SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

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

For the fiscal year ended August 30, 1997

Commission File Number 1-8504

UNIFIRST CORPORATION
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Massachusetts	04-2103460
(State of Incorporation)	(IRS Employer Identification Number)

68 Jonspin Road
Wilmington, Massachusetts 01887
(Address of principal executive offices)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (978) 658-8888

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

Title of Class	Name of each exchange on which shares are traded
Common Stock, $.10 par value per share	New York Stock Exchange

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 X No ---

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definintive proxy or information incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. [X]

The number of outstanding shares of UniFirst Corporation Common Stock and Class B Common Stock at November 10, 1997 were 7,903,864 and 12,606,744, respectively, and the aggregate market value of these shares held by non-affiliates of the Company on said date was $237,980,769 (based upon the closing price of the Company's Common Stock on the New York Stock Exchange on said date and assuming the market value of a share of Class B Common Stock (which is generally non-transferable, but is convertible at any time into one share of Common Stock) is identical to the market value of the Common Stock).

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the Company's 1997 Annual Report to Shareholders and the Company's Proxy Statement for its 1998 Annual Meeting of Shareholders (which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission within 120 days after the close of the 1997 fiscal year) are incorporated by reference into Parts II, III and IV hereof.

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

UniFirst is a leading company in the garment services business. The Company's services consist principally of manufacturing, renting, cleaning, and delivering a variety of industrial employment garments on a periodic basis, usually weekly. The Company manufactures most of the garments used in its customer service operations. The Company also decontaminates and cleans, in separate facilities, garments which may have been exposed to radioactive materials. Customer billings are rendered and recorded as revenues when services are performed.

The Company's principal business, since its inception, has been the rental and servicing of industrial employment uniforms and protective clothing (such as shirts, pants, jackets, coveralls, jumpsuits, lab coats, smocks and aprons) as well as industrial wiper towels, floor mats and other non-garment items. The Company services its customers by picking up the soiled items on a periodic basis, usually weekly, and delivering at the same time cleaned and processed items.

Through the Company's services, customers are provided with uniforms and protective work clothing for their employees without the necessity of investing working capital, which is particularly advantageous to customers whose worker turnover is high. The Company's centralized services, specialized equipment and economies of scale generally allow it to be more cost effective in providing garment services than the customers could be by themselves. In order to better service its customers, the Company maintains a relatively higher level of inventory of garments in stock than it believes customary in the industry. Customers are given a broad selection of styles, colors, sizes, fabrics and personalized emblems from which to choose. The Company's uniform program is intended not only to upgrade the image of the customers, but also to improve the effectiveness, morale, safety and satisfaction of their employees.

The Company services a wide variety of manufacturers, retailers and service companies, including automobile dealers and service stations, bakeries, transportation companies and agricultural processors. Substantially all of the Company's rental services are provided pursuant to written contracts, primarily for a term of five years. The Company services well over 100,000 customer locations in 45 states, Canada and Europe from 114 service locations and distribution centers. For fiscal 1995, 1996 and 1997, the Company's garment rental operations produced approximately 67%, 67% and 68%, respectively, of its revenues, and non-garment rental items accounted for another 25%, 26% and 25% of its revenues in each of those years, with no single customer accounting for more than 1% of total revenues in any year.

The Company manufactures work pants, shirts and other items, primarily jackets, for its garment rental operations in its plants in Luquillo, PR, Cave City, AR and Wilburton, OK, respectively. These plants produced approximately 55% of all employment garments which the Company placed in service during fiscal 1997. In 1996, the Company's production level was approximately 53%.

The Company is also in the specialized business of decontaminating and cleaning work clothes which may have been exposed to radioactive materials. The Company's customers in this market include government agencies, research and development laboratories and utilities operating nuclear reactors. The Company operates 11 decontamination facilities, located in Massachusetts, New Mexico, California, Washington, Hawaii, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Illinois and the Netherlands. For fiscal 1995, 1996 and 1997, the Company's nuclear garment services business produced approximately 8%, 7% and 7%, respectively, of its revenues.

MARKETING

The Company markets its services to potential customers through approximately 300 trained sales representatives whose sole function is to develop new sales by adding new accounts and who have no direct responsibility for servicing customer accounts. Potential customers are contacted by mail, by telephone and in-person. Sales representatives develop their appointments through the use of an extensive proprietary database of pre-screened and qualified business prospects.

The Company believes that customer service is the most important element in developing and maintaining its market position. As of August 30, 1997, existing accounts were serviced by approximately 925 route salespersons and 510 service support people who together are responsible for providing prompt delivery service and ensuring expeditious handling of customer requirements regarding billings, adjustments, garment repairs and other matters. The Company's policy is to resolve all customer inquiries and problems within 24 hours.

The Company believes that its distinction between sales and service personnel, which allows the route salespersons to monitor and maximize existing customer satisfaction while others promote an ongoing new business effort, is an important part of its competitive strategy.

Customer service is enhanced by the Company's management information systems, which provide instantaneous access to information on the customer employees serviced by the Company. Available data includes the status of customer orders, inventory availability, shipping information and personal data regarding individual customer employees, including names, sizes, uniform styles and colors.

The Company's emphasis on customer service is reflected throughout its business. The Company believes that ownership of its manufacturing facilities increases its ability to control the quality of its garments. The Company believes its industrial cleaning facilities are among the most modern in the industry.

