

DUNKIN' BRANDS GROUP, INC.
Form 10-K
February 27, 2019

U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934.
For the year ended December 29, 2018

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____
Commission file number 001-35258

DUNKIN' BRANDS GROUP, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)
Delaware 20-4145825
(State or other jurisdiction of (I.R.S. Employer
incorporation or organization) Identification No.)
130 Royall Street
Canton, Massachusetts 02021
(Address of principal executive offices) (zip code)
(781) 737-3000
(Registrants' telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:
Title of each class Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share The NASDAQ Global Select Market
Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: NONE

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes No

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

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

Indicate by check mark 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 definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

Emerging growth company

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

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

The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting stock of the registrant held by non-affiliates of Dunkin' Brands Group, Inc. computed by reference to the closing price of the registrant's common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market as of June 30, 2018, was approximately \$5.74 billion.

As of February 22, 2019, 82,636,134 shares of common stock of the registrant were outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's definitive Proxy Statement for the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Regulation 14A not later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this Form 10-K, are incorporated by reference in Part III, Items 10-14 of this Form 10-K.

DUNKIN' BRANDS GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Part I.	
Item 1. <u>Business</u>	<u>1</u>
Item 1A. <u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>10</u>
Item 1B. <u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	<u>23</u>
Item 2. <u>Properties</u>	<u>24</u>
Item 3. <u>Legal Proceedings</u>	<u>25</u>
Item 4. <u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	<u>25</u>
Part II.	
Item 5. <u>Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	<u>26</u>
Item 6. <u>Selected Financial Data</u>	<u>29</u>
Item 7. <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	<u>33</u>
Item 7A. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk</u>	<u>54</u>
Item 8. <u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	<u>55</u>
Item 9. <u>Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	<u>99</u>
Item 9A. <u>Controls and Procedures</u>	<u>99</u>
Item 9B. <u>Other Information</u>	<u>102</u>
Part III.	
Item 10. <u>Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u>	<u>103</u>
Item 11. <u>Executive Compensation</u>	<u>104</u>
Item 12. <u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	<u>104</u>
Item 13. <u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	<u>104</u>
Item 14. <u>Principal Accounting Fees and Services</u>	<u>104</u>
Part IV.	
Item 15. <u>Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules</u>	<u>105</u>
Item 16. <u>Form 10-K Summary</u>	<u>107</u>

Forward-Looking Statements

This report on Form 10-K, as well as other written reports and oral statements that we make from time to time, includes statements that express our opinions, expectations, beliefs, plans, objectives, assumptions or projections regarding future events or future results and therefore are, or may be deemed to be, “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Generally these statements can be identified by the use of words such as “anticipate,” “believe,” “could,” “estimate,” “expect,” “feel,” “forecast,” “intend,” “may,” “plan,” “potential,” “project,” “should” or “would” and similar words. These forward-looking statements include all matters that are not historical facts.

By their nature, forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties because they relate to events and depend on circumstances that may or may not occur in the future. Our actual results and the timing of certain events could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of certain factors, including, but not limited to, those set forth under “Risk Factors” and elsewhere in this report and in our other public filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC.

We caution you that forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and that our actual results of operations, financial condition and liquidity, and the development of the industry in which we operate may differ materially from those made in or suggested by the forward-looking statements contained in this report. In addition, even if our results of operations, financial condition and liquidity, and the development of the industry in which we operate, are consistent with the forward-looking statements contained in this report, those results or developments may not be indicative of results or developments in subsequent periods.

Given these risks and uncertainties, you are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date hereof. We undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statements or to publicly announce the results of any revisions to any of those statements to reflect future events or developments.

PART I

Item 1. Business.

Our Company

We are one of the world's leading franchisors of quick service restaurants ("QSRs") serving hot and cold coffee and baked goods, as well as hard serve ice cream. We franchise restaurants under our Dunkin' and Baskin-Robbins brands. With over 20,900 points of distribution in more than 60 countries worldwide, we believe that our portfolio has strong brand awareness in our key markets.

We believe that our 100% franchised business model offers strategic and financial benefits. For example, because we generally do not own or operate restaurants, our Company is able to focus on menu innovation, marketing, franchisee coaching and support, and other initiatives to drive the overall success of our brand. Financially, our franchised model allows us to grow our points of distribution and brand recognition with limited capital investment by us.

We report our business in five segments: Dunkin' U.S., Dunkin' International, Baskin-Robbins International, Baskin-Robbins U.S., and U.S. Advertising Funds. In fiscal year 2018, our Dunkin' segments generated revenues of \$629.2 million, or 50% of our total segment revenues, of which \$606.8 million was in the U.S. segment and \$22.3 million was in the international segment. In fiscal year 2018, our Baskin-Robbins segments generated revenues of \$162.8 million, of which \$115.4 million was in the international segment and \$47.4 million was in the U.S. segment. In fiscal year 2018, our U.S. Advertising Funds segment generated revenues of \$454.6 million. As of December 29, 2018, there were 12,871 Dunkin' points of distribution, of which 9,419 were in the U.S. and 3,452 were international, and 8,041 Baskin-Robbins points of distribution, of which 5,491 were international and 2,550 were in the U.S. See [note 12](#) to our consolidated financial statements included herein for segment information.

We generate revenue from five primary sources: (i) royalty income and franchise fees associated with franchised restaurants; (ii) continuing advertising fees from Dunkin' and Baskin-Robbins franchisees and breakage and other revenue related to the gift card program; (iii) rental income from restaurant properties that we lease or sublease to franchisees; (iv) sales of ice cream and other products to franchisees in certain international markets; and (v) other income including fees for the licensing of our brands for products sold in certain retail channels (such as Dunkin' K-Cup® pods, retail packaged coffee, and ready-to-drink bottled iced coffee), the licensing of the rights to manufacture Baskin-Robbins ice cream products to a third party for sale to U.S. franchisees, refranchising gains, and online training fees. Prior to completing the sale of all company-operated restaurants in fiscal year 2016, we also generated revenue from retail store sales at our company-operated restaurants.

Our history

Both of our brands have a rich heritage dating back to the 1940s, when Bill Rosenberg founded his first restaurant, subsequently renamed Dunkin' Donuts, and Burt Baskin and Irv Robbins each founded a chain of ice cream shops that eventually combined to form Baskin-Robbins. Baskin-Robbins and Dunkin' Donuts were individually acquired by Allied Domecq PLC in 1973 and 1989, respectively. The brands were organized under the Allied Domecq Quick Service Restaurants subsidiary, which was renamed Dunkin' Brands, Inc. in 2004. Allied Domecq was acquired in July 2005 by Pernod Ricard S.A. In March of 2006, Dunkin' Brands, Inc. was acquired by investment funds affiliated with Bain Capital Partners, LLC, The Carlyle Group, and Thomas H. Lee Partners, L.P. through a holding company that was incorporated in Delaware on November 22, 2005 and was later renamed Dunkin' Brands Group, Inc. In July 2011, we completed our initial public offering (the "IPO"). Upon the completion of the IPO, our common stock became listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "DNKN." In 2018, the Company unveiled new branding for Dunkin' Donuts that officially recognizes the brand as simply "Dunkin'," which officially took place in January 2019.

Our brands

Dunkin' U.S.

Dunkin' is a leading U.S. QSR concept, and is the QSR leader in donut and bagel categories for servings. Dunkin' is also a national QSR leader for breakfast sandwich servings. Since the late 1980s, Dunkin' has transformed itself into a coffee and beverage-based concept, and is a national QSR leader in servings in the hot regular/decaf/flavored coffee category and the iced regular/decaf/flavored coffee category, with sales of approximately 1.7 billion servings of total hot and iced coffee annually. Over the last ten fiscal years, Dunkin' U.S. systemwide sales have grown at a 5.4%

compound annual growth rate and total Dunkin' U.S. points of distribution grew from 6,412 to 9,419. As of December 29, 2018, approximately 85% of these points of distribution are traditional restaurants consisting of end-cap, in-line and stand-alone restaurants, many with drive-thrus, and gas and convenience locations. In addition, we have special distribution opportunities ("SDOs"), such as full- or self-service kiosks in offices, hospitals, colleges, airports, grocery stores, wholesale clubs, and other smaller-footprint properties. We believe that Dunkin' continues to have significant growth potential in the U.S. given its strong brand awareness and variety of restaurant

- 1-

formats. For fiscal year 2018, the Dunkin' franchise system generated U.S. systemwide sales of \$8.8 billion, which accounted for approximately 76% of our global systemwide sales, and had 9,419 U.S. points of distribution (with more than 50% of our restaurants having drive-thrus) at period end.

Baskin-Robbins U.S.

Baskin-Robbins is the leading QSR chain in the U.S. for servings of hard-serve ice cream, according to CREST® data, and develops and sells a full range of frozen ice cream treats such as cones, cakes, sundaes, and frozen beverages. Baskin-Robbins enjoys strong brand awareness in the U.S., and we believe the brand is known for its innovative flavors, popular "Birthday Club" program and ice cream flavor library of over 1,300 different offerings. We believe we can capitalize on the brand's strengths and continue generating renewed excitement for the brand.

Baskin-Robbins' "31 flavors" offers consumers a different flavor for each day of the month. For fiscal year 2018, the Baskin-Robbins franchise system generated U.S. systemwide sales of approximately \$611.9 million, which accounted for approximately 5% of our global systemwide sales.

International operations

Our international business is primarily conducted via joint ventures and country or territorial license arrangements with "master franchisees," who operate and sub-franchise the brand within their licensed areas. Our international franchise system, predominantly located across Asia and the Middle East, generated systemwide sales of \$2.2 billion for fiscal year 2018, which represented approximately 19% of Dunkin' Brands' global systemwide sales. As of December 29, 2018, Dunkin' had 3,452 international points of distribution in 43 countries (excluding the U.S.), which grew from 2,405 points of distribution as of December 27, 2008, and represented \$775.5 million of international systemwide sales for fiscal year 2018. As of December 29, 2018, Baskin-Robbins had 5,491 international points of distribution in 53 countries (excluding the U.S.) and represented approximately \$1.5 billion of international systemwide sales for fiscal year 2018. We believe that we have opportunities to continue to grow our Dunkin' and Baskin-Robbins concepts internationally in new and existing markets through brand and menu differentiation.

Overview of franchising

Franchising is a business arrangement whereby a service organization, the franchisor, grants an operator, the franchisee, a license to sell the franchisor's products and services and use its system and trademarks in a given area, with or without exclusivity. In the context of the restaurant industry, a franchisee pays the franchisor for its concept, strategy, marketing, operating system, training, purchasing power, and brand recognition. Franchisees are solely responsible for the day-to-day operations in each franchised restaurant, including but not limited to all labor and employment decisions, such as hiring, promoting, discharging, scheduling, and setting wages, benefits, and all other terms of employment with respect to their employees.

Franchisee relationships

We seek to maximize the alignment of our interests with those of our franchisees. For instance, we do not derive additional income through serving as the supplier to our domestic franchisees. In addition, because the ability to execute our strategy is dependent upon the strength of our relationships with our franchisees, we maintain a multi-tiered advisory council system to foster an active dialogue with franchisees. The advisory council system provides feedback and input on all major brand initiatives and is a source of timely information on evolving consumer preferences, which assists new product introductions and advertising campaigns.

Unlike certain other QSR franchise systems, we generally do not guarantee our franchisees' financing obligations. From time to time, at our discretion, we may offer voluntary financing to existing franchisees for specific programs such as the purchase of specialized equipment. We intend to continue our past practice of limiting our guarantee of financing for franchisees.

Franchise agreement terms

For each franchised restaurant in the U.S., we enter into a franchise agreement covering a standard set of terms and conditions. A prospective franchisee may elect to open either a single-branded distribution point or a multi-branded distribution point. In addition, and depending upon the market, a franchisee may purchase the right to open a franchised restaurant at one or multiple locations (via a store development agreement, or "SDA"). When granting the right to operate a restaurant to a potential franchisee, we will generally evaluate the potential franchisee's prior

food-service experience, history in managing profit and loss operations, financial history, and available capital and financing. We also evaluate potential new franchisees based on financial measures, including liquid asset and net worth minimums for each brand.

The typical franchise agreement in the U.S. has a 20-year term. The majority of our franchisees have entered into prime leases with a third-party landlord. The Company is the lessee on certain land leases (the Company leases the land and erects a

building) or improved leases (lessor owns the land and building) covering restaurants and other properties. In addition, the Company has leased and subleased land and buildings to other franchisees. When we sublease properties to franchisees, the sublease generally follows the prime lease term. Our leases to franchisees are typically for an overall term of 20 years.

We help domestic franchisees select sites and develop restaurants that conform to the physical specifications of our typical restaurant. Each domestic franchisee is responsible for selecting a site, but must obtain site approval from us based on accessibility, visibility, proximity to other restaurants, and targeted demographic factors including population density and traffic patterns. Additionally, the franchisee must also refurbish and remodel each restaurant periodically (typically every five and ten years, respectively).

We currently require each domestic franchisee's managing owner and/or designated manager to complete initial and ongoing training programs provided by us, including minimum periods of classroom and on-the-job training. We monitor operations in the U.S. with regard to compliance with our standards for restaurant operations and use "Guest Satisfaction Surveys" in the U.S. to assess customer satisfaction with restaurant operations, such as product quality, restaurant cleanliness, and customer service.

Store development agreements

We grant domestic franchisees the right to open one or more restaurants within a specified geographic area pursuant to the terms of SDAs. An SDA specifies the number of restaurants and the mix of the brands represented by such restaurants that a franchisee is obligated to open. Each SDA also requires the franchisee to meet certain milestones in the development and opening of the restaurant and, if the franchisee meets those obligations, we agree, during the term of such SDA, not to operate or franchise new restaurants in the designated geographic area covered by such SDA. In addition to an SDA, a franchisee signs a separate franchise agreement for each restaurant developed under such SDA.

Master franchise model and international arrangements

Master franchise arrangements are used on a limited basis domestically (the Baskin-Robbins brand has one "territory" franchise agreement for certain Midwestern markets) but more widely internationally for both the Baskin-Robbins brand and the Dunkin' brand. In addition, international arrangements include joint venture agreements in South Korea (both brands), Australia (Baskin-Robbins brand), and Japan (Baskin-Robbins brand), as well as single unit franchises, such as in Canada (Baskin-Robbins brand). We utilize a multi-franchise system in certain markets, including in the United Kingdom, Germany, China, and Mexico.

Master franchise agreements are the most prevalent international relationships for both brands. Under these agreements, the applicable brand grants the master franchisee the limited exclusive right to develop and operate a certain number of restaurants within a particular geographic area, such as selected cities, one or more provinces or an entire country, pursuant to a development schedule that defines the number of restaurants that the master franchisee must open annually. Those development schedules customarily extend for five to ten years. If the master franchisee fails to perform its obligations, the limited exclusivity provision of the agreement may terminate and additional franchise agreements may be granted to third parties to develop additional restaurants.

The master franchisee is generally required to pay an upfront market development fee and an upfront initial franchise fee for each developed restaurant, and, for the Dunkin' brand, royalties. For the Baskin-Robbins brand, the master franchisee is typically required to purchase ice cream from Baskin-Robbins or an approved supplier. In most countries, the master franchisee is also required to spend a certain percentage of gross sales on advertising in such foreign country in order to promote the brand. Generally, the master franchise agreement serves as the franchise agreement for the underlying restaurants operating pursuant to such model. Depending on the individual agreement, we may permit the master franchisee to subfranchise within its territory.

Within each of our master franchisee and joint venture organizations, training programs have been established by the master franchisee or joint venture based on our specifications. From those training facilities, the master franchisee or joint venture trains future staff members of the international restaurants. Our master franchisees and joint venture entities also periodically send their primary training managers to the U.S. for re-certification.

Franchise fees

In the U.S., once a franchisee is approved, a restaurant site is approved, and a franchise agreement is signed, the franchisee will begin to develop the restaurant. Franchisees pay us an initial franchise fee for the right to operate a restaurant for one or more franchised brands. The franchisee is required to pay all or part of the initial franchise fee upfront upon execution of the franchise agreement, regardless of when the restaurant is actually opened. Initial franchise fees vary by brand, type of development agreement and geographic area of development, but generally range from \$25,000 to \$100,000, as shown in the table below.

Restaurant type	Initial franchise fee*
Dunkin' Single-Branded Restaurant	\$40,000-90,000
Baskin-Robbins Single-Branded Restaurant	\$25,000
Dunkin'/Baskin-Robbins Multi-Branded Restaurant	\$50,000-100,000

*Fees as of January 1, 2019 and excludes SDOs

In addition to the payment of initial franchise fees, our U.S. Dunkin' brand franchisees, U.S. Baskin-Robbins brand franchisees, and our international Dunkin' brand franchisees pay us royalties on a percentage of the gross sales made from each restaurant. In the U.S., the majority of our franchise agreement renewals and the vast majority of our new franchise agreements require our franchisees to pay us a royalty of 5.9% of gross sales. During fiscal year 2018, our effective royalty rate in the Dunkin' U.S. segment was approximately 5.5% and in the Baskin-Robbins U.S. segment was approximately 4.8%. The arrangements for Dunkin' in the majority of our international markets require royalty payments to us of 5.0% of gross sales. However, many of our larger international partners, including our South Korean joint venture partner, have agreements at a lower rate and/or based on wholesale sales to restaurants, resulting in an effective royalty rate in the Dunkin' International segment in fiscal year 2018 of approximately 2.6%. We typically collect royalty payments on a weekly basis from our domestic franchisees. For the Baskin-Robbins brand in international markets, we do not generally receive royalty payments from our franchisees; instead we earn revenue from such franchisees as a result of our sale of ice cream products to them, and in fiscal year 2018 our effective royalty rate in this segment was approximately 0.5%. In certain instances, we supplement and modify certain SDAs, and franchise agreements entered into pursuant to such SDAs with certain incentives that may (i) reduce or eliminate the initial franchise fee associated with a franchise agreement; (ii) reduce the royalties for a specified period of the term of the franchise agreements depending on the details related to each specific incentive program; (iii) reimburse the franchisee for certain local marketing activities in excess of the minimum required; and (iv) provide certain development incentives. To qualify for any or all of these incentives, the franchisee must meet certain requirements, each of which are set forth in an addendum to the SDA and the franchise agreement. We believe these incentives will lead to accelerated development in our less mature markets.

Franchisees in the U.S. also pay advertising fees to the brand-specific advertising funds administered by us. Franchisees make weekly contributions, generally 5% of gross sales, to the advertising funds. Franchisees may elect to increase the contribution to support general brand-building efforts or specific initiatives. The advertising funds for the U.S., which earned \$454.6 million in revenue in fiscal year 2018 primarily from contributions from franchisees, are almost exclusively franchisee-funded and cover substantially all expenses related to marketing, research and development, innovation, advertising and promotion, including market research, production, advertising costs, public relations, and sales promotions. We use no more than 20% of the advertising funds in the U.S. to cover the administrative expenses of the advertising funds and for other strategic initiatives designed to increase sales and to enhance the reputation of the brands. As the administrator of the advertising funds, we determine the content and placement of advertising, which is done through print, radio, television, online, billboards, sponsorships, and other media, all of which is sourced by agencies. Under certain circumstances, franchisees are permitted to conduct their own local advertising, but must obtain our prior approval of content and promotional plans.

Other franchise related fees

We lease and sublease properties to franchisees in the U.S. and in Canada, generating net rental fees when the cost charged to the franchisee exceeds the cost charged to us. For fiscal year 2018, we generated 7.9%, or \$104.4 million, of our total revenue from rental fees from franchisees and incurred related occupancy expenses of \$58.1 million.

We also receive a license fee from Dean Foods Co. (“Dean Foods”) as part of an arrangement whereby Dean Foods manufactures and distributes ice cream and other frozen products to Baskin-Robbins franchisees in the U.S. In connection with this agreement, Dunkin’ Brands receives a fee based on net sales of covered products. For fiscal year 2018, we generated 0.8%, or \$10.1 million, of our total revenue from license fees from Dean Foods.

We distribute ice cream products to Baskin-Robbins franchisees who operate Baskin-Robbins restaurants located in certain foreign countries and receive revenue associated with those sales. For fiscal year 2018, we generated 7.2%, or \$95.2 million, of our total revenue from the sale of ice cream and other products to franchisees primarily in certain foreign countries and incurred related cost of ice cream and other products of \$77.4 million.

Other revenue sources include online training fees, licensing fees earned from the sale of K-Cup® pods, retail packaged coffee, ready-to-drink bottled iced coffee, and other branded products, net refranchising gains, and other one-time fees. For fiscal year 2018, we generated 3.0%, or \$40.0 million, of our total revenue from these other sources.

International operations

Our international business is organized by brand and by country and/or region. Operations are primarily conducted through master franchise agreements with local operators. In certain instances, the master franchisee may have the right to sub-franchise. We utilize a multi-franchise system in certain markets, including the United Kingdom, Germany, China and Mexico. In addition, we have a joint venture with a local, publicly-traded company for the Baskin-Robbins brand in Japan, and joint ventures with local companies in Australia for the Baskin-Robbins brand and in South Korea for both the Dunkin' and Baskin-Robbins brands. By teaming with local operators, we believe we are better able to adapt our concepts to local business practices and consumer preferences. We have had an international presence since 1961 when the first Dunkin' restaurant opened in Canada. As of December 29, 2018, there were 5,491 Baskin-Robbins restaurants in 53 countries outside the U.S. and 3,452 Dunkin' restaurants in 43 countries outside the U.S. Baskin-Robbins points of distribution represent the majority of our international presence and accounted for approximately 65% of international systemwide sales.

Our key markets for both brands are predominantly based in Asia and the Middle East, which accounted for approximately 69% and 17%, respectively, of international systemwide sales for fiscal year 2018. For fiscal year 2018, \$2.2 billion of total systemwide sales were generated by restaurants located in international markets, which represented approximately 19% of total systemwide sales, with the Dunkin' brand accounting for \$775.5 million and the Baskin-Robbins brand accounting for \$1.5 billion of our international systemwide sales. For the same period, our revenues from international operations totaled \$137.7 million, with the Baskin-Robbins brand generating approximately 84% of such revenues.

Overview of key markets

As of December 29, 2018, the top foreign countries and regions in which the Dunkin' brand and/or the Baskin-Robbins brand operated were:

Country/Region	Type	Franchised brand(s)	Number of restaurants
South Korea	Joint Venture	Dunkin'	688
		Baskin-Robbins	1,376
Japan	Joint Venture	Baskin-Robbins	1,165
Middle East	Master Franchise Agreements	Dunkin'	603
		Baskin-Robbins	924

South Korea

Restaurants in South Korea accounted for approximately 38% of total systemwide sales from international operations for fiscal year 2018. Baskin-Robbins accounted for 74% of such sales. In South Korea, we conduct business through a 33.3% ownership stake in a combination Dunkin' brand/Baskin-Robbins brand joint venture, with South Korean shareholders owning the remaining 66.7% of the joint venture. The joint venture acts as the master franchisee for South Korea, sub-franchising the Dunkin' and Baskin-Robbins brands to franchisees. The joint venture also manufactures and supplies restaurants located in South Korea with ice cream, donuts, and coffee products.

Japan

Restaurants in Japan accounted for approximately 19% of total systemwide sales from international operations for fiscal year 2018, 100% of which came from Baskin-Robbins. We conduct business in Japan through a 43.3% ownership stake in a Baskin-Robbins brand joint venture. Our partner also owns a 43.3% interest in the joint venture, with the remaining 13.4% owned by public shareholders. The joint venture primarily manufactures and sells ice cream to restaurants in Japan and acts as master franchisee for the country.

Middle East

The Middle East represents another key region for us. Restaurants in the Middle East accounted for approximately 17% of total systemwide sales from international operations for fiscal year 2018. Baskin-Robbins accounted for approximately 61% of such sales. We conduct operations in the Middle East through master franchise arrangements.

Industry overview

According to The NPD Group/CREST® (“CREST®”), the QSR segment of the U.S. restaurant industry accounted for approximately \$301 billion of the total \$462 billion restaurant industry sales in the U.S. for the twelve months ended December 31, 2018. The U.S. restaurant industry is generally categorized into segments by price point ranges, the types of food and beverages offered, and service available to consumers. QSR is a restaurant format characterized by counter or drive-thru ordering and limited, or no, table service. QSRs generally seek to capitalize on consumer desires for quality and convenient food at economical prices.

Our Dunkin' brand competes in the QSR segment categories and subcategories that include coffee, donuts, muffins, bagels, and breakfast sandwiches. In addition, in the U.S., our Dunkin' brand has historically focused on the breakfast daypart, which we define to include the portion of each day from 5:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. While, according to CREST® data, the compound annual growth rate for total QSR daypart visits in the U.S. was 1% over the five-year period ended December 31, 2018, the compound annual growth rate for QSR visits in the U.S. during the morning meal daypart was 2% over the same five-year period. There can be no assurance that such growth rates will be sustained in the future.

For the twelve months ended December 31, 2018, there were sales of over 8 billion restaurant servings of coffee in the U.S., 88% of which were attributable to the QSR segment, according to CREST® data. According to CREST®, total coffee servings at QSR have grown at a 3% compound annual rate for the five-year period ending December 31, 2018. Over the years, our Dunkin' brand has evolved into a predominantly coffee-based concept, with approximately 58% of Dunkin' U.S. systemwide sales for fiscal year 2018 generated from coffee and other beverages. We believe QSRs, including Dunkin', are positioned to capture additional coffee market share through an increased focus on coffee offerings.

Our Baskin-Robbins brand competes primarily in QSR segment categories and subcategories that include hard-serve ice cream as well as those that include soft serve ice cream, frozen yogurt, shakes, malts, floats, and cakes. While both of our brands compete internationally, approximately 68% of Baskin-Robbins restaurants are located outside of the U.S. and represent the majority of our total international sales and points of distribution.

Competition

We compete primarily in the QSR segment of the restaurant industry and face significant competition from a wide variety of restaurants, convenience stores, and other outlets that provide consumers with coffee, baked goods, sandwiches, and ice cream on an international, national, regional, and local level. We believe that we compete based on, among other things, product quality, restaurant concept, service, convenience, value perception, and price. Our competition continues to intensify as competitors increase the breadth and depth of their product offerings, particularly during the breakfast daypart, and open new units. Although new competitors may emerge at any time due to the low barriers to entry, our competitors include: 7-Eleven, Burger King, Cold Stone Creamery, Cumberland Farms, Dairy Queen, McDonald's, Panera Bread, Quick Trip, Starbucks, Subway, Taco Bell, Tim Hortons, WaWa, and Wendy's, among others. Additionally, we compete with QSRs, specialty restaurants, and other retail concepts for prime restaurant locations and qualified franchisees.

Licensing

We derive licensing revenue from agreements with Dean Foods for domestic ice cream sales, with The J.M. Smucker Co. (“Smuckers”) for the sale of packaged coffee in certain retail outlets (primarily grocery retail), with Keurig Green Mountain, Inc. (“KGM”) and Smuckers for sale of Dunkin' K-Cup® pods in certain retail outlets (primarily grocery retail), and with The Coca-Cola Company for the sale of Dunkin' branded ready-to-drink bottled iced coffee in certain retail outlets (primarily gas and convenience retail), as well as from other licensees. For the 52 weeks ending December 30, 2018, the Dunkin' branded 12 oz. original blend coffee, which is distributed by Smuckers, was the #1 stock-keeping unit nationally in the premium coffee category. For the 52 weeks ending December 30, 2018, sales of our 12 oz. original blend, as expressed in total equivalent units and dollar sales, were double that of the next closest

competitor. Additionally, for the 52 weeks ending December 30, 2018, the 10-count carton of our original blend K-Cup® pods, also distributed by Smuckers, was the #1 stock-keeping unit nationally in the K-Cup® pod category as expressed in total dollar sales. Through December 30, 2018, Dunkin' branded ready-to-drink bottled iced coffee sales in retail outlets have surpassed \$300 million since launch in the first quarter of 2017. During calendar year 2018, more than 2.9 billion cups of Dunkin' coffee were sold through licensing arrangements.

