarily due to increased sales.

Cost of Goods Sold. Cost of goods sold, including warehousing and occupancy cost, increased by \$14.7 million, or 13.3%, from \$110.6 million for the three months ended October 31, 2006, to \$125.3 million for the three months ended October 31, 2007. This increase was due primarily to the 11.5% growth in product sales during the three months ended October 31, 2007. Cost of products sold was 80.5% of product sales in the quarter ended October 31, 2007, and 79.2% in the quarter ended October 31, 2006, and was higher due to increased price competition, especially in the consumer electronics and appliance categories.

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

Cost of Parts Sold. Cost of parts sold, including warehousing and occupancy cost, increased approximately \$0.4 million, or 23.1%, for the three months ended October 31, 2007, as compared to the three months ended October 31, 2006, primarily due to a 19.3% increase in parts sales.

Selling, General and Administrative Expense. Selling, general and administrative expense increased by \$5.1 million, or 10.2%, from \$49.7 million for the three months ended October 31, 2006, to \$54.8 million for the three months ended October 31, 2007. As a percentage of total revenues, it increased from 28.7% to 28.9%. The increase, as a percent of revenues was due primarily to the impact on total revenues of the \$4.0 million non-cash decrease in the fair value of our Interests in securitized assets in the calculation of this ratio. Had total revenues for the periods not been negatively effected by the \$4.0 million non-cash decrease in the fair value of our Interests in securitized assets, SG&A as a percent of revenues would have been 28.3% for the three month period. This would have represented a 40 basis point decline in SG&A as a percentage of revenues, which was driven primarily by reduced advertising expenses, partially offset by higher medical claims experience.

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 \$56,000, during the three months ended October 31, 2007, as compared to the three months ended October 31, 2006. See the notes to the financial statements for information regarding the performance of the credit portfolio.

Interest Income, net. Net interest income decreased by \$31,000, from net interest income of \$141,000 for the three months ended October 31, 2006, to net interest income of \$110,000 for the three months ended October 31, 2007. The net decrease in interest income was primarily attributable to decreased interest income from invested funds, driven primarily by lower average invested balances.

Provision for Income Taxes. The provision for income taxes decreased by \$1.5 million, or 36.9%, from \$4.0 million for the three months ended October 31, 2006, to \$2.5 million for the three months ended October 31, 2007. The decrease in the Provision for income taxes is attributable to reduced Income before taxes. The effective tax rate increased from 35.9% for the three months ended October 31, 2006, to 38.6% for the three months ended October 31, 2007. Since the Texas margin tax is based on gross profit and not pretax income, it negatively impacted the effective tax rate.

23

Nine Months Ended October 31, 2007 Compared to Nine Months Ended October 31, 2006

Revenues. Total revenues increased by \$50.1 million, or 9.1%, from \$548.1 million for the nine months ended October 31, 2006, to \$598.2 million for the nine months ended October 31, 2007. The increase was attributable to increases in net sales of \$42.7 million, or 8.8%, and \$7.4 million, or 12.3%, in finance charges and other revenue.

The \$42.7 million increase in net sales was made up of the following:

- o a \$16.6 million same store sales increase of 3.5%, driven by strength in consumer electronics, furniture and lawn and garden sales, partially offset by declines in appliance and bedding 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 and the overall industry-wide decline in

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

appliance sales in the current year;

- o a \$27.3 million increase generated by eight retail locations that were not open for nine consecutive months in each period;
- o a \$1.7 million decrease resulted from an increase in discounts on extended-term promotional credit sales (those with terms longer than 12 months); and
- o a \$0.5 million increase resulted from an increase in service revenues.

The components of the \$42.7 million increase in net sales were a \$37.3 million increase in Product sales and a \$5.4 million increase in service maintenance agreement commissions and service revenues. The \$37.3 million increase in product sales resulted from the following:

- o approximately \$19.0 million increase attributable to increases in total unit sales, due primarily to increased consumer electronics, furniture and track sales, partially offset by lower appliance sales, and
- o approximately \$18.3 million increase attributable to an overall increase in the average unit price. The increase was due primarily to a change in the mix of product sales, driven by an increase in the consumer electronics category, which has the highest average price point of any category, as a percentage of total product sales. Additionally, there were category price point increases as a result of a shift to 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 \$1.7 million increase in discounts on extended-term promotional credit sales.

The \$5.4 million increase in service maintenance agreement commissions 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.