Expansion by the Company into new market areas is achieved through an acquisition program and internal growth. Internal expansion normally results from extending sales routes into new market areas and then servicing the new accounts from one of the Company's existing facilities. Since internal expansion is thus limited to contiguous areas, the Company also has an acquisition program to permit it to expand more widely into new market areas. The Company believes that acquisitions are an effective manner of expanding its customer base and foresees this avenue as an important source of growth.

COMPETITION

The markets serviced by the Company are highly competitive. Although the Company is one of the larger companies engaged in the business of renting and cleaning employment garments, there are other firms in the industry which are larger and have greater financial resources than the Company. The principal methods of competition in the industry are quality of service and price. The Company believes that its ability to compete effectively is due primarily to the superior service and support systems which it provides to its customers.

RAW MATERIALS

The Company obtained through its manufacturing operations approximately 55% of all garments which it placed in service during fiscal 1997, with other items and the balance of garments being purchased from a variety of suppliers. The Company has experienced no significant difficulty in obtaining any of its raw materials or supplies.

EMPLOYEES

The Company employs approximately 7,000 persons, about 5% of whom are represented by unions pursuant to 6 separate collective bargaining agreements. The Company considers its employee relations to be satisfactory.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The executive officers of the Company are as follows:

NAME	AGE	POSITION
Aldo Croatti	79	Chairman of the Board
Ronald D. Croatti	54	Vice Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer
Robert L. Croatti	61	Executive Vice President
John B. Bartlett	56	Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Cynthia Croatti	42	Treasurer
Bruce P. Boynton	49	Vice President, Canadian Operations
Dennis G. Assad	52	Vice President, Sales and Marketing

Aldo Croatti has been Chairman of the Board since the Company's incorporation in 1950 and of certain of its predecessors since 1940.

Ronald D. Croatti has been Vice Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer for more than the past five years and President since August 31, 1995.

Robert L. Croatti has been Executive Vice President for more than the past five years.

John B. Bartlett has been Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for more than the past five years.

Cynthia Croatti has been Treasurer for more than the past five years.

Bruce P. Boynton has been Vice President, Canadian Operations for more than the past five years.

Dennis G. Assad has been Vice President, Sales and Marketing since August 31, 1995. Prior to that he was a Regional General Manager of the Company for more than five years.

Ronald D. Croatti, Robert L. Croatti and Cynthia Croatti are a son, nephew and daughter, respectively, of Aldo Croatti.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

All industrial laundries use and have to dispose of detergent waste water and other residues. The Company is aware of the environmental concerns surrounding the disposal of these materials and has taken steps to avoid their improper disposal. Although from time to time the Company is subject to administrative and judicial proceedings involving environmental matters, the Company does not foresee a material effect on its earnings or competitive position in connection with such proceedings or its compliance with federal, state and local provisions regulating the environment. The Company's nuclear garment decontamination facilities are licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission or, in certain instances, by the applicable state agency.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

At August 30, 1997 the Company owned or occupied 128 facilities containing an aggregate of approximately 3.3 million square feet located in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and the Netherlands. The Company owns 74 of these facilities containing approximately 2.5 million square feet.

The following chart summarizes certain information with respect to the principal properties currently owned or leased by the Company.

LOCATION	APPROXIMATE SQUARE FEET
Executive Office & Distribution Center	

Wilmington, MA	132,000
Rental Garment Servicing Facilities	
Pittsburgh, PA	96,000
Ontario, CA	90,000
Springfield, MA	68,000
Philadelphia, PA	62,000
Washington, DC	57,000
Dallas, TX	55,000
Nashua, NH	54,000
Stratford, CT	54,000
Miami, FL	50,000
Richmond, VA	50,000
Boston, MA	48,000
Houston, TX	48,000
Corpus Christi, TX	46,000
Tampa, FL	46,000
Columbus, OH	45,000
Odessa, TX	45,000
Portland, ME	44,000
Harlingen, TX	42,000
Toronto, Ontario, Canada	41,000
Buffalo, NY	40,000
Lubbock, TX	40,000
Portland, OR	40,000
Tulsa, OK	40,000
Norfolk, VA	38,000
Ocala, FL	38,000
Los Angeles, CA	37,000
Lebanon, NH	36,000
Uvalde, TX	36,000
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada	35,000
Charlotte, NC	34,000
San Antonio, TX	34,000
Albuquerque, NM	33,000
Amarillo, TX	33,000
Cincinnati, OH	32,000
McAllen, TX	32,000
Fort Worth, TX	31,000
Baltimore, MD	30,000
Bangor, ME	30,000
Titusville, FL	30,000

Garment Manufacturing Facilities	
Cave City, AR	62,000
Luquillo, PR	44,000
Distribution Center	
Macon, GA	39,000
Nuclear Garment Decontamination Facilities	
Royersford, PA	39,000
Richland, WA	37,000

The Company owns all the machinery and equipment used in its operations. In the opinion of the Company, all of its facilities and its production, cleaning and decontamination equipment have been well maintained, are in good condition and are adequate for the Company's present needs.

The Company owns and leases a fleet of approximately 1,700 delivery vans, trucks and other vehicles. The Company believes that these vehicles are in good repair and are adequate for the Company's present needs.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

From time to time the Company is subject to legal proceedings and claims arising from the conduct of its business operations, including personal injury, customer contract, employment claims and environmental matters as described in Item 1 above. The Company maintains insurance coverage providing indemnification against the majority of such claims and management does not expect that any material loss to the Company will be sustained as a result thereof.

ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS

None

PART II

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR THE REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

See the section entitled "Common Stock Prices and Dividends Per Share" which is incorporated herein by reference, as part of the Company's 1997 Annual Report to Shareholders.

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

See the section entitled "Eleven Year Financial Summary" which is incorporated herein by reference, as part of the Company's 1997 Annual Report to Shareholders.

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

See the section entitled "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" which is incorporated herein by reference, as part of the Company's 1997 Annual Report to Shareholders.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

The financial statements and the accompanying notes, which are incorporated herein by reference to the Company's 1997 Annual Report to Shareholders, are indexed herein under Items 14(a)(1) and (2) of Part IV.

ITEM 9. DISAGREEMENTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

Not applicable

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE COMPANY

Incorporated by reference to the information provided under the caption "Election of Directors" in the Company's Proxy Statement for its 1998 Annual

Meeting of Shareholders.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Incorporated by reference to the information provided under the caption "Summary Compensation Table" in the Company's Proxy Statement for its 1998 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

Incorporated by reference to the information provided under the captions "Election of Directors" and "Security Ownership of Management and Principal Shareholders" in the Company's Proxy Statement for its 1998 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

Incorporated by reference to the information provided under the caption "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions" in the Company's Proxy Statement for its 1998 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

PART IV

ITEM 14. EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES AND REPORTS ON FORM 8-K

(a) The financial statements listed below are filed as part of this report:

1. and 2. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES.

The financial statements and financial statement schedules listed below are incorporated herein by reference to the Company's 1997 Annual Report to Shareholders.

Consolidated balance sheets as of August 30, 1997 and August 31, 1996

Consolidated statements of income for each of the three years in the period ended August 30, 1997

Consolidated statements of shareholders' equity for each of the three years in the period ended August 30, 1997

Consolidated statements of cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended August 30, 1997

Notes to consolidated financial statements

Report of independent public accountants

The following additional schedules are filed herewith:

Report of independent public accountants on supplemental schedule to the consolidated financial statements.

Schedule II -

Valuation and qualifying accounts and reserves for each of the three years in the period ended August 30, 1997.

Separate financial statements of the Company have been omitted because the Company is primarily an operating company and all subsidiaries included in the consolidated financial statements are totally held.

All other schedules have been omitted since the required information is not present or not present in amounts sufficient to require submission of the schedule, or because the information required is included in the financial statements or the notes thereto.

3. EXHIBITS. The exhibits listed in the accompanying Exhibit Index are filed as part of this report.

(b) During the three months ended August 30, 1997 the Company did not file any reports on Form 8-K with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

SIGNATURES

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

UniFirst Corporation

By: /s/ Aldo A. Croatti

Aldo A. Croatti
Chairman

Date: November 26, 1997

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

NAME	TITLE	DATE
/s/ Aldo A. Croatti Aldo A. Croatti	Chairman and Director	November 26, 1997
/s/ Ronald D. Croatti	Principal Executive Officer and Director	November 26, 1997

Ronald D. Croatti

/s/ John B. Bartlett - -------------------------- John B. Bartlett	Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer	November 26, 1997
/s/ Cynthia Croatti - -------------------------- Cynthia Croatti	Director	November 26, 1997
/s/ Donald J. Evans - -------------------------- Donald J. Evans	Director	November 26, 1997
/s/ Reynold L. Hoover - -------------------------- Reynold L. Hoover	Director	November 26, 1997
- -------------------------- Albert Cohen	Director	November 26, 1997

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS ON SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of UniFirst Corporation:

We have audited, in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the consolidated financial statements included in this Form 10-K, and have issued our report thereon dated November 5, 1997. Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental schedule to the consolidated financial statements listed as Item 14(a)(2) in the Form 10-K is the responsibility of the Company's management and is presented for purposes of complying with the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and is not part of the basic consolidated financial statements. This supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic consolidated financial statements and, in our opinion, fairly states, in all material respects, the financial data required to be set forth therein, in relation to the basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole.

/s/ ARTHUR ANDERSEN LLP

Boston, Massachusetts
November 5, 1997

UNIFIRST CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
SCHEDULE II
VALUATION AND QUALIFYING ACCOUNTS AND RESERVES FOR EACH
OF THE THREE YEARS IN THE PERIOD ENDED AUGUST 30, 1997

Description	Balance, Beginning of Period	Charged to Costs and Expenses	Charges for Which Reserves Were Created	Balance, End of Period
For the year ended August 30, 1997				
Allowance for doubtful accounts	$843,000	$2,428,000	$(1,972,000)	$1,299,000
For the year ended August 31, 1996				
Allowance for doubtful accounts	$734,000	$1,850,000	$(1,741,000)	$ 843,000
For the year ended August 26, 1995				
Allowance for doubtful accounts	$582,000	$1,335,000	$(1,183,000)	$ 734,000

EXHIBIT INDEX

DESCRIPTION

3-A Restated Articles of Organization -- incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3-A to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (No. 2-83051) -- and the Articles of Amendment dated January 12, 1988, a copy of which was filed on an exhibit to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal year ended August 27, 1988 -- and the Articles of Amendment dated January 21, 1993, a copy of which was filed on an exhibit to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for fiscal quarter ended February 27, 1993.

3-B By-laws -- incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3-B to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal year ended August 31, 1991.

10-A UniFirst Corporation Profit Sharing Plan -- incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (number 33-60781) -- and the Amendment dated June 27, 1995, a copy of which was filed on an exhibit to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal year ended August 31, 1996.