Marketing

We coordinate domestic advertising and marketing at the national and local levels through our administration of brand specific advertising funds. The goals of our marketing strategy include driving comparable store sales and brand differentiation, increasing our total coffee and beverage sales, protecting and growing our morning daypart sales, and growing our afternoon daypart sales. Generally, our domestic franchisees contribute 5% of weekly gross retail sales to fund brand specific advertising funds. The funds are used for various national and local advertising campaigns including print, radio, television, online, mobile, loyalty, billboards, and sponsorships. Over the past ten years, our U.S. franchisees have invested approximately \$2.8 billion on advertising to increase brand awareness and restaurant performance across both brands. Additionally, we have various pricing strategies, so that our products appeal to a broad range of customers. In August 2012, we launched the Dunkin' mobile application for payment and gifting, which built the foundation for one-to-one marketing with our customers. In January 2014, we launched a new DD Perks® Rewards loyalty program nationally, which is fully integrated with the Dunkin' mobile application and allows us to engage our customers in these one-to-one marketing interactions. In June 2016, we continued to leverage digital technologies to drive customer loyalty and enhance the restaurant experience through the launch of On-the-Go mobile ordering for our DD Perks® members, which enables users to order ahead and speed to the front of the line in restaurants. In April 2018, we signed a multi-year agreement with a mobile wallet provider to secure a perpetual license to the software used to build and operate the mobile ordering and payment platform for Dunkin', providing us greater control over the technology that enables our mobile payments and On-the-Go mobile ordering through the Dunkin' mobile application. As of December 29, 2018 our DD Perks® Rewards loyalty program had approximately 9.8 million members.

The supply chain

Domestic

We do not typically supply products to our domestic franchisees. As a result, with the exception of licensing fees paid by Dean Foods on domestic ice cream sales, we do not typically derive revenues from product distribution. Our franchisees' suppliers include Dean Foods, Rich Products Corp., The Coca-Cola Company, and KGM. In addition, our franchisees' primary coffee roasters currently are Massimo Zanetti Beverage USA, Inc., Mother Parkers Tea & Coffee Inc., S&D Coffee, Inc., and Reily Foods Company, Inc., and their primary donut mix suppliers currently are Continental Mills and Pennant Ingredients Inc. We periodically review our relationships with licensees and approved suppliers and evaluate whether those relationships continue to be on competitive or advantageous terms for us and our franchisees.

Purchasing

Purchasing for the Dunkin' brand is facilitated by National DCP, LLC (the "NDCP"), which is a Delaware limited liability company operated as a cooperative owned by its franchisee members. The NDCP is managed by a staff of supply chain professionals who report directly to the NDCP's board of directors. The NDCP has approximately 1,700 employees including executive leadership, sourcing professionals, warehouse staff, and drivers. The NDCP board of directors has eight voting franchisee members, one NDCP non-voting member, and one independent non-voting member. In addition, our Vice President of Supply Chain is a voting member of the NDCP board. The NDCP engages in purchasing, warehousing, and distribution of food and supplies on behalf of participating restaurants and some international markets. The NDCP program provides franchisee members nationwide the benefits of scale while fostering consistent product quality across the Dunkin' brand. We do not control the NDCP and have only limited contractual rights associated with managing that franchisee-owned purchasing and distribution cooperative.

Manufacturing of Dunkin' bakery goods

Centralized production is another element of our supply chain that is designed to support growth for the Dunkin' brand. Centralized manufacturing locations ("CMLs") are franchisee-owned and -operated facilities for the centralized production of donuts and bakery goods. The CMLs deliver freshly baked products to Dunkin' restaurants on a daily basis and are designed to provide consistent quality products while simplifying restaurant-level operations. As of December 29, 2018, there were 74 CMLs (of varying size and capacity) in the U.S. CMLs are an important part of franchise economics, and are supportive of profit building initiatives as well as protecting brand quality standards and consistency.

Certain of our Dunkin' brand restaurants produce donuts and bakery goods on-site rather than sourcing from CMLs. Many of such restaurants, known as full producers, also supply other local Dunkin' restaurants that do not have access to CMLs. In addition, in newer markets, Dunkin' restaurants source donuts and bakery goods that are finished in restaurants. We believe that this "just baked on demand" donut manufacturing platform enables the Dunkin' brand to more efficiently expand its restaurant base in newer markets where franchisees may not have access to a CML.

- 7 -

Baskin-Robbins ice cream

We outsource the manufacturing and distribution of ice cream products for the domestic Baskin-Robbins brand franchisees to Dean Foods, which strengthens our relationships with franchisees and allows us to focus on our core franchising operations.

International

Dunkin'

International Dunkin' franchisees are responsible for sourcing their own supplies, subject to compliance with our standards. Most also produce their own donuts following the Dunkin' brand's approved processes. Franchisees in some markets source donuts produced by a brand approved third party supplier. Franchisees are permitted to source coffee from a number of coffee roasters approved by the brand, as well as certain approved regional and local roasters. In certain countries, our international franchisees source virtually everything locally within their market while in others our international franchisees source most of their supplies from the NDCP. Where supplies are sourced locally, we help identify and approve those suppliers. In addition, we assist our international franchisees in identifying regional and global suppliers with the goal of leveraging the purchasing volume for pricing and product continuity advantages.

Baskin-Robbins

The Baskin-Robbins manufacturing network is comprised of 10 facilities, none of which are owned or operated by us, that supply our international markets with ice cream products. We utilize facilities owned by Dean Foods to produce ice cream products which we purchase and distribute to many of our international markets. Certain international franchisees rely on third-party-owned facilities to supply ice cream products to them, including facilities in Ireland and Canada. The Baskin-Robbins brand restaurants in India and Russia are supported by master franchisee-owned facilities in those respective countries while the restaurants in Japan and South Korea are supported by the joint venture-owned facilities located within each country.

Research and development

New product innovation is a critical component of our success. We believe the development of successful new products for each brand attracts new customers, increases comparable store sales, and allows franchisees to expand into other dayparts. New product research and development is located in a state-of-the-art facility at our headquarters in Canton, Massachusetts. The facility includes a sensory lab, a quality assurance lab, and a demonstration test kitchen. We rely on our internal culinary team, which uses consumer research, to develop and test new products.

Operational support

Substantially all of our executive management, finance, marketing, legal, technology, human resources, and operations support functions are conducted from our global headquarters in Canton, Massachusetts. In the United States, our franchise operations for both brands are organized into regions, each of which is headed by a regional vice president and directors of operations supported by field personnel who interact directly with the franchisees. Our international businesses are organized by region and have dedicated marketing and restaurant operations support teams that work with our master licensees and joint venture partners to improve restaurant operations and restaurant-level economics. Management of a franchise restaurant is the responsibility of the franchisee, who is trained in our techniques and is responsible for ensuring that the day-to-day operations of the restaurant are in compliance with our operating standards. We have implemented a computer-based disaster recovery program to address the possibility that a natural (or other form of) disaster may impact the information technology systems located at our Canton, Massachusetts headquarters.

Regulatory matters

Domestic

We and our franchisees are subject to various federal, state, and local laws affecting the operation of our respective businesses, including various health, sanitation, fire, and safety standards. In some jurisdictions our restaurants are required by law to display nutritional information about our products. Each restaurant is subject to licensing and regulation by a number of governmental authorities, which include zoning, health, safety, sanitation, building, and fire agencies in the jurisdiction in which the restaurant is located. Franchisee-owned NDCP and CMLs are licensed and subject to similar regulations by federal, state, and local governments.

We and our franchisees are also subject to the Fair Labor Standards Act and various other laws governing such matters as minimum wage requirements, overtime and other working conditions, and citizenship requirements. A significant number of food-service personnel employed by franchisees are paid at rates related to the federal minimum wage.

- 8-

Our franchising activities are subject to the rules and regulations of the Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) and various state laws regulating the offer and sale of franchises. The FTC’s franchise rule and various state laws require that we furnish a franchise disclosure document (“FDD”) containing certain information to prospective franchisees and a number of states require registration of the FDD with state authorities. We are operating under exemptions from registration in several states based on our experience and aggregate net worth. Substantive state laws that regulate the franchisor-franchisee relationship exist in a substantial number of states, and bills have been introduced in Congress from time to time that would provide for federal regulation of the franchisor-franchisee relationship. The state laws often limit, among other things, the duration and scope of non-competition provisions, the ability of a franchisor to terminate or refuse to renew a franchise and the ability of a franchisor to designate sources of supply. We believe that the FDD for each of our Dunkin’ brand and our Baskin-Robbins brand, together with any applicable state versions or supplements, and franchising procedures, comply in all material respects with both the FTC franchise rule and all applicable state laws regulating franchising in those states in which we have offered franchises.

International

Internationally, we and our franchisees are subject to national and local laws and regulations that often are similar to those affecting us and our franchisees in the U.S., including laws and regulations concerning franchises, labor, health, sanitation, and safety. International Baskin-Robbins brand and Dunkin’ brand restaurants are also often subject to tariffs and regulations on imported commodities and equipment, and laws regulating foreign investment. We believe that the international disclosure statements, franchise offering documents, and franchising procedures for our Baskin-Robbins brand and Dunkin’ brand comply in all material respects with the laws of the applicable countries.

Environmental

Our operations, including the selection and development of the properties we lease and sublease to our franchisees and any construction or improvements we make at those locations, are subject to a variety of federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including environmental, zoning, and land use requirements. Our properties are sometimes located in developed commercial or industrial areas and might previously have been occupied by more environmentally significant operations, such as gasoline stations and dry cleaners. Environmental laws sometimes require owners or operators of contaminated property to remediate that property, regardless of fault. While we have been required to, and are continuing to, clean up contamination at a limited number of our locations, we have no known material environmental liabilities.

Employees

As of December 29, 2018, we employed 1,107 people, 1,066 of whom were based in the U.S. and 41 of whom were based in other countries. Of our domestic employees, 426 worked in the field and 640 worked at our corporate headquarters. Of these employees, 220, who are almost exclusively in marketing positions, were paid by certain of our advertising funds. None of our employees are represented by a labor union, and we believe our relationships with our employees are healthy.

Our franchisees are independent business owners, so they and their employees are not included in our employee count.

Intellectual property

We own many registered trademarks and service marks (“Marks”) in the U.S. and in other countries throughout the world. We believe that our Dunkin’ and Baskin-Robbins names and logos, in particular, have significant value and are important to our business. Our policy is to pursue registration of our Marks in the U.S. and selected international jurisdictions, monitor our Marks portfolio both internally and externally through external search agents and vigorously oppose the infringement of any of our Marks. We license the use of our registered Marks to franchisees and third parties through franchise arrangements and licenses. The franchise and license arrangements restrict franchisees’ and licensees’ activities with respect to the use of our Marks, and impose quality control standards in connection with goods and services offered in connection with the Marks and an affirmative obligation on the franchisees to notify us upon learning of potential infringement. In addition, we maintain a limited patent portfolio in the U.S. for bakery and serving-related methods, designs, and articles of manufacture. We generally rely on common law protection for our copyrighted works. Neither the patents nor the copyrighted works are material to the operation of our business. We also license some intellectual property from third parties for use in certain of our products. Such licenses are not

individually, or in the aggregate, material to our business.

Seasonality

Our revenues are subject to fluctuations based on seasonality, primarily with respect to Baskin-Robbins. The ice cream industry generally experiences an increase during the spring and summer months, whereas Dunkin' hot beverage sales generally increase during the fall and winter months and iced beverage sales generally increase during the spring and summer months.

- 9-

Additional Information

The Company makes available, free of charge, through its internet website www.dunkinbrands.com, its annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, proxy statements, and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as soon as reasonably practicable after electronically filing such material with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). Materials filed with the SEC are available at www.sec.gov. The reference to these website addresses does not constitute incorporation by reference of the information contained on the websites and should not be considered part of this document.

Item 1A. Risk Factors.

Risks related to our business and industry

Our financial results are affected by the operating results of our franchisees.

We receive a substantial majority of our revenues in the form of royalties, which are generally based on a percentage of gross sales at franchised restaurants, rent, and other fees from franchisees. Accordingly, our financial results are to a large extent dependent upon the operational and financial success of our franchisees. If sales trends or economic conditions worsen for franchisees, their financial results may deteriorate and our royalty, advertising, rent, and other revenues may decline and our accounts receivable and related allowance for doubtful accounts may increase. In addition, if our franchisees fail to renew their franchise agreements, our royalty revenues may decrease which in turn may materially and adversely affect our business and operating results.

If we fail to successfully implement our growth strategy, which includes opening new domestic and international restaurants, our ability to increase our revenues and operating profits could be adversely affected.

Our growth strategy relies in part upon new restaurant development by existing and new franchisees, including restaurants in the NextGen design in Dunkin' U.S. We and our franchisees face many challenges in opening new restaurants, including:

- availability of financing;
- selection and availability of suitable restaurant locations;
- competition for restaurant sites;
- availability and cost of labor for new restaurants;
- negotiation of acceptable lease and financing terms;
- securing required domestic or foreign governmental permits and approvals;
- consumer tastes in new geographic regions and acceptance of our products;
- employment and training of qualified personnel;
- impact of inclement weather, natural disasters, and other acts of nature; and
- general economic and business conditions.

In particular, because the majority of our new restaurant development is funded by franchisee investment, our growth strategy is dependent on our franchisees' (or prospective franchisees') ability to access funds to finance such development. We do not provide our franchisees with direct financing and therefore their ability to access borrowed funds generally depends on their independent relationships with various financial institutions. If our franchisees (or prospective franchisees) are not able to obtain financing at commercially reasonable rates, or at all, they may be unwilling or unable to invest in the development of new restaurants, and our future growth could be adversely affected.

To the extent our franchisees are unable to open new restaurants as we anticipate, our revenue growth would come primarily from growth in comparable store sales. Our failure to add a significant number of new restaurants or grow comparable store sales would adversely affect our ability to increase our revenues and operating income and could materially and adversely harm our business and operating results.

Our franchisees could take actions that could harm our business.

Our franchisees are contractually obligated to operate their restaurants in accordance with the operations, safety, and health standards set forth in our agreements with them. However, franchisees are independent third parties whom we do not control. The franchisees own, operate, and oversee the daily operations of their restaurants and have sole control over all employee and

other workforce decisions. As a result, the ultimate success and quality of any franchised restaurant rests with the franchisee. If franchisees do not successfully operate restaurants in a manner consistent with required standards, franchise fees paid to us and royalty and advertising fee income will be adversely affected and brand image and reputation could be harmed, which in turn could materially and adversely affect our business and operating results. Although we believe we generally enjoy a positive working relationship with the vast majority of our franchisees, active and/or potential disputes with franchisees could damage our brand reputation and/or our relationships with the broader franchisee group.

Our success depends substantially on the value of our brands.

Our success is dependent in large part upon our ability to maintain and enhance the value of our brands, our customers' connection to our brands, and a positive relationship with our franchisees. Brand value can be severely damaged even by isolated incidents, particularly if the incidents receive considerable negative publicity or result in litigation. Some of these incidents may relate to the personal conduct of individuals associated with us, the way we manage our relationship with our franchisees, our growth or rebranding strategies, our development efforts in domestic and foreign markets, or the ordinary course of our, or our franchisees', business. Other incidents may arise from events that are or may be beyond our ability to control and may damage our brands, such as actions taken (or not taken) by one or more franchisees or their employees relating to customer service, health, safety, welfare, or otherwise; litigation and claims; security breaches or other fraudulent activities associated with our electronic payment systems; and illegal activity targeted at us or others. Consumer demand for our products and our brands' value could diminish significantly if any such incidents or other matters erode consumer confidence in us or our products, which would likely result in lower sales and, ultimately, lower royalty income, which in turn could materially and adversely affect our business and operating results.

Incidents involving food-borne illnesses, food tampering, or food contamination involving our brands or our supply chain could create negative publicity and significantly harm our operating results

While we and our franchisees dedicate substantial resources to food safety matters to enable customers to enjoy safe, quality food products, food safety events, including instances of food-borne illness (such as salmonella or E. Coli), have occurred in the food industry in the past, and could occur in the future.

Instances or reports, whether true or not, of food-safety issues, such as food-borne illnesses, food tampering, food contamination or mislabeling, either during the growing, manufacturing, packaging, storing, or preparation of products, have in the past severely injured the reputations of companies in the quick-service restaurant sectors and could affect us as well. Any report linking us, our franchisees, or our suppliers to food-borne illnesses or food tampering, contamination, mislabeling, or other food-safety issues could damage the value of our brands immediately and severely hurt sales of our products and possibly lead to product liability claims, litigation (including class actions), or other damages.

In addition, food safety incidents, whether or not involving our brands, could result in negative publicity for the industry or market segments in which we operate. Increased use of social media could create and/or amplify the effects of negative publicity. This negative publicity may reduce demand for our products and could result in a decrease in guest traffic to our restaurants as consumers shift their preferences to our competitors or to other products or food types. A decrease in traffic as a result of these health concerns or negative publicity could materially and adversely affect our brands, our business, and our stock price.

The quick service restaurant segment is highly competitive, and competition could lower our revenues.

The QSR segment of the restaurant industry is intensely competitive. The beverage and food products sold by our franchisees compete directly against products sold at other QSRS, local and regional beverage and food operations, specialty beverage and food retailers, supermarkets, and wholesale suppliers, many bearing recognized brand names and having significant customer loyalty. In addition to the prevailing baseline level of competition, major market players in noncompeting industries may choose to enter the restaurant industry. Key competitive factors include the number and location of restaurants, quality and speed of service, attractiveness of facilities, effectiveness of advertising, marketing, and operational programs, price, demographic patterns and trends, consumer preferences and spending patterns, menu diversification, health or dietary preferences and perceptions, and new product development.

Some of our competitors have substantially greater financial and other resources than us, which may provide them with a competitive advantage. In addition, we compete within the restaurant industry and the QSR segment not only for customers but also for qualified franchisees. We cannot guarantee the retention of any, including the top-performing, franchisees in the future, or that we will maintain the ability to attract, retain, and motivate sufficient numbers of franchisees of the same caliber, which could materially and adversely affect our business and operating results. If we are unable to maintain our competitive position, we could experience lower demand for products, downward pressure on prices, the loss of market share, and the inability to attract, or loss of, qualified franchisees, which could result in

lower franchise fees and royalty income, and materially and adversely affect our business and operating results. If we or our franchisees or licensees are unable to protect our customers' payment card data and other regulated, protected or personally identifiable information, we or our franchisees could be exposed to data loss, litigation, and liability, and our reputation could be significantly harmed.

Cybersecurity and data protection are increasingly demanding and the use of electronic payment methods and collection of other personal information exposes us and our franchisees to increased risk of privacy and/or security breaches as well as other risks. In connection with payment card transactions in-store and online, we and our franchisees collect and transmit confidential payment card information by way of retail networks. Additionally, we collect and store personal information from individuals, including our customers, franchisees, and employees, and collect and maintain confidential communications and information important to our business. We rely on commercially available systems, software, tools, and monitoring to provide security for processing, transmitting, and storing such information. The failure of these systems to operate effectively, problems with transitioning to upgraded or replacement systems, or a breach in security of these systems, including through hacking or cyber terrorism, could materially and adversely affect our business and operating results.

Further, the standards for systems currently used for transmission and approval of electronic payment transactions, and the technology utilized in electronic payment themselves, all of which can put electronic payment data at risk, are determined and controlled by the payment card industry, not by us. In addition, our employees, franchisees, contractors, or third parties with whom we do business or to whom we outsource business operations may attempt to circumvent our security measures in order to misappropriate regulated, protected, or personally identifiable information, and may purposefully or inadvertently cause a breach involving or compromise of such information. Third parties may have the technology or know-how to breach the security of the information collected, stored, or transmitted by us or our franchisees, and our respective security measures, as well as those of our technology vendors, may not effectively prohibit others from obtaining improper access to this information. Advances in computer and software capabilities and encryption technology, new tools, and other developments may increase the risk of such a breach or compromise. If a person is able to circumvent our data security measures or that of third parties with whom we do business, including our franchisees, he or she could destroy, corrupt, or steal valuable information or disrupt our operations. Any security breach could expose us to risks of data loss, litigation, liability, and could seriously disrupt our operations. Any resulting negative publicity could significantly harm our reputation and could materially and adversely affect our business and operating results. We have experienced minor security incidents in the past in the form of credential stuffing attacks in which third parties used breached credentials obtained from unrelated online accounts to attempt to log in to accounts of DD Perks members. The impacts of these attacks have been mitigated and affected customer passwords have been reset. To date, none of these incidents have been material to our financial performance or operations.

Sub-franchisees could take actions that could harm our business and that of our master franchisees.

In certain of our international markets, we enter into agreements with master franchisees that permit the master franchisee to develop and operate restaurants in defined geographic areas. As permitted by our master franchisee agreements, certain master franchisees elect to sub-franchise rights to develop and operate restaurants in the geographic area covered by the master franchisee agreement. Our master franchisee agreements contractually obligate our master franchisees to operate their restaurants in accordance with specified operations, safety, and health standards and also require that any sub-franchise agreement contain similar requirements. However, we are not party to the agreements with the sub-franchisees and, as a result, are dependent upon our master franchisees to enforce these standards with respect to sub-franchised restaurants. As a result, the ultimate success and quality of any sub-franchised restaurant rests with the master franchisee. If sub-franchisees do not successfully operate their restaurants in a manner consistent with required standards, franchise fees and royalty income paid to the applicable master franchisee and, ultimately, to us could be adversely affected and our brand image and reputation may be harmed, which could materially and adversely affect our business and operating results.

We cannot predict the impact that the following may have on our business: (i) new or improved technologies, (ii) alternative methods of delivery, or (iii) changes in consumer behavior facilitated by these technologies and

alternative methods of delivery.

Advances in technologies or alternative methods of delivery, including advances in vending machine technology, direct home delivery of on-line orders and home coffee makers, or certain changes in consumer behavior driven by these or other technologies and methods of delivery could have a negative effect on our business. Moreover, technology and consumer offerings continue to develop, and we expect that new or enhanced technologies and consumer offerings will be available in the future. We may pursue certain of those technologies and consumer offerings if we believe they offer a sustainable customer proposition and can be successfully integrated into our business model. However, we cannot predict consumer acceptance of these delivery channels or their impact on our business. In addition, our competitors, some of whom have greater resources than us, may be able to benefit from changes in technologies or consumer acceptance of alternative methods of delivery, which

- 12-

could harm our competitive position. There can be no assurance that we will be able to successfully respond to changing consumer preferences, including with respect to new technologies and alternative methods of delivery, or to effectively adjust our product mix, service offerings, and marketing and merchandising initiatives for products and services that address, and anticipate advances in, technology and market trends. If we are not able to successfully respond to these challenges, our business, market share, financial condition, and operating results could be harmed. Economic conditions adversely affecting consumer discretionary spending may negatively impact our business and operating results.

We believe that our franchisees' sales, customer traffic, and profitability are strongly correlated to consumer discretionary spending, which is influenced by general economic conditions, unemployment levels, and the availability of discretionary income. Our franchisees' sales are dependent upon discretionary spending by consumers; any reduction in sales at franchised restaurants will result in lower royalty payments from franchisees to us and adversely impact our profitability. In an economic downturn our business and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected. In addition, the pace of new restaurant openings may be slowed and restaurants may be forced to close, reducing the restaurant base from which we derive royalty income.

Our substantial indebtedness could adversely affect our financial condition.

We have a significant amount of indebtedness. As of December 29, 2018, we had total indebtedness of approximately \$3.1 billion under our securitized debt facility, excluding \$32.4 million of undrawn letters of credit and \$117.6 million of unused commitments.

Subject to the limits contained in the agreements governing our securitized debt facility, we may be able to incur substantial additional debt from time to time to finance capital expenditures, investments, acquisitions, or for other purposes. If we do incur substantial additional debt, the risks related to our high level of debt could intensify.

Specifically, our high level of indebtedness could have important consequences, including:

- limiting our ability to obtain additional financing to fund capital expenditures, investments, acquisitions, or other general corporate requirements;
- requiring a substantial portion of our cash flow to be dedicated to payments to service our indebtedness instead of other purposes, thereby reducing the amount of cash flow available for capital expenditures, investments, acquisitions, and other general corporate purposes;
- increasing our vulnerability to and the potential impact of adverse changes in general economic, industry, and competitive conditions;
- limiting our flexibility in planning for and reacting to changes in the industry in which we compete;
- placing us at a disadvantage compared to other, less leveraged competitors or competitors with comparable debt at more favorable interest rates; and
- increasing our costs of borrowing.

In addition, the financial and other covenants we agreed to with our lenders may limit our ability to incur additional indebtedness, make investments, and engage in other transactions, and the leverage may cause other potential lenders to be less willing to loan funds to us in the future.

We may be unable to generate sufficient cash flow to satisfy our significant debt service obligations, which would adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Our ability to make principal and interest payments on and to refinance our indebtedness will depend on our ability to generate cash in the future. This, to a certain extent, is subject to general economic, financial, competitive, legislative, regulatory, and other factors that are beyond our control. If our business does not generate sufficient cash flow from operations, in the amounts projected or at all, or if future borrowings are not available to us under our variable funding notes in amounts sufficient to fund our other liquidity needs, our financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected. If we cannot generate sufficient cash flow from operations to make scheduled principal amortization and interest payments on our debt obligations in the future, we may need to refinance all or a portion of our indebtedness on or before maturity, sell assets, delay capital expenditures, or seek additional equity investments. If we are unable to refinance any of our indebtedness on commercially reasonable terms or at all or to effect any other action relating to our indebtedness on satisfactory terms or at all, our business may be harmed.

The terms of our securitized debt financing of certain of our wholly-owned subsidiaries have restrictive terms and our failure to comply with any of these terms could put us in default, which would have an adverse effect on our business and prospects.

Unless and until we repay all outstanding borrowings under our securitized debt facility, we will remain subject to the restrictive terms of these borrowings. The securitized debt facility, under which certain of our wholly-owned subsidiaries issued and guaranteed fixed rate notes and variable funding notes, contain a number of covenants, with the most significant financial covenant being a debt service coverage calculation. These covenants limit the ability of certain of our subsidiaries to, among other things:

- sell assets;
- alter the business we conduct;
- engage in mergers, acquisitions, and other business combinations;
- declare dividends or redeem or repurchase capital stock;
- incur, assume, or permit to exist additional indebtedness or guarantees;
- make loans and investments;
- incur liens; and
- enter into transactions with affiliates.

The securitized debt facility also requires us to maintain specified financial ratios. Our ability to meet these financial ratios can be affected by events beyond our control, and we may not satisfy such a test. A breach of these covenants could result in a rapid amortization event or default under the securitized debt facility. If amounts owed under the securitized debt facility are accelerated because of a default and we are unable to pay such amounts, the investors may have the right to assume control of substantially all of the securitized assets.

If we are unable to refinance or repay amounts under the securitized debt facility prior to the expiration of the applicable term, our cash flow would be directed to the repayment of the securitized debt and, other than management fees sufficient to cover minimal selling, general and administrative expenses, would not be available for operating our business.

No assurance can be given that any refinancing or additional financing will be possible when needed or that we will be able to negotiate acceptable terms. In addition, our access to capital is affected by prevailing conditions in the financial and capital markets and other factors beyond our control. There can be no assurance that market conditions will be favorable at the times that we require new or additional financing.

The indenture governing the securitized debt restricts the cash flow from the entities subject to the securitization to any of our other entities and upon the occurrence of certain events, cash flow would be further restricted.

In the event that a rapid amortization event occurs under the indenture governing the securitized debt (including, without limitation, upon an event of default under the indenture or the failure to repay the securitized debt at the end of the applicable term), the funds available to us would be reduced or eliminated, which would in turn reduce our ability to operate or grow our business.

Infringement, misappropriation, or dilution of our intellectual property could harm our business.

We regard our Dunkin[®], Dunkin' Donuts[®], and Baskin-Robbins[®] trademarks as having significant value and as being important factors in the marketing of our brands. We have also obtained trademark protection for the trademarks associated with several of our product offerings and advertising slogans, including “America Runs on Dunkin[®]”. We believe that these and other intellectual property, including certain patents and trade secrets, are valuable assets that are critical to our success and that enable us to continue to capitalize on our name recognition, increase brand awareness, and further develop our products. We rely on a combination of protections provided by contracts, as well as copyright, patent, trademark, and other laws, such as trade secret and unfair competition laws, to protect our intellectual property from infringement, misappropriation, or dilution. We have registered certain trademarks and service marks and have other trademark and service mark registration applications pending in the United States and foreign jurisdictions. However, not all of the trademarks or service marks that we currently use have been registered in all of the countries in which we do business, and they may never be registered in all of those countries.