24

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	Nine Months Ended October 31,					Percent Change
	2006		2007			
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent		
Major home appliances.....	\$ 176,660	36.2 %	\$ 172,653	32.6 %	(2.3) %	(1)
Consumer electronics.....	146,824	30.1	167,684	31.6	14.2	(2)
Track.....	61,856	12.7	65,010	12.3	5.1	(3)
Delivery.....	8,488	1.8	9,454	1.8	11.4	(4)
Lawn and garden.....	15,844	3.2	20,161	3.8	27.2	(5)
Mattresses.....	13,605	2.8	12,709	2.4	(6.6)	(6)
Furniture.....	21,585	4.4	34,415	6.5	59.4	(7)
Other.....	3,888	0.8	4,003	0.7	3.0	

Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

Total product sales.....	448,750	92.0	486,089	91.7	8.3	
Service maintenance agreement commissions.....	21,875	4.5	26,688	5.0	22.0	(8)
Service revenues.....	17,107	3.5	17,641	3.3	3.1	(9)
Total net sales.....	\$ 487,732	100.0 %	\$ 530,418	100.0 %	8.8 %	

- (1) While the industry is down nationally, we expect to outperform the national trend and are taking steps to improve our performance relative to merchandising, advertising and promotion of this category. Additionally, we experienced 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, partially offset by a decline in the sale of tube and projection televisions.
- (3) The increase in track sales (consisting largely of computers, computer peripherals, video game equipment, portable electronics and small appliances) is driven primarily by increased laptop computer and video game equipment 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, as the total number of deliveries declined slightly as compared to the prior year.
- (5) This category benefited from a high level of rainfall in the current year and an increase in sales of higher priced lawn and garden equipment, such as zero turn radius mowers and tractors.
- (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 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 \$7.4 million, or 12.3%, from \$60.4 million for the nine months ended October 31, 2006 to \$67.8 million for the nine months ended October 31, 2007. It increased due primarily to an increase in securitization income of \$5.2 million, or 11.4% and an increase in insurance commissions of \$2.8 million, and a decrease in other items of \$0.6 million. The securitization income, which grew due to growth in the portfolio and lower net credit losses, was negatively impacted by a non-cash, decrease in the fair value of our Interests in securitized assets. The non-cash fair value adjustment of \$4.3 million was recorded primarily as a result of the recent turmoil in the financial markets. We increased the risk premium included in the discount rate assumption in the determination of the fair value of our interests in securitized assets based on our estimate of the return we believe a market participant would require if they purchased our Interests in securitized assets. (See the Note 2 to the financial statements for additional information). 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 10.5% decrease in net credit losses for the nine months

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

ended October 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 2.7% for the nine months ended October 31, 2007, was in-line with our expected long-term net loss rate of between 2.5% and 3.0%. Insurance commissions increased primarily due to increased sales and reduced insurance cancellations as credit charge-offs declined from the prior year period.

25

**Cost of Goods Sold.** Cost of goods sold, including warehousing and occupancy cost, increased by \$33.9 million, or 9.5%, from \$356.1 million for the nine months ended October 31, 2006, to \$390.0 million for the nine months ended October 31, 2007. This increase was due primarily to the 8.3% growth in product sales during the nine months ended October 31, 2007. Cost of products sold was 80.2% of product sales in the nine months ended October 31, 2007, and 79.4% in the nine months ended October 31, 2006, and was higher due to increased price competition, especially in the consumer electronics and appliance categories.

**Cost of Parts Sold.** Cost of parts sold, including warehousing and occupancy cost, increased approximately \$1.5 million, or 30.5%, for the nine months ended October 31, 2007, as compared to the nine months ended October 31, 2006, due primarily to a 22.8% 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 \$16.3 million, or 11.3%, from \$144.8 million for the nine months ended October 31, 2006, to \$161.1 million for the nine months ended October 31, 2007. As a percentage of total revenues, it increased from 26.4% to 26.9%. Had total revenues for the nine month period not been negatively effected by the \$4.3 million non-cash decrease in the fair value of our Interests in securitized assets, SG&A as a percent of revenues would have been 26.7%. The increase in expense resulted primarily from higher compensation and employee related expenses and occupancy cost, including property taxes, as a percent of revenues.

**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 nine months ended October 31, 2007, as compared to the nine months ended October 31, 2006, primarily as a result of provision adjustments due to increased net credit losses. Additionally, the provision for bad debts in the nine months ended October 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 \$89,000, from net interest income of \$512,000 for the nine months ended October 31, 2006 to net interest income of \$601,000 for the nine months ended October 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 \$147,000, from \$773,000 for the nine months ended October 31, 2006, to \$920,000 for the nine months ended October 31, 2007. Both periods included gains recognized on the sales of company assets. Additionally, during the nine months ended October 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 expense on a straight-line basis over the minimum lease terms.



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

Provision for Income Taxes. The provision for income taxes decreased by \$0.8 million, or 5.6%, from \$15.1 million for the nine months ended October 31, 2006, to \$14.3 million for the nine months ended October 31, 2007. This decrease in taxes was impacted primarily by the 4.4% decrease in pretax income. Additionally, the effective tax rate declined from 35.3% for the nine months ended October 31, 2006, to 35.0% for the nine months ended October 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. In July 2007, we began accruing margin tax for the entities that acquired the operations through the mergers completed during the quarter.