10-D UniFirst Corporation 1996 Stock Incentive Plan, a copy of which was filed on an exhibit to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal year ended August 31, 1996.

13 The Company's 1997 Annual Report to Shareholders (filed herewith to the extent expressly incorporated by reference herein).

21 List of Subsidiaries

23 Consent of Arthur Andersen LLP

27 Financial Data Schedule

EXHIBIT 13

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

UniFirst Corporation and Subsidiaries

Fiscal 1997 Compared with Fiscal 1996

In 1997 revenues increased $27.3 million or 7.0% over 1996. This increase can be attributed to acquisitions (2.4%), price increases (1.0%) and growth from existing operations (5.5%) offset by one week less of revenue in fiscal 1997 (1.9%).

Income from operations increased to $47.0 million in 1997 from $40.9 million in 1996. As a percent of revenues, income from operations increased to 11.2% in 1997 from 10.4% in 1996. The main reason for the increase is improved profit margins in the Company's conventional uniform rental business, principally attributable to increased operating efficiencies.

During 1997, net interest expense (interest expense less interest income) was $2.1 million as compared to $2.4 million in 1996. The decrease is attributable to lower interest rates in fiscal 1997.

The Company's effective income tax rate was 36.0% in both 1997 and 1996.

Fiscal 1996 Compared with Fiscal 1995

In 1996 revenues increased $36.8 million or 10.4% over 1995. This increase can be attributed to an extra week of revenue (1.9%), acquisitions (1.7%), price increases (1.0%) and growth from existing operations (5.8%).

Income from operations increased to $40.9 million in 1996 from $34.5 million in 1995. As a percent of revenues, income from operations increased to 10.4% in 1996 from 9.7% in 1995. The main reason for the increase is improved profit margins in the Company's conventional uniform rental business, principally attributable to lower uniform merchandise costs. The Company also achieved comparative improvements from a restructuring of its service management and teleresources operations and contribution from its Canadian operations improved. Offsetting these advances were lower contributions from the Company's nuclear garment services business.

During 1996, net interest expense (interest expense less interest income) was $2.4 million as compared to $2.8 million in 1995. The decrease is attributable to lower average debt levels and lower interest rates during fiscal 1996.

The Company's effective income tax rate was 36.0% in 1996 and 35.0% in 1995. The increase is due primarily to reduced benefits from corporate-owned life insurance and higher state income taxes.

UniFirst Corporation and Subsidiaries

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Shareholders' equity at August 30, 1997 was $217.2 million, 84.2% of total capitalization, indicating the overall strength of the Company's balance sheet.

Net cash provided by operating activities was $55.8 million in 1997 and totaled $139.8 million for the three years ended August 30, 1997. These cash flows were used primarily to fund $99.0 million in capital expenditures to expand and update Company facilities. Additionally, $32.8 million was used for acquisitions during this three year period.

The Company had $4.1 million in cash and cash equivalents as well as a line of credit to borrow an additional $26.7 million as of August 30, 1997. The Company believes its ability to generate cash from operations will adequately cover its foreseeable capital requirements.

Effects of Inflation

Inflation has had the effect of increasing the reported amounts of the Company's revenues and costs. The Company uses the last-in, first-out (LIFO) method to value a significant portion of inventories. This method tends to reduce the amount of income due to inflation included in the Company's results of operations. The Company believes that, through increases in its prices and productivity improvements, it has been able to recover increases in costs and expenses attributable to inflation.

Eleven Year Financial Summary
UniFirst Corporation and Subsidiaries

Fiscal Year Ended August (in thousands, except ratios and per share amounts)	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990
Summary of Operations								
Revenues	$419,093	$391,794	$355,041	$318,039	$287,728	$268,190	$250,432	$226,682
Income from operations, before depreciation and amortization	70,387	61,729	53,725	50,369	47,199	42,010	38,562	38,749
Depreciation and amortization	23,386	20,814	19,194	17,912	16,454	15,999	14,229	12,422
Income from operations	47,001	40,915	34,531	32,457	30,745	26,011	24,333	26,327
Interest expense (income), net	2,118	2,398	2,787	2,513	2,669	4,098	4,320	3,513
Other income	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Provision for income taxes	16,160	13,855	11,110	11,073	10,387	7,570	6,803	8,516
Net income	28,723	24,662	20,634	18,871	17,689	14,343 *	13,210	14,298
Financial Position at Year End								
Total assets	$339,626	$302,378	$272,691	$250,160	$219,064	$212,097	$204,398	$189,411
Long-term obligations	40,837	39,365	36,376	41,602	32,231	47,641	52,032	53,134
Shareholders' equity	217,192	191,109	168,596	149,472	132,723	117,329	105,888	93,739
Financial Ratios								
Net income as a % of revenues	6.9%	6.3%	5.8%	5.9%	6.1%	5.3%	5.3%	6.3%
Return on average shareholders' equity	14.1%	13.7%	13.0%	13.4%	14.1%	12.9%	13.2%	16.4%
Weighted average number of shares outstanding	20,511	20,511	20,511	20,506	20,453	20,451	20,426	20,431
Per Share Data								
Revenues	$ 20.43	$ 19.10	$ 17.31	$ 15.51	$ 14.07	$ 13.11	$ 12.26	$ 11.09
Income from operations, before depreciation and amortization	3.43	3.01	2.62	2.46	2.31	2.05	1.89	1.90
Net Income								
Primary	1.40	1.20	1.01	0.92	0.86	0.70	0.65	0.70
Fully diluted	1.40	1.20	1.01	0.92	0.86	0.67	0.63	0.67
Shareholders' equity	10.59	9.32	8.22	7.29	6.49	5.74	5.18	4.59
Dividends								
Common stock	.12	.11	.10	.10	.10	.06	.06	.06
Class B common stock	.10	.09	.08	.08	.04	--	--	--

Per share amounts for all years have been restated to reflect a two-for-one stock split declared by the Board of Directors on November 18, 1993.