Although we monitor our intellectual property, especially our trademark portfolio, both internally and through external search agents and impose an obligation on franchisees to notify us upon learning of potential infringement,

there can be no assurance

- 14-

that we will be able to adequately maintain, enforce, and protect our trademarks or other intellectual property rights. We are aware of names and marks similar to our service marks being used by other persons. Although we believe such uses will not adversely affect us, further or currently unknown unauthorized uses or other infringement of our trademarks or service marks could diminish the value of our brands, create consumer confusion, cause reputational harm, and may adversely affect our business. The same is true with regards to our intellectual property. Namely, that unauthorized uses of such intellectual property, including patents, trade secrets or proprietary software, or other infringement thereof, by third parties may adversely affect our business. Effective intellectual property protection may not be available in every country in which we have or intend to franchise a restaurant or license our intellectual property. Failure to adequately protect our intellectual property rights could damage our brands and impair our ability to compete effectively. Even where we have effectively secured statutory protection for our trade secrets and other intellectual property, our competitors may misappropriate our intellectual property and our employees, consultants, and suppliers may breach their contractual obligations not to reveal our confidential information, including trade secrets. Although we have taken measures to protect our intellectual property, there can be no assurance that these protections will be adequate or that third parties will not independently develop products or concepts that are substantially similar to ours. Despite our efforts, it may be possible for third parties to reverse engineer, otherwise obtain, copy, and use software or information that we regard as proprietary. Furthermore, defending or enforcing our trademark rights, branding practices, and other intellectual property, and seeking an injunction and/or compensation for misappropriation of confidential information, could result in the expenditure of significant resources and divert the attention of management, which in turn may materially and adversely affect our business and operating results. Our brands may be limited or diluted through franchisee and third-party activity.

Although we monitor and restrict franchisee activities through our franchise and license agreements, franchisees or third parties may refer to or make statements about our brands that do not make proper use of our trademarks or required designations, that improperly alter trademarks or branding, or that are critical of our brands or place our brands in a context that may tarnish their reputation. This may result in dilution or tarnishment of our intellectual property. It is not possible for us to obtain registrations for all possible variations of our branding in all territories where we operate. Franchisees, licensees, or third parties may seek to register or obtain registration for domain names and trademarks involving localizations, variations, and versions of certain branding tools, and these activities may limit our ability to obtain or use such rights in such territories. Franchisee noncompliance with the terms and conditions of our franchise or license agreements may reduce the overall goodwill of our brands, whether through the failure to meet health and safety standards, engage in quality control or maintain product consistency, or through the participation in improper or objectionable business practices.

Moreover, unauthorized third parties may use our intellectual property to trade on the goodwill of our brands, resulting in consumer confusion or dilution. Any reduction of our brands' goodwill, consumer confusion, or dilution is likely to impact sales, and could materially and adversely impact our business and operating results.

We are and may become subject to third-party infringement claims or challenges to the validity of our intellectual property.

We are and may, in the future, become the subject of claims for infringement, misappropriation, or other violation of intellectual property rights, which may or not be unfounded, from owners of intellectual property in areas where our franchisees operate or where we intend to conduct operations, including in foreign jurisdictions. Such claims, whether or not they have any merit, could harm our image, our brands, our competitive position, or our ability to expand our operations into other jurisdictions and cause us to incur significant costs related to defense or settlement. If such claims were decided against us, or a third party indemnified by us pursuant to license terms, we could be required to pay damages, develop or adopt non-infringing products or services, or acquire a license to the intellectual property that is the subject of the asserted claim, which license may not be available on acceptable terms or at all. The attendant expenses could require the expenditure of additional capital, and there would be expenses associated with the defense of any infringement, misappropriation, or other third-party claims, and there could be attendant negative publicity, even if ultimately decided in our favor.

Growth into new territories or new product lines may be hindered or blocked by pre-existing third-party rights.

We act to obtain and protect our intellectual property rights we need to operate successfully with regards to our products and in those territories where we operate. Certain intellectual property rights including rights in trademarks are national in character and limited to the goods and services described in the registrations. This means that they are obtained on a country-by-country, product-by-product basis by the first person to obtain protection through use or registration in that country in connection with specified products and services. As our business grows, we continuously evaluate the potential for expansion into new territories and new products and services. There is a risk with each expansion that growth will be limited or unavailable due to blocking pre-existing third-party intellectual property rights.

The restaurant industry is affected by consumer preferences and perceptions. Changes in these preferences and perceptions may lessen the demand for our products, which could reduce sales by our franchisees and reduce our royalty revenues.

The restaurant industry is affected by changes in consumer tastes, national, regional, and local economic conditions, and demographic trends. For instance, if prevailing health or dietary preferences cause consumers to avoid donuts and other products we offer in favor of foods that are perceived as healthier, our franchisees' sales would suffer, resulting in lower royalty payments to us, and our business and operating results would be harmed.

Increases in commodity prices may negatively affect payments from our franchisees and licensees.

Coffee and other commodity prices are subject to substantial price fluctuations, stemming from variations in weather patterns, shifting political or economic conditions in coffee-producing countries, potential taxes or fees on certain imported goods, and delays in the supply chain. If commodity prices rise, franchisees may experience reduced sales, due to decreased consumer demand at retail prices that have been raised to offset increased commodity prices, which may reduce franchisee profitability. Any such decline in franchisee sales will reduce our royalty income, which in turn may materially and adversely affect our business and operating results.

Our joint ventures in Japan and South Korea, as well as our licensees in Russia and India, manufacture ice cream products independently. The joint ventures in Japan and South Korea own manufacturing facilities in their countries of operation. The revenues derived from these joint ventures differ fundamentally from those of other types of franchise arrangements in the system because the income that we receive from the joint ventures in Japan and South Korea is based in part on the profitability, rather than the gross sales, of the restaurants operated by these joint ventures. Accordingly, in the event that the joint ventures in Japan or South Korea experience staple ingredient price increases that adversely affect the profitability of the restaurants operated by these joint ventures, that decrease in profitability would reduce distributions by these joint ventures to us, which in turn could materially and adversely impact our business and operating results.

Shortages of coffee or milk could adversely affect our revenues.

If coffee or milk consumption continues to increase worldwide or there is a disruption in the supply of coffee or milk due to natural disasters, political unrest, or other calamities, the global supply of these commodities may fail to meet demand. If coffee or milk demand is not met, franchisees may experience reduced sales which, in turn, would reduce our royalty income. Additionally, if milk demand is not met, we may not be able to purchase and distribute ice cream products to our international franchisees, which would reduce our sales of ice cream and other products. Such reductions in our royalty income and sales of ice cream and other products may materially and adversely affect our business and operating results.

We and our franchisees rely on information technology and computer systems to process transactions and manage our business, and a disruption or a failure of such systems or technology could harm our reputation and our ability to effectively manage our business.

Network and information technology systems are integral to our business. We utilize various computer systems, including our FAST System and our EFTPay System, which are customized, web-based systems that require the use of third-party software licensed to us. The FAST System is the system by which our U.S. and Canadian franchisees report their weekly sales and pay their corresponding royalty fees and required advertising fund contributions. When sales are reported by a U.S. or Canadian franchisee, a withdrawal for the authorized amount is initiated from the franchisee's bank after 12 days (from the week ending or month ending date). The FAST System is critical to our ability to accurately track sales and compute royalties due from our U.S. and Canadian franchisees. The EFTPay System is used by our U.S. and Canadian franchisees to make payments against open, non-fee invoices (i.e., all invoices except royalty and advertising funds). When a franchisee selects an invoice and submits the payment, on the following day a withdrawal for the selected amount is initiated from the franchisee's bank. Additionally, an increasing number of transactions in our restaurants are processed through our mobile application. Despite the implementation of security measures, our systems are subject to damage and/or interruption as a result of power outages, computer and network failures, computer viruses and other disruptive software, security breaches, terrorist attacks, catastrophic

events, and improper usage by employees, contractors, or other third parties. Such events could result in a material disruption in operations, a need for a costly repair, upgrade, or replacement of systems, or a decrease in, or in the collection of, royalties paid to us by our franchisees. To the extent that any disruption or security breach were to result in a loss of, or damage to, our data or applications, or inappropriate disclosure of confidential or proprietary information, we could incur reputational harm and a liability which could materially affect our results of operations.

Interruptions in the supply of product to franchisees and licensees could adversely affect our revenues.

In order to maintain quality-control standards and consistency among restaurants, we require through our franchise agreements that our franchisees obtain food and other supplies from preferred suppliers approved in advance. In this regard, we and our

franchisees depend on a group of suppliers for ingredients, foodstuffs, beverages, and disposable serving instruments including, but not limited to, Rich Products Corp., Dean Foods Co., The Coca-Cola Company, and Silver Pail Dairy, Ltd. as well as four primary coffee roasters and two primary donut mix suppliers. In 2018, we and our franchisees purchased products from nearly 450 approved domestic suppliers, with approximately 12 of such suppliers providing half, based on dollar volume, of all products purchased domestically. We look to approve multiple suppliers for most products, and require any single sourced supplier, such as The Coca-Cola Company, to have contingency plans in place to ensure continuity of supply. In addition we believe that, if necessary, we could obtain readily available alternative sources of supply for each product that we currently source through a single supplier. To facilitate the efficiency of our franchisees' supply chain, we have historically entered into several preferred-supplier arrangements for particular food or beverage items.

The Dunkin' system is supported domestically by the franchisee-owned purchasing and distribution cooperative known as the National DCP, LLC (the "NDCP"). We have a long-term agreement with the NDCP to provide substantially all of the goods needed to operate a Dunkin' restaurant in the United States. The NDCP also supplies some international markets. The NDCP aggregates the franchisee demand, sends requests for proposals to approved suppliers, and negotiates contracts for approved items. The NDCP also inventories the items in its seven regional distribution centers and ships products to franchisees at least one time per week. We do not control the NDCP and have only limited contractual rights under our agreement with the NDCP associated with supplier certification and quality assurance and protection of our intellectual property. While the NDCP maintains contingency plans with its approved suppliers and has a contingency plan for its own distribution function to restaurants, our franchisees bear risks associated with the timeliness, solvency, reputation, labor relations, freight costs, price of raw materials, and compliance with health and safety standards of each supplier (including those of our international joint ventures) including, but not limited to, risks associated with contamination to food and beverage products. We have little control over such suppliers. Disruptions in these relationships may reduce franchisee sales and, in turn, our royalty income.

Overall difficulty of suppliers (including those of certain international joint ventures) meeting franchisee product demand, interruptions in the supply chain, obstacles or delays in the process of renegotiating or renewing agreements with preferred suppliers, financial difficulties experienced by suppliers, or the deficiency, lack, or poor quality of alternative suppliers could adversely impact franchisee sales which, in turn, would reduce our royalty income and could materially and adversely affect our business and operating results.

We may not be able to recoup our expenditures on properties we sublease to franchisees.

In some locations, we may pay more rent and other amounts to third-party landlords under a prime lease than we receive from the franchisee who subleases such property. Typically, our franchisees' rent is based in part on a percentage of gross sales at the restaurant, so a downturn in gross sales would negatively affect the level of the payments we receive. Additionally, pursuant to the terms of certain prime leases we have entered into with third-party landlords, we may be required to construct or improve a property, pay taxes, maintain insurance, and comply with building codes and other applicable laws. The subleases we enter into with franchisees related to such properties typically pass through such obligations, but if a franchisee fails to perform the obligations passed through to them, we will be required to perform those obligations, resulting in an increase in our leasing and operational costs and expenses.

If the international markets in which we compete are affected by changes in political, social, legal, economic, or other factors, our business and operating results may be materially and adversely affected.

As of December 29, 2018, we had 8,943 international restaurants located in 68 foreign countries. The international operations of our franchisees may subject us to additional risks, which differ in each country in which our franchisees operate, and such risks may negatively affect our business or result in a delay in or loss of royalty income to us.

The factors impacting the international markets in which restaurants are located may include:

- recessionary or expansive trends in international markets;
- changes in foreign currency exchange rates and hyperinflation or deflation in the foreign countries in which we or our international joint ventures operate;
- the imposition of restrictions on currency conversion or the transfer of funds;

• availability of credit for our franchisees, licensees, and our international joint ventures to finance the development of new restaurants;

• increases in the taxes paid and other changes in applicable tax laws;

• legal and regulatory changes and the burdens and costs of local operators' compliance with a variety of laws, including trade restrictions, tariffs, and data protection requirements;

- 17-

• interruption of the supply of product;

• increases in anti-American sentiment and the identification of the Dunkin' brand and Baskin-Robbins brand as American brands;

• political and economic instability; and

• natural disasters, terrorist threats and/or activities, and other calamities.

Any or all of these factors may reduce distributions from our international joint ventures or other international partners and/or royalty income, which in turn may materially and adversely impact our business and operating results.

Termination of an arrangement with a master franchisee could adversely impact our revenues.

Internationally, and in limited cases domestically, we enter into relationships with “master franchisees” to develop and operate restaurants in defined geographic areas. Master franchisees are granted exclusivity rights with respect to larger territories than the typical franchisees, and in particular cases, expansion after minimum requirements are met is subject to the discretion of the master franchisee. In fiscal years 2018, 2017, and 2016, we derived approximately 8.7%, 8.9%, and 9.4%, respectively, of our total revenues from master franchisee arrangements. The termination of an arrangement with a master franchisee or a lack of expansion by certain master franchisees could result in the delay of the development of franchised restaurants, or an interruption in the operation of one of our brands in a particular market or markets. Any such delay or interruption would result in a delay in, or loss of, royalty income to us whether by way of delayed royalty income or delayed revenues from the sale of ice cream and other products by us to franchisees internationally, or reduced sales. Any interruption in operations due to the termination of an arrangement with a master franchisee similarly could result in lower revenues for us, particularly if we were to determine to close restaurants following the termination of an arrangement with a master franchisee.

Fluctuations in exchange rates affect our revenues.

We are subject to inherent risks attributed to operating in a global economy. Most of our revenues, costs, and debts are denominated in U.S. dollars. However, sales made by franchisees outside of the U.S. are denominated in the currency of the country in which the point of distribution is located, and this currency could become less valuable prior to calculation of our royalty payments in U.S. dollars as a result of exchange rate fluctuations. As a result, currency fluctuations could reduce our royalty income. Unfavorable currency fluctuations could result in a reduction in our revenues. Income we earn from our joint ventures is also subject to currency fluctuations. These currency fluctuations affecting our revenues and costs could adversely affect our business and operating results.

Adverse public or medical opinions about the health effects of consuming our products, whether or not accurate, could harm our brands and our business.

Some of our products contain caffeine, dairy products, sugar, other carbohydrates, fats, and other active compounds, the health effects of which are the subject of increasing public scrutiny, including the suggestion that excessive consumption of caffeine, dairy products, sugar, other carbohydrates, fats, and other active compounds can lead to a variety of adverse health effects. There has also been greater public awareness that sedentary lifestyles, combined with excessive consumption of high-carbohydrate, high-fat, or high-calorie foods, have led to a rapidly rising rate of obesity. In the United States and certain other countries, there is increasing consumer awareness of health risks, including obesity, as well as increased consumer litigation based on alleged adverse health impacts of consumption of various food products. While we offer some healthier beverage and food items, including reduced fat items and reduced sugar items, an unfavorable report on the health effects of caffeine or other compounds present in our products, or negative publicity or litigation arising from other health risks such as obesity, could significantly reduce the demand for our beverages and food products. A decrease in customer traffic as a result of these health concerns or negative publicity could materially and adversely affect our brands and our business.

We may not be able to enforce payment of fees under certain of our franchise arrangements.

In certain limited instances, a franchisee may be operating a restaurant pursuant to an unwritten franchise arrangement. Such circumstances may arise where a franchisee arrangement has expired and new or renewal agreements have yet to be executed or where the franchisee has developed and opened a restaurant but has failed to memorialize the franchisor-franchisee relationship in an executed agreement as of the opening date of such restaurant. In certain other limited instances, we may allow a franchisee in good standing to operate domestically pursuant to franchise arrangements which have expired in their normal course and have not yet been renewed. As of

December 29, 2018, less than 1% of our restaurants were operating without a written agreement. There is a risk that either category of these franchise arrangements may not be enforceable under federal, state, or local laws and regulations prior to correction or if left uncorrected. In these instances, the franchise arrangements may be enforceable on the basis of custom and assent of performance. If the franchisee, however, were to neglect

- 18-

to remit royalty payments in a timely fashion, we may be unable to enforce the payment of such fees which, in turn, may materially and adversely affect our business and operating results. While we generally require franchise arrangements in foreign jurisdictions to be entered into pursuant to written franchise arrangements, subject to certain exceptions, some expired contracts, letters of intent, or oral agreements in existence may not be enforceable under local laws, which could impair our ability to collect royalty income, which in turn may materially and adversely impact our business and operating results.

Our business activities subject us to litigation risk that could affect us adversely by subjecting us to significant money damages and other remedies or by increasing our litigation expense.

In the ordinary course of business, we are the subject of complaints or litigation from franchisees, usually related to alleged breaches of contract or wrongful termination under the franchise arrangements. In addition, we are, from time to time, the subject of complaints or litigation from customers alleging illness, injury, or other food-quality, health, or operational concerns and from suppliers alleging breach of contract. We may also be subject to employee claims based on, among other things, discrimination, harassment, or wrongful termination. Finally, litigation against a franchisee or its affiliates by third parties, whether in the ordinary course of business or otherwise, may include claims against us by virtue of our relationship with the defendant-franchisee. In addition to decreasing the ability of a defendant-franchisee to make royalty payments and diverting management resources, adverse publicity resulting from such allegations may materially and adversely affect us and our brands, regardless of whether such allegations are valid or whether we are liable. Our international operations may be subject to additional risks related to litigation, including difficulties in enforcement of contractual obligations governed by foreign law due to differing interpretations of rights and obligations, compliance with multiple and potentially conflicting laws, new and potentially untested laws and judicial systems, and reduced or diminished protection of intellectual property. A substantial unsatisfied judgment against us or one of our subsidiaries could result in bankruptcy, which would materially and adversely affect our business and operating results.

Our business is subject to various laws and regulations and changes in such laws and regulations, and/or failure to comply with existing or future laws and regulations, could adversely affect us.

We are subject to state franchise registration requirements, the rules and regulations of the Federal Trade Commission (the "FTC"), various state laws regulating the offer and sale of franchises in the United States through the provision of franchise disclosure documents containing certain mandatory disclosures, and certain rules and requirements regulating franchising arrangements in foreign countries. Although we believe that the Franchisors' Franchise Disclosure Documents, together with any applicable state-specific versions or supplements, and franchising procedures that we use comply in all material respects with both the FTC guidelines and all applicable state laws regulating franchising in those states in which we offer new franchise arrangements, noncompliance could reduce anticipated royalty income, which in turn may materially and adversely affect our business and operating results.

Our franchisees are subject to various existing U.S. federal, state, local, and foreign laws affecting the operation of the restaurants including various health, sanitation, fire, and safety standards. Franchisees may in the future become subject to regulation (or further regulation) seeking to tax or regulate high-fat foods, to limit the serving size of beverages containing sugar, to ban the use of certain packaging materials (including polystyrene used in the iconic Dunkin' cup), or requiring the display of detailed nutrition information. Each of these regulations would be costly to comply with and/or could result in reduced demand for our products.

Additionally, we are working to manage the risks and costs to us, our franchisees, and our supply chain of the effects of climate change, greenhouse gases, and diminishing energy and water resources. These risks include the increased public focus, including by governmental and nongovernmental organizations, on these and other environmental sustainability matters, such as packaging and waste, animal health and welfare, deforestation, and land use. These risks also include the increased pressure to make commitments, set targets, or establish additional goals and take actions to meet them. These risks could expose us to market, operational, and execution costs or risks. If we are unable to effectively manage the risks associated with our complex regulatory environment, it could have a material adverse effect on our business and financial condition.

In connection with the continued operation or remodeling of certain restaurants, franchisees may be required to expend funds to meet U.S. federal, state, and local and foreign regulations. Difficulties in obtaining, or the failure to

obtain, required licenses or approvals could delay or prevent the opening of a new restaurant in a particular area or cause an existing restaurant to cease operations. All of these situations would decrease sales of an affected restaurant and reduce royalty payments to us with respect to such restaurant.

The franchisees are also subject to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended, and various other laws in the United States and in foreign countries governing such matters as minimum-wage requirements, overtime and other working conditions, and citizenship requirements. A significant number of our franchisees' food-service employees are paid at rates related to the U.S. federal minimum wage and applicable minimum wages in foreign jurisdictions and past increases in the U.S. federal

minimum wage and foreign jurisdiction minimum wage have increased labor costs, as would future such increases. Any increases in labor costs might result in franchisees inadequately staffing restaurants. Understaffed restaurants could reduce sales at such restaurants, decrease royalty payments, and adversely affect our brands. Evolving labor and employment laws, rules, and regulations could also result in increased exposure on the part of Dunkin' Brands' for labor and employment related liabilities that have historically been borne by franchisees.

In 2015, the National Labor Relations Board adopted a new and broader standard for determining when two or more otherwise unrelated employers may be found to be a joint employer of the same employees under the National Labor Relations Act. If this joint employer liability standard is upheld or adopted by other government agencies such as the Department of Labor, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and/or applied generally to franchise relationships, it could cause us to be liable or held responsible for unfair labor practices and other violations of its franchisees and subject us to other liabilities, and require us to conduct collective bargaining negotiations, regarding employees of totally separate, independent employers, most notably our franchisees. In such event, our operating expenses may increase as a result of required modifications to our business practices, increased litigation, governmental investigations or proceedings, administrative enforcement actions, fines and civil liability.

Our and our franchisees' operations and properties are subject to extensive U.S. federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including those relating to environmental, building, and zoning requirements. Our development of properties for leasing or subleasing to franchisees depends to a significant extent on the selection and acquisition of suitable sites, which are subject to zoning, land use, environmental, traffic, and other regulations and requirements. Failure to comply with legal requirements could result in, among other things, revocation of required licenses, administrative enforcement actions, fines, and civil and criminal liability. We may incur investigation, remediation, or other costs related to releases of hazardous materials or other environmental conditions at our properties, regardless of whether such environmental conditions were created by us or a third party, such as a prior owner or tenant. We have incurred costs to address soil and groundwater contamination at some sites, and continue to incur nominal remediation costs at some of our other locations. If such issues become more expensive to address, or if new issues arise, they could increase our expenses, generate negative publicity, or otherwise adversely affect us.

We and our franchisees are or may be subject to U.S. and international privacy, data protection, and information security laws and regulations. Such laws and regulations, including the European Union General Data Protection Regulation, may require companies to give specific types of notice and in some cases seek consent from consumers before collecting or using their data for certain purposes, including some marketing activities. Various federal, state, and international legislative and regulatory bodies may expand current laws or regulations, enact new laws or regulations, or issue revised rules or guidance regarding privacy, data protection, and information security. For example, California recently enacted the California Consumer Privacy Act that will, among other things, require new disclosures to California consumers when it goes into effect on January 1, 2020. In response to such changing laws and regulations, we and our franchisees may need to change or limit the way we use information in operating our businesses, which may result in significant costs, and could compromise our or our franchisees' marketing or growth strategies, any of which may materially and adversely affect our business and operating results.

We are subject to a variety of additional risks associated with our franchisees.

Our franchise system subjects us to a number of additional risks, any one of which may impact our ability to collect royalty payments from our franchisees, may harm the goodwill associated with our brands, and/or may materially and adversely impact our business and results of operations.

Bankruptcy of U.S. Franchisees. A franchisee bankruptcy could have a substantial negative impact on our ability to collect payments due under such franchisee's franchise arrangements and, to the extent such franchisee is a lessee pursuant to a franchisee lease/sublease with us, payments due under such franchisee lease/sublease. In a franchisee bankruptcy, the bankruptcy trustee may reject its franchise arrangements and/or franchisee lease/sublease pursuant to Section 365 under the United States bankruptcy code, in which case there would be no further royalty payments and/or franchisee lease/sublease payments from such franchisee, and there can be no assurance as to the proceeds, if any, that may ultimately be recovered in a bankruptcy proceeding of such franchisee in connection with a damage claim resulting from such rejection.

Franchisee Changes in Control. The franchise arrangements prohibit “changes in control” of a franchisee without our consent as the franchisor, except in the event of the death or disability of a franchisee (if a natural person) or a principal of a franchisee entity. In such event, the executors and representatives of the franchisee are required to transfer the relevant franchise arrangements to a successor franchisee approved by the franchisor. There can be, however, no assurance that any such successor would be found or, if found, would be able to perform the former franchisee’s obligations under such franchise arrangements or successfully operate the restaurant. If a successor franchisee is not found, or if the successor franchisee that is found is not as successful in operating the restaurant as the then-deceased or disabled franchisee or franchisee principal, the sales of the restaurant could be adversely affected. Franchisee Insurance. The franchise arrangements require each franchisee to maintain certain insurance types and levels.

Certain extraordinary hazards, however, may not be covered, and insurance may not be available (or may be available only at prohibitively expensive rates) with respect to many other risks. Moreover, any loss incurred could exceed policy limits and policy payments made to franchisees may not be made on a timely basis. Any such loss or delay in payment could have a material and adverse effect on a franchisee's ability to satisfy its obligations under its franchise arrangement, including its ability to make royalty payments.

Some of Our Franchisees are Operating Entities. Franchisees may be natural persons or legal entities. Our franchisees that are operating companies (as opposed to limited purpose entities) are subject to business, credit, financial, and other risks, which may be unrelated to the operations of the restaurants. These unrelated risks could materially and adversely affect a franchisee that is an operating company and its ability to make its royalty payments in full or on a timely basis, which in turn could materially and adversely affect our business and operating results.

Franchise Arrangement Termination; Nonrenewal. Each franchise arrangement is subject to termination by us as the franchisor in the event of a default, generally after expiration of applicable cure periods, although under certain circumstances a franchise arrangement may be terminated by us upon notice without an opportunity to cure. The default provisions under the franchise arrangements are drafted broadly and include, among other things, any failure to meet operating standards and actions that may threaten our licensed intellectual property.

In addition, each franchise agreement has an expiration date. Upon the expiration of the franchise arrangement, we or the franchisee may, or may not, elect to renew the franchise arrangements. If the franchise arrangement is renewed, the franchisee will receive a "successor" franchise arrangement for an additional term. Such option, however, is contingent on the franchisee's execution of the then-current form of franchise arrangements (which may include increased royalty payments, advertising fees, and other costs), the satisfaction of certain conditions (including modernization of the restaurant and related operations), and the payment of a renewal fee. If a franchisee is unable or unwilling to satisfy any of the foregoing conditions, the expiring franchise arrangements will terminate upon expiration of the term of the franchise arrangements.

Product Liability Exposure. We require franchisees to maintain general liability insurance coverage to protect against the risk of product liability and other risks and demand strict franchisee compliance with health and safety regulations. However, franchisees may receive through the supply chain (from central manufacturing locations ("CMLs"), NDCP, or otherwise), or produce defective food or beverage products, which may adversely impact our brands' goodwill.

Americans with Disabilities Act. Restaurants located in the United States must comply with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (the "ADA"). Although we believe newer restaurants meet the ADA construction standards and, further, that franchisees have historically been diligent in the remodeling of older restaurants, a finding of noncompliance with the ADA could result in the imposition of injunctive relief, fines, an award of damages to private litigants, or additional capital expenditures to remedy such noncompliance. Any imposition of injunctive relief, fines, damage awards, or capital expenditures could adversely affect the ability of a franchisee to make royalty payments, or could generate negative publicity, or otherwise adversely affect us.

