

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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)
October 28, 2009

UNIFIRST CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Massachusetts

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

1-8504

(Commission File Number)

04-2103460

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

68 Jonspin Road, Wilmington, Massachusetts 01887
(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

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

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 2.02.**Results of Operations and Financial Condition.**

On October 28, 2009, UniFirst Corporation (the "Company") issued a press release ("Press Release") announcing financial results for the fiscal fourth quarter and year ended August 29, 2009. A copy of the Press Release is attached as Exhibit 99 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated herein by reference.

The information in this Item 2.02, including the exhibit attached hereto, shall not be deemed "filed" for any purpose, including for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that Section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Exchange Act, regardless of any general incorporation language in such filing.

Item 9.01.**Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) Exhibits

EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION
99	Press release of the Company dated October 28, 2009

SIGNATURES

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

UNIFIRST CORPORATION

Date: October 28, 2009

By: /s/ Ronald D. Croatti
Name: Ronald D. Croatti
Title: Chairman of the Board, Chief
Executive Officer and President

By: /s/ Steven S. Sintros
Name: Steven S. Sintros
Title: Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION
99	Press release of the Company dated October 28, 2009



News

For Immediate Release
UniFirst Corporation
 68 Jonspin Road
 Wilmington, MA 01887
 Phone: 978- 658-8888
 Fax: 978-988-0659
 Email: ssintros@unifirst.com

October 28, 2009
 CONTACT: Steven S. Sintros, Vice President & CFO

UNIFIRST ANNOUNCES FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE FISCAL 2009 FOURTH QUARTER AND FULL YEAR

Wilmington, MA (October 28, 2009) -- UniFirst Corporation (NYSE: UNF) today announced results for its fiscal fourth quarter and full year, which ended on August 29, 2009.

Revenues for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2009 were \$241.5 million, a 3.8% decrease from the previous year's \$251.0 million. Fourth quarter net income was \$17.0 million or \$0.88 per diluted common share, a 38.6% increase from the fourth quarter of fiscal 2008, when net income was \$12.3 million or \$0.63 per diluted common share.

Fiscal 2009 full year revenues were down slightly to \$1.013 billion from \$1.023 billion in fiscal 2008. However, on a comparable work week basis, revenues increased by 1.0% over the prior year, as fiscal 2008 included an extra week compared to fiscal 2009. Net income for the full year was \$75.9 million or \$3.92 per diluted common share, a 24.4% increase from fiscal 2008, when net income was \$61.0 million or \$3.15 per diluted common share.

"The rapid pace of job losses and related wearer reductions in our customer base caused a sequential decline in our quarterly revenues during the year, even as we produced solid levels of new sales and customer retention," said Ronald D. Croatti, UniFirst President and Chief Executive Officer. "Despite these challenging economic conditions, we were able to achieve record profit levels. I would like to personally thank all our thousands of Team Partner employees throughout North America and Europe for their consistent hard work and sacrifices in what proved to be a very challenging year for our Company."

The Company's core laundry revenues in the fourth quarter declined 4.0% compared to the same period in fiscal 2008; however, its income from operations increased 31.0%. Total expenses in the core laundries were down \$15.5 million from the same quarter a year ago which resulted in a fourth quarter operating margin of 12.6% compared to 9.3% a year earlier. The decline in expenses was the result of lower energy, payroll, and merchandise costs. Gasoline and natural gas costs were significantly lower in the fourth quarter of 2009, as compared with historically high levels in the same quarter of fiscal 2008. Payroll costs declined from the prior year as a result of headcount reductions made earlier in fiscal 2009. Lower workers' compensation insurance and travel costs also contributed to the decrease in expenses. These benefits were partially offset by higher healthcare and depreciation expense as well as increases to our reserve for environmental contingencies.

The Company's Specialty Garments and First Aid segments both contributed to the Company's overall growth in fourth quarter profits compared to the prior year.

UniFirst continues to generate strong cash flows and maintain a solid balance sheet. Cash produced by operating activities in fiscal 2009 was \$159.2 million compared to \$119.5 million a year earlier. Free cash flow was used primarily to reduce outstanding debt by \$53.1 million. Total debt, as a percentage of capital, as of the end of fiscal 2009, declined to 22.5% from 29.7% at the prior year end. In addition, the year end cash balance increased by \$34.5 million to \$60.2 million.

"We're very pleased with the results of our fourth quarter and have begun to see signs of economic stabilization in our customer base," Croatti said. "However, the overall employment condition remains weak and will continue to challenge our top line performance. As always, our top priority is providing first class service to our diverse customer base. In this environment, continuing to optimize the efficiency of our sales force as well as controlling costs will also be essential to achieving our short term and long term financial goals."

Conference Call Information

UniFirst will hold a conference call today at 10:00 a.m. (EDT) to discuss its quarterly financial results, business highlights and outlook. A simultaneous live webcast of the call will be available over the Internet and can be accessed at www.unifirst.com.

About UniFirst Corporation

UniFirst Corporation is one of the largest providers of workplace uniforms, protective clothing, and facility services products in North America. The Company employs nearly 10,000 Team Partners who serve more than 200,000 customer locations in 45 U.S. states, Canada, and Europe from over 200 customer service, distribution, and manufacturing facilities. UniFirst is a publicly held company traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol UNF and is a component of the Standard & Poor's 600 Small Cap Index.

Forward Looking Statements

This public announcement may contain forward looking statements that reflect the Company's current views with respect to future events and financial performance. Forward looking statements contained in this public announcement are subject to the safe harbor created by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and are highly dependent upon a variety of important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those reflected in such forward looking statements. Such factors include, but are not limited to, uncertainties regarding the Company's ability to consummate and successfully integrate acquired businesses, uncertainties regarding any existing or newly-discovered expenses and liabilities related to environmental compliance and remediation, the Company's ability to compete successfully without any significant degradation in its margin rates, seasonal fluctuations in business levels,

uncertainties regarding the price levels of natural gas, electricity, fuel and labor, the impact of negative economic conditions on the Company's customers and such customers' workforce, the continuing increase in domestic healthcare costs, demand and prices for the Company's products and services, additional professional and internal costs necessary for compliance with recent and proposed future changes in Securities and Exchange Commission (including the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002), New York Stock Exchange and accounting rules, strikes and unemployment levels, the Company's efforts to evaluate and potentially reduce internal costs, economic and other developments associated with the war on terrorism and its impact on the economy and general economic conditions. When used in this public announcement, the words "anticipate," "optimistic," "believe," "estimate," "expect," "intend," and similar expressions as they relate to the Company are included to identify such forward looking statements. The Company undertakes no obligation to update any forward looking statements to reflect events or circumstances arising after the date on which such statements are made.

UniFirst Corporation and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Statements of Income

<u>(In thousands, except share and per share data)</u>	<u>Thirteen weeks ended August 29, 2009 (2)</u>	<u>Thirteen weeks ended August 30, 2008 (2)</u>	<u>Fifty-two weeks ended August 29, 2009</u>	<u>Fifty-three weeks ended August 30, 2008</u>
Revenues	\$ 241,472	\$ 251,010	\$ 1,013,416	\$ 1,023,175
Costs and expenses:				
Operating costs (1)	144,997	163,089	609,629	643,886
Selling and administrative expenses (1)	52,210	52,366	211,962	216,867
Depreciation and amortization	15,106	13,690	57,789	53,784
	<u>212,313</u>	<u>229,145</u>	<u>879,380</u>	<u>914,537</u>
Income from operations	29,159	21,865	134,036	108,638
Other expense (income):				
Interest expense	2,172	2,569	9,313	11,999
Interest income	(500)	(556)	(1,992)	(2,224)
Foreign exchange (gain)/loss	(90)	585	250	164
	<u>1,582</u>	<u>2,598</u>	<u>7,571</u>	<u>9,939</u>
Income before income taxes	27,577	19,267	126,465	98,699
Provision for income taxes	10,556	6,984	50,613	37,721
Net income	<u>\$ 17,021</u>	<u>\$ 12,283</u>	<u>\$ 75,852</u>	<u>\$ 60,978</u>
Income per share – Basic:				
Common Stock	\$ 0.93	\$ 0.67	\$ 4.14	\$ 3.33
Class B Common Stock	\$ 0.74	\$ 0.54	\$ 3.31	\$ 2.66
Income per share – Diluted:				
Common Stock	\$ 0.88	\$ 0.63	\$ 3.92	\$ 3.15
Weighted average number of shares outstanding – Basic:				
Common Stock	14,408	14,380	14,394	14,363
Class B Common Stock	4,933	4,936	4,935	4,937
	<u>19,341</u>	<u>19,316</u>	<u>19,329</u>	<u>19,300</u>
Weighted average number of shares outstanding – Diluted:				
Common Stock	<u>19,415</u>	<u>19,387</u>	<u>19,373</u>	<u>19,353</u>
Dividends per share:				
Common Stock	\$ 0.0375	\$ 0.0375	\$ 0.1500	\$ 0.1500
Class B Common Stock	\$ 0.0300	\$ 0.0300	\$ 0.1200	\$ 0.1200

(1) Exclusive of depreciation on the Company's fixed assets and amortization on its intangible assets

(2) Unaudited

UniFirst Corporation and Subsidiaries
Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets

(In thousands)	August 29, 2009	August 30, 2008
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 60,151	\$ 25,655
Receivables, net	97,784	102,830
Inventories	43,586	46,154
Rental merchandise in service	73,063	92,315
Deferred income taxes	24,901	15,431
Prepaid expenses	2,889	1,720
Total current assets	302,374	284,105
Property, plant and equipment:		
Land, buildings and leasehold improvements	325,034	314,370
Machinery and equipment	352,511	327,705
Motor vehicles	113,048	102,805
	790,593	744,880
Less - accumulated depreciation	407,823	376,319
	382,770	368,561
Goodwill	261,171	258,836
Customer contracts and other intangible assets, net	60,054	67,450
Other assets	2,416	2,715
	<u>\$ 1,008,785</u>	<u>\$ 981,667</u>
Liabilities and shareholders' equity		
Current liabilities:		
Current maturities of long-term obligations	\$ 6,447	\$ 4,222
Accounts payable	41,180	54,822
Accrued liabilities	104,003	91,837
Accrued income taxes	2,437	—
Total current liabilities	154,067	150,881
Long-term obligations, net of current maturities	175,568	231,317
Deferred income taxes	52,115	42,699
Shareholders' equity:		
Common Stock	1,443	1,438
Class B Common Stock	493	494
Capital surplus	20,137	18,240
Retained earnings	605,262	532,164
Accumulated other comprehensive (loss)/income	(300)	4,434
Total shareholders' equity	627,035	556,770
	<u>\$ 1,008,785</u>	<u>\$ 981,667</u>

UniFirst Corporation and Subsidiaries
Detail of Operating Results

Revenues

(In thousands, except percentages)	Thirteen weeks ended August 29, 2009 (1)	Thirteen weeks ended August 30, 2008 (1)	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Core Laundry Operations	\$ 217,667	\$ 226,643	\$ (8,976)	-4.0%
Specialty Garments	16,620	16,854	(234)	-1.4
First Aid	7,185	7,513	(328)	-4.4
Consolidated total	<u>\$ 241,472</u>	<u>\$ 251,010</u>	<u>\$ (9,538)</u>	-3.8%

(In thousands, except percentages)	Fifty-two weeks ended August 29, 2009	Fifty-three weeks ended August 30, 2008	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Core Laundry Operations	\$ 912,661	\$ 919,986	\$ (7,325)	-0.8%
Specialty Garments	72,340	71,637	703	1.0
First Aid	28,415	31,552	(3,137)	-9.9
Consolidated total	<u>\$ 1,013,416</u>	<u>\$ 1,023,175</u>	<u>\$ (9,759)</u>	-1.0%

Income from Operations

(In thousands, except percentages)	Thirteen weeks ended August 29, 2009 (1)	Thirteen weeks ended August 30, 2008 (1)	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Core Laundry Operations	\$ 27,462	\$ 20,968	\$ 6,494	31.0%
Specialty Garments	949	364	585	160.8
First Aid	748	533	215	40.1
Consolidated total	<u>\$ 29,159</u>	<u>\$ 21,865</u>	<u>\$ 7,294</u>	33.4%

(In thousands, except percentages)	Fifty-two weeks ended August 29, 2009	Fifty-three weeks ended August 30, 2008	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Core Laundry Operations	\$ 125,393	\$ 103,547	\$ 21,846	21.1%
Specialty Garments	7,360	4,204	3,156	75.1
First Aid	1,283	887	396	44.5
Consolidated total	<u>\$ 134,036</u>	<u>\$ 108,638</u>	<u>\$ 25,398</u>	23.4%

(1) Unaudited

UniFirst Corporation and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

Year ended (In thousands)	August 29, 2009	August 30, 2008
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 75,852	\$ 60,978
Adjustments to reconcile net income to cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	48,855	45,432
Amortization of intangible assets	8,934	8,352
Amortization of deferred financing costs	267	267
Share-based compensation	1,024	1,118
Accretion on asset retirement obligations	517	486
Deferred income taxes	1,328	1,206
Changes in assets and liabilities, net of acquisitions:		
Receivables	4,079	(8,542)
Inventories	2,452	(1,816)
Rental merchandise in service	19,334	(2,011)
Prepaid expenses	(1,174)	9
Accounts payable	(13,365)	9,606
Accrued liabilities	8,224	3,775
Accrued income taxes	2,868	605
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>159,195</u>	<u>119,465</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Acquisition of businesses, net of cash acquired	(4,730)	(60,952)
Capital expenditures	(65,323)	(73,795)
Other	304	1,116
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(69,749)</u>	<u>(133,631)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from long-term obligations	140,628	175,455
Payments on long-term obligations	(193,761)	(145,620)
Proceeds from exercise of Common Stock options	689	518
Payment of cash dividends	(2,754)	(2,748)
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	<u>(55,198)</u>	<u>27,605</u>
Effect of exchange rate changes	<u>248</u>	<u>(482)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	34,496	12,957
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	<u>25,655</u>	<u>12,698</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	<u>\$ 60,151</u>	<u>\$ 25,655</u>