* Amount reflects income before extraordinary item and accounting change. Net income was $12,923.

Eleven Year Financial Summary (continued)
UniFirst Corporation and Subsidiaries

Fiscal Year Ended August (in thousands, except ratios and per share amounts)	1989	1988	1987
Summary of Operations			
Revenues	$212,731	$196,296	$159,900
Income from operations, before depreciation and amortization	35,768	32,207	28,161
Depreciation and amortization	12,309	12,298	10,494
Income from operations	23,459	19,909	17,667
Interest expense (income), net	4,880	5,965	4,622
Other income	--	--	1,300
Provision for income taxes	6,968	5,289	6,530
Net income	11,611	8,655	7,815
Financial Position at Year End			
Total assets	$172,389	$171,010	$166,304
Long-term obligations	53,735	66,476	69,505
Shareholders' equity	80,249	69,127	60,681
Financial Ratios			
Net income as a % of revenues	5.5%	4.4%	4.9%
Return on average shareholders' equity	15.6%	13.3%	13.7%
Weighted average number of shares outstanding	20,353	20,168	20,158
Per Share Data			
Revenues	$ 10.45	$ 9.73	$ 7.93
Income from operations, before depreciation and amortization	1.76	1.60	1.40
Net Income			
Primary	0.57	0.43	0.39
Fully diluted	0.56	0.43	0.39
Shareholders' equity	3.94	3.43	3.01

Dividends			
Common stock	.05	.05	.05
Class B common stock	--	--	--

Per share amounts for all years have been restated to reflect a two-for-one stock split declared by the Board of Directors on November 18, 1993.

Consolidated Balance Sheets
UniFirst Corporation and Subsidiaries

	August 30, 1997	August 31, 1996
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 4,054,000	$ 3,425,000
Receivables, less reserves of $1,299,000 in 1997 and $843,000 in 1996	39,431,000	36,634,000
Inventories	19,497,000	17,053,000
Rental merchandise in service	40,013,000	37,973,000
Prepaid expenses	149,000	127,000
Total current assets	103,144,000	95,212,000
Property and equipment:		
Land, buildings and leasehold improvements	137,281,000	119,346,000
Machinery and equipment	142,242,000	120,671,000
Motor vehicles	37,276,000	33,278,000
	316,799,000	273,295,000
Less - accumulated depreciation	128,532,000	113,191,000
	188,267,000	160,104,000
Other assets	48,215,000	47,062,000
	$ 339,626,000	$ 302,378,000
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity		
Current liabilities:		
Current maturities of long-term obligations	$ 1,040,000	$ 1,058,000
Notes payable	3,213,000	2,757,000
Accounts payable	13,085,000	11,697,000
Accrued liabilities	45,637,000	37,371,000
Accrued and deferred income taxes	2,555,000	3,679,000
Total current liabilities	65,530,000	56,562,000
Long-term obligations, net of current maturities	39,797,000	38,307,000
Deferred income taxes	17,107,000	16,400,000
Shareholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, $1.00 par value; 2,000,000 shares authorized; none issued	--	--
Common stock, $.10 par value; 30,000,000 shares authorized; issued and outstanding 7,898,864 shares in 1997 and 7,886,664 shares in 1996	790,000	789,000
Class B Common stock, $.10 par value; 20,000,000 shares authorized; issued and outstanding 12,611,744 shares in 1997 and 12,623,944 shares in 1996	1,261,000	1,262,000
Capital surplus	7,078,000	7,078,000
Retained earnings	208,949,000	182,384,000
Cumulative translation adjustment	(886,000)	(404,000)
Total shareholders' equity	217,192,000	191,109,000
	$ 339,626,000	$ 302,378,000

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

Consolidated Statements of Income
UniFirst Corporation and Subsidiaries

Year Ended	August 30, 1997	August 31, 1996	August 26, 1995
Revenues	$ 419,093,000	$ 391,794,000	$ 355,041,000
Cost and expenses:			
Operating costs	256,896,000	240,672,000	222,205,000
Selling and administrative expenses	91,810,000	89,393,000	79,111,000
Depreciation and amortization	23,386,000	20,814,000	19,194,000
	372,092,000	350,879,000	320,510,000
Income from operations	47,001,000	40,915,000	34,531,000
Interest expense (income):			
Interest expense	2,351,000	2,659,000	2,963,000
Interest income	(233,000)	(261,000)	(176,000)
	2,118,000	2,398,000	2,787,000
Income before income taxes	44,883,000	38,517,000	31,744,000
Provision for income taxes	16,160,000	13,855,000	11,110,000
Net income	$ 28,723,000	$ 24,662,000	$ 20,634,000
Weighted average number of shares outstanding	20,510,608	20,510,608	20,510,608
Net income per share	$ 1.40	$ 1.20	$ 1.01
Dividends per share:			
Common stock	$ 0.12	$ 0.11	$ 0.10
Class B common stock	$ 0.10	$ 0.09	$ 0.08