Franchisee Litigation. Franchisees are subject to a variety of litigation risks, including, but not limited to, customer claims, personal-injury claims, environmental claims, employee allegations of improper termination and discrimination, claims related to violations of the ADA, religious freedom, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA") or data protection laws, and intellectual-property claims. Each of these claims may increase costs and limit the funds available to make royalty payments and reduce the execution of new franchise arrangements.

Potential Conflicts with Franchisee Organizations. Although we believe our relationship with our franchisees is open and strong, the nature of the franchisor-franchisee relationship can give rise to conflict. In the U.S., our approach is collaborative in that we have established district advisory councils, regional advisory councils, and a national brand advisory council for each of the Dunkin' brand and the Baskin-Robbins brand. The councils are comprised of franchisees, brand employees, and executives, and they meet to discuss the strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities facing the brands as well as the rollout of new products and projects. Internationally, our operations are primarily conducted through joint ventures with local licensees, so our relationships are conducted directly with our licensees rather than separate advisory committees. No material disputes with franchisee organizations exist in the United States or internationally at this time.

Failure to retain our existing senior management team or the inability to attract and retain new qualified personnel could hurt our business and inhibit our ability to operate and grow successfully.

Our success will continue to depend to a significant extent on our executive management team and the ability of other key management personnel to replace executives who retire or resign. We may not be able to retain our executive officers and key personnel or attract additional qualified management personnel to replace executives who retire or resign. Failure to retain our leadership team and attract and retain other important personnel could lead to ineffective management and operations, which could materially and adversely affect our business and operating results.

Unforeseen weather or other events, including terrorist threats or activities, may disrupt our business. Unforeseen events, including war, terrorism, and other international, regional, or local instability or conflicts (including labor issues), embargos, public health issues (including tainted food, food-borne illnesses, food tampering, tampering with or failure of water supply or widespread/pandemic illness such as Ebola, the avian or H1N1 flu, MERS), and natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, or other adverse weather and climate conditions, whether occurring in the U.S. or abroad, could disrupt our operations or that of our franchisees or suppliers; or result in political or economic instability. These events could reduce traffic in our restaurants and demand for our products; make it difficult or impossible for our franchisees to receive products from their suppliers; disrupt or prevent our ability to perform functions at the corporate level; and/or otherwise impede our or our franchisees' ability to continue business operations in a continuous manner consistent with the level and extent of business activities prior to the occurrence of the unexpected event or events, which in turn may materially and adversely impact our business and operating results.

Changes in tax laws could adversely affect the taxes we pay and our profitability.

We are subject to income and other taxes in the U.S. and foreign jurisdictions, and our operations, plans and results are affected by tax and other initiatives around the world. In particular, we are affected by the impact of changes to tax laws or policy or related authoritative interpretations, including changes and uncertainties resulting from proposals for comprehensive or corporate tax reforms in the U.S. or elsewhere. On December 22, 2017, tax legislation, commonly referred to as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the "Tax Act"), was signed into law. We have finalized the calculation of the provisional amount recorded in fiscal year 2017 for the one-time impact of the Tax Act, with no material adjustments. For certain provisions of the Tax Act that became effective in fiscal year 2018, we have made reasonable estimates. We will continue to refine those estimates as additional guidance is released by the U.S. Treasury and various tax jurisdictions with the possibility they could change, and those changes could be material. Any increases in income tax rates or changes in income tax laws could have a material adverse impact on our financial results.

Risks related to our common stock

Our stock price could be extremely volatile and, as a result, you may not be able to resell your shares at or above the price you paid for them.

Since our initial public offering in July 2011, the price of our common stock, as reported by NASDAQ, has ranged from a low of \$23.24 on December 15, 2011 to a high of \$76.52 on September 7, 2018. In addition, the stock market in general has been highly volatile. As a result, the market price of our common stock is likely to be similarly volatile, and investors in our common stock may experience a decrease, which could be substantial, in the value of their stock, including decreases unrelated to our operating performance or prospects, and could lose part or all of their investment. The price of our common stock could be subject to wide fluctuations in response to a number of factors, including those described elsewhere in this report and others such as:

- variations in our operating performance and the performance of our competitors;
 - actual or anticipated fluctuations in our quarterly or annual operating results;
 - publication of research reports by securities analysts about us, our competitors, or our industry;
- our failure or the failure of our competitors to meet analysts' projections or guidance that we or our competitors may give to the market;
- additions and departures of key personnel;
- strategic decisions by us or our competitors, such as acquisitions, divestitures, spin-offs, joint ventures, strategic investments, or changes in business strategy;
- the passage of legislation or other regulatory developments affecting us or our industry;
- speculation in the press or investment community;

• changes in accounting principles;
• terrorist acts, acts of war, or periods of widespread civil unrest;
• natural disasters and other calamities; and
• changes in general market and economic conditions.

- 22-

As we operate in a single industry, we are especially vulnerable to these factors to the extent that they affect our industry, our products, or to a lesser extent our markets. In the past, securities class action litigation has often been initiated against companies following periods of volatility in their stock price. This type of litigation could result in substantial costs and divert our management's attention and resources, and could also require us to make substantial payments to satisfy judgments or to settle litigation.

Provisions in our charter documents and Delaware law may deter takeover efforts that you feel would be beneficial to stockholder value.

Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws and Delaware law contain provisions which could make it harder for a third party to acquire us, even if doing so might be beneficial to our stockholders. These provisions include a classified board of directors and limitations on actions by our stockholders. In addition, our board of directors has the right to issue preferred stock without stockholder approval that could be used to dilute a potential hostile acquirer. Our certificate of incorporation also imposes some restrictions on mergers and other business combinations between us and a holder of 15% or more of our outstanding common stock. As a result, you may lose your ability to sell your stock for a price in excess of the prevailing market price due to these protective measures, and efforts by stockholders to change the direction or management of the company may be unsuccessful.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments.

None.

Item 2. Properties.

Our corporate headquarters, located in Canton, Massachusetts, house substantially all of our executive management and employees who provide our primary corporate support functions: legal, marketing, technology, human resources, public relations, finance, and research and development.

As of December 29, 2018, we owned 102 properties and leased 960 locations across the U.S. and Canada, a majority of which we leased or subleased to franchisees. For fiscal year 2018, we generated 7.9%, or \$104.4 million, of our total revenue from rental fees from franchisees who lease or sublease their properties from us.

The remaining balance of restaurants selling our products are situated on real property owned by franchisees or leased directly by franchisees from third-party landlords. All international restaurants (other than 13 located in Canada) are situated on real property owned by licensees and their sub-franchisees or leased by licensees and their sub-franchisees directly from a third-party landlord.

As of December 29, 2018, 100% of Dunkin' and Baskin-Robbins restaurants were owned and operated by franchisees. We have construction and site management personnel who oversee the construction of restaurants by outside contractors. The restaurants are built to our specifications as to exterior style and interior decor. As of December 29, 2018, there were 12,871 Dunkin' points of distribution, operating in 43 states and the District of Columbia in the U.S. and 43 foreign countries. Baskin-Robbins points of distribution totaled 8,041, operating in 44 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and 53 foreign countries. The following table illustrates domestic and international points of distribution by brand as of December 29, 2018.

	Franchised points of distribution
Dunkin'—US*	9,419
Dunkin'—International	3,452
Total Dunkin'*	12,871
Baskin-Robbins—US*	2,550
Baskin-Robbins—International	5,491
Total Baskin-Robbins*	8,041
Total US	11,969
Total International	8,943

* Combination restaurants, as more fully described below, count as both a Dunkin' and a Baskin-Robbins point of distribution.

Dunkin' and Baskin-Robbins restaurants operate in a variety of formats. Dunkin' traditional restaurant formats include free standing restaurants, end-caps (i.e., end location of a larger multi-store building), and gas and convenience locations. A free-standing building typically ranges in size from 1,200 to 2,500 square feet, and may include a drive-thru window. An end-cap typically ranges in size from 1,000 to 2,000 square feet and may include a drive-thru window. Dunkin' also has other restaurants designed to fit anywhere, consisting of small full-service restaurants and/or self-serve kiosks in offices, hospitals, colleges, airports, grocery stores, wholesale clubs, and drive-thru-only units on smaller pieces of property (collectively referred to as special distribution opportunities or "SDOs"). SDOs typically range in size between 400 to 1,800 square feet. The majority of our Dunkin' restaurants have their fresh baked goods delivered to them from franchisee-owned and -operated CMLs.

Baskin-Robbins traditional restaurant formats include free standing restaurants and end-caps. A free-standing building typically ranges in size from 600 to 1,200 square feet, and may include a drive-thru window. An end-cap typically ranges in size from 800 to 1,200 square feet and may include a drive-thru window. We also have other restaurants, consisting of small full-service restaurants and/or self-serve kiosks (collectively referred to as SDOs). SDOs typically range in size between 400 to 1,000 square feet.

In the U.S., Baskin-Robbins can also be found in 1,328 combination restaurants ("combos") that also include a Dunkin' restaurant, and are typically either free-standing or an end-cap. These combos, which we count as both a Dunkin' and a Baskin-Robbins point of distribution, typically range from 1,400 to 3,500 square feet.

Of the 11,969 U.S. locations, 97 were sites owned by the Company and leased to franchisees, 929 were leased by us, and in turn, subleased to franchisees, with the remainder either owned or leased directly by the franchisee. Our land or

land and building leases are generally for terms of ten years to twenty years, and often have one or more five-year or ten-year renewal

- 24-

options. In certain lease agreements, we have the option to purchase, or the right of first refusal to purchase, the real estate. Certain leases require the payment of additional rent equal to a percentage of annual sales in excess of specified amounts.

Of the sites owned or leased by the Company in the U.S., 17 are locations that no longer have a Dunkin' or Baskin-Robbins restaurant ("surplus properties"). Some of these surplus properties have been sublet to other parties while the remaining are currently vacant.

We also have leased office space in China, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom.

The following table sets forth the Company's owned and leased office and training facilities, including the approximate square footage of each facility. None of these owned properties, or the Company's leasehold interest in leased property, is encumbered by a mortgage.

Location	Type	Owned/Leased	Approximate Sq. Ft.
Canton, MA	Office	Leased	175,000
Braintree, MA (training facility)	Office	Owned	15,000
Dubai, United Arab Emirates (regional office space)	Office	Leased	3,200
Shanghai, China (regional office spaces)	Office	Leased	2,975
Various (regional sales offices)	Office	Leased	Range of 150 to 300

Item 3. Legal Proceedings.

We are engaged in several matters of litigation arising in the ordinary course of our business as a franchisor. Such matters include disputes related to compliance with the terms of franchise and development agreements, including claims or threats of claims of breach of contract, negligence, and other alleged violations by us.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

Not applicable.

PART II

Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities.

Our common stock has been listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "DNKN" since July 27, 2011. Prior to that time, there was no public market for our common stock.

On February 22, 2019, we had 1,042 holders of record of our common stock.

Dividend policy

We currently anticipate continuing the payment of quarterly cash dividends. The actual amount of such dividends will depend upon future earnings, results of operations, capital requirements, our financial condition, and certain other factors. There can be no assurance as to the amount of cash flow that we will generate in future years and, accordingly, dividends will be considered after reviewing returns to shareholders, profitability expectations, and financing needs and will be declared at the discretion of our board of directors.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

The following table contains information regarding purchases of our common stock made during the quarter ended December 29, 2018 by or on behalf of Dunkin' Brands Group, Inc. or any "affiliated purchaser," as defined by Rule 10b-18(a)(3) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934:

Period	Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities			
	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid Per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs ⁽¹⁾
09/30/18 - 10/27/18	—	\$ —	—	\$250,000,000
10/28/18 - 12/01/18	—	—	—	250,000,000
12/02/18 - 12/29/18	458,465	65.44	458,465	219,998,100
Total	458,465	\$ 65.44	458,465	

On May 16, 2018, our board of directors authorized a new share repurchase program for up to an aggregate of \$250.0 million of our outstanding common stock. This repurchase authorization is valid for a period of two years.

⁽¹⁾ Under the program, purchases may be made in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions from time to time subject to market conditions.

Securities authorized for issuance under our equity compensation plans

Plan Category	(a) Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants, and rights ⁽¹⁾⁽⁴⁾	(b) Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights ⁽²⁾	(c) Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	3,416,333	\$ 45.39	3,506,293
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	—	—	—
TOTAL	3,416,333	\$ 45.39	3,506,293

⁽¹⁾Consists of 3,007,780 shares issuable upon exercise of outstanding options, 213,984 shares issuable upon vesting of outstanding restricted stock units, and 194,569 shares issuable upon vesting of performance stock units under approved plans.

⁽²⁾The weighted-average exercise price takes into account 408,553 shares under approved plans issuable upon vesting of outstanding restricted stock units and performance stock units, which have no exercise price. The weighted average exercise price solely with respect to stock options outstanding under the approved plans is \$51.56.

⁽³⁾Consists of 3,082,013 shares remaining available for issuance under the Company's 2015 Omnibus Long-Term Incentive Plan and 424,280 shares remaining available for issuance under the Company's employee stock purchase plan.

⁽⁴⁾Amounts exclude the impact of a maximum 194,569 of incremental shares that may be issuable upon vesting based on the level of performance achieved related to performance stock units.

Performance Graph

The following graph depicts the total return to shareholders for the five-year period ended December 29, 2018, relative to the performance of the Standard & Poor's 500 Index and the Standard & Poor's 500 Consumer Discretionary Sector, a peer group. The graph assumes an investment of \$100 in our common stock and each index on December 28, 2013 and the reinvestment of dividends paid since that date. The stock price performance shown in the graph is not necessarily indicative of future price performance.

	12/28/2013	12/27/2014	12/26/2015	12/31/2016	12/30/2017	12/29/2018
Dunkin' Brands Group, Inc. (DNKN)	\$ 100.00	\$ 90.46	\$ 92.47	\$ 117.34	\$ 147.57	\$ 148.13
S&P 500	\$ 100.00	\$ 113.34	\$ 111.83	\$ 121.48	\$ 145.07	\$ 134.88
S&P Consumer Discretionary	\$ 100.00	\$ 108.96	\$ 118.52	\$ 123.16	\$ 149.30	\$ 146.97

Item 6. Selected Financial Data.

The following table sets forth our selected historical consolidated financial and other data, and should be read in conjunction with “Management’s discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations” and the consolidated financial statements and the related notes thereto appearing elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. The selected historical financial data has been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements. Historical results are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for future periods. The data in the following table related to adjusted operating income, adjusted net income, points of distribution, comparable store sales growth, systemwide sales, and systemwide sales growth are unaudited for all periods presented. The data for fiscal year 2016 reflects the results of operations for a 53-week period. All other periods presented reflect the results of operations for 52-week periods. As a result of the adoption of new guidance related to revenue recognition during fiscal year 2018 (see [note 3](#) to the consolidated financial statements included herein), prior period information for fiscal years 2017 and 2016 included below has been restated to reflect the new guidance. Prior period information for fiscal years 2015 and 2014 has not been restated and is, therefore, not comparable to the fiscal year 2018, 2017, and 2016 information.

	Fiscal year				
	2018	2017 ⁽¹⁾	2016 ⁽¹⁾	2015 ⁽¹⁾	2014 ⁽¹⁾
	(\$ in thousands, except per share data)				
Consolidated Statements of Operations Data:					
Franchise fees and royalty income	\$578,342	555,206	536,396	513,222	482,329
Advertising fees and related income	493,590	470,984	453,553	—	—
Rental income	104,413	104,643	101,020	100,422	97,663
Sales of ice cream and other products	95,197	96,388	100,542	115,252	117,484
Sales at company-operated restaurants	—	—	11,975	28,340	22,206
Other revenues	50,075	48,330	44,869	53,697	29,027
Total revenues	1,321,617	1,275,551	1,248,355	810,933	748,709
Amortization of intangible assets	21,113	21,335	22,079	24,688	25,760
Other operating costs and expenses	901,905	878,999	869,607	426,363	406,775
Total operating costs and expenses	923,018	900,334	891,686	451,051	432,535
Net income (loss) of equity method investments ⁽²⁾	14,903	15,198	14,552	(41,745)	14,846
Other operating income (loss), net	(1,670)	627	9,381	1,430	7,838
Operating income	411,832	391,042	380,602	319,567	338,858
Interest expense, net	(121,548)	(101,110)	(100,270)	(96,341)	(67,824)
Loss on debt extinguishment and refinancing transactions	—	(6,996)	—	(20,554)	(13,735)
Other income (loss), net	(1,083)	391	(1,195)	(1,084)	(1,566)
Income before income taxes	289,201	283,327	279,137	201,588	255,733
Net income attributable to Dunkin’ Brands	\$229,906	271,209	175,289	105,227	176,357
Earnings per share:					
Common—basic	\$2.75	2.99	1.91	1.10	1.67
Common—diluted	2.71	2.94	1.89	1.08	1.65

	Fiscal year					
	2018	2017 ⁽¹⁾	2016 ⁽¹⁾	2015 ⁽¹⁾	2014 ⁽¹⁾	
	(\$ in thousands, except per share data or as otherwise noted)					
Consolidated Balance Sheet Data:						
Total cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash	\$598,321	1,114,099	431,832	333,115	208,358	
Total assets	3,456,581	3,937,433	3,227,419	3,197,119	3,124,400	
Total debt ⁽³⁾	3,049,750	3,075,133	2,435,137	2,453,643	1,807,556	
Total liabilities	4,169,378	4,191,972	3,574,007	3,417,862	2,749,450	
Total stockholders' equity (deficit)	(712,797)	(254,539)	(346,588)	(220,743)	367,959	
Other Financial Data:						
Capital expenditures	\$51,855	21,055	20,826	30,246	23,638	
Adjusted operating income ⁽⁴⁾	434,593	411,096	402,466	400,477	365,956	
Adjusted net income ⁽⁴⁾	246,294	190,636	188,407	187,893	186,113	
Points of Distribution⁽⁵⁾:						
Dunkin' U.S.	9,419	9,141	8,828	8,431	8,082	
Dunkin' International	3,452	3,397	3,430	3,319	3,228	
Baskin-Robbins U.S.	2,550	2,560	2,538	2,529	2,529	
Baskin-Robbins International	5,491	5,422	5,284	5,078	5,023	
Total points of distribution	20,912	20,520	20,080	19,357	18,862	
Comparable Store Sales Growth (Decline):						
Dunkin' U.S. ⁽⁶⁾	0.6	% 0.6	% 1.6	% 1.4	% 1.7	%
Dunkin' International ⁽⁷⁾	2.2	% 0.3	% (1.9)	% 0.5	% (2.0)	%
Baskin-Robbins U.S. ⁽⁶⁾	(0.6)	% 0.0	% 0.7	% 6.1	% 4.9	%
Baskin-Robbins International ⁽⁷⁾	3.8	% (0.1)	% (4.2)	% (1.9)	% (1.2)	%
Systemwide Sales (\$ in millions)⁽⁸⁾:						
Dunkin' U.S.	\$8,786.8	8,458.7	8,226.1	7,622.9	7,179.1	
Dunkin' International	775.5	733.6	707.2	678.4	698.2	
Baskin-Robbins U.S.	611.9	606.1	603.6	594.8	560.5	
Baskin-Robbins International	1,459.8	1,348.2	1,307.7	1,273.5	1,335.6	
Total systemwide sales	\$11,634.0	11,146.6	10,844.6	10,169.6	9,773.4	
Systemwide Sales Growth (Decline)⁽⁹⁾:						
Dunkin' U.S.	3.9	% 2.8	% 7.9	% 6.2	% 6.4	%
Dunkin' International	5.7	% 3.7	% 4.2	% (2.8)	% 2.9	%
Baskin-Robbins U.S.	1.0	% 0.4	% 1.5	% 6.1	% 5.5	%
Baskin-Robbins International	8.3	% 3.1	% 2.7	% (4.6)	% (0.6)	%
Total systemwide sales growth	4.4	% 2.8	% 6.6	% 4.1	% 5.1	%

(1) Prior period information for fiscal years 2017 and 2016 has been restated for the adoption of new guidance related to revenue recognition in the first quarter of fiscal year 2018, while prior period information for fiscal years 2015 and 2014 has not been restated and is, therefore, not comparable to the fiscal year 2018, 2017, and 2016 information. See note 3 to the consolidated financial statements included herein for additional information.

(2) Fiscal year 2015 includes an impairment of our equity method investment in the Japan joint venture of \$54.3 million.

(3) Includes capital lease obligations of \$7.5 million, \$7.8 million, \$8.1 million, \$8.0 million, and \$8.1 million as of December 29, 2018, December 30, 2017, December 31, 2016, December 26, 2015, and December 27, 2014, respectively.

Adjusted operating income and adjusted net income are non-GAAP measures reflecting operating income and net income adjusted for amortization of intangible assets, long-lived asset impairments, impairment of joint ventures, and other non-recurring, infrequent, or unusual charges, net of the tax impact of such adjustments in the case of adjusted net income. Adjusted net income for fiscal year 2017 also excludes the net tax benefit due to the enactment of the tax legislation commonly referred to as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the "Tax Act") during fiscal year (4) 2017. The Company uses adjusted operating income and adjusted net income as key performance measures for the purpose of evaluating performance internally. We also believe adjusted operating income and adjusted net income provide our investors with useful information regarding our historical operating results. These non-GAAP measurements are not intended to replace the presentation of our financial results in accordance with GAAP. Use of the terms adjusted operating income and adjusted net income may differ from similar measures reported by other companies. Adjusted operating income and adjusted net income are reconciled from operating income and net income, respectively, determined under GAAP as follows:

	Fiscal year				
	2018	2017 ^(a)	2016 ^(a)	2015 ^(a)	2014 ^(a)
	(Unaudited, \$ in thousands)				
Operating income	\$411,832	391,042	380,602	319,567	338,858
Adjustments:					
Amortization of other intangible assets	21,113	21,335	22,079	24,688	25,760
Long-lived asset impairment charges	1,648	1,617	149	623	1,484
Third-party product volume guarantee	—	—	—	—	(300)
Peterborough plant closure ^(b)	—	—	—	4,075	—
Transaction-related costs ^(c)	—	—	64	424	154
Japan joint venture impairment, net ^(d)	—	—	—	53,853	—
Bertico-related litigation ^(e)	—	(2,898)	(428)	(2,753)	—
Adjusted operating income ^(f)	\$434,593	411,096	402,466	400,477	365,956
Net income attributable to Dunkin' Brands	\$229,906	271,209	175,289	105,227	176,357
Adjustments:					
Amortization of other intangible assets	21,113	21,335	22,079	24,688	25,760
Long-lived asset impairment charges	1,648	1,617	149	623	1,484
Third-party product volume guarantee	—	—	—	—	(300)
Peterborough plant closure ^(b)	—	—	—	4,075	—
Transaction-related costs ^(c)	—	—	64	424	154
Japan joint venture impairment, net ^(d)	—	—	—	53,853	—
Bertico-related litigation ^(e)	—	(2,898)	(428)	(2,753)	—
Loss on debt extinguishment and refinancing transactions	—	6,996	—	20,554	13,735
Tax impact of adjustments ^(g)	(6,373)	(10,820)	(8,746)	(19,044)	(16,333)
Income tax audit settlements ^(h)	—	—	—	—	(6,717)
Tax impact of legal entity conversion ⁽ⁱ⁾	—	—	—	246	(8,541)
State tax apportionment ^(j)	—	—	—	—	514
Impact of tax reform ^(k)	—	(96,803)	—	—	—
Adjusted net income	\$246,294	190,636	188,407	187,893	186,113

Prior period information for fiscal years 2017 and 2016 has been restated for the adoption of new guidance related to revenue recognition in the first quarter of fiscal year 2018, while prior period information for fiscal years 2015 (a) and 2014 has not been restated and is, therefore, not comparable to the fiscal year 2018, 2017, and 2016 information. See [note 3](#) to the consolidated financial statements included herein for additional information.

For fiscal year 2015, the adjustment represents costs incurred related to the final settlement of the Canadian (b) pension plan as a result of the closure of the Baskin-Robbins ice cream manufacturing plant in Peterborough, Canada.

(c)

Represents non-capitalizable costs incurred in connection with obtaining a new securitized financing facility, which was completed in January 2015.

Amount consists of an other-than-temporary impairment of the investment in the Japan joint venture of \$54.3 (d) million, less a reduction in depreciation and amortization of \$0.4 million resulting from the allocation of the impairment charge to the underlying long-lived assets of the joint venture.

The adjustment for fiscal year 2015 represents the net reduction to legal reserves for the Bertico litigation and related matters of \$2.8 million, as a result of the Quebec Court of Appeals (Montreal) ruling to reduce the damages assessed against the Company in the Bertico litigation from approximately C\$16.4 million to approximately C\$10.9 million, plus costs and interest. The adjustment for fiscal year 2016 represents a net (e) reduction to legal reserves for the Bertico litigation and related matters of \$428 thousand based upon final agreement of interest and related costs associated with the judgment. The adjustment for fiscal year 2017 represents a reduction to legal reserves for Bertico-related litigation of \$2.9 million based upon final settlement of such matters.

Adjusted operating income includes the impact of the 53rd week for fiscal year 2016. Based on our estimate of that (f) extra week on certain revenues and expenses, the impact of the extra week in fiscal year 2016 on adjusted operating income was approximately \$6.1 million. Excluding the impact of the extra week, adjusted operating income for fiscal year 2016 would have been approximately \$396.4 million on a 52-week basis.

Tax impact of adjustments calculated at a 40% effective tax rate for each of the fiscal years 2017, 2016, 2015, and (g) 2014, excluding the Japan joint venture impairment as there was no tax impact related to this charge. Tax impact of adjustments calculated at a 28% effective rate for the fiscal year 2018.

(h) Represents income tax benefits resulting from the settlement of historical tax positions settled during the prior period, primarily related to the accounting for the acquisition of the Company by private equity firms in 2006.

(i) Represents the net tax impact of converting Dunkin' Brands Canada Ltd. to Dunkin' Brands Canada ULC.

(j) Represents tax expense recognized due to an increase in our overall state tax rate for a shift in the apportionment of income to certain state jurisdictions.

(k) Net tax benefit due to the enactment of the Tax Act during fiscal year 2017, consisting primarily of the remeasurement of deferred tax liabilities using the lower enacted corporate tax rate.

(5) Represents period end points of distribution.

Represents the growth in average weekly sales for franchisee- and company-operated restaurants that have been (6) open at least 78 weeks (approximately 18 months) that have reported sales in the current and comparable prior year week.

Generally represents the growth in local currency average monthly sales for franchisee-operated restaurants, (7) including joint ventures, that have been open at least 13 months and that have reported sales in the current and comparable prior year month.

Systemwide sales include sales at franchisee- and company-operated restaurants, including joint ventures. While we do not record sales by franchisees, licensees, or joint ventures as revenue, and such sales are not included in our (8) consolidated financial statements, we believe that this operating measure is important in obtaining an understanding of our financial performance. We believe systemwide sales information aids in understanding how we derive royalty revenue and in evaluating our performance relative to competitors.

Systemwide sales growth represents the percentage change in systemwide sales from the comparable period of the (9) prior year. Changes in systemwide sales are driven by changes in average comparable store sales and changes in the number of restaurants.

Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

The following discussion of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with the selected financial data and the audited consolidated financial statements and related notes appearing elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. This discussion contains forward-looking statements about our markets, the demand for our products and services and our future results and involves numerous risks and uncertainties. Generally these statements can be identified by the use of words such as "anticipate," "believe," "could," "estimate," "expect," "feel," "forecast," "intend," "may," "plan," "potential," "project," "should" or "would" and similar expressions intended to identify forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements contain these identifying words. Our forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, which may cause actual results to differ materially from those projected or implied by the forward-looking statement. Forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and assumptions and currently available data and are neither predictions nor guarantees of future events or performance. You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date hereof. See "Risk factors" for a discussion of factors that could cause our actual results to differ from those expressed or implied by forward-looking statements.

Introduction and overview

We are one of the world's leading franchisors of quick service restaurants ("QSRs") serving hot and cold coffee and baked goods, as well as hard serve ice cream. We franchise restaurants under our Dunkin' and Baskin-Robbins brands. With over 20,900 points of distribution in more than 60 countries worldwide, we believe that our portfolio has strong brand awareness in our key markets. QSR is a restaurant format characterized by counter or drive-thru ordering and limited or no table service. As of December 29, 2018, Dunkin' had 12,871 global points of distribution with restaurants in 43 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and 43 foreign countries. Baskin-Robbins had 8,041 global points of distribution as of the same date, with restaurants in 44 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and 53 foreign countries.