26

### 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 October 31, 2007, we had approximately \$19.2 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 \$47.6 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, \$32.6 million under extended vendor terms for purchases of inventory and \$220.0 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 October 31, 2007, we had spent \$24.5 million under this authorization to acquire 1,041,185 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 October 31, 2007, is presented below:

	Actual	Required Minimum/ Maximum
	-----	-----
Debt service coverage ratio must exceed required minimum	4.37 to 1.00	2.00 to 1.00
Total adjusted leverage ratio must be lower than required maximum	1.60 to 1.00	3.00 to 1.00
Consolidated net worth must exceed required minimum	\$298.1 million	\$202.7 million
Charge-off ratio must be lower than required maximum	0.03 to 1.00	0.06 to 1.00
Extension ratio must be lower than required maximum	0.03 to 1.00	0.05 to 1.00

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

Thirty-day delinquency ratio must be lower than required 0.10 to 1.00 0.13 to 1.00

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;
- 27
- 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, or limitations on the ability of the QSPE to obtain financing through its commercial paper-based funding sources;
  - 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 nine months ended October 31, 2007, net cash provided by (used in) operating activities decreased \$22.7 million from \$11.1 million provided by operating activities in the nine months ended October 31, 2006, to \$11.6 million

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

used in the nine months ended October 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 nine months ended October 31, 2007, was driven primarily by payments on accounts payable, which was driven by the timing of receipts of inventory, increased inventory levels 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 primarily the result of the QSPE's pay down of its 2002 Series B bond issuance. The cash provided by operations for the nine months ended October 31, 2006, resulted primarily from net income plus depreciation plus the benefit of the QSPE completing its medium-term bond issuance in August 2006. The completion of the bond issuance resulted in an increase in the funding rate, providing additional cash to be advanced to us on receivables transferred. Offsetting the cash provided was cash used primarily due to 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 18.2% and 22.5%, as of October 31, 2006 and 2007, respectively. The weighted average promotional period was 11.7 months and 14.8 months for promotional receivables outstanding as of October 31, 2006 and 2007, respectively. The weighted average remaining term on those same promotional receivables was 7.7 months and 10.7 months as of October 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 used in investing activities decreased by \$10.3 million, from \$13.4 million used in the fiscal 2007 period to \$3.1 million used in the fiscal 2008 period. The decrease in cash used in investing activities resulted primarily from the sales of property and equipment, and reduced purchases of property and equipment in the current fiscal year. 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.

28

Net cash from financing activities decreased by \$20.0 million from \$1.3 million provided during the nine months ended October 31, 2006 to \$18.7 million used during the nine months ended October 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 nine months ended October 31, 2007, we used \$20.7 million to purchase 873,185 shares of our common stock.

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

### 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 special purpose entity, which we refer to as the QSPE or the issuer, to purchase customer receivables from us and to issue medium-term and variable funding notes secured by the receivables 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 October 31, 2007, the issuer had issued three series of notes and bonds: the 2002 Series A variable funding note with a total availability of \$450 million, three classes of 2002 Series B bonds with an aggregate amount outstanding of \$70 million, of which \$7.0 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 \$250 million 364-day tranche, and a \$200 million tranche that matures in 2011. The 364-day commitment was recently renewed and increased, in the amount of \$150 million, by the note holders until July 31, 2008. The \$150 million increase in the commitment will stay in place until the first to occur of: (i) the QSPE completes a medium-term bond issuance, or (ii) the note is not renewed by the note holders. At the time of the increase in the note, an additional bank joined as the second note holder in the facility. 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 October 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 weighted average interest on the variable funding note during the month of October 2007 was 5.94%.

The issuer is currently preparing to market 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 first or second quarter of the fiscal year ending January 31, 2009. 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 October 31, 2007, the issuer had \$220.0 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 October 31, 2007, we had \$19.2 million of excess cash and \$55.6 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

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

holders, the servicing fee and additional earnings to the extent they are available.

29

The 2002 Series A variable funding note permits the issuer to borrow funds up to \$450 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 \$450 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 other obligations required under the transaction documents. As of October 31, 2007, borrowings under the 2002 Series A variable funding note were \$220.0 million.

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 \$13.0 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 October 31, 2007, is presented below:

	As reported	Required Minimum/ Maximum
Issuer interest must exceed required minimum	\$70.0 million	\$68.1 million
Gross loss rate must be lower than required maximum	3.9%	10.0%
Net portfolio yield must exceed required minimum	7.9%	2.0%
Payment rate must exceed required minimum	6.4%	3.0%

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

Edgar Filing: CONNS INC - Form 10-Q

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 under the program are secured by the receivables and proceeds.

30

Securitization Facilities

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

Customer Receivables			
			2002 Series
			\$450 million O
			\$230 million O
			Credit Rating
			Bank Comme
			Paper Cond
			2002 Series
			\$70 milli
Retail		Qualifying Special Purpose	