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

Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity
UniFirst Corporation and Subsidiaries

	Common Shares	Class B Common Shares	Common Stock	Class B Common Stock	Capital Surplus	Retained Earnings	Cumulative Translation Adjustment
Balance, August 27, 1994	7,884,644	12,625,964	$788,000	$ 1,263,000	$7,042,000	$ 140,866,000	$(487,000)
Net income	--	--	--	--	--	20,634,000	--
Dividends	--	--	--	--	--	(1,799,000)	--
Other	--	--	--	--	36,000	--	--
Shares converted	2,000	(2,000)	1,000	(1,000)	--	--	--
Translation adjustment	--	--	--	--	--	--	253,000

Balance, August 26, 1995	7,886,644	12,623,964	789,000	1,262,000	7,078,000	159,701,000	(234,000)
Net income	--	--	--	--	--	24,662,000	--
Dividends	--	--	--	--	--	(1,979,000)	--
Shares converted	20	(20)	--	--	--	--	--
Translation adjustment	--	--	--	--	--	--	(170,000)
Balance, August 31, 1996	7,886,664	12,623,944	789,000	1,262,000	7,078,000	182,384,000	(404,000)
Net income	--	--	--	--	--	28,723,000	--
Dividends	--	--	--	--	--	(2,158,000)	--
Shares converted	12,200	(12,200)	1,000	(1,000)	--	--	--
Translation adjustment	--	--	--	--	--	--	(482,000)
Balance, August 30, 1997	7,898,864	12,611,744	$790,000	$ 1,261,000	$7,078,000	$ 208,949,000	$(886,000)

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

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
UniFirst Corporation and Subsidiaries

Year ended	August 30, 1997	August 31, 1996	August 26, 1995
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net income	$ 28,723,000	$ 24,662,000	$ 20,634,000
Adjustments:			
Depreciation	19,512,000	17,339,000	15,960,000
Amortization of other assets	3,874,000	3,475,000	3,234,000
Receivables	(2,455,000)	(2,272,000)	(2,935,000)
Inventories	(2,485,000)	(370,000)	(938,000)
Rental merchandise in service	(690,000)	(3,523,000)	(1,198,000)
Prepaid expenses	(22,000)	(9,000)	15,000
Accounts payable	1,401,000	(1,331,000)	476,000
Accrued liabilities	8,284,000	1,906,000	7,967,000
Accrued and deferred income taxes	(1,102,000)	(191,000)	(1,572,000)
Deferred income taxes	715,000	1,812,000	899,000
Net cash provided by operating activities	55,755,000	41,498,000	42,542,000
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Acquisition of businesses, net of cash acquired	(7,309,000)	(18,245,000)	(7,226,000)
Capital expenditures	(47,432,000)	(27,182,000)	(24,409,000)
Other assets, net	(112,000)	(1,432,000)	(1,575,000)
Net cash used in investing activities	(54,853,000)	(46,859,000)	(33,210,000)
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Increase in debt	3,533,000	12,762,000	4,079,000
Reduction of debt	(1,648,000)	(7,886,000)	(9,879,000)
Cash dividends paid or payable	(2,158,000)	(1,979,000)	(1,799,000)
Other	--	--	36,000
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	(273,000)	2,897,000	(7,563,000)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	629,000	(2,464,000)	1,769,000
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	3,425,000	5,889,000	4,120,000
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	$ 4,054,000	$ 3,425,000	$ 5,889,000
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:			
Interest paid	$ 2,327,000	$ 2,691,000	$ 3,010,000
Income taxes paid	$ 16,577,000	$ 12,439,000	$ 11,712,000

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

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
UniFirst Corporation and Subsidiaries

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Business Description
UniFirst Corporation is a leading company in the garment services business. The Company designs, manufactures, personalizes, rents, cleans, delivers and sells a variety of superior quality occupational garments, career apparel and imagewear programs to businesses of all kinds. The Company also decontaminates and cleans, in separate facilities, garments which may have been exposed to radioactive materials.

Principles of Consolidation and Other
The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its subsidiaries, all of which are wholly-owned. Intercompany balances and transactions are eliminated in consolidation. The Company recognizes revenues when the actual services are provided to customers.

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 reported amounts in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Fiscal Year
The Company's fiscal year ends on the last Saturday in August. For financial reporting purposes, fiscal 1997 was a 52 week year, while fiscal 1996 had 53 weeks and 1995 had 52 weeks.

Inventories
Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market value. The Company uses the last-in, first-out (LIFO) method to value a significant portion of its inventories. Had the Company used the first-in, first-out (FIFO) accounting method, inventories would have been approximately $1,240,000 and $1,195,000 higher at August 30, 1997 and August 31, 1996, respectively.

Rental Merchandise in Service
Rental merchandise in service, stated at cost less amortization, is being amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated service lives (primarily 12 months) of the merchandise.

Property and Equipment
The Company provides for depreciation on the straight-line method based on the following estimated useful lives:

Buildings	30-40 years
Leasehold improvements	Term of lease
Machinery and equipment	3-10 years
Motor vehicles	3-5 years

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Other Assets
Customer contracts are amortized over periods of up to seventeen years. Restrictive covenants are amortized over the terms of the respective non-competition agreements, which range from five to fifteen years. Goodwill is amortized over periods of up to forty years.