We are organized into five reporting segments: Dunkin' U.S., Dunkin' International, Baskin-Robbins U.S., Baskin-Robbins International, and U.S. Advertising Funds. We generate revenue from five primary sources: (i) royalty income and franchise fees associated with franchised restaurants, (ii) continuing advertising fees from Dunkin' and Baskin-Robbins franchisees and breakage and other revenue related to the gift card program; (iii) rental income from restaurant properties that we lease or sublease to franchisees, (iv) sales of ice cream and other products to franchisees in certain international markets, and (v) other income including fees for the licensing of our brands for products sold in certain retail outlets, the licensing of the rights to manufacture Baskin-Robbins ice cream products sold to U.S. franchisees, refranchising gains, and online training fees. Prior to completing the sale of all company-operated restaurants in fiscal year 2016, we also generated revenue from retail store sales at our company-operated restaurants.

Approximately 44% of our revenue for fiscal year 2018 was derived from royalty income and franchise fees. Additionally, advertising fees and related income accounted for approximately 37% of our revenue for fiscal year 2018. Rental income from franchisees that lease or sublease their properties from us accounted for 8% of our revenue for fiscal year 2018. An additional 7% of our revenue for fiscal year 2018 was generated from sales of ice cream and other products to franchisees in certain international markets. The balance of our revenue for fiscal year 2018 consisted of revenue from license fees on products sold in non-franchised outlets, license fees on sales of ice cream and other products to Baskin-Robbins franchisees in the U.S., refranchising gains, and online training fees. Franchisees fund the vast majority of the cost of new restaurant development. As a result, we are able to grow our system with lower capital requirements than many of our competitors. With no company-operated points of distribution as of December 29, 2018, we are less affected by store-level costs, profitability, and fluctuations in commodity costs than other QSR operators.

Our franchisees fund substantially all of the advertising that supports both brands, including the cost of our marketing, research and development, and innovation personnel. Royalty and advertising fee payments are typically made on a weekly basis for restaurants in the U.S., which limit our working capital needs. For fiscal year 2018, revenues earned by the U.S. Advertising Funds were \$454.6 million.

We operate and report financial information on a 52- or 53-week year on a 13-week quarter basis with the fiscal year ending on the last Saturday in December and fiscal quarters ending on the 13th Saturday of each quarter (or 14th Saturday when applicable with respect to the fourth fiscal quarter). The data periods contained within fiscal years 2018, 2017, and 2016 reflect the results of operations for the 52-week, 52-week, and 53-week periods ending on December 29, 2018, December 30, 2017, and December 31, 2016, respectively. Certain financial measures and other metrics have been presented with the impact of the additional week on the results for fiscal year 2016. The impact of the additional week in fiscal year 2016 reflects our estimate of the 53rd week on systemwide sales growth, revenues, and expenses.

As a result of the adoption of new guidance related to revenue recognition during fiscal year 2018 (see [note 3](#) to the consolidated financial statements included herein), all prior period amounts included below have been restated to reflect the new guidance.

Selected operating and financial highlights

	Fiscal year			
	2018	2017	2016	
	(\$ in thousands)			
Total revenues	\$1,321,617	1,275,551	1,248,355	
Operating income	411,832	391,042	380,602	
Adjusted operating income	434,593	411,096	402,466	
Net income	229,906	271,209	175,289	
Adjusted net income	246,294	190,636	188,407	
Systemwide sales growth	4.4	% 2.8	% 6.6	%
Comparable store sales growth (decline):				
Dunkin' U.S.	0.6	% 0.6	% 1.6	%
Dunkin' International	2.2	% 0.3	% (1.9))%
Baskin-Robbins U.S.	(0.6)% 0.0	% 0.7	%
Baskin-Robbins International	3.8	% (0.1)% (4.2)%

Adjusted operating income and adjusted net income are non-GAAP measures reflecting operating income and net income adjusted for amortization of intangible assets, long-lived asset impairments, and certain other non-recurring, infrequent, or unusual charges, net of the tax impact of such adjustments in the case of adjusted net income. Adjusted net income for fiscal year 2017 also excludes the net tax benefit resulting from the enactment of the tax legislation commonly referred to as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the "Tax Act") during fiscal year 2017, consisting primarily of the remeasurement of our deferred tax liabilities using the lower enacted corporate tax rate. The Company uses adjusted operating income and adjusted net income as key performance measures for the purpose of evaluating performance internally. We also believe adjusted operating income and adjusted net income provide our investors with useful information regarding our historical operating results. These non-GAAP measurements are not intended to replace the presentation of our financial results in accordance with GAAP. Use of the terms adjusted operating income and adjusted net income may differ from similar measures reported by other companies. See [note 4](#) to "Selected Financial Data" for reconciliations of operating income and net income determined under GAAP to adjusted operating income and adjusted net income, respectively.

Fiscal year 2018 compared to fiscal year 2017

Overall growth in systemwide sales of 4.4% for fiscal year 2018 resulted from the following:

Dunkin' U.S. systemwide sales growth of 3.9%, which was the result of 278 net new restaurants opened in fiscal year 2018 and comparable store sales growth of 0.6%. The increase in comparable store sales was driven by increased average ticket, offset by a decline in traffic. Comparable store sales growth for fiscal year 2018 was driven primarily by beverage sales, including iced coffee, frozen, and espresso beverages, and breakfast sandwich sales.

Dunkin' International systemwide sales growth of 5.7% as a result of sales increases in the Middle East, Europe, Latin America, and South Korea. Systemwide sales in South Korea and Europe were positively impacted by favorable foreign exchange rates, while systemwide sales in Asia were negatively impacted by unfavorable foreign exchange rates. On a constant currency basis, systemwide sales for fiscal year 2018 increased by approximately 5%. Dunkin' International comparable store sales increased 2.2% due primarily to growth in the Middle East.

Baskin-Robbins U.S. systemwide sales growth of 1.0%. Comparable store sales declined 0.6%, driven by a decline in traffic, offset by increased average ticket. Sales of beverages, including shakes and smoothies, as well as the take-home category, increased while sales of cups and cones as well as sundaes declined during the fiscal year 2018.

Baskin-Robbins International systemwide sales growth of 8.3%, driven by sales increases in South Korea, Japan, the Middle East, Canada, and Asia. Sales across all regions were positively impacted by favorable foreign exchange rates. On a constant currency basis, systemwide sales for fiscal year 2018 increased by approximately 7%. Baskin-Robbins International comparable store sales increased 3.8% due primarily to growth in South Korea and Japan.

Changes in systemwide sales are impacted, in part, by changes in the number of points of distribution. Points of distribution and net openings (closings) as of and for the fiscal years ended December 29, 2018 and December 30, 2017 were as follows:

	December 29, 2018		December 30, 2017	
Points of distribution, at period end:				
Dunkin' U.S.	9,419		9,141	
Dunkin' International	3,452		3,397	
Baskin-Robbins U.S.	2,550		2,560	
Baskin-Robbins International	5,491		5,422	
Consolidated global points of distribution	20,912		20,520	

	Fiscal year 2018		Fiscal year 2017	
Net openings (closings), during the period:				
Dunkin' U.S.	278		313	
Dunkin' International	55	(33)	
Baskin-Robbins U.S.	(10)	22	
Baskin-Robbins International	69		138	
Consolidated global net openings	392		440	

The increase in total revenues of \$46.1 million, or 3.6%, for fiscal year 2018 resulted primarily from a \$23.1 million increase in franchise fees and royalty income driven primarily by an increase in Dunkin' U.S. systemwide sales, as well as an increase in advertising fees and related income of \$22.6 million. The increase in advertising fees and related income was due primarily to additional gift card program service fees and an increase in advertising fees, offset by a decline in breakage revenue. Also contributing to the increase in revenues was an increase in other revenues driven primarily by an increase in license fees related to Dunkin' K-Cup® pods. Offsetting these increases was a decrease in sales of ice cream and other products.

Operating income and adjusted operating income increased \$20.8 million, or 5.3%, and \$23.5 million, or 5.7%, respectively, for fiscal year 2018, due primarily to the increases in franchise fees and royalty income. Also contributing to the increases in operating income and adjusted operating income was an increase in rental margin due primarily to expenses incurred in the prior fiscal year to record lease-related liabilities, offset by an increase in general and administrative expenses. The increase in general and administrative expenses was due primarily to expenses incurred in fiscal year 2018 to support initiatives for the Dunkin' U.S. Blueprint for Growth, our multi-year strategic growth plan, as well as expenses incurred in connection with our 2018 Global Convention held in fiscal year 2018, offset by decreases in personnel costs and travel expenses. Additionally, operating income growth was unfavorably impacted by a reduction of legal reserves in the prior fiscal year.

Net income decreased \$41.3 million, or 15.2%, for fiscal year 2018 driven by an increase in income tax expense of \$47.2 million and an increase in net interest expense of \$20.4 million driven by additional borrowings incurred in conjunction with the refinancing transaction completed during the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2017. Offsetting these decreases in net income were the increase in operating income of \$20.8 million and a \$7.0 million loss on debt extinguishment and refinancing transactions recorded in the prior fiscal year as a result of the October 2017 securitization refinancing transaction. The increase in income tax expense resulted primarily from a net benefit of \$96.8 million included in fiscal year 2017 due to the enactment of the Tax Act, consisting primarily of the remeasurement of our deferred tax liabilities using the lower enacted corporate tax rate. Offsetting this increase was a lower corporate tax rate effective in fiscal year 2018 due to the enactment of the Tax Act.

Adjusted net income increased \$55.7 million, or 29.2%, for fiscal year 2018 resulting primarily from the \$23.5 million increase in adjusted operating income, offset by the increase in net interest expense and a decrease in income tax expense, which excludes the transition impact of the Tax Act.

Fiscal year 2017 compared to fiscal year 2016

Overall growth in systemwide sales of 2.8% for fiscal year 2017, or 4.2% on a 52-week basis, resulted from the following:

Dunkin' U.S. systemwide sales growth of 2.8%, which was the result of 313 net new restaurants opened in fiscal year 2017 and comparable store sales growth of 0.6%. The increase in comparable store sales was driven by increased average ticket, offset by a decline in traffic. The growth in sales was driven by core breakfast sandwiches, offset by declines in sales of bakery items and PM sandwiches. Beverage sales were flat as increased sales of iced coffee,

including Cold Brew, were offset by a decline in hot coffee. Systemwide sales growth was negatively impacted by approximately 190 basis points due to the extra week in fiscal year 2016.

Dunkin' International systemwide sales growth of 3.7% as a result of sales increases in the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and Europe, offset by a decline in sales in South Korea. Systemwide sales in South Korea, Latin America, and Europe were positively impacted by favorable foreign exchange rates, while systemwide sales in Asia and the Middle East were negatively impacted by unfavorable foreign exchange rates. On a constant currency basis, systemwide sales for fiscal year 2017 increased by approximately 3%. Dunkin' International comparable store sales increased 0.3% due primarily to growth in Asia and Latin America, offset by declines in South Korea and Europe. Baskin-Robbins U.S. systemwide sales growth of 0.4%, which was primarily driven by 22 net new restaurants in fiscal year 2017. Comparable store sales were flat for fiscal year 2017 as increased average ticket was offset by a decline in traffic. Increased sales of take-home products were offset by declines in sales of beverages, sundaes, desserts, and soft serve. Systemwide sales growth was negatively impacted by approximately 130 basis points due to the extra week in fiscal year 2016.

Baskin-Robbins International systemwide sales growth of 3.1%, driven by sales increases in South Korea, Canada, and the Middle East, offset by a decline in Japan. Sales in South Korea were positively impacted by favorable foreign exchange rates, while sales in Japan and the Middle East were negatively impacted by unfavorable foreign exchange rates. On a constant currency basis, systemwide sales for fiscal year 2017 increased by approximately 3%.

Baskin-Robbins International comparable store sales declined 0.1% driven primarily by a decline in the Middle East, offset by growth in South Korea.

Changes in systemwide sales are impacted, in part, by changes in the number of points of distribution. Points of distribution and net openings as of and for the fiscal years ended December 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016 were as follows:

	December 30, 2017		December 31, 2016	
Points of distribution, at period end:				
Dunkin' U.S.	9,141	8,828		
Dunkin' International	3,397	3,430		
Baskin-Robbins U.S.	2,560	2,538		
Baskin-Robbins International	5,422	5,284		
Consolidated global points of distribution	20,520	20,080		
			Fiscal year	
			2017	2016
Net openings (closings), during the period:				
Dunkin' U.S.	313	397		
Dunkin' International	(33)	111		
Baskin-Robbins U.S.	22	9		
Baskin-Robbins International	138	206		
Consolidated global net openings	440	723		

The increase in total revenues of \$27.2 million, or 2.2%, for fiscal year 2017 resulted primarily from an \$18.8 million increase in franchise fees and royalty income driven primarily by an increase in Dunkin' U.S. systemwide sales, as well as a \$17.4 million increase in advertising fees and related income. The increase in advertising fees and related income was due primarily to an increase in advertising fees, offset by a decline in breakage revenue. These increases were offset by a decrease in sales at company-operated restaurants of \$12.0 million as there were no company-operated points of distribution during fiscal year 2017. The increase in revenues reflects the unfavorable impact of the extra week in the prior fiscal year, which contributed approximately \$16.0 million in total revenues in fiscal year 2016, consisting primarily of royalty income and advertising fees.

Operating income and adjusted operating income increased \$10.4 million, or 2.7%, and \$8.6 million, or 2.1%, respectively, for fiscal year 2017, due primarily to the increase in franchise fees and royalty income. Additionally, the

prior fiscal year was unfavorably impacted by the operating results of company-operated restaurants. Offsetting these increases in operating income and adjusted operating income were gains recognized in connection with the sale of company-operated restaurants in the prior fiscal year, a decrease in net margin on ice cream due primarily to an increase in commodity costs and a decrease in sales volume, and an increase in general and administrative expenses. The increases in operating income and adjusted operating

- 36-

income reflect the unfavorable impact of the extra week in the prior fiscal year, which contributed approximately \$6.1 million in income in fiscal year 2016, consisting primarily of additional royalty income, offset by additional personnel costs.

Net income increased \$95.9 million, or 54.7%, for fiscal year 2017 driven primarily by a decrease in income tax expense of \$91.7 million, as well as the increase in operating income. Offsetting these increases in net income was a \$7.0 million loss on debt extinguishment and refinancing transactions recorded in fiscal year 2017 as a result of the October 2017 securitization refinancing transaction. The income tax expense in fiscal year 2017 included a \$96.8 million net tax benefit due to the enactment of the Tax Act, consisting primarily of the remeasurement of our deferred tax liabilities using the lower enacted corporate tax rate.

Adjusted net income increased \$2.2 million, or 1.2%, for fiscal year 2017 resulting primarily from the \$8.6 million increase in adjusted operating income, offset by an increase in income tax expense, which excludes the net tax benefit due to the enactment of the Tax Act in fiscal year 2017.

The increases in both net income and adjusted net income reflect the unfavorable impact of the extra week in the prior fiscal year, which contributed approximately \$2.5 million in net income in fiscal year 2016, consisting primarily of additional royalty income, offset by additional personnel costs, interest expense, and income tax expense.

Earnings per share

Earnings per common share and diluted adjusted earnings per common share were as follows:

	Fiscal year		
	2018	2017	2016
Earnings per share:			
Common – basic	\$2.75	2.99	1.91
Common – diluted	2.71	2.94	1.89
Diluted adjusted earnings per share	2.90	2.07	2.04

Diluted adjusted earnings per share is calculated using adjusted net income, as defined above, and diluted weighted average shares outstanding. Diluted adjusted earnings per share is not a presentation made in accordance with GAAP, and our use of the term diluted adjusted earnings per share may vary from similar measures reported by others in our industry due to the potential differences in the method of calculation. Diluted adjusted earnings per share should not be considered as an alternative to earnings per share derived in accordance with GAAP. Diluted adjusted earnings per share has important limitations as an analytical tool and should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for analysis of our results as reported under GAAP. Because of these limitations, we rely primarily on our GAAP results. However, we believe that presenting diluted adjusted earnings per share is appropriate to provide investors with useful information regarding our historical operating results.

The following table sets forth the computation of diluted adjusted earnings per share:

	Fiscal year		
	2018	2017	2016
Adjusted net income	\$246,294	190,636	188,407
Weighted average number of common shares—diluted	84,960,791	92,231,436	92,538,282
Diluted adjusted earnings per share	\$2.90	2.07	2.04

Results of operations

Fiscal year 2018 compared to fiscal year 2017

Consolidated results of operations

	Fiscal year		Increase (Decrease)	
	2018	2017	\$	%
	(In thousands, except percentages)			
Franchise fees and royalty income	\$578,342	555,206	23,136	4.2 %
Advertising fees and related income	493,590	470,984	22,606	4.8 %
Rental income	104,413	104,643	(230)	(0.2)%
Sales of ice cream and other products	95,197	96,388	(1,191)	(1.2)%
Other revenues	50,075	48,330	1,745	3.6 %
Total revenues	\$1,321,617	1,275,551	46,066	3.6 %

Total revenues increased \$46.1 million, or 3.6%, in fiscal year 2018, due primarily to an increase in franchise fees and royalty income of \$23.1 million, or 4.2%, driven primarily by an increase in Dunkin' U.S. systemwide sales, as well as due to an increase in advertising fees and related income of \$22.6 million, or 4.8%. Also contributing to the increase in revenues was an increase in other revenues of \$1.7 million driven primarily by an increase in license fees related to Dunkin' K-Cup® pods. These increases in revenues were offset by a decrease in sales of ice cream and other products of \$1.2 million. The increase in advertising fees and related income was due primarily to additional gift card program service fees and an increase in advertising fees, offset by a decline in breakage revenue. The additional gift card program service fees were collected beginning in the second quarter of fiscal year 2018 to cover certain gift card program costs, and such additional fees are not expected to be collected in future periods.

	Fiscal year		Increase (Decrease)	
	2018	2017	\$	%
	(In thousands, except percentages)			
Occupancy expenses – franchised restaurants	\$58,102	60,301	(2,199)	(3.6)%
Cost of ice cream and other products	77,412	77,012	400	0.5 %
Advertising expenses	498,019	476,157	21,862	4.6 %
General and administrative expenses, net	246,792	243,828	2,964	1.2 %
Depreciation and amortization	41,045	41,419	(374)	(0.9)%
Long-lived asset impairment charges	1,648	1,617	31	1.9 %
Total operating costs and expenses	\$923,018	900,334	22,684	2.5 %
Net income of equity method investments	14,903	15,198	(295)	(1.9)%
Other operating income (loss), net	(1,670)	627	(2,297)	(366.3)%
Operating income	\$411,832	391,042	20,790	5.3 %

Occupancy expenses for franchised restaurants for fiscal year 2018 decreased \$2.2 million, or 3.6%, due primarily to expenses incurred in the prior fiscal year to record lease-related liabilities as a result of restaurant closures.

Net margin on ice cream products decreased \$1.6 million for fiscal year 2018 to \$17.8 million due primarily to the impact of unfavorable foreign exchange rates and an increase in commodity costs.

Advertising expenses for fiscal year 2018 increased \$21.9 million driven by the increase in advertising fees and related income.

General and administrative expenses increased \$3.0 million, or 1.2%, in fiscal year 2018 due primarily to expenses incurred in fiscal year 2018 to support initiatives for the Dunkin' U.S. Blueprint for Growth, our multi-year strategic growth plan, as well as expenses incurred in connection with our 2018 Global Convention held in fiscal year 2018. Also contributing to the increase in general and administrative expenses was a reduction of legal reserves in the prior fiscal year. Offsetting these increases in general and administrative expenses were decreases in personnel costs and travel expenses.

Depreciation and amortization decreased \$0.4 million in fiscal year 2018 resulting primarily from a decrease in amortization due to favorable lease intangible assets being written-off upon termination of the related leases, as well as a decrease in depreciation as assets become fully depreciated.

Long-lived asset impairment charges remained consistent with the prior fiscal year. Such charges generally fluctuate based on the timing of lease terminations and the related write-off of favorable lease intangible assets and leasehold improvements.

Net income of equity method investments decreased \$0.3 million in fiscal year 2018 due primarily to a decrease in net income from our Japan joint venture, offset by an increase in net income from our South Korea joint venture.

Other operating income (loss), net, which includes net gains and losses recognized in connection with the sale or disposal of property, equipment, and software, fluctuates based on the timing of such transactions.

	Fiscal year		Increase (Decrease)	
	2018	2017	\$	%
	(In thousands, except percentages)			
Interest expense, net	\$121,548	101,110	20,438	20.2 %
Loss on debt extinguishment and refinancing transactions	—	6,996	(6,996)	100.0 %
Other loss (income), net	1,083	(391)	1,474	n/m
Total other expense	\$122,631	107,715	14,916	13.8 %

The increase in net interest expense for fiscal year 2018 of \$20.4 million was driven primarily by the securitization refinancing transaction that occurred in October 2017, which resulted in additional borrowings and an increase in the weighted average interest rate, offset by an increase in interest income earned on our cash balances.

The loss on debt extinguishment and refinancing transactions for fiscal year 2017 of \$7.0 million resulted from the October 2017 securitization refinancing transaction.

The fluctuation in other loss (income), net, for fiscal year 2018 was driven primarily by net foreign exchange gains and losses driven primarily by fluctuations in the U.S. dollar against foreign currencies.

	Fiscal year			
	2018	2017		
	(In thousands, except percentages)			
Income before income taxes	\$ 289,201	283,327		
Provision for income taxes	59,295	12,118		
Effective tax rate	20.5	%	4.3	%

The increase in the effective tax rate compared to the prior fiscal year resulted primarily from a net benefit of \$96.8 million included in fiscal year 2017 due to the enactment of the tax legislation commonly referred to as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the "Tax Act"), consisting primarily of the remeasurement of our deferred tax liabilities using the lower enacted corporate tax rate. Offsetting this increase was a lower corporate tax rate effective in fiscal year 2018 due to the enactment of the Tax Act. See [note 16](#) to the consolidated financial statements included herein for further discussion of the impact of the Tax Act. Excess tax benefits from share-based compensation also reduced the provision for income taxes by \$19.7 million for fiscal year 2018 compared to \$7.8 million for fiscal year 2017.

Operating segments

We operate five reportable operating segments: Dunkin' U.S., Dunkin' International, Baskin-Robbins U.S., Baskin-Robbins International, and U.S. Advertising Funds. We evaluate the performance of our segments and allocate resources to them based on operating income adjusted for amortization of intangible assets, long-lived asset impairment charges, and other infrequent or unusual charges, which does not reflect the allocation of any corporate charges. This profitability measure is referred to as segment profit. Segment profit for the Dunkin' International and Baskin-Robbins International segments includes net income of equity method investments, except for other-than-temporary impairment charges and the related reduction in depreciation, net of tax, on the underlying long-lived assets.

For reconciliations to total revenues and income before income taxes, see [note 12](#) to our consolidated financial statements included herein. Revenues for all segments include only transactions with unaffiliated customers and include no intersegment revenues. Revenues not included in segment revenues include revenue earned through certain licensing arrangements with third parties in which our brand names are used, revenue generated from online training programs for franchisees, advertising fees and related income from international advertising funds, and breakage and other revenue related to the gift card program, all of which are not allocated to a specific segment. Additionally,

allocation of the consideration from sales of ice cream and other

- 39-

products to royalty income as consideration for the use of the franchise license is not reflected within segment revenues, but has no impact to total revenues for any segment.

Dunkin' U.S.

	Fiscal year		Increase (Decrease)		
	2018	2017	\$	%	
	(In thousands, except percentages)				
Royalty income	\$483,883	463,874	20,009	4.3	%
Franchise fees	18,029	18,455	(426)	(2.3)	%
Rental income	100,913	101,073	(160)	(0.2)	%
Other revenues	3,985	3,631	354	9.7	%
Total revenues	\$606,810	587,033	19,777	3.4	%
Segment profit	\$466,094	445,118	20,976	4.7	%

The increase in Dunkin' U.S. revenues for fiscal year 2018 was due primarily to an increase in royalty income of \$20.0 million driven by systemwide sales growth, as well as an increase in other revenues due primarily to an increase in refranchising gains. Offsetting these increases was a decrease in franchise fees due primarily to franchisee incentives provided in fiscal year 2018 as part of the investments in the Dunkin' U.S. Blueprint for Growth that are being recognized over the remaining term of each respective franchise agreement.

The increase in Dunkin' U.S. segment profit for fiscal year 2018 was driven primarily by the increase in royalty income, as well as an increase in rental margin due primarily to expenses incurred in the prior fiscal year to record lease-related liabilities. These increases were offset by an increase in general and administrative expenses, due primarily to expenses incurred in fiscal year 2018 to support the Dunkin' U.S. Blueprint for Growth initiatives, offset by a decrease in personnel costs.

Dunkin' International

	Fiscal year		Increase (Decrease)		
	2018	2017	\$	%	
	(In thousands, except percentages)				
Royalty income	\$20,111	17,965	2,146	11.9	%
Franchise fees	2,196	1,853	343	18.5	%
Other revenues	34	(48)	82	n/m	
Total revenues	\$22,341	19,770	2,571	13.0	%
Segment profit	\$14,398	6,167	8,231	133.5	%

The increase in Dunkin' International revenues for fiscal year 2018 resulted primarily from an increase in royalty income of \$2.1 million driven by systemwide sales growth, as well as an increase in franchise fees due primarily to recognition of deferred revenue upon the closure of certain international markets.

The increase in Dunkin' International segment profit for fiscal year 2018 was primarily a result of a decrease in general and administrative expenses due primarily to a decrease in personnel costs, as well as the increase in revenues.

Baskin-Robbins U.S.

	Fiscal year		Increase (Decrease)	
	2018	2017	\$	%
	(In thousands, except percentages)			
Royalty income	\$29,375	29,724	(349)	(1.2)%
Franchise fees	1,276	978	298	30.5%
Rental income	2,971	3,089	(118)	(3.8)%
Sales of ice cream and other products	3,261	3,448	(187)	(5.4)%
Other revenues	10,535	10,969	(434)	(4.0)%
Total revenues	\$47,418	48,208	(790)	(1.6)%
Segment profit	\$31,958	33,216	(1,258)	(3.8)%

The decrease in Baskin-Robbins U.S. revenues for fiscal year 2018 was due primarily to a decrease in other revenues driven by a decrease in licensing income, as well as decreases in royalty income, sales of ice cream and other products, and rental income, offset by an increase in franchise fees.

Baskin-Robbins U.S. segment profit for fiscal year 2018 decreased primarily as a result of an increase in general and administrative expenses driven primarily by an increase in personnel costs, as well as the decreases in other revenues and royalty income, offset by the increase in franchise fees.

Baskin-Robbins International

	Fiscal year		Increase (Decrease)	
	2018	2017	\$	%
	(In thousands, except percentages)			
Royalty income	\$7,532	7,009	523	7.5%
Franchise fees	844	1,077	(233)	(21.6)%
Rental income	529	481	48	10.0%
Sales of ice cream and other products	106,284	106,036	248	0.2%
Other revenues	178	246	(68)	(27.6)%
Total revenues	\$115,367	114,849	518	0.5%
Segment profit	\$36,189	39,505	(3,316)	(8.4)%

The increase in Baskin-Robbins International revenues for fiscal year 2018 was due primarily to increases in royalty income and sales of ice cream and other products, offset by a decrease in franchise fees.

Baskin-Robbins International segment profit decreased \$3.3 million for fiscal year 2018 due primarily to a decrease in net margin on ice cream driven primarily by an increase in commodity costs, as well as a decrease in net income from our Japan joint venture. Also contributing to the decrease in segment profit was an increase in general and administrative expenses due primarily to consulting fees, offset by a decrease in personnel costs. Offsetting these decreases in segment profit were an increase in net income from our South Korea joint venture and the increase in royalty income.

U.S Advertising Funds

	Fiscal year		Increase (Decrease)	
	2018	2017	\$	%
	(In thousands, except percentages)			
Advertising fees and related income	\$454,608	440,441	14,167	3.2%
Total revenues	\$454,608	440,441	14,167	3.2%
Segment profit	\$—	—	—	—%

The increase in U.S. Advertising Funds revenues for fiscal year 2018 was due primarily to Dunkin' U.S. systemwide sales growth. Expenses for the U.S. Advertising Funds were equivalent to revenues in each period, resulting in no segment profit.

Fiscal year 2017 compared to fiscal year 2016

Consolidated results of operations

	Fiscal year		Increase (Decrease)		
	2017	2016	\$	%	
	(In thousands, except percentages)				
Franchise fees and royalty income	\$555,206	536,396	18,810	3.5	%
Advertising fees and related income	470,984	453,553	17,431	3.8	%
Rental income	104,643	101,020	3,623	3.6	%
Sales of ice cream and other products	96,388	100,542	(4,154)	(4.1)	%
Sales at company-operated restaurants	—	11,975	(11,975)	(100.0)	%
Other revenues	48,330	44,869	3,461	7.7	%
Total revenues	\$1,275,551	1,248,355	27,196	2.2	%

Total revenues increased \$27.2 million, or 2.2%, in fiscal year 2017, due primarily to an increase in franchise fees and royalty income of \$18.8 million, or 3.5%, driven primarily by an increase in Dunkin' U.S. systemwide sales, as well as an increase in advertising fees and related income of \$17.4 million, or 3.8%. The increase in advertising fees and related income was due primarily to an increase in advertising fees, offset by a decline in breakage revenue. Also contributing to the increase in revenues was an increase in rental income of \$3.6 million driven primarily by an increase in the number of leases for franchised locations, as well as an increase in other revenues of \$3.5 million due primarily to an increase in license fees related to Dunkin' K-Cup® pods and ready-to-drink bottled iced coffee. These increases in revenues were offset by a decrease in sales at company-operated restaurants of \$12.0 million as there were no company-operated points of distribution during 2017, and a decrease in sales of ice cream and other products of \$4.2 million, due primarily to our licensees in the Middle East. Overall, our increase in revenues was unfavorably impacted by approximately \$16.0 million, consisting primarily of royalty income and advertising fees, as a result of the extra week in the prior fiscal year.

	Fiscal year		Increase (Decrease)		
	2017	2016	\$	%	
	(In thousands, except percentages)				
Occupancy expenses – franchised restaurants	\$60,301	57,409	2,892	5.0	%
Cost of ice cream and other products	77,012	77,608	(596)	(0.8)	%
Company-operated restaurant expenses	—	13,591	(13,591)	(100.0)	%
Advertising expenses	476,157	458,568	17,589	3.8	%
General and administrative expenses, net	243,828	241,824	2,004	0.8	%
Depreciation and amortization	41,419	42,537	(1,118)	(2.6)	%
Long-lived asset impairment charges	1,617	149	1,468	985.2	%
Total operating costs and expenses	\$900,334	891,686	8,648	1.0	%
Net income of equity method investments	15,198	14,552	646	4.4	%
Other operating income, net	627	9,381	(8,754)	(93.3)	%
Operating income	\$391,042	380,602	10,440	2.7	%

Occupancy expenses for franchised restaurants for fiscal year 2017 increased \$2.9 million, or 5.0%, from the prior fiscal year due primarily to an increase in the number of leases for franchised locations and expenses incurred to record lease-related liabilities as a result of restaurant closures.

Net margin on ice cream products decreased \$3.6 million for fiscal year 2017 to \$19.4 million due primarily to an increase in commodity costs and a decline in sales volume.

Company-operated restaurant expenses decreased \$13.6 million from the prior fiscal year as all remaining company-operated points of distribution were sold by the end of fiscal year 2016.

Advertising expenses for fiscal year 2017 increased \$17.6 million driven by the increase in advertising fees and related income.

General and administrative expenses increased \$2.0 million, or 0.8%, in fiscal year 2017 due primarily to an increase in costs to support brand-building activities and an increase in personnel costs incurred in connection with an organizational restructuring, offset by a decrease in consulting fees and legal reserves.

Depreciation and amortization decreased \$1.1 million in fiscal year 2017 resulting primarily from a decrease in amortization due to certain intangible assets becoming fully amortized and favorable lease intangible assets being written-off upon termination of the related leases, as well as a decrease in depreciation as assets become fully depreciated.

Long-lived asset impairment charges increased \$1.5 million from the prior fiscal year. Such charges generally fluctuate based on the timing of lease terminations and the related write-off of favorable lease intangible assets and leasehold improvements.

Net income of equity method investments increased \$0.6 million in fiscal year 2017 due primarily to an increase in net income from our Japan joint venture.

Other operating income, net, which includes gains recognized in connection with the sale of real estate, fluctuates based on the timing of such transactions. Additionally, other operating income, net for fiscal year 2016 includes gains totaling \$7.6 million recognized in connection with the sale of the company-operated restaurants in the Dallas, Texas and Boston, Massachusetts markets.

	Fiscal year		Increase (Decrease)	
	2017	2016	\$	%
	(In thousands, except percentages)			
Interest expense, net	\$101,110	100,270	840	0.8 %
Loss on debt extinguishment and refinancing transactions	6,996	—	6,996	100.0 %
Other loss (income), net	(391)	1,195	(1,586)	(132.7)%
Total other expense	\$107,715	101,465	6,250	6.2 %

The increase in net interest expense for fiscal year 2017 of \$0.8 million was driven primarily by the securitization refinancing transaction that occurred in October 2017, which resulted in additional borrowings and an increase in the weighted average interest rate. The increase in net interest expense was partially offset by the impact of the extra week in fiscal year 2016.

The loss on debt extinguishment and refinancing transactions for fiscal year 2017 of \$7.0 million resulted from the October 2017 securitization refinancing transaction.

The fluctuation in other loss (income), net, for fiscal year 2017 was driven primarily by foreign exchange gains and losses due primarily to fluctuations in the U.S. dollar against foreign currencies.

	Fiscal year	
	2017	2016
	(In thousands, except percentages)	
Income before income taxes	\$ 283,327	279,137
Provision for income taxes	12,118	103,848
Effective tax rate	4.3	% 37.2 %

The decrease in the effective tax rate compared to the prior fiscal year resulted primarily from a net benefit of \$96.8 million included in fiscal year 2017 due to the enactment of the Tax Act, consisting primarily of the remeasurement of our deferred tax liabilities using the lower enacted corporate tax rate. See [note 16](#) to the consolidated financial statements included herein for further discussion of the impact of the Tax Act. Also contributing to the decrease in the effective tax rate were excess tax benefits from share-based compensation of \$7.8 million for fiscal year 2017, which were included in the provision for income taxes as a result of the required adoption of a new accounting standard beginning in fiscal year 2017.

Operating segments

Dunkin' U.S.

	Fiscal year		Increase (Decrease)		
	2017	2016	\$	%	
	(In thousands, except percentages)				
Royalty income	\$463,874	448,609	15,265	3.4	%
Franchise fees	18,455	16,608	1,847	11.1	%
Rental income	101,073	97,540	3,533	3.6	%
Sales at company-operated restaurants	—	11,975	(11,975)	(100.0)	%
Other revenues	3,631	3,353	278	8.3	%
Total revenues	\$587,033	578,085	8,948	1.5	%
Segment profit	\$445,118	435,734	9,384	2.2	%

The increase in Dunkin' U.S. revenues for fiscal year 2017 was due primarily to an increase in royalty income of \$15.3 million as a result of an increase in systemwide sales, an increase in rental income of \$3.5 million driven primarily by an increase in the number of leases for franchised locations, and an increase in franchise fees of \$1.8 million. These increases were offset by a decline in sales at company-operated restaurants of \$12.0 million as there were no company-operated restaurants during fiscal year 2017. Overall, the increase in Dunkin' U.S. revenues was unfavorably impacted by approximately \$8.3 million, consisting primarily of royalty income, as a result of the extra week in the fiscal year 2016.

The increase in Dunkin' U.S. segment profit for fiscal year 2017 was driven primarily by the increases in royalty income, franchise fees, and rental margin. Additionally, the prior fiscal year was unfavorably impacted by the operating results of company-operated restaurants. The increases in segment profit were offset by gains recognized in connection with the sale of company-operated restaurants in the prior fiscal year, as well as an increase in general and administrative expenses.

Dunkin' International

	Fiscal year		Increase (Decrease)		
	2017	2016	\$	%	
	(In thousands, except percentages)				
Royalty income	\$17,965	16,791	1,174	7.0	%
Franchise fees	1,853	1,849	4	0.2	%
Other revenues	(48)	(12)	(36)	300.0	%
Total revenues	\$19,770	18,628	1,142	6.1	%
Segment profit	\$6,167	5,382	785	14.6	%

The increase in Dunkin' International revenues for fiscal year 2017 resulted primarily from an increase in royalty income of \$1.2 million.

The increase in Dunkin' International segment profit for fiscal year 2017 was due primarily to the increase in revenues and a decrease in general and administrative expenses, offset by a decrease in net income from our South Korea joint venture and an increase in advertising expenses.

Baskin-Robbins U.S.

	Fiscal year		Increase (Decrease)		
	2017	2016	\$	%	
	(In thousands, except percentages)				
Royalty income	\$29,724	28,909	815	2.8	%
Franchise fees	978	734	244	33.2	%
Rental income	3,089	2,994	95	3.2	%
Sales of ice cream and other products	3,448	2,632	816	31.0	%
Other revenues	10,969	11,636	(667)	(5.7)	%
Total revenues	\$48,208	46,905	1,303	2.8	%
Segment profit	\$33,216	33,634	(418)	(1.2)	%

The increase in Baskin-Robbins U.S. revenues for fiscal year 2017 was due primarily to increases in sales of ice cream and other products of \$0.8 million, royalty income of \$0.8 million driven by an increase in systemwide sales, and franchise fees of \$0.2 million. These increases were offset by a decrease in other revenues of \$0.7 million due to a decrease in licensing income. Overall, the increase in Baskin-Robbins U.S. revenues was unfavorably impacted by approximately \$0.5 million, consisting primarily of royalty income, as a result of the extra week in the prior fiscal year.

Baskin-Robbins U.S. segment profit for fiscal year 2017 decreased primarily as a result of an increase in general and administrative expenses, the decrease in other revenues, and expenses incurred to record lease-related liabilities. These decreases in segment profit were offset by the increases in royalty income, franchise fees, and net margin on ice cream which was driven by an increase in sales volume.

Baskin-Robbins International

	Fiscal year		Increase (Decrease)		
	2017	2016	\$	%	
	(In thousands, except percentages)				
Royalty income	\$7,009	6,618	391	5.9	%
Franchise fees	1,077	1,963	(886)	(45.1)	%
Rental income	481	458	23	5.0	%
Sales of ice cream and other products	106,036	110,628	(4,592)	(4.2)	%
Other revenues	246	372	(126)	(33.9)	%
Total revenues	\$114,849	120,039	(5,190)	(4.3)	%
Segment profit	\$39,505	39,990	(485)	(1.2)	%

The decrease in Baskin-Robbins International revenues for fiscal year 2017 was due primarily to a decrease in sales of ice cream and other products of \$4.6 million due primarily to a decrease in sales to our licensees in the Middle East, as well as a decrease in franchise fees as a result of additional deferred revenue recognized in fiscal year 2016 upon the closure of certain international markets, offset by an increase in royalty income of \$0.4 million.

Baskin-Robbins International segment profit decreased \$0.5 million for fiscal year 2017 as a result of a decrease in net margin on ice cream due primarily to the decrease in sales volume, the decrease in franchise fees, and an increase in general and administrative expenses. These decreases in segment profit were offset by increases in net income from our Japan and South Korea joint ventures, a decrease in advertising expenses, and the increase in royalty income.

U.S. Advertising Funds

	Fiscal year		Increase (Decrease)	
	2017	2016	\$	%
	(In thousands, except percentages)			
Advertising fees and related income	\$440,441	429,952	10,489	2.4 %
Total revenues	\$440,441	429,952	10,489	2.4 %
Segment profit	\$—	—	—	— %

The increase in U.S. Advertising Funds revenues for fiscal year 2017 was due primarily to Dunkin' U.S. systemwide sales growth. Expenses for the U.S. Advertising Funds were equivalent to revenues in each period, resulting in no segment profit. The increase in revenues was unfavorably impacted by approximately \$7.3 million as a result of the extra week in fiscal year 2016.

Liquidity and capital resources

As of December 29, 2018, we held \$517.6 million of cash and cash equivalents and \$79.0 million of short-term restricted cash that was restricted under our securitized financing facility. Included in cash and cash equivalents is \$207.3 million of cash held for advertising funds and reserved for gift card/certificate programs. In addition, as of December 29, 2018, we had a borrowing capacity of \$117.6 million under our \$150.0 million 2017 Variable Funding Notes (as defined below).

As a result of the adoption of new guidance related to revenue recognition during fiscal year 2018 (see [note 3](#) of the consolidated financial statements included herein), all prior period amounts included below have been restated to reflect the new guidance.

Operating, investing, and financing cash flows

Fiscal year 2018 compared to fiscal year 2017

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$269.0 million during fiscal year 2018, as compared to \$283.4 million in fiscal year 2017. The \$14.4 million decrease in operating cash flows was driven primarily by cash outflows related to investments in the Dunkin' U.S. Blueprint for Growth, as well as an increase in cash paid for interest compared to the prior year. Offsetting these decreases in operating cash flows were decreases in cash paid for income taxes of \$61.2 million, favorable cash flows related to our gift card program due primarily to the timing of holidays, and other changes in working capital.

Net cash used in investing activities was \$51.8 million during fiscal year 2018, as compared to \$20.3 million in fiscal year 2017. The \$31.5 million increase in investing cash outflows was driven primarily by an increase in capital expenditures of \$30.8 million, due primarily to investments in technology infrastructure to support the Dunkin' U.S. Blueprint for Growth strategy, and a decrease in proceeds received from the sale of real estate of \$0.9 million.

Net cash used in financing activities was \$732.4 million during fiscal year 2018, as compared to net cash provided by financing activities of \$418.6 million in fiscal year 2017. The \$1.15 billion increase in financing cash outflows was driven primarily by the unfavorable impact of debt-related activities of \$658.8 million compared to the prior fiscal year and incremental cash used for repurchases of common stock of \$553.2 million. The unfavorable impact of debt-related activities was driven by proceeds from the issuance of long-term debt, net of debt repayment, and payment of debt issuance and other debt-related costs in the prior fiscal year, offset by debt repayment in the current fiscal year. Offsetting these increases in financing cash outflows was incremental cash generated from the exercise of stock options in the current year of \$59.0 million, as well as a decrease in cash used to pay quarterly dividends on common stock of \$2.2 million.

Fiscal year 2017 compared to fiscal year 2016

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$283.4 million during fiscal year 2017, as compared to \$282.5 million in fiscal year 2016. The increase in operating cash flows was driven primarily by an increase in pre-tax income excluding non-cash items, payments made in connection with the settlement of the Bertico litigation in the prior fiscal year, and other changes in working capital. Offsetting these increases in operating cash flows were decreases due to unfavorable cash flows related to our gift card program due primarily to the timing of holidays, the timing of receipts and payments related to the sale of Dunkin' K-Cup® pods and the related franchisee profit-sharing program, and an increase in cash paid for income taxes.

Net cash used in investing activities was \$20.3 million during fiscal year 2017, as compared to \$4.3 million in fiscal year 2016. The \$16.0 million increase in investing cash outflows was driven primarily by a decrease in proceeds received from the sale of real estate and company-operated restaurants of \$19.7 million, offset by a reduction in outflows from other investing activities of \$3.9 million related primarily to payments for company-owned life insurance policies in the prior fiscal year.

Net cash provided by financing activities was \$418.6 million during fiscal year 2017, as compared to net cash used in financing activities of \$179.2 million in fiscal year 2016. The \$597.8 million increase in financing cash flows was driven primarily by the favorable impact of debt-related activities of \$652.2 million, resulting from proceeds from the issuance of long-term debt, net of debt repayment, and payment of debt issuance and other debt-related costs. Also contributing to the increase in financing cash flows was the incremental cash generated from the exercise of stock options in the current year of \$25.7 million, offset by incremental cash used for repurchases of common stock of \$72.2 million and additional dividends paid on common stock of \$7.3 million in fiscal year 2017 compared to fiscal year 2016.

Adjusted operating and investing cash flow

Fiscal year 2018 compared to fiscal year 2017

Net cash provided by operating activities for fiscal years 2018 and 2017 included a net cash inflow of \$31.6 million and a net cash outflow of \$2.3 million, respectively, related to advertising funds and gift card/certificate programs. Excluding cash held for advertising funds and reserved for gift card/certificate programs, we generated \$185.5 million and \$265.3 million of adjusted operating and investing cash flow during fiscal years 2018 and 2017, respectively. The decrease in adjusted operating and investing cash flow from fiscal year 2017 to 2018 was due primarily to investments in the Dunkin' U.S. Blueprint for Growth, including capital expenditures, as well as an increase in cash paid for interest, offset by a decrease in cash paid for income taxes, and other changes in working capital.

Fiscal year 2017 compared to fiscal year 2016

Net cash provided by operating activities for fiscal years 2017 and 2016 included a net cash outflow of \$2.3 million and a net cash inflow of \$29.4 million, respectively, related to advertising funds and gift card/certificate programs. Excluding cash held for advertising funds and reserved for gift card/certificate programs, we generated \$265.3 million and \$248.8 million of adjusted operating and investing cash flow during fiscal years 2017 and 2016, respectively. The increase in adjusted operating and investing cash flow from fiscal year 2016 to 2017 was due primarily to an increase in pre-tax income related to operating activities, excluding non-cash items, payments made in connection with the settlement of the Bertico litigation in the prior fiscal year, other changes in working capital, as well as a reduction in outflows from other investing activities related primarily to payments for company-owned life insurance policies in the prior fiscal year. Offsetting these increases were a decrease in proceeds from the sale of real estate and company-operated restaurants, the timing of receipts and payments related to the sale of Dunkin' K-Cup® pods and the related franchisee profit-sharing program, and an increase in cash paid for income taxes.

Adjusted operating and investing cash flow is a non-GAAP measure reflecting net cash provided by operating and investing activities, excluding the cash flows related to advertising funds and gift card/certificate programs. We use adjusted operating and investing cash flow as a key liquidity measure for the purpose of evaluating our ability to generate cash. We also believe adjusted operating and investing cash flow provides our investors with useful information regarding our historical cash flow results. This non-GAAP measurement is not intended to replace the presentation of our financial results in accordance with GAAP, and adjusted operating and investing cash flow does not represent residual cash flows available for discretionary expenditures. Use of the term adjusted operating and investing cash flow may differ from similar measures reported by other companies.

Adjusted operating and investing cash flow is reconciled from net cash provided by operating activities determined under GAAP as follows (in thousands):

	Fiscal year		
	2018	2017	2016
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$268,955	283,357	282,479
Plus (less): Decrease (increase) in cash held for advertising funds and gift card/certificate programs	(31,583)	2,256	(29,366)
Plus: Net cash used in investing activities	(51,835)	(20,303)	(4,309)
Adjusted operating and investing cash flow	\$185,537	265,310	248,804
Borrowing capacity			

As of December 29, 2018, our securitized financing facility included original borrowings of approximately \$1.75 billion, \$1.40 billion, and \$150.0 million related to the 2015 Class A-2-II Notes (as defined below), the 2017 Class

A-2 Notes (as defined below), and the 2017 Variable Funding Notes (as defined below), respectively. As of December 29, 2018, there was approximately \$3.07 billion of total principal outstanding on the 2015 Class A-2-II Notes and 2017 Class A-2 Notes, while

- 47-

there was \$117.6 million in available commitments under the 2017 Variable Funding Notes as \$32.4 million of letters of credit were outstanding.

In January 2015, DB Master Finance LLC (the “Master Issuer”), a limited-purpose, bankruptcy-remote, wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of Dunkin’ Brands Group, Inc. (“DBGI”), issued Series 2015-1 3.262% Fixed Rate Senior Secured Notes, Class A-2-I (the “2015 Class A-2-I Notes”) with an initial principal amount of \$750.0 million and Series 2015-1 3.980% Fixed Rate Senior Secured Notes, Class A-2-II (the “2015 Class A-2-II Notes” and, together with the 2015 Class A-2-I Notes, the “2015 Class A-2 Notes”) with an initial principal amount of \$1.75 billion. In addition, the Master Issuer also issued Series 2015-1 Variable Funding Senior Secured Notes, Class A-1 (the “2015 Variable Funding Notes” and, together with the 2015 Class A-2 Notes, the “2015 Notes”), which allowed the Master Issuer to borrow up to \$100.0 million on a revolving basis. The 2015 Variable Funding Notes could also be used to issue letters of credit. In October 2017, the Master Issuer issued Series 2017-1 3.629% Fixed Rate Senior Secured Notes, Class A-2-I (the “2017 Class A-2-I Notes”) with an initial principal amount of \$600.0 million and Series 2017-1 4.030% Fixed Rate Senior Secured Notes, Class A-2-II (the “2017 Class A-2-II Notes” and, together with the 2017 Class A-2-I Notes, the “2017 Class A-2 Notes”) with an initial principal amount of \$800.0 million. In addition, the Master Issuer issued Series 2017-1 Variable Funding Senior Secured Notes, Class A-1 (the “2017 Variable Funding Notes” and, together with the 2017 Class A-2 Notes, the “2017 Notes”), which allows for the issuance of up to \$150.0 million of 2017 Variable Funding Notes and certain other credit instruments, including letters of credit.

A portion of the proceeds of the 2017 Notes was used to repay the remaining \$731.3 million of principal outstanding on the 2015 Class A-2-I Notes and to pay related transaction fees. The additional net proceeds were used for general corporate purposes, which included a return of capital to the Company’s shareholders in 2018, as discussed below. In connection with the issuance of the 2017 Variable Funding Notes, the Master Issuer terminated the commitments with respect to its existing 2015 Variable Funding Notes.

The 2015 Notes and 2017 Notes were each issued in a securitization transaction pursuant to which most of the Company’s domestic and certain of its foreign revenue-generating assets, consisting principally of franchise-related agreements, real estate assets, and intellectual property and license agreements for the use of intellectual property, are held by the Master Issuer and certain other limited-purpose, bankruptcy-remote, wholly-owned indirect subsidiaries of the Company that act as guarantors of the 2015 Notes and 2017 Notes and that have pledged substantially all of their assets to secure the 2015 Notes and 2017 Notes.

The 2015 Notes and 2017 Notes were issued pursuant to a base indenture and related supplemental indentures (collectively, the “Indenture”) under which the Master Issuer may issue multiple series of notes. The legal final maturity date of the 2015 Class A-2-II Notes and 2017 Class A-2 Notes is in February 2045 and November 2047, respectively, but it is anticipated that, unless earlier prepaid to the extent permitted under the Indenture, the 2015 Class A-2-II Notes will be repaid by February 2022, the 2017 Class A-2-I Notes will be repaid by November 2024, and the 2017 Class A-2-II Notes will be repaid by November 2027 (the “Anticipated Repayment Dates”). Principal amortization payments, payable quarterly, are required to be made on the 2015 Class A-2-II Notes, 2017 Class A-2-I Notes, and 2017 Class A-2-II Notes equal to \$17.5 million, \$6.0 million, and \$8.0 million, respectively, per calendar year through the respective Anticipated Repayment Dates. No principal payments are required if a specified leverage ratio, which is a measure of outstanding debt to earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization, adjusted for certain items (as specified in the Indenture), is less than or equal to 5.0 to 1.0. If the 2015 Class A-2-II Notes or the 2017 Class A-2 Notes have not been repaid or refinanced by their respective Anticipated Repayment Dates, a rapid amortization event will occur in which residual net cash flows of the Master Issuer, after making certain required payments, will be applied to the outstanding principal of the 2015 Class A-2-II Notes and the 2017 Class A-2 Notes. Various other events, including failure to maintain a minimum ratio of net cash flows to debt service, may also cause a rapid amortization event.

It is anticipated that the principal and interest on the 2017 Variable Funding Notes will be repaid in full on or prior to November 2022, subject to two additional one-year extensions.

In February 2018, we entered into two accelerated share repurchase agreements (the “February 2018 ASR Agreements”) with two third-party financial institutions. Pursuant to the terms of the February 2018 ASR Agreements, we paid the financial institutions \$650.0 million from cash on hand and received initial deliveries totaling 8,478,722 shares of our

common stock on February 16, 2018, representing an estimate of 80% of the total shares expected to be delivered under the February 2018 ASR Agreements. Upon final settlement of the February 2018 ASR Agreements in August 2018, we received additional deliveries totaling 1,691,832 shares of our common stock based on a weighted average cost per share of \$63.91 over the term of the February 2018 ASR Agreements.

In order to assess our current debt levels, including servicing our long-term debt, and our ability to take on additional borrowings, we monitor a leverage ratio of our long-term debt, net of cash ("Net Debt"), to adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization ("Adjusted EBITDA"). This leverage ratio, and the related Net Debt and Adjusted

EBITDA measures used to compute it, are non-GAAP measures, and our use of the terms Net Debt and Adjusted EBITDA may vary from other companies, including those in our industry, due to the potential inconsistencies in the method of calculation and differences due to items subject to interpretation. Net Debt reflects the gross principal amount outstanding under our securitized financing facility, notes payable, and capital lease obligations, less short-term cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash, excluding cash reserved for gift card/certificate programs. Adjusted EBITDA is defined in our securitized financing facility as net income before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, and impairment charges, as adjusted for certain items that are summarized in the table below. Net Debt should not be considered as an alternative to debt, total liabilities, or any other obligations derived in accordance with GAAP. Adjusted EBITDA should not be considered as an alternative to net income, operating income, or any other performance measures derived in accordance with GAAP, as a measure of operating performance, or as an alternative to cash flows as a measure of liquidity. Net Debt, Adjusted EBITDA, and the related leverage ratio have important limitations as analytical tools and should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for analysis of our results as reported under GAAP. However, we believe that presenting Net Debt, Adjusted EBITDA, and the related leverage ratio are appropriate to provide additional information to investors to demonstrate our current debt levels and ability to take on additional borrowings.

As of December 29, 2018, we had a Net Debt to Adjusted EBITDA ratio of 5.3 to 1.0. The following is a reconciliation of our Net Debt and Adjusted EBITDA to the corresponding GAAP measures as of and for the fiscal year ended December 29, 2018, respectively (in thousands):

	December 29, 2018	
Principal outstanding under 2017 Class A-2 Notes	\$1,386,000	
Principal outstanding under 2015 Class A-2 Notes	1,684,375	
Other notes payable	1,400	
Total capital lease obligations	7,474	
Less: cash and cash equivalents	(517,594)	
Less: restricted cash, current	(79,008)	
Plus: cash held for gift card/certificate programs	186,795	
Net Debt	\$2,669,442	
		Fiscal year 2018
Net income		\$229,906
Interest expense		128,748
Income tax expense		59,295
Depreciation and amortization ^(a)		41,045
Impairment charges		1,648
EBITDA		460,642
Adjustments:		
Share-based compensation expense ^(a)		13,631
Increase in deferred revenue related to franchise and licensing agreements ^(b)		9,319
Other ^(c)		15,536
Total adjustments		38,486
Adjusted EBITDA		\$499,128

(a) Amounts exclude depreciation and share-based compensation of \$4.0 million and \$1.2 million, respectively, related to U.S. Advertising Funds.

(b) Amount excludes incentives paid to franchisees, primarily related to the Dunkin' U.S. Blueprint for Growth.

(c) Represents costs and fees associated with various franchisee-related investments, including investments in the Dunkin' U.S. Blueprint for Growth, bank fees, legal reserves, and other non-cash gains and losses.