Income Taxes
Deferred income taxes are provided for temporary differences between amounts

recognized for income tax and financial reporting purposes at currently enacted tax rates.

Net Income Per Share
Net income per share is calculated using the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the year. There were no common equivalent shares outstanding in 1995, 1996 or 1997.

Cash Flow Disclosures
Cash and cash equivalents include cash in banks and bank short-term investments with maturities of less than ninety days.

2. ACQUISITIONS

Information relating to the acquisitions of industrial laundry businesses which were accounted for as purchases is as follows:

Year ended	August 30, 1997	August 31, 1996	August 26, 1995
Fair market value of assets acquired	$7,413,000	$18,360,000	$8,688,000
Liabilities assumed or created	104,000	115,000	1,462,000
Acquisition of businesses, net of cash acquired	$7,309,000	$18,245,000	$7,226,000

The results of operations of these acquisitions have been included on the Company's consolidated financial statements since their respective acquisition dates. None of these acquisitions were significant in relation to the Company's consolidated financial statements and therefore pro forma financial information has not been presented.

3. INCOME TAXES

The provision for income taxes consists of the following:

Year ended	August 30, 1997	August 31, 1996	August 26, 1995
Current:			
Federal and Foreign	$ 14,259,000	$ 8,615,000	$ 10,597,000
State	2,039,000	2,584,000	1,818,000
	16,298,000	11,199,000	12,415,000
Deferred:			
Federal and Foreign	(762,000)	2,295,000	(1,516,000)
State	624,000	361,000	211,000
	(138,000)	2,656,000	(1,305,000)
	$ 16,160,000	$ 13,855,000	$ 11,110,000

The following table reconciles the provision for income taxes using the statutory federal income tax rate to the actual provision for income taxes:

Year ended	August 30, 1997	August 31, 1996	August 26, 1995
Income taxes at the statutory federal income tax rate	$ 15,709,000	$ 13,481,000	$ 11,110,000
Puerto Rico exempt income	(988,000)	(877,000)	(678,000)
Corporate-Owned Life Insurance	(775,000)	(770,000)	(825,000)
State income taxes	1,450,000	1,222,000	1,170,000

Foreign income taxes	567,000	262,000	99,000
Other	197,000	537,000	234,000
	$ 16,160,000	$ 13,855,000	$ 11,110,000

The Company's Puerto Rico subsidiary's income is 90% exempt from Puerto Rico income taxes through 2001. The Company provides for anticipated tollgate taxes on the repatriation of the subsidiary's accumulated earnings.

The tax effect of items giving rise to the Company's net deferred tax liabilities are as follows:

	August 30, 1997	August 31, 1996	August 26, 1995
Rental merchandise in service	$ 14,429,000	$ 13,814,000	$ 12,626,000
Tax in excess of book depreciation	15,533,000	14,836,000	12,906,000
Accruals and other	(9,324,000)	(7,819,000)	(7,248,000)
	$ 20,638,000	$ 20,831,000	$ 18,284,000

4. LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

Long-term obligations outstanding on the accompanying consolidated balance sheets are as follows:

	August 30, 1997	August 31, 1996
Unsecured revolving credit agreement with two banks, interest rates of 6.19% and 5.75%, respectively	$ 33,279,000	$ 30,525,000
Notes payable, interest from 5.2% - 8.5%, payable in various installments through 2005	4,782,000	5,252,000
Amounts due for restrictive covenants and other, payable in various installments through 2005	2,776,000	3,588,000
	40,837,000	39,365,000
Less - current maturities	1,040,000	1,058,000
	$ 39,797,000	$ 38,307,000

Aggregate current maturities of long-term obligations for each of the next five years are $1,040,000, $1,038,000, $34,044,000, $862,000, $891,000 and $2,962,000 thereafter.

The Company's unsecured revolving credit agreement runs through December 31, 1999. As of August 30, 1997, the maximum line of credit was $60,000,000.

In 1996 the Company entered into an interest rate swap agreement with a bank, notional amount $15,000,000, maturing December 12, 1998. The Company pays a fixed rate of 5.53% and receives a variable rate tied to the LIBOR rate. As of August 30, 1997 the variable rate was 5.72%.

Certain of the long-term obligations contain among other things, provisions regarding net worth and debt coverage. Under the most restrictive of these provisions, the Company was required to maintain minimum consolidated tangible net worth of $133,357,000 as of August 30, 1997. Certain notes payable are guaranteed or secured by assets of the Company.

As of August 30, 1997 and August 31, 1996, the fair market values of the Company's outstanding debt and swap agreement approximate their carrying value.

5. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS

The Company has a profit sharing plan with a 401(k) feature for all eligible employees not under collective bargaining agreements. The amount of the Company's contribution is determined at the discretion of the Company. Contributions charged to expense under the plan were $4,882,000 in 1997, $4,184,000 in 1996 and $3,508,000 in 1995.

Some employees under collective bargaining agreements are covered by union-sponsored multi-employer pension plans. Company contributions, generally based upon hours worked, are in accordance with negotiated labor contracts. Payments to the plans amounted to $279,000 in 1997, $221,000 in 1996 and $156,000 in 1995. Information is not readily available for the Company to determine its share of unfunded vested benefits, if any, under these plans.