Based upon our current level of operations and anticipated growth, we believe that the cash generated from our operations and amounts available under our 2017 Variable Funding Notes will be adequate to meet our anticipated debt service requirements, capital expenditures, and working capital needs for at least the next twelve months. We believe that we will be able to meet these obligations even if we experience no growth in sales or profits. There can be no assurance, however, that our business will generate sufficient cash flows from operations or that future borrowings will be available under our 2017 Variable Funding Notes or otherwise to enable us to service our indebtedness, including our securitized financing facility, or to make anticipated capital expenditures. Our future operating performance and our ability to service, extend, or refinance the securitized financing

facility will be subject to future economic conditions and to financial, business, and other factors, many of which are beyond our control.

Off balance sheet obligations

In limited instances, we issue guarantees to financial institutions so that our franchisees can obtain financing for various business purposes. We monitor the financial condition of our franchisees and record provisions for estimated losses on guaranteed liabilities of our franchisees if we believe that our franchisees are unable to make their required payments. As of December 29, 2018, if all of our outstanding guarantees of third-party franchisee financing obligations came due simultaneously, we would be liable for approximately \$1.5 million. As of December 29, 2018, there were no amounts under such guarantees that were due. We generally have cross-default provisions with these franchisees that would put the franchisee in default of its franchise agreement in the event of non-payment under such loans. We believe these cross-default provisions significantly reduce the risk that we would not be able to recover the amount of required payments under these guarantees and, historically, we have not incurred significant losses under these guarantees due to defaults by our franchisees.

We have various supply chain contracts that provide for purchase commitments or exclusivity, the majority of which result in us being contingently liable upon early termination of the agreement or engaging with another supplier. As of December 29, 2018, we were contingently liable under such supply chain agreements for approximately \$119.4 million. We assess the risk of performing under each of these guarantees on a quarterly basis, and, based on various factors including internal forecasts, prior history, and ability to extend contract terms, we accrued an immaterial amount of reserves related to supply chain commitments as of December 29, 2018.

As a result of assigning our interest in obligations under property leases as a condition of the refranchising of certain restaurants and the guarantee of certain other leases, we are contingently liable on certain lease agreements. These leases have varying terms, the latest of which expires in 2024. As of December 29, 2018, the potential amount of undiscounted payments we could be required to make in the event of nonpayment by the primary lessee was \$2.6 million. Our franchisees are the primary lessees under the majority of these leases. We generally have cross-default provisions with these franchisees that would put them in default of their franchise agreement in the event of nonpayment under the lease. We believe these cross-default provisions significantly reduce the risk that we will be required to make payments under these leases, and we have not recorded a liability for such contingent liabilities.

Contractual obligations

The following table sets forth our contractual obligations as of December 29, 2018:

(In millions)	Total	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	More than 5 years
Long-term debt ⁽¹⁾	\$3,692.6	153.2	302.6	1,780.6	1,456.2
Capital lease obligations	18.8	1.5	2.7	2.8	11.8
Operating lease obligations	602.6	60.2	114.5	98.3	329.6
Short and long-term obligations ⁽²⁾	6.1	5.4	0.7	—	—
Total ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	\$4,320.1	220.3	420.5	1,881.7	1,797.6

Amounts include scheduled principal payments on long-term debt, as well as estimated interest of \$121.5 million, \$239.3 million, \$120.4 million, and \$139.6 million for less than 1 year, 1-3 years, 3-5 years, and more than 5 years, respectively. Amounts due under the Indenture are reflected through the Anticipated Repayment Dates as described further above in "Liquidity and capital resources."

Amounts include obligations to former employees under severance agreements. Excluded from these amounts are any payments that may be required related to pending litigation, as more fully described in note 17(d) to our consolidated financial statements included herein, as the amount and timing of cash requirements, if any, are uncertain. Additionally, liabilities to employees and former employees under deferred compensation arrangements totaling \$9.8 million are excluded from the table above, as timing of payment is uncertain.

We have various supply chain contracts that provide for purchase commitments or exclusivity, the majority of which result in our being contingently liable upon early termination of the agreement or engaging with another supplier. As of December 29, 2018, we were contingently liable under such supply chain agreements for approximately \$119.4 million, and, based on various factors including internal forecasts, prior history, and ability

to extend contract terms, we accrued an immaterial amount of reserves related to supply chain commitments as of December 29, 2018. Such amounts are not included in the table above as timing of payment, if any, is uncertain.

We are guarantors of and are contingently liable for certain lease arrangements primarily as the result of assigning (4) our interest. As of December 29, 2018, we were contingently liable for \$2.6 million under these guarantees, which are

- 50-

discussed further above in “Off balance sheet obligations.” Additionally, in certain cases, we issue guarantees to financial institutions so that franchisees can obtain financing. If all outstanding guarantees came due as of December 29, 2018, we would be liable for approximately \$1.5 million. Such amounts are not included in the table above as timing of payment, if any, is uncertain.

Income tax liabilities for uncertain tax positions and gift card/certificate liabilities are excluded from the table above as we are not able to make a reasonably reliable estimate of the amount and period of related future payments. As of December 29, 2018, we had a liability for uncertain tax positions, including accrued interest and penalties thereon, of \$3.1 million. As of December 29, 2018, we had a gift card/certificate liability of \$239.5 million and a gift card breakage liability of \$0.6 million (see note 2(n) to our consolidated financial statements included herein).

Critical accounting policies

Our significant accounting policies are more fully described under the heading “Summary of significant accounting policies” in note 2 of the notes to the consolidated financial statements. However, we believe the accounting policies described below are particularly important to the portrayal and understanding of our financial position and results of operations and require application of significant judgment by our management. In applying these policies, management uses its judgment in making certain assumptions and estimates.

These judgments involve estimations of the effect of matters that are inherently uncertain and may have a significant impact on our quarterly and annual results of operations or financial condition. Changes in estimates and judgments could significantly affect our result of operations, financial condition, and cash flow in future years. The following is a description of what we consider to be our most critical accounting policies.

Revenue recognition

In fiscal year 2018, we adopted new guidance for revenue recognition related to contracts with customers and restated all financial statement amounts for fiscal years 2017 and 2016. Under the new guidance, revenue is recognized in accordance with a five-step revenue model, as follows: identifying the contract with the customer; identifying the performance obligations in the contract; determining the transaction price; allocating the transaction price to the performance obligations; and recognizing revenue when (or as) the entity satisfies a performance obligation.

In applying this five-step model, we have made significant judgments in identifying the promised goods or services in our contracts with franchisees and licensees that are distinct and which represent separate performance obligations. Generally, we have determined that the franchise license granted for each individual restaurant within an arrangement represents a single performance obligation. Therefore, all consideration within the contract is allocated to each individual restaurant, including initial franchise fees, market entry fees, royalty income, continuing advertising fees, renewal income, and transfer fees. Additionally, for certain Baskin-Robbins international markets, we have determined that a performance obligation exists related to the distribution of ice cream and other products, which is separate from the franchise license. Therefore, a portion of the consideration from the sales of ice cream and other products is allocated to the franchise license for those Baskin-Robbins international markets that do not pay a royalty. Similar judgments are made in identifying separate performance obligations for other contracts with customers, including licensing arrangements with third-parties.

Gift card breakage

While franchisees continue to honor all gift cards presented for payment, the likelihood of redemption may be determined to be remote for certain cards due to long periods of inactivity. In these circumstances, we may recognize revenue from unredeemed gift cards (“breakage”) if they are not subject to unclaimed property laws.

Significant judgment is required in determining whether to recognize breakage revenue over time or when the likelihood of redemption becomes remote for specific gift cards. Breakage is recognized when the likelihood of redemption becomes remote for gift cards that we do not expect to be entitled to breakage at the time of sale. Gift cards enrolled in our loyalty program are expected to be redeemed, reloaded, and reused multiple times, and therefore we do not expect to be entitled to breakage at the time of sale for these loyalty gift cards. Similarly, gift cards not enrolled in the loyalty program but that have been frequently redeemed and reloaded are expected to be redeemed in a similar manner to the loyalty gift cards. Therefore, for loyalty and other heavily reloaded gift cards, breakage is estimated and recognized at the point in time when the likelihood of redemption of any remaining card balance

becomes remote, generally after a period of sufficient inactivity.

For all other gift cards, we expect to be entitled to breakage at the time of sale, and therefore estimate and recognize breakage over time in proportion to actual gift card redemptions. Significant judgment is required in estimating breakage rates on these gift cards. In estimating breakage rates, we analyze and monitor trends in historical redemption rates over time, including at various points in the life of a gift card. We have a significant volume of gift card activity, which provides sufficient historical

data to reasonably estimate breakage rates. However, given the significant dollar value of gift cards outstanding, changes in estimated breakage rates could have a material impact on our outstanding gift card liability.

Impairment of goodwill and other indefinite-lived intangible assets

Goodwill and trade names (“indefinite-lived intangibles”) have been assigned to our reporting units, which are also our operating segments, for purposes of impairment testing. Our Dunkin’ U.S., Dunkin’ International, Baskin-Robbins U.S. and Baskin-Robbins International reporting units have indefinite-lived intangibles associated with them.

We evaluate the remaining useful life of our trade names to determine whether current events and circumstances continue to support an indefinite useful life. In addition, all of our indefinite-lived intangible assets are tested for impairment annually. We first assess qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that a trade name is impaired and to determine if the fair value of the reporting unit is more likely than not greater than the carrying amount for goodwill. The qualitative factors considered include, but are not limited to, macroeconomic conditions, industry and market conditions, cost factors, overall financial performance, entity-specific events, and legal factors. Assessing overall financial performance requires management to make assumptions and to apply judgment when estimating future cash flows, including projected revenue growth, operating expenses, and restaurant development. These estimates are highly subjective, and our ability to realize the future cash flows is affected by factors such as the success of our strategic initiatives, economic conditions, operating performance, competition, and consumer and demographic trends. If the estimates or underlying assumptions change in the future, we may be required to record impairment charges.

In the event we were to determine that the carrying value of a trade name would more likely than not exceed its fair value or that a reporting unit’s carrying value would more likely than not exceed its fair value, quantitative testing would be performed. We have selected the first day of our fiscal third quarter as the date on which to perform our annual impairment test for all indefinite-lived intangible assets. We also test for impairment whenever events or circumstances indicate that the fair value of such indefinite-lived intangibles has been impaired. We determined that it was more likely than not that the fair value of our reporting units and trade names were greater than their carrying amounts as of the most recent qualitative analysis date. No impairment of indefinite-lived intangible assets was recorded during fiscal years 2018, 2017, or 2016.

Income taxes

Our major tax jurisdiction subject to income tax is the U.S. The majority of our U.S. legal entities are limited liability companies (“LLCs”), which are single member entities that are treated as disregarded entities and included as part of our consolidated federal income tax return. We have subsidiaries in multiple foreign jurisdictions that file separate tax returns in their respective countries and local jurisdictions, as required. On December 22, 2017, the U.S. federal government enacted comprehensive tax legislation commonly referred to as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the “Tax Act”). While the Tax Act provides for a modified territorial tax-style system for taxing foreign source income of domestic multinational corporations, global intangible low-taxed income (“GILTI”) provisions are applied providing an incremental tax on foreign income. Regulations and interpretations related to the application of the Tax Act continue to be released, and therefore judgment has been applied in determining our provision for income taxes.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recorded for the expected future tax consequences of items that have been included in our consolidated financial statements or tax returns. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are determined based on the differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of assets and liabilities and the respective tax bases of assets and liabilities using enacted tax rates that are expected to apply in years in which the temporary differences are expected to reverse. The effects of changes in tax rates and changes in apportionment of income between tax jurisdictions on deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized in the consolidated statements of operations in the year in which the law is enacted or change in apportionment occurs. Judgment is required in determining the effects of changes in tax rates and changes in apportionment of income, and such judgments could have a significant impact on our financial statements considering the materiality of our deferred tax assets and liabilities. Valuation allowances are provided when we do not believe it is more likely than not that we will realize the benefit of identified tax assets.

In assessing the realizability of deferred tax assets, management considers whether it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. The ultimate realization of deferred tax assets is dependent

upon the generation of future taxable income during the periods in which those temporary differences become deductible. Management considers the scheduled reversal of deferred tax liabilities, projected future taxable income, and tax planning strategies in making this assessment, which requires significant judgment. In projecting future taxable income, we consider historical results and incorporate assumptions about the amount of future federal, state, and foreign income, considering items that do not have tax consequences. The estimation of future taxable income and our resulting ability to utilize deferred tax assets can significantly change based on future events.

We are subject to audit by federal, state, and foreign tax authorities. A tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return is recognized in the financial statements when it is more likely than not that the position would be sustained upon examination by tax authorities. A recognized tax position is then measured at the largest amount of benefit that is greater than fifty percent likely of being realized upon ultimate settlement. Estimates of interest and penalties on unrecognized tax benefits are recorded in the provision for income taxes.

Impairment of equity method investments

We evaluate our equity method investments for impairment whenever an event or change in circumstances occurs that may have a significant adverse impact on the fair value of the investment. If a loss in value has occurred and is deemed to be other than temporary, an impairment loss is recorded. We review several factors to determine whether a loss has occurred that is other than temporary, including absence of an ability to recover the carrying amount of the investment, the length and extent of the fair value decline, and the financial condition and future prospects of the investee. Accordingly, significant judgment is applied in evaluating our equity method investments for impairment, including projected cash flows of equity method investments, which is dependent on projected revenue growth, operating expenses, and restaurant development, as well as industry and market conditions. If the estimates or underlying assumptions change in the future, we may be required to record impairment charges.

Recently Issued Accounting Standards

See note 2(v) to the consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 of this Form 10-K for a detailed description of recent accounting pronouncements.

Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

Foreign exchange risk

We are subject to inherent risks attributed to operating in a global economy. Most of our revenues, costs, and debts are denominated in U.S. dollars. However, royalty income from our international franchisees is payable in U.S. dollars, and is generally based on a percentage of franchisee gross sales denominated in the foreign currency of the country in which the point of distribution is located, and is therefore subject to foreign currency fluctuations. Additionally, our investments in, and equity income from, joint ventures are denominated in foreign currencies, and are therefore also subject to foreign currency fluctuations. For fiscal year 2018, a 5% change in foreign currencies relative to the U.S. dollar would have had an approximately \$1.4 million impact on international royalty income and an approximately \$0.7 million impact on equity in net income of joint ventures. Additionally, a 5% change in foreign currencies as of December 29, 2018 would have had a \$7.3 million impact on the carrying value of our investments in joint ventures. In the future, we may consider the use of derivative financial instruments, such as forward contracts, to manage foreign currency exchange rate risks.

Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data
Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
To the stockholders and board of directors
Dunkin' Brands Group, Inc.:

Opinion on the Consolidated Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Dunkin' Brands Group, Inc. and subsidiaries (the Company) as of December 29, 2018 and December 30, 2017, the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income, stockholders' deficit, and cash flows for each of the years in the three year period ended December 29, 2018, and the related notes (collectively, the consolidated financial statements). In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 29, 2018 and December 30, 2017, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the years in the three year period ended December 29, 2018, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB), the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 29, 2018, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission, and our report dated February 26, 2019 expressed an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Changes in Accounting Principles

As discussed in Note 3(e) to the consolidated financial statements, the Company has changed its method of accounting for revenue from contracts with customers in each of the years in the three-year period ended December 29, 2018 due to the adoption of Accounting Standards Update 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers.

As discussed in Note 2(p) to the consolidated financial statements, the Company has changed its method of accounting for excess tax benefits for the fiscal years ended December 29, 2018 and December 30, 2017 due to the adoption of Accounting Standards Update 2016-09, Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting.

Basis for Opinion

These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

/s/ KPMG LLP

We have served as the Company's auditor since 2005.

Boston, Massachusetts
February 26, 2019

DUNKIN' BRANDS GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Balance Sheets

(In thousands, except share data)

	December 29, 2018	December 30, 2017
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 517,594	1,018,317
Restricted cash	79,008	94,047
Accounts receivable, net	75,963	69,517
Notes and other receivables, net	64,412	52,332
Prepaid income taxes	27,005	21,927
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	49,491	48,193
Total current assets	813,473	1,304,333
Property, equipment, and software, net	209,202	181,542
Equity method investments	146,395	140,615
Goodwill	888,265	888,308
Other intangible assets, net	1,334,767	1,357,157
Other assets	64,479	65,478
Total assets	\$ 3,456,581	3,937,433
Liabilities and Stockholders' Deficit		
Current liabilities:		
Current portion of long-term debt	\$ 31,650	31,500
Capital lease obligations	476	596
Accounts payable	80,037	53,417
Deferred revenue	38,082	44,876
Other current liabilities	389,336	355,110
Total current liabilities	539,581	485,499
Long-term debt, net	3,010,626	3,035,857
Capital lease obligations	6,998	7,180
Unfavorable operating leases acquired	8,236	9,780
Deferred revenue	327,333	361,458
Deferred income taxes, net	204,027	214,345
Other long-term liabilities	72,577	77,853
Total long-term liabilities	3,629,797	3,706,473
Commitments and contingencies (note 17)		
Stockholders' deficit:		
Preferred stock, \$0.001 par value; 25,000,000 shares authorized; no shares issued and outstanding	—	—
Common stock, \$0.001 par value; 475,000,000 shares authorized; 82,587,373 shares issued and 82,560,596 shares outstanding at December 29, 2018; 90,404,022 shares issued and 90,377,245 shares outstanding at December 30, 2017	82	90
Additional paid-in capital	642,017	724,114
Treasury stock, at cost; 26,777 shares at December 29, 2018 and December 30, 2017	(1,060)	(1,060)
Accumulated deficit	(1,338,709)	(968,148)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(15,127)	(9,535)
Total stockholders' deficit	(712,797)	(254,539)
Total liabilities and stockholders' deficit	\$ 3,456,581	3,937,433

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

- 56-

DUNKIN' BRANDS GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Statements of Operations

(In thousands, except per share data)

	Fiscal year ended		
	December 2018	December 30, 2017	December 31, 2016
Revenues:			
Franchise fees and royalty income	\$578,342	555,206	536,396
Advertising fees and related income	493,590	470,984	453,553
Rental income	104,413	104,643	101,020
Sales of ice cream and other products	95,197	96,388	100,542
Sales at company-operated restaurants	—	—	11,975
Other revenues	50,075	48,330	44,869
Total revenues	1,321,617	1,275,551	1,248,355
Operating costs and expenses:			
Occupancy expenses—franchised restaurants	58,102	60,301	57,409
Cost of ice cream and other products	77,412	77,012	77,608
Company-operated restaurant expenses	—	—	13,591
Advertising expenses	498,019	476,157	458,568
General and administrative expenses, net	246,792	243,828	241,824
Depreciation	19,932	20,084	20,458
Amortization of other intangible assets	21,113	21,335	22,079
Long-lived asset impairment charges	1,648	1,617	149
Total operating costs and expenses	923,018	900,334	891,686
Net income of equity method investments	14,903	15,198	14,552
Other operating income (loss), net	(1,670)	627	9,381
Operating income	411,832	391,042	380,602
Other income (expense), net:			
Interest income	7,200	3,313	582
Interest expense	(128,748)	(104,423)	(100,852)
Loss on debt extinguishment and refinancing transactions	—	(6,996)	—
Other income (loss), net	(1,083)	391	(1,195)
Total other expense, net	(122,631)	(107,715)	(101,465)
Income before income taxes	289,201	283,327	279,137
Provision for income taxes	59,295	12,118	103,848
Net income	229,906	271,209	175,289
Earnings per share:			
Common—basic	\$2.75	2.99	1.91
Common—diluted	2.71	2.94	1.89
Cash dividends declared per common share	1.39	1.29	1.20

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

- 57-

DUNKIN' BRANDS GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income

(In thousands)

	Fiscal year ended		
	December 29, 2018	December 30, 2017	December 31, 2016
Net income	\$229,906	271,209	175,289
Other comprehensive income (loss), net:			
Effect of foreign currency translation, net of deferred tax expense (benefit) of \$(93), \$621, and \$(638) for the fiscal years ended December 29, 2018, December 30, 2017, and December 31, 2016, respectively	(6,223)	14,824	(2,557)
Effect of interest rate swaps, net of deferred tax benefit of \$778 and \$882 for the fiscal years ended December 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively	—	(1,144)	(1,299)
Other	631	658	(79)
Total other comprehensive income (loss), net	(5,592)	14,338	(3,935)
Comprehensive income	\$224,314	285,547	171,354

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

- 58-

DUNKIN' BRANDS GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Deficit

(In thousands)

	Stockholders' deficit		Additional paid-in capital	Treasury stock, at cost	Accumulated deficit	Accumulated other comprehensive loss	Noncontrolling interests	Total
	Common stock Shares	Amount						
Balance at December 26, 2015	92,470	\$ 92	876,557	(1,075)	(1,076,479)	(20,046)	208	(220,743)
Cumulative effect of the adoption of ASC 606	—	—	—	—	(163,154)	108	—	(163,046)
Net income	—	—	—	—	175,289	—	—	175,289
Other comprehensive loss, net	—	—	—	—	—	(3,935)	—	(3,935)
Exercise of stock options	433	1	10,646	—	—	—	—	10,647
Deconsolidation of noncontrolling interest	—	—	—	—	—	—	(208)	(208)
Dividends paid on common stock	—	—	(109,703)	—	—	—	—	(109,703)
Share-based compensation expense	68	—	17,181	—	—	—	—	17,181
Repurchases of common stock	—	—	25,000	(80,000)	—	—	—	(55,000)
Retirement of treasury stock	(1,707)	(2)	(15,874)	80,000	(64,124)	—	—	—
Excess tax benefits from share-based compensation	—	—	2,735	—	—	—	—	2,735
Other	29	—	950	15	(770)	—	—	195
Balance at December 31, 2016	91,293	91	807,492	(1,060)	(1,129,238)	(23,873)	—	(346,588)
Net income	—	—	—	—	271,209	—	—	271,209
Other comprehensive income, net	—	—	—	—	—	14,338	—	14,338
Exercise of stock options	1,158	1	36,494	—	—	—	—	36,495
Dividends paid on common stock	—	—	(117,003)	—	—	—	—	(117,003)
Share-based compensation expense	46	—	14,926	—	—	—	—	14,926
Repurchases of common stock	—	—	—	(127,186)	—	—	—	(127,186)
Retirement of treasury stock	(2,271)	(2)	(18,861)	127,186	(108,323)	—	—	—
Other	28	—	1,066	—	(1,796)	—	—	(730)
Balance at December 30, 2017	90,254	90	724,114	(1,060)	(968,148)	(9,535)	—	(254,539)
Net income	—	—	—	—	229,906	—	—	229,906
Other comprehensive loss, net	—	—	—	—	—	(5,592)	—	(5,592)
Exercise of stock options	2,721	3	95,177	—	—	—	—	95,180
	—	—	(114,828)	—	—	—	—	(114,828)

Dividends paid on common stock								
Share-based compensation expense	61	—	14,879	—	—	—	—	14,879
Repurchases of common stock	—	—	—	(680,368)	—	—	—	(680,368)
Retirement of treasury stock	(10,629)	(11)	(81,160)	680,368	(599,197)	—	—	—
Other	30	—	3,835	—	(1,270)	—	—	2,565
Balance at December 29, 2018	82,437	\$ 82	642,017	(1,060)	(1,338,709)	(15,127)	—	(712,797)

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

- 59-

DUNKIN' BRANDS GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(In thousands)

	Fiscal year ended		
	December 31, 2018	December 30, 2017	December 31, 2016
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net income	\$ 229,906	271,209	175,289
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	45,031	45,239	46,267
Amortization of debt issuance costs	5,019	6,179	6,398
Loss on debt extinguishment and refinancing transactions	—	6,996	—
Deferred income taxes	(9,897)	(121,247)	(26,362)
Provision for bad debt	631	457	53
Share-based compensation expense	14,879	14,926	17,181
Net income of equity method investments	(14,903)	(15,198)	(14,552)
Dividends received from equity method investments	4,509	4,711	5,247
Gain on sale of real estate and company-operated restaurants	—	(1)	(9,373)
Other, net	2,791	(1,766)	(2,172)
Change in operating assets and liabilities:			
Accounts, notes, and other receivables, net	(19,776)	(18,496)	40,607
Prepaid income taxes, net	(4,996)	(2,441)	5,022
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	(1,561)	(6,481)	(3,695)
Accounts payable	26,974	5,066	5,374
Other current liabilities	34,144	30,031	(2,696)
Deferred revenue	(41,071)	59,606	33,651
Other, net	(2,725)	4,567	6,240
Net cash provided by operating activities	268,955	283,357	282,479
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Additions to property, equipment, and software	(51,855)	(21,055)	(20,826)
Proceeds from sale of real estate and company-operated restaurants	—	854	20,523
Other, net	20	(102)	(4,006)
Net cash used in investing activities	(51,835)	(20,303)	(4,309)
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Proceeds from issuance of long-term debt	—	1,400,000	—
Repayment of long-term debt	(31,600)	(754,375)	(25,000)
Payment of debt issuance and other debt-related costs	—	(18,441)	—
Repurchases of common stock, including accelerated share repurchases	(680,368)	(127,186)	(55,000)
Dividends paid on common stock	(114,828)	(117,003)	(109,703)
Exercise of stock options	95,331	36,344	10,647
Other, net	(895)	(698)	(122)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	(732,360)	418,641	(179,178)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash	(538)	572	(275)
Increase (decrease) in cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash	(515,778)	682,267	98,717
Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash, beginning of year	1,114,099	431,832	333,115
Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash, end of year	\$ 598,321	1,114,099	431,832
Supplemental cash flow information:			
Cash paid for income taxes	\$ 74,775	135,927	125,681

Edgar Filing: DUNKIN' BRANDS GROUP, INC. - Form 10-K

Cash paid for interest	126,868	91,606	94,212
Noncash investing activities:			
Property, equipment, and software included in accounts payable and other current liabilities	2,713	2,637	1,847
Purchase of leaseholds in exchange for capital lease obligations	325	449	624
Purchase of property, equipment, and software in exchange for note payable	1,500	—	—
Noncash financing activities:			
Receivable from exercise of stock options included in notes and other receivables, net	—	151	—

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

- 60-

DUNKIN' BRANDS GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(1) Description of business and organization

Dunkin' Brands Group, Inc. ("DBGI"), together with its consolidated subsidiaries, is one of the world's leading franchisors of restaurants serving coffee and baked goods, as well as ice cream, within the quick service restaurant segment of the restaurant industry. We franchise and license a system of both traditional and nontraditional quick service restaurants and, in limited circumstances, have owned and operated locations. Through our Dunkin' brand, we franchise restaurants featuring coffee, donuts, bagels, breakfast sandwiches, and related products. Additionally, we license Dunkin' brand products sold in certain retail outlets such as retail packaged coffee, Dunkin' K-Cup® pods, and ready-to-drink bottled iced coffee. Through our Baskin-Robbins brand, we franchise restaurants featuring ice cream, frozen beverages, and related products. Additionally, we distribute Baskin-Robbins ice cream products to certain international markets for sale in Baskin-Robbins restaurants and certain retail outlets.

Throughout these consolidated financial statements, "Dunkin' Brands," "the Company," "we," "us," "our," and "management" to DBGI and its consolidated subsidiaries taken as a whole.

(2) Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) Fiscal year

The Company operates and reports financial information on a 52- or 53-week year on a 13-week quarter basis with the fiscal year ending on the last Saturday in December and fiscal quarters ending on the 13th Saturday of each quarter (or 14th Saturday when applicable with respect to the fourth fiscal quarter). The data periods contained within fiscal years 2018 and 2017 reflect the results of operations for the 52-week periods ended December 29, 2018 and December 30, 2017, respectively, and fiscal year 2016 reflects the results of operations for the 53-week period ended December 31, 2016.

(b) Basis of presentation and consolidation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of DBGI and subsidiaries and have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP"). All significant transactions and balances between subsidiaries and affiliates have been eliminated in consolidation. In fiscal year 2018, we adopted new guidance for revenue recognition related to contracts with customers and restated all financial statement amounts for fiscal years 2017 and 2016 (see [note 3](#)).