6. OTHER ASSETS

Other assets on the accompanying consolidated balance sheets are as follows:

	August 30, 1997	August 31, 1996
Customer contracts, restrictive covenants and other assets arising from acquisitions, less accumulated amortization of $19,433,000 and $18,884,000, respectively	$24,804,000	$22,697,000
Goodwill, less accumulated amortization of $3,455,000 and $2,876,000, respectively	21,389,000	21,250,000
Other	2,022,000	3,115,000
	$48,215,000	$47,062,000

7. ACCRUED LIABILITIES

Accrued liabilities on the accompanying consolidated balance sheets are as follows:

	August 30, 1997	August 31, 1996
Insurance	$17,735,000	$16,100,000
Payroll related	13,818,000	13,254,000
Other	14,084,000	8,017,000
	$45,637,000	$37,371,000

8. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Lease Commitments
The Company leases certain buildings from independent parties. Total rent

expense on all leases was $2,401,000 in 1997, $2,108,000 in 1996 and $1,867,000 in 1995.

Annual minimum lease commitments for all years subsequent to August 30, 1997 are $2,193,000 in 1998, $1,434,000 in 1999, $772,000 in 2000, $471,000 in 2001, $222,000 in 2002 and $55,000 thereafter.

Contingencies

The Company and its subsidiaries are subject to legal proceedings and claims arising from the conduct of their business operations, including personal injury, customer contract, employment claims and environmental matters. In the opinion of management, such proceedings and claims are not likely to result in losses which would have a material adverse effect upon the financial position or results of operations of the Company.

As security for certain agreements, the Company had standby irrevocable bank commercial letters of credit and mortgages of $18,182,000 and $16,332,000 outstanding as of August 30, 1997 and August 31, 1996, respectively.

9. SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

The significant attributes of each type of stock are as follows:

Common stock -- Each share is entitled to one vote and is freely transferable. Each share of common stock is entitled to a cash dividend equal to 125% of any cash dividend paid on each share of Class B common stock.

Class B common stock -- Each share is entitled to ten votes and can be converted to common stock on a share-for-share basis. Until converted to common stock, however, Class B shares are not freely transferable.

The Company adopted an incentive stock option plan in November, 1996 and reserved 150,000 shares of common stock for issue under the plan. As of August 30, 1997 no options had been granted under the plan.

Report of Independent Public Accountants

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of UniFirst Corporation:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of UniFirst Corporation (a Massachusetts corporation) and subsidiaries as of August 30, 1997 and August 31, 1996 and the related consolidated statements of income, shareholders' equity and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended August 30, 1997. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

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

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of UniFirst Corporation and subsidiaries as of August 30, 1997 and August 31, 1996, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended

August 30, 1997, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

ARTHUR ANDERSEN LLP

Boston, Massachusetts
November 5, 1997

Quarterly Financial Data (Unaudited)
UniFirst Corporation and Subsidiaries

The following is a summary of the results of operations for each of the quarters within the years ended August 30, 1997 and August 31, 1996.

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

1997	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
Revenues	$103,976	$102,064	$107,124	$105,929
Income before income taxes	12,274	8,638	11,535	12,436
Net income	7,855	5,529	7,382	7,957
Weighted average shares outstanding	20,511	20,511	20,511	20,511
Net income per share	$0.38	$0.27	$0.36	$0.39

1996	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
Revenues	$95,413	$100,825	$98,554	$97,002
Income before income taxes	10,578	7,712	10,313	9,914
Net income	6,770	4,936	6,600	6,356
Weighted average shares outstanding	20,511	20,511	20,511	20,511
Net income per share	$0.33	$0.24	$0.32	$0.31

Common Stock Prices and Dividends Per Share
For the Years Ended August 30, 1997 and August 31, 1996:

	Price Per Share		Dividends Per Share	
1997	High	Low	Class B Common Stock	Common Stock
First Quarter	$21 3/4	$18 1/4	$0.024	$0.030
Second Quarter	23	20 1/8	0.024	0.030
Third Quarter	21 1/8	18 3/4	0.024	0.030
Fourth Quarter	25 1/2	18 7/8	0.024	0.030

	Price Per Share		Dividends Per Share	
1996	High	Low	Class B Common Stock	Common Stock
First Quarter	$15 5/8	$13 1/2	$0.020	$0.025
Second Quarter	19 1/2	15 1/8	0.020	0.025
Third Quarter	25 1/4	17 7/8	0.024	0.030
Fourth Quarter	23	19 1/4	0.024	0.030

The Company's common shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE Symbol: UNF).

The approximate number of shareholders of record of the Company's common stock and Class B common stock as of November 5, 1997 were 165 and 19 respectively.

Exhibit 21

List of subsidiaries of the Company:

Interstate Nuclear Services Corp.
Interstate Uniform Manufacturing of Puerto Rico, Inc.
Superior Products & Equipment Co., Inc.
UniFirst Canada Ltd.
Texas Industrial Services, Inc.
U Two Corporation
UR Corporation
Tennessee Uniform and Towel Service, Inc.
Euro Nuclear Services B.V.

EXHIBIT 23

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

As independent public accountants, we hereby consent to the incorporation of our reports dated November 5, 1997 incorporated by reference or included in this Form 10-K, into the Company's previously filed Registration Statement File No. 33-60781.

/s/ ARTHUR ANDERSEN LLP

Boston, Massachusetts
November 24, 1997

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THIS SCHEDULE CONTAINS SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION EXTRACTED FROM THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF UNIFIRST CORPORATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED AUGUST 30, 1997, AND IS QUALIFIED IN ITS ENTIRETY BY REFERENCE TO SUCH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.
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