We consolidate entities in which we have a controlling financial interest, the usual condition of which is ownership of a majority voting interest. We also consider for consolidation an entity, in which we have certain interests, where the controlling financial interest may be achieved through arrangements that do not involve voting interests. Such an entity, known as a variable interest entity ("VIE"), is required to be consolidated by its primary beneficiary. The primary beneficiary is the entity that possesses the power to direct the activities of the VIE that most significantly impact its economic performance and has the obligation to absorb losses or the right to receive benefits from the VIE that are significant to it. The principal entities in which we possess a variable interest include franchise entities and our equity method investees. We do not possess any ownership interests in franchise entities, except for our investments in various entities that are accounted for under the equity method. Additionally, we generally do not provide financial support to franchise entities in a typical franchise relationship. As our franchise and license arrangements provide our franchisee and licensee entities the power to direct the activities that most significantly impact their economic performance, we do not consider ourselves the primary beneficiary of any such entity that might be a VIE. The Company's maximum exposure to loss resulting from involvement with potential franchise VIEs is attributable to aged trade and notes receivable balances, outstanding loan guarantees, and future lease payments due from franchisees (see [note 11](#)).

Noncontrolling interests included within total stockholders' deficit as of December 26, 2015 represented interests in a franchise entity that was deemed a variable interest entity and for which the Company was the primary beneficiary. During fiscal year 2016, the Company deconsolidated the noncontrolling interests from the Company's consolidated financial statements as it was no longer the primary beneficiary of the franchise entity.

(c) Accounting estimates

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires the use of estimates, judgments, and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues, expenses, and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and for the period then ended. Significant estimates are made in the

- 61-

calculations and assessments of the following: (a) allowance for doubtful accounts and notes receivables, (b) impairment of tangible and intangible assets, (c) other-than-temporary impairment of equity method investments, (d) income taxes, (e) share-based compensation, (f) lease accounting estimates, (g) gift card/certificate breakage, and (h) contingencies. Estimates are based on historical experience, current conditions, and various other assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. These estimates form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities when they are not readily apparent from other sources. We adjust such estimates and assumptions when facts and circumstances dictate. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions.

(d) Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash

The Company continually monitors its positions with, and the credit quality of, the financial institutions in which it maintains its deposits and investments. As of December 29, 2018 and December 30, 2017, we maintained balances in various cash accounts in excess of federally insured limits. All highly liquid instruments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less are considered cash equivalents.

Cash held related to the advertising funds and the Company's gift card/certificate programs are classified as unrestricted cash as there are no legal restrictions on the use of these funds; however, the Company intends to use these funds solely to support the advertising funds and gift card/certificate programs rather than to fund operations. Total cash balances related to the advertising funds and gift card/certificate programs as of December 29, 2018 and December 30, 2017 were \$207.3 million and \$175.7 million, respectively.

In accordance with the Company's securitized financing facility, certain cash accounts have been established in the name of Citibank, N.A. (the "Trustee") for the benefit of the Trustee and the noteholders, and are restricted in their use. The Company holds restricted cash which primarily represents (i) cash collections held by the Trustee, (ii) interest, principal, and commitment fee reserves held by the Trustee related to the Company's notes (see note 8), and (iii) real estate reserves used to pay real estate obligations.

Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash within the consolidated balance sheets that are included in the consolidated statements of cash flows as of December 29, 2018 and December 30, 2017 were as follows (in thousands):

	December 29, December 30,	
	2018	2017
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 517,594	1,018,317
Restricted cash	79,008	94,047
Restricted cash, included in Other assets	1,719	1,735
Total cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash	\$ 598,321	1,114,099

(e) Fair value of financial instruments

The carrying amounts of accounts receivable, notes and other receivables, accounts payable, and other current liabilities approximate fair value because of their short-term nature. For long-term receivables, we review the creditworthiness of the counterparty on a quarterly basis, and adjust the carrying value as necessary. We believe the carrying value of long-term receivables of \$5.0 million and \$4.9 million as of December 29, 2018 and December 30, 2017, respectively, approximates fair value.

Financial assets and liabilities are categorized, based on the inputs to the valuation technique, into a three-level fair value hierarchy. The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to the quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities and lowest priority to unobservable inputs. Observable market data, when available, is required to be used in making fair value measurements. When inputs used to measure fair value fall within different levels of the hierarchy, the level within which the fair value measurement is categorized is based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

Financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 29, 2018 and December 30, 2017 are summarized as follows (in thousands):

	December 29, 2018		December 30, 2017	
	Significant other observable inputs (Level 2)	Total	Significant other observable inputs (Level 2)	Total
Assets:				
Company-owned life insurance	\$9,906	9,906	10,836	10,836
Total assets	\$9,906	9,906	10,836	10,836
Liabilities:				
Deferred compensation liabilities	\$9,759	9,759	13,543	13,543
Total liabilities	\$9,759	9,759	13,543	13,543

The deferred compensation liabilities relate to the Dunkin' Brands, Inc. non-qualified deferred compensation plans ("NQDC Plans"), which allow for pre-tax deferral of compensation for certain qualifying employees and directors (see [note 18](#)). Changes in the fair value of the deferred compensation liabilities are derived using quoted prices in active markets of the asset selections made by the participants. The deferred compensation liabilities are classified within Level 2, as defined under U.S. GAAP, because their inputs are derived principally from observable market data by correlation to hypothetical investments. The Company holds company-owned life insurance policies to partially offset the Company's liabilities under the NQDC Plans. The changes in the fair value of any company-owned life insurance policies are derived using determinable cash surrender value. As such, the company-owned life insurance policies are classified within Level 2, as defined under U.S. GAAP.

The carrying value and estimated fair value of long-term debt as of December 29, 2018 and December 30, 2017 were as follows (in thousands):

	December 29, 2018		December 30, 2017	
Financial liabilities	Carrying value	Estimated fair value	Carrying value	Estimated fair value
Long-term debt	\$3,042,276	3,011,843	3,067,357	3,156,099

The estimated fair value of our long-term debt is estimated primarily based on current market rates for debt with similar terms and remaining maturities or current bid prices for our long-term debt. Judgment is required to develop these estimates. As such, the estimated fair value of long-term debt is classified within Level 2, as defined under U.S. GAAP.

(f) Inventories

Inventories consist primarily of ice cream products sold to certain international markets that are in-transit from our third-party manufacturer to our international licensees, during which time we hold title to such products. The majority of ice cream products are purchased from one supplier. Inventories are valued at the lower of cost or estimated net realizable value, and cost is generally determined based on the actual cost of the specific inventory sold. An immaterial amount of inventories are included within prepaid expenses and other current assets in the consolidated balance sheets.

(g) Property, equipment, and software

Property, equipment, and software are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the respective assets. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of the estimated useful life or the remaining lease term of the related asset. Estimated useful lives are as follows:

	Years
Buildings	20 – 35

Leasehold improvements 5 – 20

Store, production, and other equipment 3 – 10

Software 3 – 7

Depreciation related to the U.S. Advertising Funds segment is included within advertising expenses in the consolidated statements of operations.

- 63-

Routine maintenance and repair costs are charged to expense as incurred. Major improvements, additions, or replacements that extend the life, increase capacity, or improve the safety or the efficiency of property are capitalized at cost and depreciated. Major improvements to leased property are capitalized as leasehold improvements and depreciated. Interest costs incurred during the acquisition period of capital assets are capitalized as part of the cost of the asset and depreciated. Long-lived assets to be disposed of are reported at the lower of their carrying amount or fair value less estimated costs to sell.

(h) Leases

When determining lease terms, we begin with the point at which the Company obtains control and possession of the leased properties. We include option periods for which failure to renew the lease imposes a penalty on the Company in such an amount that the renewal appears, at the inception of the lease, to be reasonably assured, which generally includes option periods through the end of the related franchise agreement term. We also include any rent holidays in the determination of the lease term.

We record rent expense and rental income for leases and subleases, respectively, that contain scheduled rent increases on a straight-line basis over the lease term as defined above. In certain cases, contingent rentals are based on sales levels of our franchisees, in excess of stipulated amounts. Contingent rentals are included in rental income and rent expense as they are earned or accrued, respectively.

We occasionally provide to our sublessees, or receive from our landlords, tenant improvement allowances. Tenant improvement allowances paid to our sublessees are recorded as a deferred rent asset. For fixed asset and/or leasehold purchases for which we receive tenant improvement allowances from our landlords, we record the property and equipment and/or leasehold improvements gross and establish a deferred rent obligation. The deferred lease assets and obligations are amortized on a straight-line basis over the determined sublease and lease terms, respectively.

Management regularly reviews sublease arrangements, where we are the lessor, for losses on sublease arrangements. We recognize a loss, discounted using credit-adjusted risk-free rates, when costs expected to be incurred under an operating prime lease exceed the anticipated future revenue stream of the operating sublease. Furthermore, for properties where we do not currently have an operational franchise or other third-party sublessee and are under long-term lease agreements, the present value of any remaining liability under the lease, discounted using credit-adjusted risk-free rates and net of estimated sublease recovery, is recognized as a liability and recorded as an operating expense at the time we cease use of the property. The value of any equipment and leasehold improvements related to a closed store is assessed for potential impairment (see note 2(i)).

(i) Impairment of long-lived assets

Long-lived assets that are used in operations are tested for recoverability whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable through undiscounted future cash flows. Recognition and measurement of a potential impairment is performed on assets grouped with other assets and liabilities at the lowest level where identifiable cash flows are largely independent of the cash flows of other assets and liabilities. An impairment loss is the amount by which the carrying amount of a long-lived asset or asset group exceeds its estimated fair value. Fair value is generally estimated by internal specialists based on the present value of anticipated future cash flows or, if required, with the assistance of independent third-party valuation specialists, depending on the nature of the assets or asset group.

(j) Equity method investments

The Company's equity method investments consist of interests in B-R 31 Ice Cream Co., Ltd. ("Japan JV"), BR-Korea Co., Ltd. ("South Korea JV"), and Palm Oasis Pty. Ltd. ("Australia JV"), which are accounted for in accordance with the equity method. The Company also previously accounted for an ownership interest in Coffee Alliance, S.L. ("Spain JV") in accordance with the equity method, which interest was sold during fiscal year 2016 (see [note 6](#)).

The Company evaluates its equity method investments for impairment whenever an event or change in circumstances occurs that may have a significant adverse impact on the fair value of the investment. If a loss in value has occurred and is deemed to be other than temporary, an impairment loss is recorded. Several factors are reviewed to determine whether a loss has occurred that is other than temporary, including absence of an ability to recover the carrying amount of the investment, the length and extent of the fair value decline, and the financial condition and future prospects of the investee.

(k) Goodwill and other intangible assets

Goodwill and trade names (“indefinite-lived intangibles”) have been assigned to our reporting units, which are also our operating segments, for purposes of impairment testing. Dunkin' U.S., Dunkin' International, Baskin-Robbins U.S., and Baskin-Robbins International have indefinite-lived intangibles associated with them.

- 64-

We evaluate the remaining useful life of our trade names to determine whether current events and circumstances continue to support an indefinite useful life. In addition, all of our indefinite-lived intangible assets are tested for impairment annually. We first assess qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that a trade name is impaired. In the event we were to determine that the carrying value of a trade name would more likely than not exceed its fair value, quantitative testing would be performed which consists of a comparison of the fair value of each trade name with its carrying value, with any excess of carrying value over fair value being recognized as an impairment loss. For goodwill, we first perform a qualitative assessment to determine if the fair value of the reporting unit is more likely than not greater than the carrying amount. In the event we were to determine that a reporting unit's carrying value would more likely than not exceed its fair value, quantitative testing would be performed which consists of a comparison of each reporting unit's fair value to its carrying value. The fair value of a reporting unit is an estimate of the amount for which the unit as a whole could be sold in a current transaction between willing parties. If the carrying value of a reporting unit exceeds its fair value, goodwill impairment is calculated as the difference between the carrying value of the reporting unit and its fair value, but not exceeding the carrying amount of goodwill allocated to that reporting unit. We have selected the first day of our fiscal third quarter as the date on which to perform our annual impairment test for all indefinite-lived intangible assets. We also test for impairment whenever events or circumstances indicate that the fair value of such indefinite-lived intangibles has been impaired.

Other intangible assets consist primarily of franchise and international license rights ("franchise rights") and operating lease interests acquired related to our prime leases and subleases ("operating leases acquired"). Franchise rights and favorable operating leases acquired recorded in the consolidated balance sheets were valued using an appropriate valuation method as of the date of acquisition. Amortization of franchise rights and favorable operating leases acquired is recorded as amortization expense in the consolidated statements of operations and amortized over the respective franchise and lease terms using the straight-line method.

Unfavorable operating leases acquired related to our prime and subleases are recorded in the liability section of the consolidated balance sheets and are amortized into rental expense and rental income, respectively, over the base lease term of the respective leases using the straight-line method. The weighted average amortization period for all unfavorable operating leases acquired is 18 years.

Management makes adjustments to the carrying amount of such intangible assets and unfavorable operating leases acquired if they are deemed to be impaired using the methodology for long-lived assets (see note 2(i)), or when such license or lease agreements are reduced or terminated.

(l) Contingencies

The Company records reserves for legal and other contingencies when information available to the Company indicates that it is probable that a liability has been incurred and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. Predicting the outcomes of claims and litigation and estimating the related costs and exposures involve substantial uncertainties that could cause actual costs to vary materially from estimates. Legal costs incurred in connection with legal and other contingencies are expensed as the costs are incurred.

(m) Foreign currency translation

We translate assets and liabilities of non-U.S. operations into U.S. dollars at rates of exchange in effect at the balance sheet date, and revenues and expenses at the average exchange rates prevailing during the period. Resulting translation adjustments are recorded as a separate component of other comprehensive income (loss) and stockholders' deficit, net of deferred taxes. Foreign currency translation adjustments primarily result from our equity method investments, as well as subsidiaries located in Canada, the UK, Australia, and other foreign jurisdictions. Transactions resulting in foreign exchange gains and losses are included in the consolidated statements of operations.

(n) Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognized in accordance with a five-step revenue model, as follows: identifying the contract with the customer; identifying the performance obligations in the contract; determining the transaction price; allocating the transaction price to the performance obligations; and recognizing revenue when (or as) the entity satisfies a performance obligation.

Franchise fees and royalty income

Domestically, the Company sells individual franchises as well as territory agreements in the form of store development agreements (“SDAs”) that grant the right to develop restaurants in designated areas. The franchise agreements and SDAs typically require the franchisee to pay initial nonrefundable franchise fees prior to opening the respective restaurants and continuing fees, or royalty income, on a weekly basis based upon a percentage of franchisee gross sales. The initial term of

- 65-

domestic franchise agreements is typically 20 years. Prior to the end of the franchise term or as otherwise provided by the Company, a franchisee may elect to renew the term of a franchise agreement and, if approved, will typically pay a renewal fee upon execution of the renewal term. If approved, a franchisee may transfer a franchise agreement or SDA to a new or existing franchisee, at which point a transfer fee is paid. Occasionally, the Company offers incentive programs to franchisees in conjunction with a franchise/license agreement, territory agreement, or renewal agreement. Internationally, the Company sells master franchise agreements that grant the master franchisee the right to develop and operate, and in some instances sub-franchise, a certain number of restaurants within a particular geographic area. The master franchisee is typically required to pay an upfront market entry fee upon entering into the master franchise agreement and an upfront initial franchise fee for each developed restaurant prior to each respective opening. For the Dunkin' brand and in certain Baskin-Robbins international markets, the master franchisee will also pay continuing fees, or royalty income, generally on a monthly basis based upon a percentage of sales. Generally, the master franchise agreement serves as the franchise agreement for the underlying restaurants, and the initial franchise term provided for each restaurant typically ranges between 10 and 20 years.

Generally, the franchise license granted for each individual restaurant within an arrangement represents a single performance obligation. Therefore, initial franchise fees and market entry fees for each arrangement are allocated to each individual restaurant and recognized over the term of the respective franchise agreement from the date of the restaurant opening. Royalty income is also recognized over the term of the respective franchise agreement based on the royalties earned each period as the underlying sales occur. Renewal fees are generally recognized over the renewal term for the respective restaurant from the start of the renewal period. Transfer fees are recognized over the remaining term of the franchise agreement beginning at the time of transfer. Incentives provided to franchisees in conjunction with a franchise/license agreement, territory agreement, or renewal agreement are recognized over the remaining term of the respective agreement. Additionally, for Baskin-Robbins international markets that do not pay a royalty, a portion of the consideration from the sales of ice cream and other products is allocated to royalty income as consideration for the use of the franchise license, which is recognized when the related sales occur and is estimated based on royalty rates in effect for markets where the franchise license is sold on a standalone basis. Fees received or receivable that are expected to be recognized as revenue within one year are classified as current deferred revenue in the consolidated balance sheets.

Advertising fees and related income

Domestically and in limited international markets, franchise agreements typically require the franchisee to pay continuing advertising fees on a weekly basis based on a percentage of franchisee gross sales, which represents a portion of the consideration received for the single performance obligation of the franchise license. Continuing advertising fees are recognized over the term of the respective franchise agreement based on the fees earned each period as the underlying sales occur.

The Company and its franchisees sell gift cards that are redeemable for products in our Dunkin' and Baskin-Robbins restaurants. The Company manages the gift card program, and therefore collects all funds from the activation of gift cards and reimburses franchisees for the redemption of gift cards in their restaurants. A liability for unredeemed gift cards, as well as historical gift certificates sold, is included in other current liabilities in the consolidated balance sheets.

There are no expiration dates or service fees charged on the gift cards. While the franchisees continue to honor all gift cards presented for payment, the likelihood of redemption may be determined to be remote for certain cards due to long periods of inactivity. In these circumstances, the Company may recognize revenue from unredeemed gift cards ("breakage revenue") if they are not subject to unclaimed property laws. For Dunkin' gift cards enrolled in the DD Perks® Rewards loyalty program and other cards with expected similar redemption behavior, breakage is estimated and recognized at the point in time when the likelihood of redemption of any remaining card balance becomes remote, generally after a period of sufficient inactivity. Breakage revenue on all other Dunkin' gift cards and all Baskin-Robbins gift cards is estimated and recognized over time in proportion to actual gift card redemptions, based on historical redemption rates. Significant judgment is required in estimating breakage rates and in determining whether to recognize breakage revenue over time or when the likelihood of redemption becomes remote.

The Company also collects gift card program service fees from franchisees to offset the costs to administer the gift card program. The gift card program service fees are based on the volume of gift card transactions processed and are recognized as the underlying transactions occur.

Rental income

Rental income for base rentals is recorded on a straight-line basis over the lease term, including the amortization of any tenant improvement allowances paid (see note 2(h)). The differences between the straight-line rent amounts and amounts receivable under the leases are recorded as deferred rent assets in current or long-term assets, as appropriate. Contingent rental income is

recognized as earned, and any amounts received from lessees in advance of achieving stipulated thresholds are deferred until such thresholds are actually achieved. Deferred contingent rentals are recorded as deferred revenue in current liabilities in the consolidated balance sheets.

Sales of ice cream and other products

We distribute Baskin-Robbins ice cream products and, in limited cases, Dunkin' products to franchisees and licensees in certain international locations. Revenue from the sale of ice cream and other products, including distribution fees, is recognized when title and risk of loss transfers to the buyer, which is generally upon delivery. Payment for ice cream and other products is generally due within a relatively short period of time subsequent to delivery.

Sales at company-operated restaurants

Retail store revenues at company-operated restaurants were recognized when payments were tendered at the point of sale, net of sales tax and other sales-related taxes. As of December 29, 2018, December 30, 2017, and December 31, 2016, the Company did not own or operate any restaurants.

Other revenues

Other revenues include fees generated by licensing our brand names and other intellectual property, as well as gains, net of losses and transactions costs, from the sales of restaurants that were not company-operated to new or existing franchisees. Licensing fees are recognized over the term of the expected license agreement, with sales-based license fees being recognized based on the amount earned each period as the underlying sales occur. Gains on the refranchise or sale of a restaurant are recognized over the term of the related agreement.

(o) Allowance for doubtful accounts

We monitor the financial condition of our franchisees and licensees and record provisions for estimated losses on receivables when we believe that our franchisees or licensees are unable to make their required payments. While we use the best information available in making our determination, the ultimate recovery of recorded receivables is also dependent upon future economic events and other conditions that may be beyond our control. Included in the allowance for doubtful notes and accounts receivables is a provision for uncollectible royalty, advertising fee, lease, ice cream, and licensing fee receivables.

(p) Share-based payments

We measure compensation cost at fair value on the date of grant for all share-based awards and recognize compensation expense over the service period that the awards are expected to vest. The Company has elected to recognize compensation cost for graded-vesting awards subject only to a service condition over the requisite service period of the entire award. Forfeitures are estimated based on historical and forecasted turnover.

As a result of the required adoption of new accounting guidance, the Company began recording excess tax benefits to the provision for income taxes in the consolidated statements of operations beginning in fiscal year 2017, instead of additional paid-in capital in the consolidated balance sheets. As a result, the Company recorded excess tax benefits of \$19.7 million and \$7.8 million for fiscal years 2018 and 2017, respectively, to provision for income taxes in the consolidated statements of operations, and recorded \$2.7 million for fiscal year 2016 to additional paid-in capital in the consolidated balance sheets.

(q) Income taxes

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recorded for the expected future tax consequences of items that have been included in our consolidated financial statements or tax returns. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are determined based on the differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of assets and liabilities and the respective tax bases of assets and liabilities using enacted tax rates that are expected to apply in years in which the temporary differences are expected to reverse. The effects of changes in tax rates and changes in apportionment of income between tax jurisdictions on deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized in the consolidated statements of operations in the year in which the law is enacted or change in apportionment occurs (see [note 16](#)). Valuation allowances are provided when the Company does not believe it is more likely than not that it will realize the benefit of identified tax assets. We have made an accounting policy election to treat taxes due under the global intangible low-taxed income provision as a current period expense.

A tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return is recognized in the financial statements when it is more likely than not that the position would be sustained upon examination by tax authorities. A recognized tax position is

then measured at the largest amount of benefit that is greater than fifty percent likely of being realized upon ultimate settlement. Estimates of interest and penalties on unrecognized tax benefits are recorded in the provision for income taxes.

- 67-

(r) Comprehensive income

Comprehensive income is primarily comprised of net income, foreign currency translation adjustments, and gains and losses on interest rate swaps, and is reported in the consolidated statements of comprehensive income, net of taxes, for all periods presented.

(s) Debt issuance costs

Debt issuance costs represent capitalizable costs incurred related to the issuance and refinancing of the Company's long-term debt (see [note 8](#)). As of December 29, 2018 and December 30, 2017, debt issuance costs of \$29.5 million and \$34.5 million, respectively, are included in long-term debt, net in the consolidated balance sheets, and are being amortized over the remaining maturities of the debt, based on projected required repayments, using the effective interest rate method.

(t) Concentration of credit risk

The Company is subject to credit risk through its accounts receivable consisting primarily of amounts due from franchisees and licensees for franchise fees, royalty income, advertising fees, and sales of ice cream and other products. In addition, we have note and lease receivables from certain of our franchisees and licensees. The financial condition of these franchisees and licensees is largely dependent upon the underlying business trends of our brands and market conditions within the quick service restaurant industry. This concentration of credit risk is mitigated, in part, by the large number of franchisees and licensees of each brand and the short-term nature of the franchise and license fee and lease receivables. As of each of December 29, 2018 and December 30, 2017, one master licensee, including its majority-owned subsidiaries, accounted for approximately 11% of total accounts and notes receivable. No individual franchisee or master licensee accounted for more than 10% of total revenues for fiscal years 2018, 2017, or 2016.

(u) Advertising expenses

Advertising expenses in the consolidated statements of operations includes advertising expenses incurred by the Company, primarily through advertising funds, including those expenses for the administration of the gift card program. The Company expenses production costs of commercial advertising upon first airing and expenses the costs of communicating the advertising in the period in which the advertising occurs. Costs of print advertising and certain promotion-related items are deferred and expensed the first time the advertising is displayed. Prepaid expenses and other current assets in the consolidated balance sheets include \$15.0 million and \$15.5 million at December 29, 2018 and December 30, 2017, respectively, that was related to advertising. Advertising expenses are allocated to interim periods in relation to the related revenues. When revenues of the advertising fund exceed the related advertising expenses, advertising costs are accrued up to the amount of revenues.

(v) Recent accounting pronouncements

Recently adopted accounting pronouncements

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the "FASB") issued new guidance for revenue recognition related to contracts with customers ("ASC 606"), except for contracts within the scope of other standards, which supersedes nearly all existing revenue recognition guidance. The Company retrospectively adopted this new guidance in fiscal year 2018. See [note 3](#) for further disclosure of the impact of the new guidance.

In March 2016, the FASB issued new guidance which aligns recognition of breakage for prepaid stored-value products such as prepaid gift cards with the breakage guidance in ASC 606. The new guidance requires recognition of the estimated breakage amount either proportionally as redemption occurs or when redemption is remote, if the entity does not expect to be entitled to breakage. The Company adopted this guidance in fiscal year 2018. The adoption of this guidance had no impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In February 2018, the FASB issued new guidance allowing companies the option to reclassify from accumulated other comprehensive loss to accumulated deficit the stranded income tax effects resulting from the enactment of the tax legislation commonly referred to as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the "Tax Act") that was enacted on December 22, 2017. The Company early adopted this standard during the first quarter of fiscal year 2018 and has elected to present the change in the period of adoption. The adoption of this guidance did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

Recent accounting pronouncements not yet adopted

In February 2016, the FASB issued new guidance for lease accounting, which replaces existing lease accounting guidance. The new guidance aims to increase transparency and comparability among organizations by requiring lessees to recognize lease assets and lease liabilities on the balance sheet and requiring disclosure of key information about leasing arrangements. This guidance is effective for the Company in fiscal year 2019 with early adoption permitted, and modified retrospective application is required with an option to not restate comparative periods in the period of adoption. The Company will adopt this new

guidance in fiscal year 2019 without restating comparative periods. Substantially all of the Company's operating lease commitments will be subject to the new guidance and will be recognized as operating lease liabilities and right-of-use assets upon adoption, initially measured as the present value of future lease payments, thereby having a material impact to its consolidated balance sheet. We do not expect the adoption of the new guidance to have a material impact on the Company's consolidated statements of operations or cash flows, or compliance with debt agreements. The Company expects to elect the package of practical expedients permitted under the new guidance, which includes allowing the Company to continue utilizing historical classification of leases. However, the Company does not expect to adopt the hindsight practical expedient, and therefore expects to continue to utilize lease terms determined under existing lease guidance.

The Company is party to various operating leases for property, including land and buildings, as well as leases for office equipment and automobiles. The Company expects the adoption of the new guidance will result in the recognition of operating lease assets and liabilities of approximately \$390 million to \$405 million and \$435 million to \$450 million, respectively, for these leases. The difference between the assets and liabilities will be attributable to the reclassification of certain existing lease-related assets and liabilities as an adjustment to the right-of-use assets. The Company has not yet finalized quantifying the impact, if any, of leases included in certain other contracts.

The accounting guidance for lessors will remain largely unchanged from previous guidance, with the exception of the presentation of certain lease costs that the Company passes through to lessees, including but not limited to, property taxes, insurance, and maintenance. These costs are generally paid by the Company and reimbursed by the lessee.

Historically, these costs have been recorded on a net basis in the consolidated statements of operations, but will be presented gross upon adoption of the new guidance. The Company expects the adoption of the new guidance will result in the recognition of additional rental income and occupancy expenses—franchised restaurants of approximately \$15 million to \$20 million annually beginning in fiscal year 2019.

The Company continues to evaluate the impact the adoption of this new guidance will have on financial statement disclosures, in addition to evaluating business processes and internal controls related to lease accounting to assist in the ongoing application of the new guidance.

(w) Subsequent events

Subsequent events have been evaluated up through the date that these consolidated financial statements were filed.

(3) Revenue recognition

(a) Disaggregation of revenue

Revenues are disaggregated by timing of revenue recognition and reconciled to reportable segment revenues as follows (in thousands):

Fiscal year ended ended December 29, 2018

	Baskin-Robbins U.S.	Dunkin' International	Baskin-Robbins International	U.S. Advertising Funds	Total reportable segment revenues	Other ^(a)	Total revenues
--	------------------------	--------------------------	---------------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	----------------------	-------------------

Revenues recognized under ASC

606

Revenues recognized over time: