

CDW Corp
Form 10-K/A
November 08, 2013
Table of Contents

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

FORM 10-K/A
Amendment No. 1

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012

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 001-35985

CDW CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

26-0273989
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

200 N. Milwaukee Avenue

Vernon Hills, Illinois
(Address of principal executive offices)

60061
(Zip Code)

(847) 465-6000

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

None

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

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

Title of Each Class:
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share

Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered:
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 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 and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted 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

Edgar Filing: CDW Corp - Form 10-K/A

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405) 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, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer, and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

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 common equity held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of June 30, 2012, the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter preceding the filing of the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, was zero.

As of March 6, 2013, there were 100,000 Class A common shares, \$0.01 par value, outstanding, and 914,537 Class B common shares, \$0.01 par value, outstanding, all of which were owned by CDW Holdings LLC.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

None

Table of Contents

Explanatory Note

CDW Corporation, a Delaware corporation (the Company), hereby amends its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 8, 2013 (the Original Annual Report) to conform the disclosures contained in the Original Annual Report to the disclosures contained in the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-187472), as amended (the Registration Statement), to reflect comments received from the staff of the Division of Corporation Finance of the Securities and Exchange Commission issued in connection with the staff's review of the Registration Statement.

Except as specifically referenced herein and notwithstanding that the Company is hereby amending the Original Annual Report to conform to the disclosures contained in the Registration Statement, as amended, this Amendment No. 1 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K (Amendment No. 1) reflects matters as they existed on the original filing date of March 8, 2013 and does not reflect any event occurring subsequent to March 8, 2013. Accordingly, this Amendment No. 1 should be read in conjunction with the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission subsequent to the filing of the Original Annual Report, including any amendments to those filings.

Table of Contents**CDW CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES****ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K****Year Ended December 31, 2012****TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Item		Page
<u>PART I</u>		
Item 1.	<u>Business</u>	5
Item 1A.	<u>Risk Factors</u>	10
Item 1B.	<u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	19
Item 2.	<u>Properties</u>	19
Item 3.	<u>Legal Proceedings</u>	19
Item 4.	<u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	19
<u>PART II</u>		
Item 5.	<u>Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	20
Item 6.	<u>Selected Financial Data</u>	20
Item 7.	<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	25
Item 7A.	<u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	49
Item 8.	<u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	50
Item 9.	<u>Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	101
Item 9A.	<u>Controls and Procedures</u>	101
Item 9B.	<u>Other Information</u>	103
<u>PART III</u>		
Item 10.	<u>Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u>	104
Item 11.	<u>Executive Compensation</u>	109
Item 12.	<u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	125
Item 13.	<u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	127
Item 14.	<u>Principal Accountant Fees and Services</u>	129
<u>PART IV</u>		
Item 15.	<u>Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules</u>	130

SIGNATURES

131

3

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws. All statements other than statements of historical fact included in this report are forward-looking statements. These statements relate to analyses and other information, which are based on forecasts of future results and estimates of amounts not yet determinable. These statements also relate to our future prospects, developments and business strategies. We claim the protection of The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 for all forward-looking statements in this report.

These forward-looking statements are identified by the use of terms and phrases such as anticipate, believe, could, estimate, expect, intend, may, plan, predict, project, will and similar terms and phrases, including references to assumptions. However, these words are not the exclusive means of identifying such statements. Although we believe that our plans, intentions and expectations reflected in or suggested by such forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot assure you that we will achieve those plans, intentions or expectations. All forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially from those that we expected.

Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from our expectations, or cautionary statements, are disclosed under the section entitled Risk Factors included elsewhere in this report. All written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us, or persons acting on our behalf, are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements contained in the section entitled Risk Factors included elsewhere in this report as well as other cautionary statements that are made from time to time in our other SEC filings and public communications. You should evaluate all forward-looking statements made in this report in the context of these risks and uncertainties.

We caution you that the important factors referenced above may not contain all of the factors that are important to you. In addition, we cannot assure you that we will realize the results or developments we expect or anticipate or, even if substantially realized, that they will result in the consequences or affect us or our operations in the way we expect. The forward-looking statements included in this report are made only as of the date hereof. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as otherwise required by law.

Table of Contents

PART I

Item 1. Business

Our Company

CDW is a Fortune 500 company and a leading provider of integrated information technology (IT) solutions in the U.S. and Canada. We help our customer base of more than 250,000 small, medium and large business, government, education and healthcare customers by delivering critical solutions to their increasingly complex IT needs. Our broad array of offerings range from discrete hardware and software products to integrated IT solutions such as mobility, security, data center optimization, cloud computing, virtualization and collaboration. We are technology agnostic, with a product portfolio that includes more than 100,000 products from more than 1,000 brands. We provide our products and solutions through sales force and service delivery teams consisting of more than 4,300 coworkers, including over 1,700 field sellers, highly skilled technology specialists and advanced service delivery engineers.

We are a leading U.S. sales channel partner for many original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and software publishers (collectively, our vendor partners), whose products we sell or include in the solutions we offer. We believe we are an important extension of our vendor partners sales and marketing capabilities, providing them with a cost-effective way to reach customers and deliver a consistent brand experience through our established end-market coverage and extensive customer access.

We provide value to our customers by simplifying the complexities of technology across design, selection, procurement, integration and management. Our goal is to have our customers, regardless of their size, view us as an indispensable extension of their IT staffs. We seek to achieve this goal by providing our customers with superior service through our large and experienced sales force and service delivery teams. Our multi-brand offering approach enables us to identify the products or combination of products that best address each customer s specific organizational IT requirements and to evolve our offerings as new technologies develop.

We believe we offer the following value proposition to our customers and our vendor partners:

Our value proposition to our customers	Our value proposition to our vendor partners
Broad selection of products and multi-branded IT solutions	Access to over 250,000 customers throughout the U.S. and Canada
Value-added services with integration capabilities	Large and established customer channels
Highly skilled specialists and engineers	Strong distribution and implementation capabilities
Solutions across a very broad IT landscape	Value-added solutions and marketing programs that generate end-user demand

Our customers include private sector businesses that typically employ fewer than 5,000 employees, government agencies and educational and healthcare institutions. We serve our customers through channel-specific sales teams and

service delivery teams with extensive technical skills and knowledge of the specific markets they serve. This market segmentation allows us to customize our offerings and to provide enhanced expertise in designing and implementing IT solutions for our customers. We currently have five dedicated customer channels: medium/large business, small business, government, education and healthcare, each of which generated over \$1 billion in net sales in 2012. The scale and diversity of our customer channels provide us with multiple avenues for growth and a balanced customer base to weather economic and technology cycles. For example, from 2008 through 2010, a period that included the recent financial crisis, sales to our government and education customers grew while sales to our medium/large business and small business customers held steady or experienced only slight growth. In contrast, from 2010 through 2012, our medium/large business and small business channels have experienced significantly stronger growth relative to our government and education channels. Our healthcare channel experienced strong growth during both periods.

Table of Contents

The following table provides information regarding our reportable segments and our customer channels:

Customer Channels	Corporate Segment		Public Segment			
	Medium / Large Business	Small Business	Government	Education	Healthcare	Other
<i>Target Customers</i>	100 - 5,000 employees	10 - 100 employees	Various federal, state and local agencies	Higher education and K-12	Hospitals, ambulatory service providers and long-term care facilities	Advanced services customers plus Canada
<i>2012 Net Sales (in billions)</i>	\$4.4	\$1.1	\$1.4	\$1.2	\$1.4	\$0.6

For further information on our segments, including financial results, see Note 17 to our consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this report.

We offer over 1,000 brands, from well-established companies such as APC, Apple, Cisco, EMC, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Lenovo, Microsoft, NetApp, Symantec and VMware, to emerging vendor partners such as Drobo, Fusion-io, Meraki, Nimble Storage, Salesforce.com, Sophos and Splunk. In 2012, we generated over \$1 billion of revenue for each of three of our vendor partners and over \$100 million of revenue for each of 12 other vendor partners. We have received the highest level of certification from major vendor partners, such as Cisco, EMC and Microsoft, which reflects the extensive product and solution knowledge and capabilities that we bring to our customers IT challenges. These certifications also provide us with access to favorable pricing, tools and resources, including vendor incentive programs, which we use to provide additional value to our customers. Our vendor partners also regularly recognize us with top awards and select us to develop and grow new customer solutions.

History

CDW was founded in 1984. In 2003, we purchased selected U.S. assets and the Canadian operations of Micro Warehouse, which extended our growth platform into Canada. In 2006, we acquired Berbee Information Networks Corporation, a regional provider of technology products, solutions and customized engineering services in advanced technologies primarily across Cisco, IBM and Microsoft portfolios. This acquisition increased our capabilities in customized engineering services and managed services.

On October 12, 2007, CDW Corporation, an Illinois corporation, was acquired through a merger transaction by an entity controlled by investment funds affiliated with Madison Dearborn Partners, LLC and Providence Equity Partners L.L.C. (the Acquisition). CDW Corporation continued as the surviving corporation and same legal entity after the Acquisition, but became a wholly owned subsidiary of VH Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation.

On December 31, 2009, CDW Corporation merged into CDWC LLC, an Illinois limited liability company owned by VH Holdings, Inc., with CDWC LLC as the surviving entity. This change had no impact on our operations or management. On December 31, 2009, CDWC LLC was renamed CDW LLC (CDW LLC). On August 17, 2010, VH Holdings, Inc. was renamed CDW Corporation (Parent), a Delaware corporation.

Throughout this report, the terms the Company and CDW refer to Parent and its 100% owned subsidiaries subsequent to the Acquisition.

Parent is owned directly by CDW Holdings LLC, a company controlled by investment funds affiliated with Madison Dearborn Partners, LLC and Providence Equity Partners L.L.C. (the Equity Sponsors), certain other co-investors and certain members of CDW management. See Equity Sponsors below.

Table of Contents

Our Market

We operate in the U.S. and Canadian IT market, which is a large and growing market. According to IDC, the overall U.S. IT market generated approximately \$630 billion in sales in 2012. We believe our addressable market in the U.S. in the indirect sales channel represents more than \$200 billion in annual sales and for the year ended December 31, 2012, our U.S. net sales of \$9.7 billion represented approximately 5% of that highly diverse and fragmented market. According to IDC, the overall Canadian IT market generated approximately \$50 billion in sales in 2012. We believe our addressable market in Canada in the indirect sales channel represents nearly \$10 billion in annual sales and for the year ended December 31, 2012, our net sales of \$445 million in Canada represented approximately 5% of that market. We believe we have the largest market share in our addressable market, with our 2012 net sales exceeding the cumulative North American net sales of our five largest publicly traded sales channel competitors, based upon publicly available information for those companies. New technologies, including cloud, virtualization and mobility, coupled with the resulting increase in demand for data as well as aging infrastructure, are increasingly requiring businesses and institutions to seek integrated solutions to their IT needs. We expect this trend to continue for the foreseeable future, with end-user demand for business efficiency and productivity driving future IT spending growth.

Our Offerings

Our offerings range from discrete hardware and software products and services to complex integrated solutions that include one or more of these elements. We believe our customers increasingly view technology purchases as integrated solutions rather than discrete product and service categories and we estimate that approximately 50% of our net sales in 2012 came from sales of product categories and services typically associated with solutions. Our hardware products include notebooks/mobile devices (including tablets), network communications, enterprise and data storage, video monitors, printers, desktop computers and servers. Our software products include application suites, security, virtualization, operating systems, network management and Software as a Service (SaaS) offerings. We also provide a full suite of value-added-services, which range from basic installation, warranty and repair services to custom configuration, data center and network implementation services, as well as managed services that include Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) offerings.

We also offer a variety of integrated solutions, such as:

Mobility: We assist our customers with the selection, procurement and integration of mobile security software, hardware devices such as smartphones, tablets and notebooks, and cellular wireless activation systems. We also provide mobile device management applications with policy and security management capabilities across a variety of mobile operating systems and platforms.

Security: We assess our customers' security needs and provide them with threat prevention tools in order to protect their networks, servers and applications, such as anti-virus, anti-spam, content filtering, intrusion prevention, firewall and virtual private network services, and network access control. We also design and implement data loss prevention solutions, using data monitoring and encryption across a wide array of devices to ensure the security of customer information, personal employee information and research and development data.

Data Center Optimization: We help our customers evaluate their data centers for convergence and optimization opportunities. Our data center optimization solutions consist of server virtualization, physical server consolidation, data storage management and energy-efficient power and cooling systems.

Cloud Computing: Cloud computing is a combination of software and computing delivered on demand as a service. We provide SaaS and IaaS solutions that reside in the public cloud, meaning any person or organization interested in

porting applications and resources to an external public cloud system can do so. Likewise, we provide similar private cloud-based solutions to our customers that prefer to avoid running their infrastructure on a shared public platform but want to obtain the flexibility, scalability and access offered by cloud computing and collaboration.

Virtualization: We design and implement server, storage and desktop virtualization solutions. Virtualization enables our customers to efficiently utilize hardware resources by running multiple, independent, virtual operating systems on a single computer and multiple virtual servers simultaneously on a single server. Virtualization also can separate a desktop environment and associated application software from the hardware device that is used to access it, and provides employees with remote desktop access. Our specialists assist customers with the steps of implementing virtualization solutions, including evaluating network environments, deploying shared storage options and licensing platform software.

Collaboration: We provide our customers with communication tools that allow employees to share knowledge, ideas and information among each other and with clients and partners effectively and quickly. Our collaboration solutions unite communications and applications via the integration of products that facilitate the use of multiple enterprise communication methods including email, instant messaging, presence, social media, voice, video, hardware, software and services. We also host cloud-based collaboration solutions.

Table of Contents

While we believe customers increasingly view technology purchases as solutions rather than discrete product and service categories, the following table shows our net sales by major category, based upon our internal category classifications.

	Year Ended December 31, 2012		Year Ended December 31, 2011		Year Ended December 31, 2010 (1)	
	Dollars in Millions	Percentage of Total Net Sales	Dollars in Millions	Percentage of Total Net Sales	Dollars in Millions	Percentage of Total Net Sales
Notebooks/Mobile Devices	\$ 1,470.8	14.5%	\$ 1,333.8	13.9%	\$ 1,142.6	13.0%
NetComm Products	1,350.6	13.3	1,241.4	12.9	1,142.0	13.0
Enterprise and Data Storage (Including Drives)	975.1	9.6	916.9	9.5	844.1	9.6
Other Hardware	4,111.1	40.6	4,039.2	42.1	3,783.5	43.0
Software	1,886.6	18.6	1,781.6	18.6	1,621.8	18.4
Services	285.2	2.8	254.6	2.7	214.9	2.4
Other (2)	48.8	0.6	34.9	0.3	52.3	0.6
Total net sales	\$ 10,128.2	100.0%	\$ 9,602.4	100.0%	\$ 8,801.2	100.0%

(1) Amounts have been reclassified for changes in individual product classifications to conform to the presentation for the year ended December 31, 2012.

(2) Includes items such as delivery charges to customers and certain commission revenue.

Our Customers

We provide integrated IT solutions to more than 250,000 small, medium and large business, government, education and healthcare customers throughout the U.S. and Canada. Sales to the U.S. federal government, which are diversified across multiple agencies and departments, collectively accounted for approximately 10% of our 2012 net sales. However, there are several independent purchasing decision-makers across these agencies and departments. Excluding these sales to the federal government, we are not reliant on any one customer, as our next five largest customers cumulatively comprised approximately 2% of our net sales in 2012.

Inventory Management

We utilize our IT systems to manage our inventory in a cost-efficient manner, resulting in a rapid-turn inventory model. We generally only stock items that have attained a minimum sales volume.

Our distribution process is highly automated. Once a customer order is received and credit approved, orders are automatically routed to one of our distribution centers for picking and shipping as well as configuration and imaging services. We operate two distribution centers: an approximately 450,000 square foot facility in Vernon Hills, Illinois, and an approximately 513,000 square foot facility in North Las Vegas, Nevada. We ship almost 35 million units annually on an aggregate basis from our two distribution centers. We believe that the location of our distribution centers allows us to efficiently ship products throughout the U.S. and provide timely access to our principal distributors. In addition, in the event of weather-related or other disruptions at one of our distribution centers, we are able to shift order processing and fulfillment from one center to the other quickly and efficiently, enabling us to

continue to ship products in a timely manner. We believe that competitive sources of supply are available in substantially all of the product categories we offer. We continue to improve the productivity of our distribution centers as measured by key performance indicators such as units shipped per hour worked and bin accuracy.

We also have drop-shipment arrangements with many of our OEMs and wholesale distributors, which permit us to offer products to our customers without having to take physical delivery at either of our distribution centers. These arrangements generally represent approximately 40% to 50% of total net sales, including approximately 10% to 15% related to electronic delivery for software licenses.

Information Technology Systems

We maintain customized IT and unified communication systems that enhance our ability to provide prompt, efficient and expert service to our customers. In addition, these systems enable centralized management of key functions, including purchasing, inventory management, billing and collection of accounts receivable, sales and distribution. Our systems provide us

Table of Contents

with thorough, detailed and real-time information regarding key aspects of our business. This capability helps us to continuously enhance productivity, ship customer orders quickly and efficiently, respond appropriately to industry changes and provide high levels of customer service. We believe that our websites, which provide electronic order processing and advanced tools, such as order tracking, reporting and asset management, make it easy for customers to transact business with us and ultimately strengthen our customer relationships.

Product Procurement

We may purchase all or only some of the products that our vendor partners offer for resale to our customers or for inclusion in the solutions we offer. Each vendor partner agreement provides for specific terms and conditions, which may include one or more of the following: product return privileges, price protection policies, purchase discounts and vendor incentive programs, such as purchase or sales rebates and cooperative advertising reimbursements. We also purchase software from major software publishers for resale to our customers or for inclusion in the solutions we offer. Our agreements with software publishers allow the end-user customer to acquire software or licensed products and services.

In addition to purchasing products directly from our vendor partners, we purchase products from wholesale distributors for resale to our customers or for inclusion in the solutions we offer. These wholesale distributors provide logistics management and supply-chain services for us, as well as for our vendor partners. For the year ended December 31, 2012, we purchased 52% of the products we sold as discrete products or as components of a solution directly from our vendor partners and the remaining 48% from wholesale distributors. Purchases from wholesale distributors Ingram Micro, Tech Data and SYNEX represented 12%, 10% and 9%, respectively, of our total purchases. Sales of products manufactured by Apple, Cisco, EMC, Hewlett-Packard, Lenovo and Microsoft, whether purchased directly from these vendor partners or from a wholesale distributor, represented in the aggregate 56% of our net sales in 2012. Sales of products manufactured by Hewlett-Packard and Cisco represented 21% and 13%, respectively, of our 2012 net sales.

Competition

The market for technology products and services is highly competitive. Competition is based on the ability to tailor specific solutions to customer needs, quality and breadth of product and service offerings, knowledge and expertise of sales force, customer service, price, product availability, speed of delivery and credit availability. Our competition includes:

resellers such as Dimension Data, ePlus, Insight Enterprises, PC Connection, PCM, Presidio, Softchoice, World Wide Technology and many smaller resellers;

manufacturers who sell directly to customers, such as Dell, Hewlett-Packard and Apple;

e-tailers such as Amazon, Newegg, TigerDirect.com and Buy.com;

large service providers and system integrators, such as IBM, Accenture, Hewlett-Packard and Dell;
and

retailers (including their e-commerce activities) such as Staples, Office Depot and Office Max. We expect the competitive landscape in which we compete to continue changing as new technologies are developed. While innovation can help our business as it creates new offerings for us to sell, it can also disrupt our business model and create new and stronger competitors. For a discussion of the risks associated with competition, see Risk Factors included elsewhere in this report.

Table of Contents

Marketing

We market the CDW brand to both national and local audiences using a variety of channels that include online, broadcast, print, social and other media. This promotion is supported by integrated communication efforts that target decision-makers, influencers and the general public using a combination of news releases, case studies, media interviews and speaking opportunities. We also market to current and prospective customers through integrated marketing programs that include behaviorally targeted email, print, online media, events and sponsorships, as well as broadcast media.

As a result of our relationships with our vendor partners, a significant portion of our advertising and marketing expenses are reimbursed through cooperative advertising reimbursement programs. These programs are at the discretion of our vendor partners and are typically tied to sales or purchasing volumes or other commitments to be met by us within a specified period of time. We believe that our national scale and analytical techniques that measure the efficacy of our marketing programs differentiate us from our competitors.

Coworkers

As of December 31, 2012, we employed more than 6,800 coworkers, none of whom is covered by collective bargaining agreements. We consider our coworker relations to be good.

Intellectual Property

The CDW trademark and certain variations thereon are registered or subject to pending trademark applications in the U.S., Canada and certain other jurisdictions. We believe our trademarks have significant value and are important factors in our marketing programs. In addition, we own registrations for domain names, including cdw.com and cdwg.com, for certain of our primary trademarks. We also have unregistered copyrights in our website content.

Equity Sponsors

Madison Dearborn Partners, LLC is a leading private equity investment firm based in Chicago, Illinois that has raised over \$18 billion of equity capital. Since its formation in 1992, it has invested in approximately 125 companies across a broad spectrum of industries, including basic industries, business and government services, consumer, financial and transaction services, healthcare and telecom, media and technology services. Madison Dearborn's objective is to invest in companies in partnership with outstanding management teams to achieve significant long-term appreciation in equity value.

Providence Equity Partners L.L.C. is a leading global private equity firm focused on media, communications, education and information investments. Providence Equity manages funds with \$28 billion of equity commitments and has invested in more than 130 companies over its 23-year history. Providence Equity is headquartered in Providence, Rhode Island and has offices in New York, London, Hong Kong, Beijing and New Delhi. Providence's objective is to build extraordinary companies that will shape the future of the media, communications, education and information industries.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

There are many factors that affect our business and the results of operations, some of which are beyond our control. The following is a description of some important factors that may cause the actual results of operations in future periods to differ materially from those currently expected or desired.

Risks Related to Our Indebtedness

We have a substantial amount of indebtedness, which could have important consequences to our business.

We have a substantial amount of indebtedness. As of December 31, 2012, we had \$3.8 billion of total long-term debt outstanding, as defined by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), and \$249.2 million of obligations outstanding under our inventory financing agreements, and the ability to borrow an additional \$622.4 million under our senior secured asset-based revolving credit facility (the Revolving Loan). Our substantial indebtedness could have important consequences, including the following:

making it more difficult for us to satisfy our obligations with respect to our indebtedness;

requiring us to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to debt service payments on our and our subsidiaries debt, which reduces the funds available for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions and other general corporate purposes;

requiring us to comply with restrictive covenants in our senior credit facilities and indentures, which limit the manner in which we conduct our business;

Table of Contents

making it more difficult for us to obtain vendor financing from our vendor partners;

limiting our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in the industry in which we operate;

placing us at a competitive disadvantage compared to any of our less leveraged competitors;

increasing our vulnerability to both general and industry-specific adverse economic conditions; and

limiting our ability to obtain additional debt or equity financing to fund future working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions or other general corporate requirements and increasing our cost of borrowing.

Restrictive covenants under our senior credit agreements and indentures may adversely affect our operations and liquidity.

Our senior credit agreements and our indentures contain, and any future indebtedness of ours may contain, various covenants that limit our ability to, among other things:

incur or guarantee additional debt;

pay dividends or make distributions to holders of our capital stock or to make certain other restricted payments or investments;

repurchase or redeem capital stock;

make loans, capital expenditures or investments or acquisitions;

receive dividends or other payments from our subsidiaries;

enter into transactions with affiliates;

create liens;

merge or consolidate with other companies or transfer all or substantially all of our assets;

transfer or sell assets, including capital stock of subsidiaries; and

prepay, repurchase or redeem debt.

As a result of these covenants, we are limited in the manner in which we conduct our business and we may be unable to engage in favorable business activities or finance future operations or capital needs. In addition, the restrictive covenants in our term loan facility require us to maintain a specified senior secured leverage ratio. A breach of any of these covenants or any of the other restrictive covenants would result in a default under our senior credit facilities.

Upon the occurrence of an event of default under our senior credit facilities, the lenders:

will not be required to lend any additional amounts to us;

could elect to declare all borrowings outstanding thereunder, together with accrued and unpaid interest and fees, to be due and payable;

could require us to apply all of our available cash to repay these borrowings; or

could prevent us from making payments on our senior subordinated notes due 2017;

any of which could result in an event of default under the indentures.

If we were unable to repay those amounts, the lenders under our senior credit facilities could proceed against the collateral granted to them to secure our borrowings thereunder. We have pledged a significant portion of our assets as collateral under our senior credit facilities and our senior secured notes due 2018. If the lenders under our senior credit facilities or the holders of the senior secured notes due 2018 accelerate the repayment of borrowings, we cannot assure you that we will have sufficient assets to repay our senior credit facilities and our other indebtedness or the ability to borrow sufficient funds to refinance such indebtedness. Even if we were able to obtain new financing, it may not be on commercially reasonable terms, or terms that are acceptable to us.

In addition, under our Revolving Loan, we are permitted to borrow an aggregate amount of up to \$900 million; however, our ability to borrow under our Revolving Loan is limited by a borrowing base and a liquidity condition. The borrowing base at any time equals the sum of up to 85% of CDW LLC and its subsidiary guarantors' eligible accounts

Table of Contents

receivable (net of accounts reserves) (up to 30% of such eligible accounts receivable which can consist of federal government accounts receivable) plus the lesser of (i) 70% of CDW LLC and its subsidiary guarantors' eligible inventory (valued at cost and net of inventory reserves) and (ii) the product of 85% multiplied by the net orderly liquidation value percentage multiplied by eligible inventory (valued at cost and net of inventory reserves), less reserves (other than accounts reserves and inventory reserves). The borrowing base in effect as of December 31, 2012 was \$1,018.2 million.

Our ability to borrow under our Revolving Loan is also limited by a minimum liquidity condition, which provides that, if excess cash availability is less than the lesser of (i) \$90 million or (ii) the greater of (A) 10% of the borrowing base or (B) \$60 million, the lenders are not required to lend any additional amounts under our Revolving Loan unless the consolidated fixed charge coverage ratio (as defined in the credit agreement for our Revolving Loan) is at least 1.0 to 1.0. Moreover, our Revolving Loan provides discretion to the agent bank acting on behalf of the lenders to impose additional availability reserves, which could materially impair the amount of borrowings that would otherwise be available to us. We cannot assure you that the agent bank will not impose such reserves or, were it to do so, that the resulting impact of this action would not materially and adversely impair our liquidity.

We will be required to generate sufficient cash to service our indebtedness and, if not successful, we may be forced to take other actions to satisfy our obligations under our indebtedness.

Our ability to make scheduled payments on or to refinance our debt obligations depends on our financial and operating performance, which is subject to prevailing economic and competitive conditions and to certain financial, business and other factors beyond our control. Our outstanding long-term debt will impose significant cash interest payment obligations on us in 2013 and subsequent years and, accordingly, we will have to generate significant cash flow from operating activities to fund our debt service obligations. We cannot assure you that we will maintain a level of cash flows from operating activities sufficient to permit us to pay the principal, premium, if any, and interest on our indebtedness. See Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Liquidity and Capital Resources included elsewhere in this report.

If our cash flows and capital resources are insufficient to fund our debt service obligations, we may be forced to reduce or delay capital expenditures, sell assets or operations, seek additional debt or equity capital, restructure or refinance our indebtedness, or revise or delay our strategic plan. We cannot assure you that we would be able to take any of these actions, that these actions would be successful and permit us to meet our scheduled debt service obligations or satisfy our capital requirements, or that these actions would be permitted under the terms of our existing or future debt agreements, including our senior credit facilities and indentures. In the absence of such operating results and resources, we could face substantial liquidity problems and might be required to dispose of material assets or operations to meet our debt service and other obligations. Our senior credit facilities and indentures restrict our ability to dispose of assets and use the proceeds from the disposition. We may not be able to consummate those dispositions or to obtain the proceeds which we could realize from them and these proceeds may not be adequate to meet any debt service obligations then due. Furthermore, the Equity Sponsors have no obligation to provide us with debt or equity financing.

If we cannot make scheduled payments on our debt, we will be in default and, as a result:

our debt holders could declare all outstanding principal and interest to be due and payable;

the lenders under our senior credit facilities could foreclose against the assets securing the borrowings from them and the lenders under our term loan facility could terminate their commitments to lend us money; and

we could be forced into bankruptcy or liquidation.

Despite our indebtedness levels, we and our subsidiaries may be able to incur substantially more debt, including secured debt. This could further increase the risks associated with our leverage.

We and our subsidiaries may be able to incur substantial additional indebtedness in the future. The terms of our senior credit facilities and indentures do not fully prohibit us or our subsidiaries from doing so. To the extent that we incur additional indebtedness or such other obligations, the risks associated with our substantial indebtedness described above, including our possible inability to service our debt, will increase. As of December 31, 2012, we had approximately \$622.4 million available for additional borrowing under our Revolving Loan after taking into account borrowing base limitations (net of \$1.7 million of issued and undrawn letters of credit and \$275.9 million of reserves related to our floorplan sub-facility).

Table of Contents***Variable rate indebtedness subjects us to interest rate risk, which could cause our debt service obligations to increase significantly.***

Certain of our borrowings, primarily borrowings under our senior credit facilities, are at variable rates of interest and expose us to interest rate risk. As of December 31, 2012, we had \$1,339.5 million of variable rate debt outstanding. If interest rates increase, our debt service obligations on the variable rate indebtedness would increase even though the amount borrowed remained the same, and our net income would decrease. Although we have entered into interest rate cap agreements on our term loan facility to reduce interest rate volatility, we cannot assure you we will be able to do so in the future on acceptable terms or that such caps or the caps we have in place now will be effective.

Risks Related to Our Business***General economic conditions could negatively affect technology spending by our customers and put downward pressure on prices, which may have an adverse impact on our business, results of operations or cash flows.***

Weak economic conditions generally, sustained uncertainty about global economic conditions, skepticism about the resolution of U.S. fiscal cliff negotiations and the implementation of resulting agreements, concerns about future scheduled budgetary cuts and that the U.S. government may reach its debt ceiling in 2013, or a prolonged or further tightening of credit markets could cause our customers and potential customers to postpone or reduce spending on technology products or services or put downward pressure on prices, which could have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations or cash flows. For example, during the economic downturn at the end of 2008 and in 2009, due to a number of factors, including declines in the availability of credit, weakening consumer and business confidence and increased unemployment, we experienced significantly reduced revenue and gross margins when our customers and potential customers reduced their spending on technology and put downward pressure on prices.

Our financial performance could be adversely affected by decreases in spending on technology products and services by our Public segment customers.

Our sales to our Public segment customers are impacted by government spending policies, budget priorities and revenue levels. Although our sales to the federal government are diversified across multiple agencies and departments, they collectively accounted for approximately 10% of 2012 net sales. An adverse change in government spending policies (including budget cuts at the federal level resulting from sequestration), budget priorities or revenue levels could cause our Public segment customers to reduce their purchases or to terminate or not renew their contracts with us, which could adversely affect our business, results of operations or cash flows.

Our business depends on our vendor partner relationships and the availability of their products.

We purchase products for resale from vendor partners, which include OEMs and software publishers, and wholesale distributors. For the year ended December 31, 2012, we purchased approximately 52% of the products we sold directly from vendor partners and the remaining amount from wholesale distributors. We are authorized by vendor partners to sell all or some of their products via direct marketing activities. Our authorization with each vendor partner is subject to specific terms and conditions regarding such things as sales channel restrictions, product return privileges, price protection policies, purchase discounts and vendor partner programs and funding, including purchase rebates, sales volume rebates, purchasing incentives and cooperative advertising reimbursements. However, we do not have any long-term contracts with our vendor partners and many of these arrangements are terminable upon notice by either party. A reduction in vendor partner programs or funding or our failure to timely react to changes in vendor partner programs or funding could have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations or cash flows. In addition, a reduction in the amount of credit granted to us by our vendor partners could increase our need for, and the

cost of, working capital and could have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations or cash flows, particularly given our substantial indebtedness.

From time to time, vendor partners may terminate or limit our right to sell some or all of their products or change the terms and conditions or reduce or discontinue the incentives that they offer us. For example, there is no assurance that, as our vendor partners continue to sell directly to end users and through resellers, they will not limit or curtail the availability of their products to resellers like us. Any such termination or limitation or the implementation of such changes could have a negative impact on our business, results of operations or cash flows.

Although we purchase from a diverse vendor base, in 2012, products we purchased from distributors Ingram Micro, Tech Data and SYNEX represented 12%, 10% and 9%, respectively, of our total purchases. In addition, sales of Apple, Cisco, EMC, Hewlett-Packard, Lenovo and Microsoft products comprise a substantial portion of our sales, representing approximately 56% of net sales in 2012. Sales of products manufactured by Hewlett-Packard and Cisco represented approximately 21% and 13%, respectively, of our 2012 net sales. The loss of, or change in business relationship with, any of these or any other key vendor partners, the diminished availability of their products, or backlogs for their products leading to manufacturer allocation, could reduce the supply and increase the cost of products we sell and negatively impact our competitive position.

Table of Contents

Additionally, the relocation of key distributors utilized in our purchasing model could increase our need for, and the cost of, working capital and have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations or cash flows. Further, the sale, spin-off or combination of any of our vendor partners and/or certain of their business units, including any such sale to or combination with a vendor with whom we do not currently have a commercial relationship or whose products we do not sell, could have an adverse impact on our business, results of operations or cash flows.

Our sales are dependent on continued innovations in hardware, software and services offerings by our vendor partners and the competitiveness of their offerings, and our ability to partner with new and emerging technology providers.

The technology industry is characterized by rapid innovation and the frequent introduction of new and enhanced hardware, software and services offerings. We have been and will continue to be dependent on innovations in hardware, software and services offerings, as well as the acceptance of those innovations by customers. A decrease in the rate of innovation, or the lack of acceptance of innovations by customers, could have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations or cash flows.

In addition, if we are unable to keep up with changes in technology and new hardware, software and services offerings, for example by providing the appropriate training to our account managers, sales technology specialists and engineers to enable them to effectively sell and deliver such new offerings to customers, our business, results of operations or cash flows could be adversely affected.

We also are dependent upon our vendor partners for the development and marketing of hardware, software and services to compete effectively with hardware, software and services of vendors whose products and services we do not currently offer or that we are not authorized to offer in one or more customer channels. To the extent that a vendor's offering that is highly in demand is not available to us for resale in one or more customer channels, and there is not a competitive offering from another vendor that we are authorized to sell in such customer channels, our business, results of operations or cash flows could be adversely impacted.

Substantial competition could reduce our market share and significantly harm our financial performance.

Our current competition includes:

resellers such as Dimension Data, ePlus, Insight Enterprises, PC Connection, PCM, Presidio, Softchoice, World Wide Technology, and many smaller resellers;

manufacturers who sell directly to customers, such as Dell, Hewlett-Packard and Apple;

e-tailers, such as Amazon, Newegg, TigerDirect.com and Buy.com;

large service providers and system integrators, such as IBM, Accenture, Hewlett-Packard and Dell; and

retailers (including their e-commerce activities), such as Staples, Office Depot and Office Max.

We expect the competitive landscape in which we compete to continue to change as new technologies are developed. While innovation can help our business as it creates new offerings for us to sell, it can also disrupt our business model and create new and stronger competitors.

Some of our hardware and software vendor partners sell, and could intensify their efforts to sell, their products directly to our customers. In addition, traditional OEMs have increased their services capabilities through mergers and acquisitions with service providers, which could potentially increase competition in the market to provide comprehensive technology solutions to customers. Moreover, newer, potentially disruptive technologies exist and are being developed that deliver technology solutions as a service, for example, cloud based solutions, including Software as a Service (SaaS), Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) and Platform as a Service (PaaS). These technologies could increase the amount of sales directly to customers rather than through resellers like us, or could lead to a reduction in our profitability. If any of these trends becomes more prevalent, it could adversely affect our business, results of operations or cash flows.

We focus on offering a high level of service to gain new customers and retain existing customers. To the extent we face increased competition to gain and retain customers, we may be required to reduce prices, increase advertising expenditures or take other actions which could adversely affect our business, results of operations or cash flows. Additionally, some of our competitors may reduce their prices in an attempt to stimulate sales, which may require us to reduce prices. This would require us to sell a greater number of products to achieve the same level of net sales and gross profit. If such a reduction in prices occurs and we are unable to attract new customers and sell increased quantities of products, our sales growth and profitability could be adversely affected.

Table of Contents

The success of our business depends on the continuing development, maintenance and operation of our information technology systems.

Our success is dependent on the accuracy, proper utilization and continuing development of our information technology systems, including our business systems, Web servers and voice and data networks. The quality and our utilization of the information generated by our information technology systems, and our success in implementing new systems and upgrades, affects, among other things, our ability to:

conduct business with our customers;

manage our inventory and accounts receivable;

purchase, sell, ship and invoice our hardware and software products and provide and invoice our services efficiently and on a timely basis; and

maintain our cost-efficient operating model.

The integrity of our information technology systems is vulnerable to disruption due to forces beyond our control. While we have taken steps to protect our information technology systems from a variety of threats, including computer viruses and malicious hackers, there can be no guarantee that those steps will be effective. Furthermore, although we have redundant systems at a separate location to back up our primary systems, there can be no assurance that these redundant systems will operate properly if and when required. Any disruption to or infiltration of our information technology systems could significantly harm our business and results of operations.

Breaches of data security could impact our business.

Our business involves the storage and transmission of proprietary information and sensitive or confidential data, including personal information of coworkers, customers and others. In addition, we operate three customer data centers which may store and transmit both business-critical data and confidential information of our customers. In connection with our services business, our coworkers also have access to our customers' confidential data and other information. We have privacy and data security policies in place that are designed to prevent security breaches; however, breaches in security could expose us, our customers or other individuals to a risk of public disclosure, loss or misuse of this information, resulting in legal claims or proceedings, liability or regulatory penalties under laws protecting the privacy of personal information, as well as the loss of existing or potential customers and damage to our brand and reputation. In addition, the cost and operational consequences of implementing further data protection measures could be significant. Such breaches, costs and consequences could adversely affect our business, results of operations or cash flows.

The failure to comply with our Public segment contracts or applicable laws and regulations could result in, among other things, termination, fines or other liabilities, and changes in procurement regulations could adversely impact our business, results of operations or cash flows.

Revenues from our Public segment customers are derived from sales to governmental departments and agencies, educational institutions and healthcare customers, through various contracts and open market sales of products and

services. Sales to Public segment customers are highly regulated. Noncompliance with contract provisions, government procurement regulations or other applicable laws or regulations (including but not limited to the False Claims Act and the Medicare and Medicaid Anti-Kickback Statute) could result in civil, criminal and administrative liability, including substantial monetary fines or damages, termination of government contracts or other Public segment customer contracts, and suspension, debarment or ineligibility from doing business with the government and other customers in the Public segment. In addition, generally contracts in the Public segment are terminable at any time for convenience of the contracting agency or group purchasing organization or upon default. The effect of any of these possible actions could adversely affect our business, results of operations or cash flows. In addition, the adoption of new or modified procurement regulations and other requirements may increase our compliance costs and reduce our gross margins, which could have a negative effect on our business, results of operations or cash flows.

If we fail to provide high-quality services to our customers, or if our third-party service providers fail to provide high-quality services to our customers, our reputation, business, results of operations or cash flows could be adversely affected.

Our service offerings include field services, managed services, warranties, configuration services, partner services and telecom services. Additionally, we deliver and manage mission critical software, systems and network solutions for our customers. Finally, we also offer certain services, such as implementation and installation services and repair services, to our customers through various third-party service providers engaged to perform these services on our behalf. If we or our third-party service providers fail to provide high quality services to our customers or such services result in a disruption of our customers' businesses, this could, among other things, result in legal claims and proceedings and liability, and our reputation with our customers, our brand and our business, results of operations or cash flows could be adversely affected.

Table of Contents

If we lose any of our key personnel, or are unable to attract and retain the talent required for our business, our business could be disrupted and our financial performance could suffer.

Our success is heavily dependent upon our ability to attract, develop and retain key personnel to manage and grow our business, including our key executive, management, sales, services and technical coworkers.

Our future success will depend to a significant extent on the efforts of Thomas E. Richards, our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, as well as the continued service and support of our other executive officers. Our future success also will depend on our ability to retain our customer-facing coworkers, who have been given critical CDW knowledge regarding, and the opportunity to develop strong relationships with, many of our customers. In addition, as we seek to expand our offerings of value-added services and solutions, our success will even more heavily depend on attracting and retaining highly skilled technology specialists and engineers, for whom the market is extremely competitive.

Our inability to attract, develop and retain key personnel could have an adverse effect on our relationships with our vendor partners and customers and adversely affect our ability to expand our offerings of value-added services and solutions. Moreover, our inability to train our sales, services and technical personnel effectively to meet the rapidly changing technology needs of our customers could cause a decrease in the overall quality and efficiency of such personnel. Such consequences could adversely affect our business, results of operations or cash flows.

The interruption of the flow of products from suppliers could disrupt our supply chain.

A significant portion of the products we sell are manufactured or purchased by our vendor partners outside of the U.S., primarily in Asia. Political, social or economic instability in Asia, or in other regions in which our vendor partners purchase or manufacture the products we sell, could cause disruptions in trade, including exports to the U.S. Other events that could also cause disruptions to our supply chain include:

the imposition of additional trade law provisions or regulations;

the imposition of additional duties, tariffs and other charges on imports and exports;

foreign currency fluctuations;

natural disasters or other adverse occurrences at, or affecting, any of our suppliers' facilities;

restrictions on the transfer of funds;

the financial instability or bankruptcy of manufacturers; and

significant labor disputes, such as strikes.

We cannot predict whether the countries in which the products we sell are purchased or manufactured, or may be purchased or manufactured in the future, will be subject to new or additional trade restrictions or sanctions imposed by the U.S. or foreign governments, including the likelihood, type or effect of any such restrictions. Trade restrictions, including new or increased tariffs or quotas, embargos, sanctions, safeguards and customs restrictions against the products we sell, as well as foreign labor strikes and work stoppages or boycotts, could increase the cost or reduce the supply of product available to us and adversely affect our business, results of operations or cash flows.

A natural disaster or other adverse occurrence at one of our primary facilities or customer data centers could damage our business.

Substantially all of our corporate, warehouse and distribution functions are located at our Vernon Hills, Illinois facilities and our second distribution center in North Las Vegas, Nevada. If the warehouse and distribution equipment at one of our distribution centers were to be seriously damaged by a natural disaster or other adverse occurrence, we could utilize the other distribution center or third-party distributors to ship products to our customers. However, this may not be sufficient to avoid interruptions in our service and may not enable us to meet all of the needs of our customers and would cause us to incur incremental operating costs. In addition, we operate three customer data centers and numerous sales offices which may contain both business-critical data and confidential information of our customers. A natural disaster or other adverse occurrence at any of the customer data centers or at any of our major sales offices could negatively impact our business, results of operations or cash flows.

Table of Contents

We are heavily dependent on commercial delivery services.

We generally ship hardware products to our customers by FedEx, United Parcel Service and other commercial delivery services and invoice customers for delivery charges. If we are unable to pass on to our customers future increases in the cost of commercial delivery services, our profitability could be adversely affected. Additionally, strikes or other service interruptions by such shippers could adversely affect our ability to deliver products on a timely basis.

We are exposed to accounts receivable and inventory risks.

We extend credit to our customers for a significant portion of our net sales, typically on 30-day payment terms. We are subject to the risk that our customers may not pay for the products they have purchased, or may pay at a slower rate than we have historically experienced, the risk of which is heightened during periods of economic downturn or uncertainty or, in the case of Public segment customers, during periods of budget constraints.

We are also exposed to inventory risks as a result of the rapid technological changes that affect the market and pricing for the products we sell. We seek to minimize our inventory exposure through a variety of inventory management procedures and policies, including our rapid-turn inventory model, as well as vendor price protection and product return programs. However, if we were unable to maintain our rapid-turn inventory model, if there were unforeseen product developments that created more rapid obsolescence or if our vendor partners were to change their terms and conditions, our inventory risks could increase. We also from time to time take advantage of cost savings associated with certain opportunistic bulk inventory purchases offered by our vendor partners or we may decide to carry high inventory levels of certain products that have limited or no return privileges due to customer demand or request. These bulk purchases could increase our exposure to inventory obsolescence.

We could be exposed to additional risks if we make acquisitions or enter into alliances.

We may pursue transactions, including acquisitions or alliances, in an effort to extend or complement our existing business. These types of transactions involve numerous business risks, including finding suitable transaction partners and negotiating terms that are acceptable to us, the diversion of management's attention from other business concerns, extending our product or service offerings into areas in which we have limited experience, entering into new geographic markets, the potential loss of key coworkers or business relationships and successfully integrating acquired businesses, any of which could adversely affect our operations.

In addition, our financial results could be adversely affected by financial adjustments required by GAAP in connection with these types of transactions where significant goodwill or intangible assets are recorded. To the extent the value of goodwill or identifiable intangible assets with indefinite lives becomes impaired, we may be required to incur material charges relating to the impairment of those assets.

Our future operating results may fluctuate significantly.

We may experience significant variations in our future quarterly results of operations. These fluctuations may result from many factors, including the condition of the technology industry in general, shifts in demand and pricing for hardware, software and services and the introduction of new products or upgrades.

Our operating results are also highly dependent on our level of gross profit as a percentage of net sales. Our gross profit percentage fluctuates due to numerous factors, some of which may be outside of our control, including general macroeconomic conditions; pricing pressures; changes in product costs from our vendor partners; the availability of

price protection, purchase discounts and incentive programs from our vendor partners; changes in product, order size and customer mix; the risk of some items in our inventory becoming obsolete; increases in delivery costs that we cannot pass on to customers; and general market and competitive conditions.

In addition, our cost structure is based, in part, on anticipated sales and gross margins. Therefore, we may not be able to adjust our cost structure quickly enough to compensate for any unexpected sales or gross margin shortfall, and any such inability could have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations or cash flows.

We are exposed to risks from legal proceedings and audits.

We are party to various legal proceedings that arise in the ordinary course of our business, which include commercial, employment, tort and other litigation.

We are subject to intellectual property infringement claims against us in the ordinary course of our business, either because of the products and services we sell or the business systems and processes we use to sell such products and services, in the form of cease-and-desist letters, licensing inquiries, lawsuits and other communications and demands. In our industry, such intellectual property claims have become more frequent as the complexity of technological products and the intensity of

Table of Contents

competition in our industry have increased. Increasingly, many of these assertions are brought by non-practicing entities whose principal business model is to secure patent licensing revenue, but we may also be subject to suits from competitors who may seek licensing revenue, lost profits and/or an injunction preventing us from engaging in certain activities, including selling certain products and services.

Because of our significant sales to governmental entities, we also are subject to audits by federal, state and local authorities. We also are subject to audits by various vendor partners and large customers, including government agencies, relating to purchases and sales under various contracts. In addition, we are subject to indemnification claims under various contracts.

Current and future litigation, infringement claims, governmental proceedings, audits or indemnification claims that we face may result in substantial costs and expenses and significantly divert the attention of our management regardless of the outcome. In addition, current and future litigation, infringement claims, governmental proceedings, audits or indemnification claims could lead to increased costs or interruptions of our normal business operations. Litigation, infringement claims, governmental proceedings, audits or indemnification claims involve uncertainties and the eventual outcome of any litigation, infringement claim, governmental proceeding, audit or indemnification claim could adversely affect our business, results of operations or cash flows.

We are controlled by the Equity Sponsors, whose interests may differ from our other stakeholders.

Substantially all of the common stock of Parent is held indirectly by investment funds affiliated with, or co-investment vehicles controlled by, the Equity Sponsors. As a result, the Equity Sponsors control us and have the power to elect all of the members of Parent's board of directors and approve any action requiring the approval of the holders of Parent's stock, including approving acquisitions or sales of all or substantially all of our assets. The directors appointed by the Equity Sponsors have the ability to control decisions affecting our capital structure, including the issuance of additional debt and capital stock, the declaration of dividends, and to appoint new management. If we encounter financial difficulties, or we are unable to pay our debts as they mature, the interests of the Equity Sponsors might conflict with the interests of our other equity holders, debt holders or other stakeholders. Additionally, the Equity Sponsors are in the business of investing in companies and may, from time to time, acquire and hold interests in businesses that compete directly or indirectly with us. The Equity Sponsors may also separately pursue acquisition opportunities that may be complementary to our business and, as a result, those acquisition opportunities may not be available to us. Since our equity securities, which are not registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, are not listed on any U.S. securities exchange, we are not subject to any of the corporate governance requirements of any U.S. securities exchange.

We have significant deferred cancellation of debt income.

As a result of a 2009 debt modification, we realized \$395.5 million of cancellation of debt income (CODI). We made an election under Code Section 108(i) to defer this CODI from taxable income, pursuant to which we are also required to defer certain original issue discount (OID) deductions as they accrue. As of December 31, 2012, we had already deferred approximately \$110.4 million of OID deductions and, on the relevant remaining debt instruments, we have \$34.7 million of OID deductions that have yet to be accrued. Starting in 2014 we will be required to include the deferred CODI into taxable income ratably over a five-year period ending in 2018. During this same period we will also be permitted to benefit from our deferred OID deductions. Because we have more CODI than the aggregate of our deferred and unaccrued OID on the relevant remaining debt instruments, we will have a future cash tax liability associated with our significant deferred CODI. We have reflected the associated cash tax liability in our deferred taxes for financial accounting purposes.

All of our deferred CODI will be accelerated into current taxable income if, prior to 2018, we engage in a so-called impairment transaction and the gross value of our assets immediately afterward is less than 110% of the sum of our total liabilities and the tax on the net amount of our deferred CODI and OID (the 110% test) as determined under the applicable Treasury Regulations. An impairment transaction is any transaction that impairs our ability to pay the tax on our deferred CODI, and includes dividends or distributions with respect to our equity and charitable contributions, in each case in a manner that is not consistent with our historical practice within the meaning of the applicable Treasury Regulations.

Prior to 2018, our willingness to pay dividends or make distributions with respect to our equity could be adversely affected if, at the time, we do not meet the 110% test and, as a result, the payment of a dividend or the making of a distribution would accelerate the tax payable with respect to our deferred CODI. We believe that, based on our interpretation of applicable Treasury Regulations, the gross value of our assets exceeds 110% of the sum of our total liabilities and the tax on the net amount of our deferred CODI and OID as of the filing date of this Amendment No. 1 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K. However, we cannot assure you that this will continue to be true in the future.

Table of Contents

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

None.

Item 2. Properties

As of December 31, 2012, we owned or leased a total of approximately 2.1 million square feet of space throughout the U.S. and Canada. We own two properties: a combined office and an approximately 450,000 square foot distribution center in Vernon Hills, Illinois, and an approximately 513,000 square foot distribution center in North Las Vegas, Nevada. In addition, we conduct sales, services and administrative activities in various leased locations throughout the U.S. and Canada, including data centers in Madison, Wisconsin and Minneapolis, Minnesota.

We believe that our facilities are well maintained, suitable for our business and occupy sufficient space to meet our operating needs. As part of our normal business, we regularly evaluate sales center performance and site suitability. Leases covering our currently occupied leased properties expire at varying dates, generally within the next ten years. We anticipate no difficulty in retaining occupancy through lease renewals, month-to-month occupancy or replacing the leased properties with equivalent properties. We believe that suitable additional or substitute leased properties will be available as required.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings

We are party to various legal proceedings that arise in the ordinary course of our business, which include commercial, intellectual property, employment, tort and other litigation matters. We are also subject to audit by federal, state and local authorities, and by various partners and large customers, including government agencies, relating to purchases and sales under various contracts. In addition, we are subject to indemnification claims under various contracts. From time to time, certain of our customers file voluntary petitions for reorganization or liquidation under the U.S. bankruptcy laws. In such cases, certain pre-petition payments received by us could be considered preference items and subject to return to the bankruptcy administrator.

As of December 31, 2012, we do not believe that there is a reasonable possibility that any material loss exceeding the amounts already recognized for these proceedings and matters, if any, has been incurred. However, the ultimate resolutions of these proceedings and matters are inherently unpredictable. As such, our financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected in any particular period by the unfavorable resolution of one or more of these proceedings or matters.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

Not applicable.

Table of Contents

PART II

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

Market Information

Our outstanding common stock is privately held, and there is no established public trading market for our common stock.

Holder

All of our outstanding common stock is owned by CDW Holdings LLC.

Dividends

We did not pay any dividends in 2012 or 2011.

Our senior credit agreements and indentures impose restrictions on our ability to pay dividends, and thus our ability to pay dividends on our common stock will depend upon, among other things, our level of indebtedness at the time of the proposed dividend and whether we are in default under any of our debt instruments. Our future dividend policy will also depend on the requirements of any future financing agreements to which we may be a party and other factors considered relevant by our board of directors. Any decision to declare and pay dividends in the future will be made at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend on, among other things, our results of operations, cash requirements, financial condition, business opportunities, provision of applicable law and other factors that our board of directors may deem relevant. For a discussion of our cash resources and needs, see Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Liquidity and Capital Resources included elsewhere in this report.

Item 6. Selected Financial Data

The selected financial data set forth below are not necessarily indicative of the results of future operations and should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our audited consolidated financial statements and the related notes included elsewhere in this report.

We have derived the selected financial data presented below as of December 31, 2012 and 2011 and for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011, and 2010 from our audited consolidated financial statements and related notes, which are included elsewhere in this report. The selected financial data as of December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 and for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements as of and for those periods, which are not included in this report.

The following are some of the items affecting comparability of the selected financial data for the periods presented:

During the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, we recorded net losses on extinguishments of long-term debt of \$17.2 million and \$118.9 million, respectively. During the year ended December 31, 2010, we recorded a net gain on extinguishments of long-term debt of \$2.0 million. The amounts

represented the difference between the amount paid upon extinguishment, including call premiums and expenses paid to the debt holders and agents, and the net carrying amount of the extinguished debt, adjusted for a portion of the unamortized deferred financing costs.

During the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, we recorded goodwill impairment charges of \$241.8 million and \$1,712.0 million, respectively. These impairments were primarily attributable to deterioration in macroeconomic conditions and overall declines in net sales.

Table of Contents

(dollars in millions)	Years Ended December 31,				
	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Statement of Operations Data:					
Net sales	\$ 10,128.2	\$ 9,602.4	\$ 8,801.2	\$ 7,162.6	\$ 8,071.2
Cost of sales	8,458.6	8,018.9	7,410.4	6,029.7	6,710.2
Gross profit	1,669.6	1,583.5	1,390.8	1,132.9	1,361.0
Selling and administrative expenses	1,029.5	990.1	932.1	821.1	894.8
Advertising expense	129.5	122.7	106.0	101.9	141.3
Goodwill impairment				241.8	1,712.0
Income (loss) from operations	510.6	470.7	352.7	(31.9)	(1,387.1)
Interest expense, net	(307.4)	(324.2)	(391.9)	(431.7)	(390.3)
Net (loss) gain on extinguishments of long-term debt	(17.2)	(118.9)	2.0		
Other income, net	0.1	0.7	0.2	2.4	0.2
Income (loss) before income taxes	186.1	28.3	(37.0)	(461.2)	(1,777.2)
Income tax (expense) benefit	(67.1)	(11.2)	7.8	87.8	12.1
Net income (loss)	\$ 119.0	\$ 17.1	\$ (29.2)	\$ (373.4)	\$ (1,765.1)
Balance Sheet Data (at period end):					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 37.9	\$ 99.9	\$ 36.6	\$ 88.0	\$ 94.4
Working capital	666.5	538.1	675.4	923.2	877.6
Total assets	5,720.0	5,967.7	5,943.8	5,976.0	6,276.3
Total debt and capitalized lease obligations (1)	3,771.0	4,066.0	4,290.0	4,621.9	4,633.5
Total shareholders' equity (deficit)	136.5	(7.3)	(43.5)	(44.7)	262.2
Other Financial Data:					
Capital expenditures	\$ 41.4	\$ 45.7	\$ 41.5	\$ 15.6	\$ 41.1
Depreciation and amortization	210.2	204.9	209.4	218.2	218.4
Gross profit as a percentage of net sales	16.5%	16.5%	15.8%	15.8%	16.9%
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges (2)					
(unaudited) EBITDA (3)	1.6	1.1	(a)	(a)	(a)
(unaudited) Adjusted EBITDA (3)	703.7	557.4	564.3	188.7	(1,168.5)
(unaudited)	766.6	717.3	601.8	465.4	570.6
Statement of Cash Flows Data:					
Net cash provided by (used in):					
Operating activities	\$ 317.4	\$ 214.7	\$ 423.7	\$ 107.6	\$ 215.4
Investing activities	(41.7)	(56.0)	(125.4)	(82.6)	(60.3)
Financing activities	(338.0)	(95.4)	(350.1)	(31.9)	(75.8)

Table of Contents

- (1) Excludes obligations outstanding of \$249.2 million, \$278.7 million, \$28.2 million, \$25.0 million and \$34.1 million, as of December 31, 2012, December 31, 2011, December 31, 2010, December 31, 2009 and December 31, 2008, respectively, under our inventory financing agreements. We do not include these obligations in total debt because we have not in the past incurred, and in the future do not expect to incur, any interest expense under these agreements. These amounts are classified separately as accounts payable inventory financing on our consolidated balance sheets.
- (2) For purposes of calculating the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings consist of earnings before income taxes minus income from equity investments plus fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expensed and the portion of rental expense we believe is representative of the interest component of rental expense.
 - (a) For the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, earnings available for fixed charges were inadequate to cover fixed charges by \$37.0 million, \$461.2 million and \$1,777.2 million, respectively.
- (3) EBITDA is defined as consolidated net income (loss) before interest income (expense), income tax benefit (expense), depreciation, and amortization. Adjusted EBITDA, which is a measure defined in our credit agreements, is calculated by adjusting EBITDA for certain items of income and expense including (but not limited to) the following: (a) non-cash equity-based compensation; (b) goodwill impairment charges; (c) sponsor fees; (d) certain consulting fees; (e) debt-related legal and accounting costs; (f) equity investment income and losses; (g) certain severance and retention costs; (h) gains and losses from the early extinguishment of debt; (i) gains and losses from asset dispositions outside the ordinary course of business; and (j) non-recurring, extraordinary or unusual gains or losses or expenses.

We have included a reconciliation of EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA in the table below. Both EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA are considered non-GAAP financial measures. Generally, a non-GAAP financial measure is a numerical measure of a company's performance, financial position or cash flows that either excludes or includes amounts that are not normally included or excluded in the most directly comparable measure calculated and presented in accordance with GAAP. Non-GAAP measures used by the Company may differ from similar measures used by other companies, even when similar terms are used to identify such measures. We believe that EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA provide helpful information with respect to our operating performance and cash flows including our ability to meet our future debt service, capital expenditures and working capital requirements. Adjusted EBITDA also provides helpful information as it is the primary measure used in certain financial covenants contained in our credit agreements.

Table of Contents

The following unaudited table sets forth reconciliations of GAAP net income (loss) to EBITDA and EBITDA to Adjusted EBITDA for the periods presented:

(in millions)	Years Ended December 31,				
	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Net income (loss)	\$ 119.0	\$ 17.1	\$ (29.2)	\$ (373.4)	\$ (1,765.1)
Depreciation and amortization	210.2	204.9	209.4	218.2	218.4
Income tax expense (benefit)	67.1	11.2	(7.8)	(87.8)	(12.1)
Interest expense, net	307.4	324.2	391.9	431.7	390.3
EBITDA	703.7	557.4	564.3	188.7	(1,168.5)
Non-cash equity-based compensation	22.1	19.5	11.5	15.9	17.8
Sponsor fees	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Goodwill impairment				241.8	1,712.0
Consulting and debt-related professional fees	0.6	5.1	15.1	14.1	4.3
Net loss (gain) on extinguishments of long-term debt	17.2	118.9	(2.0)		
Other adjustments ⁽ⁱ⁾	18.0	11.4	7.9	(0.1)	
Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 766.6	\$ 717.3	\$ 601.8	\$ 465.4	\$ 570.6

- (i) Includes certain retention costs and equity investment income, a litigation loss in the fourth quarter of 2012, certain severance costs in 2009, and a gain related to the sale of the Informacast software and equipment in 2009.

Table of Contents

The following unaudited table sets forth a reconciliation of EBITDA to net cash provided by operating activities for the periods presented:

(in millions)	Years Ended December 31,				
	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
EBITDA	\$ 703.7	\$ 557.4	\$ 564.3	\$ 188.7	\$ (1,168.5)
Depreciation and amortization	(210.2)	(204.9)	(209.4)	(218.2)	(218.4)
Income tax (expense) benefit	(67.1)	(11.2)	7.8	87.8	12.1
Interest expense, net	(307.4)	(324.2)	(391.9)	(431.7)	(390.3)
Net income (loss)	119.0	17.1	(29.2)	(373.4)	(1,765.1)
Depreciation and amortization	210.2	204.9	209.4	218.2	218.4
Goodwill impairment				241.8	1,712.0
Equity-based compensation expense	22.1	19.5	11.5	15.9	17.8
Amortization of deferred financing costs and debt premium	13.6	15.7	18.0	16.2	38.6
Deferred income taxes	(56.3)	(10.2)	(4.3)	(94.4)	(39.9)
Allowance for doubtful accounts		0.4	(1.3)	(0.2)	0.4
Realized loss on interest rate swap agreements		2.8	51.5	103.2	18.6
Mark to market loss on interest rate derivatives	0.9	4.2	4.7		
Net loss (gain) on extinguishments of long-term debt	17.2	118.9	(2.0)		
Net loss (gain) on sale and disposal of assets	0.1	0.3	0.7	(1.7)	0.5
Changes in assets and liabilities	(9.4)	(158.3)	165.3	(18.0)	14.1
Other non-cash items		(0.6)	(0.6)		
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 317.4	\$ 214.7	\$ 423.7	\$ 107.6	\$ 215.4

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

Unless otherwise indicated or the context otherwise requires, as used in this Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, the terms we, us, the Company, our, CDW and similar terms refer to CDW Corporation and its subsidiaries. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and the related notes included elsewhere in this report. This discussion contains forward-looking statements that are subject to numerous risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements. See Forward-Looking Statements at the end of this discussion.

Overview

CDW is a Fortune 500 company and a leading provider of integrated information technology (IT) solutions in the U.S. and Canada. We help our customer base of more than 250,000 small, medium and large business, government, education and healthcare customers by delivering critical solutions to their increasingly complex IT needs. Our broad array of offerings range from discrete hardware and software products to integrated IT solutions such as mobility, security, data center optimization, cloud computing, virtualization and collaboration. We are technology agnostic, with a product portfolio that includes more than 100,000 products from more than 1,000 brands. We provide our products and solutions through sales force and service delivery teams consisting of more than 4,300 coworkers, including over 1,700 field sellers, highly skilled technology specialists and advanced service delivery engineers.

We are a leading U.S. sales channel partner for many original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and software publishers (collectively, our vendor partners), whose products we sell or include in the solutions we offer. We believe we are an important extension of our vendor partners' sales and marketing capabilities, providing them with a cost-effective way to reach customers and deliver a consistent brand experience through our established end-market coverage and extensive customer access.

We have two reportable segments: Corporate, which is comprised primarily of private sector business customers, and Public, which is comprised of government agencies and education and healthcare institutions. Our Corporate segment is divided into a medium-large business customer channel, primarily serving customers with more than 100 employees, and a small business customer channel, primarily serving customers with up to 100 employees. We also have two other operating segments, CDW Advanced Services and Canada, which do not meet the reportable segment quantitative thresholds and, accordingly, are combined together as Other. The CDW Advanced Services business consists primarily of customized engineering services delivered by technology specialists and engineers, and managed services that include Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) offerings. Revenues from the sale of hardware, software, custom configuration and third-party provided services are recorded within our Corporate and Public segments.

We may sell all or only select products that our vendor partners offer. Each vendor partner agreement provides for specific terms and conditions, which may include one or more of the following: product return privileges, price protection policies, purchase discounts and vendor incentive programs, such as purchase or sales rebates and cooperative advertising reimbursements. We also resell software for major software publishers. Our agreements with software publishers allow the end-user customer to acquire software or licensed products and services. In addition to helping our customers determine the best software solutions for their needs, we help them manage their software agreements, including warranties and renewals. A significant portion of our advertising and marketing expenses is reimbursed through cooperative advertising reimbursement programs with our vendor partners. These programs are at the discretion of our vendor partners and are typically tied to sales or purchasing volumes or other commitments to be met by us within a specified period of time.

Trends and Key Factors Affecting our Financial Performance

We believe the following trends may have an important impact on our financial performance:

An important factor affecting our ability to generate sales and achieve our targeted operating results is the impact of general economic conditions on our customers' willingness to spend on information technology. While our operating results have improved significantly from the recent financial crisis, beginning in the second quarter of 2012, we began to see customers take a more cautious approach to spending as increased macroeconomic uncertainty impacted decision-making and led to some customers delaying purchases. We expect this trend to continue for the remainder of 2013. Uncertainties related to the potential impacts of federal budget negotiations, potential changes in tax and regulatory policy, weakening consumer and business confidence or increased unemployment could result in reduced or deferred spending by our customers on information technology products and services and increased competitive pricing pressures.

Table of Contents

Our Public segment sales are impacted by government spending policies, budget priorities and revenue levels. An adverse change in any of these factors could cause our Public segment customers to reduce their purchases or to terminate or not renew contracts with us, which could adversely affect our business, results of operations or cash flows. Although our sales to the federal government are diversified across multiple agencies and departments, they collectively accounted for approximately 10%, 10% and 11% of our net sales for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

We believe that our customers' transition to more complex technology solutions will continue to be an important growth area for us in the future. However, because the market for technology products and services is highly competitive, our success at capitalizing on this transition will be based on our ability to tailor specific solutions to customer needs, the quality and breadth of our product and service offerings, the knowledge and expertise of our sales force, price, product availability and speed of delivery.

Key Business Metrics

Our management monitors a number of financial and non-financial measures and ratios on a regular basis in order to track the progress of our business and make adjustments as necessary. We believe that the most important of these measures and ratios include average daily sales, gross margin, operating margin, EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA, cash and cash equivalents, net working capital, cash conversion cycle (defined to be days of sales outstanding in accounts receivable plus days of supply in inventory minus days of purchases outstanding in accounts payable, based on a rolling three-month average), debt levels including available credit and leverage ratios, sales per coworker and coworker turnover. These measures and ratios are compared to standards or objectives set by management, so that actions can be taken, as necessary, in order to achieve the standards and objectives. Adjusted EBITDA, a non-GAAP financial measure, also provides helpful information as it is the primary measure used in certain financial covenants contained in our senior credit facilities. See Selected Financial Data included elsewhere in this report for the definition of Adjusted EBITDA and a reconciliation to net income (loss).

The results of certain key business metrics are as follows:

(dollars in millions)	Years Ended December 31,		
	2012	2011	2010
Net sales	\$ 10,128.2	\$ 9,602.4	\$ 8,801.2
Gross profit	1,669.6	1,583.5	1,390.8
Income from operations	510.6	470.7	352.7
Net income (loss)	119.0	17.1	(29.2)
Adjusted EBITDA	766.6	717.3	601.8
Average daily sales	39.9	37.7	34.7
Net debt (defined as long-term debt plus capital leases minus cash and cash equivalents)	3,733.1	3,966.1	4,253.4
Cash conversion cycle (in days)	24	28	32

Table of Contents**Results of Operations*****Year Ended December 31, 2012 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2011***

The following table presents our results of operations, in dollars and as a percentage of net sales, for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011:

	Year Ended December 31, 2012		Year Ended December 31, 2011	
	Dollars in Millions	Percentage of Net Sales	Dollars in Millions	Percentage of Net Sales
Net sales	\$ 10,128.2	100.0%	\$ 9,602.4	100.0%
Cost of sales	8,458.6	83.5	8,018.9	83.5
Gross profit	1,669.6	16.5	1,583.5	16.5
Selling and administrative expenses	1,029.5	10.2	990.1	10.3
Advertising expense	129.5	1.3	122.7	1.3
Income from operations	510.6	5.0	470.7	4.9
Interest expense, net	(307.4)	(3.0)	(324.2)	(3.4)
Net loss on extinguishments of long-term debt	(17.2)	(0.2)	(118.9)	(1.2)
Other income, net	0.1		0.7	
Income before income taxes	186.1	1.8	28.3	0.3
Income tax expense	(67.1)	(0.7)	(11.2)	(0.1)
Net income	\$ 119.0	1.1%	\$ 17.1	0.2%

Net sales

The following table presents our net sales by segment, in dollars and as a percentage of total net sales, and the year-over-year dollar and percentage change in net sales for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011:

	Years Ended December 31, 2012		2011		Dollar Change	Percent Change ⁽¹⁾
	Dollars in Millions	Percentage of Total Net Sales	Dollars in Millions	Percentage of Total Net Sales		
Corporate	\$ 5,512.8	54.4%	\$ 5,334.4	55.6%	\$ 178.4	3.3%
Public	4,023.0	39.7	3,757.2	39.1	265.8	7.1
Other	592.4	5.9	510.8	5.3	81.6	16.0
Total net sales	\$ 10,128.2	100.0%	\$ 9,602.4	100.0%	\$ 525.8	5.5%

- (1) There were 254 and 255 selling days in the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. On an average daily basis, total net sales increased 5.9%.

Table of Contents

The following table presents our net sales by customer channel for our Corporate and Public segments and the year-over-year dollar and percentage change in net sales for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011:

(dollars in millions)	Years Ended December 31,		Dollar Change	Percent Change
	2012	2011		
Corporate:				
Medium / Large	\$ 4,448.5	\$ 4,287.1	\$ 161.4	3.8%
Small Business	1,064.3	1,047.3	17.0	1.6
Total Corporate	\$ 5,512.8	\$ 5,334.4	\$ 178.4	3.3%
Public:				
Government	\$ 1,394.1	\$ 1,343.5	\$ 50.6	3.8%
Education	1,192.3	1,197.7	(5.4)	(0.4)
Healthcare	1,436.6	1,216.0	220.6	18.1
Total Public	\$ 4,023.0	\$ 3,757.2	\$ 265.8	7.1%

Total net sales in 2012 increased \$525.8 million, or 5.5%, to \$10,128.2 million, compared to \$9,602.4 million in 2011. There were 254 and 255 selling days in the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. On an average daily basis, total net sales increased 5.9%. The increase in total net sales was the result of general volume growth, market share gains, a more tenured sales force, and a continued focus on seller productivity across all areas of the organization. Our net sales growth for the year ended December 31, 2012 reflected growth in notebooks/mobile devices, netcomm products, software products, desktop computers and enterprise storage.

Corporate segment net sales in 2012 increased \$178.4 million, or 3.3%, compared to 2011. Within our Corporate segment, net sales to medium/large customers increased 3.8% between years, and net sales to small business customers increased 1.6% between years. Customers within the Corporate segment continued to take a more cautious approach to spending as increased macroeconomic uncertainty impacted decision-making and led to some customers delaying purchases. The increases in Corporate segment net sales were primarily a result of hardware growth, most notably in netcomm products, and unit volume growth in desktop computers. Software product growth, led by network management and security software, also contributed to the increase in net sales. Partially offsetting the growth was a decline in net sales of memory products due to several large orders in the second and third quarters of 2011 that did not recur.

Public segment net sales in 2012 increased \$265.8 million, or 7.1%, between years, driven by continued strong performance in the healthcare customer channel. Net sales to healthcare customers increased \$220.6 million, or 18.1%, between years, led by hardware growth, most notably in enterprise storage, and unit volume growth in netcomm products, desktop computers and point of care technology carts. Software product growth also contributed to the increase in net sales in healthcare. The healthcare customer channel growth was primarily the result of deeper relationships with several group purchasing organizations and increased healthcare industry demand for IT products, as the healthcare industry continued its adoption of electronic medical records and point of care technologies. Net sales to government customers increased \$50.6 million, or 3.8%, in 2012 compared to 2011 led by unit volume increases in sales of notebooks/mobile devices, partially offset by a decline in net sales of netcomm products. Net sales to education customers decreased \$5.4 million, or 0.4%, between years, reflecting budget constraints. A decline in sales to K-12 customers was partially offset by growth in sales to higher education customers that was led by

increased sales of netcomm products, as higher education customers refreshed and added additional enterprise technology.

Gross profit

Gross profit increased \$86.1 million, or 5.4%, to \$1,669.6 million in 2012, compared to \$1,583.5 million in 2011. As a percentage of total net sales, gross profit was 16.5% in both 2012 and 2011. Gross profit margin was positively impacted 10 basis points by a higher mix of commission and net service contract revenue. Fully offsetting these increases in gross profit margin were declines in vendor funding primarily due to program changes for certain vendors. Commission revenue, including agency fees earned on sales of software licenses and software assurance under enterprise agreements, has a positive impact on our gross profit margin, as we record the fee or commission as a component of net sales when earned and there is no corresponding cost of sales. Net service contract revenue, including items such as third-party services and warranties, also has a positive impact on gross profit margin as our cost paid to the vendor or third-party service provider is recorded as a reduction to net sales, resulting in net sales being equal to the gross profit on the transaction. Vendor funding includes purchase discounts, volume rebates and cooperative advertising.

Table of Contents

The gross profit margin may fluctuate based on various factors, including vendor incentive and inventory price protection programs, cooperative advertising funds classified as a reduction of cost of sales, product mix, net service contract revenue, commission revenue, pricing strategies, market conditions, and other factors, any of which could result in changes in gross profit margins.

Selling and administrative expenses

Selling and administrative expenses increased \$39.4 million, or 4.0%, to \$1,029.5 million in 2012, compared to \$990.1 million in 2011. As a percentage of total net sales, selling and administrative expenses decreased 10 basis points to 10.2% in 2012, down from 10.3% in 2011. The dollar increase in selling and administrative expenses was primarily due to higher payroll costs (excluding bonus compensation tied to Adjusted EBITDA) of \$43.0 million. The higher payroll costs reflected in selling and administrative expenses were driven by increased sales commissions and other variable compensation costs consistent with higher sales and gross profit. While total coworker count increased by 59 coworkers, from 6,745 coworkers at December 31, 2011 to 6,804 coworkers at December 31, 2012, the increase was primarily comprised of service delivery coworkers, the cost of which is reflected in cost of sales. Other factors that increased selling and administrative expenses included a \$5.8 million increase in health benefits due to higher claims costs and a higher average number of participants in 2012 compared to 2011, a \$5.3 million increase in depreciation and amortization expense related primarily to additional capital expenditures for information technology systems, and a \$2.6 million increase in stock compensation expense, primarily due to incremental expense related to a modified Class B Common Unit grant agreement with our former chief executive officer. Partially offsetting these increases was an \$11.8 million decline in bonus compensation tied to Adjusted EBITDA, as performance fell below target, \$3.8 million of expenses related to the modification of our senior secured term loan facility in 2011 that did not recur in 2012, and a \$3.3 million decline in litigation expenses between years.

The decrease in selling and administrative expenses as a percentage of sales of 10 basis points between years was driven by the decline in incentive compensation tied to Adjusted EBITDA.

Advertising expense

Advertising expense increased \$6.8 million, or 5.6%, to \$129.5 million in 2012, compared to \$122.7 million in 2011. As a percentage of net sales, advertising expense was 1.3% in both 2012 and 2011. The increase in advertising expense was due to a focus on continuing to advertise our solutions and products and to build our reputation as a leading IT solutions provider, primarily through targeted digital advertising, partially offset by decreases in expenditures for print advertising.

Income from operations

The following table presents income (loss) from operations by segment, in dollars and as a percentage of net sales, and the year-over-year percentage change in income (loss) from operations for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011:

	Year Ended December 31, 2012		Year Ended December 31, 2011		Percent Change in Income (Loss) from Operations
	Dollars in Millions	Operating Margin Percentage	Dollars in Millions	Operating Margin Percentage	
Segments: ⁽¹⁾					

Edgar Filing: CDW Corp - Form 10-K/A

Corporate	\$	349.0	6.3%	\$	331.6	6.2%	5.2%
Public		246.7	6.1		233.3	6.2	5.7
Other		18.6	3.1		17.5	3.4	6.5
Headquarters ⁽²⁾		(103.7)	nm*		(111.7)	nm*	7.2
Total income from operations	\$	510.6	5.0%	\$	470.7	4.9%	8.5%

* Not meaningful

- (1) Segment income (loss) from operations includes the segment's direct operating income (loss) and allocations for Headquarters costs, allocations for logistics services, certain inventory adjustments, and volume rebates and cooperative advertising from vendors.
- (2) Includes Headquarters function costs that are not allocated to the segments.

Table of Contents

Income from operations was \$510.6 million in 2012, an increase of \$39.9 million, or 8.5%, compared to \$470.7 million in 2011. This increase was driven by higher net sales and gross profit, partially offset by higher selling and administrative expenses and advertising expense. Total operating margin percentage increased 10 basis points to 5.0% in 2012, compared to 4.9% in 2011. Operating margin percentage was positively impacted by the decrease in selling and administrative expenses as a percentage of net sales.

Corporate segment income from operations was \$349.0 million in 2012, an increase of \$17.4 million, or 5.2%, compared to \$331.6 million in 2011. This increase was primarily driven by higher net sales and gross profit margin, partially offset by higher selling and administrative expenses, resulting in a net increase in segment operating income before allocations of \$14.4 million in 2012 compared to 2011. In addition, Corporate segment income from operations benefited from an increase of \$2.5 million in income allocations from our logistics operations and a decrease of \$0.5 million in Headquarters expense allocations in 2012 compared to 2011. The improved profitability of our logistics operations was driven by stronger operating leverage given higher purchase volumes while support costs remained flat.

Public segment income from operations was \$246.7 million in 2012, an increase of \$13.4 million, or 5.7%, compared to \$233.3 million in 2011. This increase reflected higher segment operating income before allocations of \$4.0 million as a result of increased net sales and gross profit dollars, partially offset by higher selling and administrative costs. In addition, Public segment income from operations benefited from an increase of \$5.7 million in income allocations from our logistics operations and a decrease in Headquarters expense allocations of \$3.7 million in 2012 compared to 2011.

Interest expense, net

At December 31, 2012, our outstanding long-term debt totaled \$3,771.0 million, compared to \$4,066.0 million at December 31, 2011. Net interest expense in 2012 was \$307.4 million, a decrease of \$16.8 million compared to \$324.2 million in 2011. Interest expense in 2011 included a benefit of \$19.4 million, due to an adjustment to the long-term accrued interest liability associated with the extinguishment of \$1,078.0 million of senior notes due 2015. The long-term accrued interest liability represents the difference between interest expense previously recognized under the effective interest method and actual interest paid. Of the remaining net decrease of \$36.2 million, \$27.2 million was due to lower effective interest rates and lower debt balances in 2012 compared to the prior year as a result of debt repayment and refinancing activities completed during 2011 and 2012. The remaining net decrease was primarily attributable to additional interest expense in 2011 related to the interest rate swaps that terminated in January 2011, higher 2011 mark-to-market losses on interest rate caps, higher amortization of deferred financing costs in 2011 compared to 2012 and a 2012 benefit related to an adjustment to the long-term accrued interest liability associated with the extinguishment of \$100.0 million of senior subordinated notes due 2017.

Net loss on extinguishments of long-term debt

During 2012, we recorded a net loss on extinguishments of long-term debt of \$17.2 million compared to \$118.9 million in 2011.

In February and March 2012, we purchased or redeemed the remaining \$129.0 million of senior notes due 2015, funded with the issuance of an additional \$130.0 million of senior notes due 2019. As a result, we recorded a loss on extinguishment of long-term debt of \$9.4 million, representing the difference between the purchase or redemption price of the senior notes due 2015 and the net carrying amount of the purchased debt, adjusted for the remaining unamortized deferred financing costs.

In December 2012, we redeemed \$100.0 million aggregate principal amount of senior subordinated notes due 2017 for \$106.3 million. We recorded a loss on extinguishment of long-term debt of \$7.8 million representing the difference between the redemption price and the net carrying amount of the purchased debt, adjusted for a portion of the unamortized deferred financing costs.

In March 2011, we amended our senior secured term loan facility and recorded a loss on extinguishment of long-term debt of \$3.2 million, representing a write-off of a portion of the unamortized deferred financing costs on this facility.

In April and May 2011, we purchased \$1,078.0 million of senior notes due 2015, funded with the issuance of \$1,175.0 million of senior notes due 2019. As a result, we recorded a loss on extinguishment of long-term debt of \$114.1 million, representing the difference between the purchase price of the senior notes due 2015 at 109% of the principal amount and the net carrying amount of the purchased debt, adjusted for a portion of the unamortized deferred financing costs.

In June 2011, we entered into a new \$900.0 million senior secured asset-based revolving credit facility, replacing the existing \$800.0 million facility. As a result, we recorded a loss on extinguishment of long-term debt of \$1.6 million representing a write-off of a portion of the unamortized deferred financing costs related to the previous facility.

Income tax expense

Income tax expense was \$67.1 million in 2012, compared to \$11.2 million in 2011. The effective income tax rate was 36.0% and 39.7% for 2012 and 2011, respectively.

Table of Contents

For 2012, the effective tax rate differed from the U.S. federal statutory rate primarily due to favorable adjustments to state tax credits which are partially offset by the unfavorable impact of adjustments to deferred taxes due to changes in state tax laws and permanent differences. For 2011, the effective tax rate differed from the U.S. federal statutory rate primarily due to the unfavorable impact of permanent differences offset by a benefit for state income taxes. The lower effective tax rate for 2012 as compared to 2011 was primarily driven by the impact of favorable adjustments to state tax credits in 2012 and the lower rate impact of permanent differences in 2012 due to the significantly greater amount of pre-tax income.

Net income

Net income was \$119.0 million in 2012, compared to \$17.1 million in 2011. The 2012 and 2011 results included after tax losses on extinguishments of long-term debt of \$10.5 million and \$72.5 million, respectively. Other significant factors and events causing the net changes from 2011 to 2012 are discussed above.

Adjusted EBITDA

Adjusted EBITDA was \$766.6 million in 2012, an increase of \$49.3 million, or 6.9%, compared to \$717.3 million in 2011. As a percentage of net sales, Adjusted EBITDA was 7.6% and 7.5% in 2012 and 2011, respectively.

We have included a reconciliation of EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA for 2012 and 2011 in the table below. EBITDA is defined as consolidated net income before interest expense, income tax expense, depreciation and amortization. Adjusted EBITDA, which is a measure defined in our credit agreements, means EBITDA adjusted for certain items which are described in the table below. Both EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA are considered non-GAAP financial measures. Generally, a non-GAAP financial measure is a numerical measure of a company's performance, financial position or cash flows that either excludes or includes amounts that are not normally included or excluded in the most directly comparable measure calculated and presented in accordance with GAAP. Non-GAAP measures used by the Company may differ from similar measures used by other companies, even when similar terms are used to identify such measures. We believe that EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA provide helpful information with respect to our operating performance and cash flows including our ability to meet our future debt service, capital expenditures and working capital requirements. Adjusted EBITDA also provides helpful information as it is the primary measure used in certain financial covenants contained in our credit agreements. See Selected Financial Data included elsewhere in this report for a reconciliation of EBITDA to cash flows from operating activities.

(in millions)	Years Ended December 31,	
	2012	2011
Net income	\$ 119.0	\$ 17.1
Depreciation and amortization	210.2	204.9
Income tax expense	67.1	11.2
Interest expense, net	307.4	324.2
EBITDA	703.7	557.4
Adjustments:		
Non-cash equity-based compensation	22.1	19.5
Sponsor fee	5.0	5.0
Consulting and debt-related professional fees	0.6	5.1

Edgar Filing: CDW Corp - Form 10-K/A

Net loss on extinguishments of long-term debt	17.2	118.9
Other adjustments ⁽¹⁾	18.0	11.4
Total adjustments	62.9	159.9
Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 766.6	\$ 717.3

(1) Other adjustments include certain retention costs, equity investment income and a litigation loss in the fourth quarter of 2012.

Table of Contents**Year Ended December 31, 2011 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2010**

The following table presents our results of operations, in dollars and as a percentage of net sales, for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010:

	Year Ended December 31, 2011		Year Ended December 31, 2010	
	Dollars in Millions	Percentage of Net Sales	Dollars in Millions	Percentage of Net Sales
Net sales	\$ 9,602.4	100.0%	\$ 8,801.2	100.0%
Cost of sales	8,018.9	83.5	7,410.4	84.2
Gross profit	1,583.5	16.5	1,390.8	15.8
Selling and administrative expenses	990.1	10.3	932.1	10.6
Advertising expense	122.7	1.3	106.0	1.2
Income from operations	470.7	4.9	352.7	4.0
Interest expense, net	(324.2)	(3.4)	(391.9)	(4.4)
Net (loss) gain on extinguishments of long-term debt	(118.9)	(1.2)	2.0	
Other income, net	0.7		0.2	
Income (loss) before income taxes	28.3	0.3	(37.0)	(0.4)
Income tax (expense) benefit	(11.2)	(0.1)	7.8	0.1
Net income (loss)	\$ 17.1	0.2%	\$ (29.2)	(0.3)%

Net sales

The following table presents our net sales by segment, in dollars and as a percentage of total net sales, and the year-over-year dollar and percentage change in net sales for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010:

	Years Ended December 31, 2011		2010		Dollar Change	Percent Change ⁽¹⁾
	Dollars in Millions	Percentage of Total Net Sales	Dollars in Millions	Percentage of Total Net Sales		
Corporate	\$ 5,334.4	55.6%	\$ 4,833.6	54.9%	\$ 500.8	10.4%
Public	3,757.2	39.1	3,560.6	40.5	196.6	5.5
Other	510.8	5.3	407.0	4.6	103.8	25.5
Total net sales	\$ 9,602.4	100.0%	\$ 8,801.2	100.0%	\$ 801.2	9.1%

- (1) There were 255 and 254 selling days in the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. On an average daily basis, total net sales increased 8.7%.

Table of Contents

The following table presents our net sales by customer channel for our Corporate and Public segments and the year-over-year dollar and percentage change in net sales for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010:

(dollars in millions)	Years Ended December 31,		Dollar Change	Percent Change
	2011	2010		
Corporate:				
Medium / Large	\$ 4,287.1	\$ 3,867.3	\$ 419.8	10.9%
Small Business	1,047.3	966.3	81.0	8.4
Total Corporate	\$ 5,334.4	\$ 4,833.6	\$ 500.8	10.4%
Public:				
Government	\$ 1,343.5	\$ 1,368.6	\$ (25.1)	(1.8)%
Education	1,197.7	1,200.6	(2.9)	(0.2)
Healthcare	1,216.0	991.4	224.6	22.7
Total Public	\$ 3,757.2	\$ 3,560.6	\$ 196.6	5.5%

Total net sales in 2011 increased \$801.2 million, or 9.1%, to \$9,602.4 million, compared to \$8,801.2 million in 2010. There were 255 and 254 selling days in the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively. On an average daily basis, total net sales increased 8.7%. The increase in total net sales was the result of general volume growth and increased demand in the information technology industry overall, in addition to our focus on growing market share. The most significant drivers of sales growth in 2011 were hardware unit volume growth in notebook/mobile devices, desktop computers and netcomm products, along with growth in software products.

Corporate segment net sales in 2011 increased \$500.8 million, or 10.4%, compared to 2010. Within our Corporate segment, net sales to medium / large customers increased 10.9% between years, and net sales to small business customers increased 8.4% between years. These increases were primarily a result of hardware unit volume growth, most notably in notebook/mobile devices and netcomm products, and growth in software products as we continued to benefit from increased demand from our Corporate customers. Public segment net sales in 2011 increased \$196.6 million, or 5.5%, between years as growth in the healthcare customer channel more than offset slight declines in the government and education customer channels. Net sales to healthcare customers increased \$224.6 million, or 22.7%, between years, primarily driven by hardware unit volume increases in desktop computers, notebook/mobile devices and netcomm products, growth in software products and additional sales from an expanded relationship with a group purchasing organization. Net sales to government customers decreased \$25.1 million, or 1.8%, in 2011 compared to 2010 driven by a 10.2% decline between years for the first nine months of 2011, partially offset by net sales growth of 22.8% between years for the fourth quarter of 2011. Although government spending was impacted negatively throughout 2011 as a result of budget constraints and uncertainty, net sales to federal government customers drove the fourth quarter increase of 22.8% in the government customer channel. The fourth quarter of 2011 benefited from increased orders placed late in the third quarter, the end of the federal government's fiscal year, that shipped during the fourth quarter, compared to the same period of the prior year. Net sales to education customers decreased \$2.9 million, or 0.2%, between years, due to continuing budget pressures.

Gross profit

Gross profit increased \$192.7 million, or 13.9%, to \$1,583.5 million in 2011, compared to \$1,390.8 million in 2010. As a percentage of total net sales, gross profit was 16.5% in 2011, up from 15.8% in 2010. Gross profit margin increased 70 basis points between years, primarily due to favorable price/mix changes within product margin across most product categories of 30 basis points, and a higher mix of commission and net service contract revenue of 20 basis points. Commission revenue, including agency fees earned on sales of software licenses and software assurance under enterprise agreements, has a positive impact on our gross profit margin as we record the fee or commission as a component of net sales when earned and there is no corresponding cost of sales amount. Net service contract revenue, including items such as third-party services and warranties, also has a positive impact on gross profit margin as our cost paid to the vendor or third-party service provider is recorded as a reduction to sales, resulting in net sales being equal to the gross profit on the transaction.

The gross profit margin may fluctuate based on various factors, including vendor incentive and inventory price protection programs, cooperative advertising funds classified as a reduction of cost of sales, product mix, net service contract revenue, commission revenue, pricing strategies, market conditions, and other factors, any of which could result in changes in gross profit margins.

Table of Contents*Selling and administrative expenses*

Selling and administrative expenses increased \$58.0 million, or 6.2%, to \$990.1 million in 2011, compared to \$932.1 million in 2010. The increase was primarily due to higher payroll costs of \$62.1 million driven by increased sales commissions and other variable compensation costs consistent with higher sales and gross profit and an increase in the number of coworkers in 2011. Our sales force increased to 3,636 coworkers at December 31, 2011, compared to 3,405 coworkers at December 31, 2010, while total coworker count increased to 6,745 coworkers at December 31, 2011, compared to 6,268 coworkers at December 31, 2010. We also had increases in profit sharing/401(k) expense of \$4.9 million, travel and entertainment expense of \$3.7 million and bad debt expense of \$2.7 million. These increases were partially offset by lower consulting and debt-related professional fees of \$10.0 million, lower depreciation and amortization expense of \$4.2 million, lower healthcare benefits expense of \$3.6 million and lower sales and use tax expense of \$3.3 million.

Advertising expense

Advertising expense increased \$16.7 million, or 15.7%, to \$122.7 million in 2011, compared to \$106.0 million in 2010. Higher expenses were due to increased spending on web-based advertising, TV advertising and customer-focused marketing events. As a percentage of net sales, advertising expense was 1.3% in 2011, compared to 1.2% in 2010.

Income from operations

The following table presents income (loss) from operations by segment, in dollars and as a percentage of net sales, and the year-over-year percentage change in income (loss) from operations for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010:

	Year Ended December 31, 2011		Year Ended December 31, 2010		Percent Change in Income (Loss) from Operations
	Dollars in Millions	Operating Margin Percentage	Dollars in Millions	Operating Margin Percentage	
Segments: ⁽¹⁾					
Corporate	\$ 331.6	6.2%	\$ 256.2	5.3%	29.4%
Public	233.3	6.2	193.0	5.4	20.9
Other	17.5	3.4	14.3	3.5	22.3
Headquarters ⁽²⁾	(111.7)	nm*	(110.8)	nm*	(0.8)
Total income from operations	\$ 470.7	4.9%	\$ 352.7	4.0%	33.5%

* Not meaningful

(1) Segment income (loss) from operations includes the segment's direct operating income (loss) and allocations for Headquarters' costs, allocations for logistics services, certain inventory adjustments, and volume rebates and cooperative advertising from vendors.

(2) Includes Headquarters' function costs that are not allocated to the segments.

Income from operations was \$470.7 million in 2011, an increase of \$118.0 million, or 33.5%, compared to \$352.7 million in 2010. This increase was driven by higher net sales and gross profit, partially offset by higher advertising expense and selling and administrative expenses.

Corporate segment income from operations was \$331.6 million in 2011, an increase of \$75.4 million, or 29.4%, compared to \$256.2 million in 2010. The increase in Corporate segment income from operations was primarily driven by higher net sales and gross profit margin, partially offset by higher selling and administrative costs, resulting in a net increase before allocations of \$49.6 million in 2011 compared to 2010. In addition, Corporate segment income from operations benefited from an increase of \$28.3 million in income allocations from our logistics operations in 2011 compared to 2010. The improved profitability of our logistics operations was driven by stronger operating leverage given higher purchase volumes while support structure costs remained flat. Partially offsetting the above items was an increase in Headquarters expense allocations to the Corporate segment of \$2.5 million.

Public segment income from operations was \$233.3 million in 2011, an increase of \$40.3 million, or 20.9%, compared to \$193.0 million in 2010. The increase reflected higher operating income before allocations of \$25.9 million as a result of higher net sales and gross profit margin, partially offset by higher selling and administrative costs. In addition, Public segment income from operations benefited from an increase of \$15.1 million in income allocations from our logistics operations in 2011 compared to 2010.

The loss from operations for our Headquarters function of \$111.7 million in 2011 was flat compared to the loss from operations of \$110.8 million in 2010.

Table of Contents*Interest expense, net*

At December 31, 2011, our outstanding long-term debt totaled \$4,066.0 million, compared to \$4,289.1 million at December 31, 2010. Net interest expense in 2011 was \$324.2 million, a decrease of \$67.7 million compared to \$391.9 million in 2010. Interest expense was reduced by \$19.4 million in 2011 due to a decrease in the long-term accrued interest liability associated with the extinguishment of \$1,078.0 million of senior notes due 2015. The long-term accrued interest liability represents the difference between interest expense previously recognized under the effective interest method and actual interest paid. The remaining decrease of \$48.3 million was primarily due to lower effective interest rates in 2011 resulting from the termination of our interest rate swaps in January 2011 and the debt refinancing activities completed during the first half of 2011, partially offset by non-cash gains on hedge ineffectiveness recorded to interest expense in the prior year.

Net (loss) gain on extinguishments of long-term debt

During 2011, we recorded a net loss on extinguishments of long-term debt of \$118.9 million compared to a net gain on extinguishments of long-term debt of \$2.0 million in 2010.

In March 2011, we amended our senior secured term loan facility and recorded a loss on extinguishment of long-term debt of \$3.2 million, representing a write-off of a portion of the unamortized deferred financing costs on this facility.

In April and May 2011, we purchased \$1,078.0 million of senior notes due 2015, funded with the issuance of \$1,175.0 million of senior notes due 2019. As a result, we recorded a loss on extinguishment of long-term debt of \$114.1 million, representing the difference between the purchase price of the senior notes due 2015 at 109% of the principal amount and the net carrying amount of the purchased debt, adjusted for a portion of the unamortized deferred financing costs.

In June 2011, we entered into a new \$900.0 million senior secured asset-based revolving credit facility, replacing the existing \$800.0 million facility. As a result, we recorded a loss on extinguishment of long-term debt of \$1.6 million representing a write-off of a portion of the unamortized deferred financing costs related to the previous facility.

During 2010, we recorded a net gain of \$2.0 million on the extinguishments of long-term debt resulting from two transactions. In March 2010, we repurchased \$28.5 million of principal amount of senior subordinated notes due 2017 for a purchase price of \$18.6 million. We recorded a gain of \$9.2 million representing the difference between the purchase price, including expenses paid to the debt holders and agent, and the net carrying amount of the purchased debt, adjusted for a portion of the unamortized deferred financing costs. The \$28.5 million in principal amount of senior subordinated notes due 2017 that was repurchased was exchanged for increasing rate notes and subsequently surrendered to the indenture trustee for cancellation. In December 2010, we extinguished \$500.0 million of the outstanding principal balance of our senior secured term loan facility funded by proceeds from the issuance of 8.0% senior secured notes due 2018. We recorded a loss of \$7.2 million on the extinguishment of the senior secured term loan facility, representing a write-off of a portion of the unamortized deferred financing costs. There was no additional gain or loss resulting from the paydown of the debt balance, as the cash paid equaled the principal amount of the debt extinguished.

Income tax (expense) benefit

The effective income tax rate was 39.7% and 21.1% for 2011 and 2010, respectively.

For 2011, the effective tax rate differed from the U.S. federal statutory rate primarily due to the unfavorable impact of permanent differences relative to pre-tax income. The effective tax rate for 2010 reflects the unfavorable impact of permanent differences relative to a small pre-tax loss.

Net income (loss)

Net income was \$17.1 million in 2011, compared to a net loss of \$29.2 million in 2010.

Adjusted EBITDA

Adjusted EBITDA was \$717.3 million in 2011, an increase of \$115.4 million, or 19.2%, compared to \$601.8 million in 2010. As a percentage of net sales, Adjusted EBITDA was 7.5% and 6.8% in 2011 and 2010, respectively.

We have included a reconciliation of EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA for 2011 and 2010 in the table below. EBITDA is defined as consolidated net income (loss) before interest expense, income tax expense (benefit), depreciation and amortization. Adjusted EBITDA, which is a measure defined in our credit agreements, means EBITDA adjusted for certain items which are described in the table below. Both EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA are considered non-GAAP financial measures. Generally, a non-GAAP financial measure is a numerical measure of a company's performance, financial position or cash flows that either excludes or includes amounts that are not normally included or excluded in the most directly comparable measure calculated and presented in accordance with GAAP. Non-GAAP measures used by the Company may differ from

Table of Contents

similar measures used by other companies, even when similar terms are used to identify such measures. We believe that EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA provide helpful information with respect to our operating performance and cash flows including our ability to meet our future debt service, capital expenditures and working capital requirements. Adjusted EBITDA also provides helpful information as it is the primary measure used in certain financial covenants contained in our credit agreements. See **Selected Financial Data** included elsewhere in this report for a reconciliation of EBITDA to cash flows from operating activities.

(in millions)	Years Ended December 31,	
	2011	2010
Net income (loss)	\$ 17.1	\$ (29.2)
Depreciation and amortization	204.9	209.4
Income tax expense (benefit)	11.2	(7.8)
Interest expense, net	324.2	391.9
EBITDA	557.4	564.3
Adjustments:		
Non-cash equity-based compensation	19.5	11.5
Sponsor fee	5.0	5.0
Consulting and debt-related professional fees	5.1	15.1
Net loss (gain) on extinguishments of long-term debt	118.9	(2.0)
Other adjustments ⁽¹⁾	11.4	7.9
Total adjustments	159.9	37.5
Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 717.3	\$ 601.8

(1) Other adjustments include certain retention costs and equity investment income.

Seasonality

While we have not historically experienced significant seasonality throughout the year, sales in our Corporate segment, which primarily serves private sector business customers, are typically higher in the fourth quarter than in other quarters due to customers spending their remaining technology budget dollars at the end of the year. Additionally, sales in our Public segment have historically been higher in the third quarter than in other quarters primarily due to the buying patterns of the federal government and education customers.

Liquidity and Capital Resources**Overview**

We finance our operations and capital expenditures through a combination of internally generated cash from operations and from borrowings under our senior secured asset-based revolving credit facility. We believe that our current sources of funds will be sufficient to fund our cash operating requirements for the next year. In addition, we believe that, in spite of the uncertainty of future macroeconomic conditions, we have adequate sources of liquidity and

funding available to meet our longer-term needs. However, there are a number of factors that may negatively impact our available sources of funds. The amount of cash generated from operations will be dependent upon factors such as the successful execution of our business plan and general economic conditions.

Table of Contents**Cash Flows**

Cash flows from operating, investing and financing activities were as follows:

(in millions)	Years Ended December 31,		
	2012	2011	2010
Net cash provided by (used in):			
Operating activities	\$ 317.4	\$ 214.7	\$ 423.7
Investing activities	(41.7)	(56.0)	(125.4)
Net change in accounts payable - inventory financing	(29.5)	250.5	3.2
Other financing activities	(308.5)	(345.9)	(353.3)
Financing activities	(338.0)	(95.4)	(350.1)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	0.3		0.4
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	\$ (62.0)	\$ 63.3	\$ (51.4)

Operating Activities

Net cash provided by operating activities for 2012 increased \$102.7 million compared to 2011. The increase was primarily driven by changes in assets and liabilities, resulting in a \$148.9 million increase in net cash provided by operating activities between periods. Despite a 2012 fourth quarter increase in net sales of 4.9% between years, accounts receivable remained relatively flat from the prior year end driven by improved collection results, particularly within the Public segment. Accounts receivable in 2011 represented a use of cash of \$183.4 million, primarily due to a 2011 fourth quarter increase in net sales of 9.3% from the same period in the prior year. Merchandise inventory also contributed \$36.1 million of the increase in cash between years driven by a return to more normalized inventory levels in 2012 following the build-up at the end of 2011 related to the hard drive shortage from the Thailand floods, along with a higher percentage of drop shipments from vendor partners and distributors in 2012 compared to 2011. Partially offsetting these factors in 2012 was a \$54.1 million decrease in other assets as we collected \$53.3 million in income tax refunds in 2011 that did not repeat in 2012. Net income adjusted for the impact of non-cash items such as losses on extinguishment of long-term debt was \$326.8 million in 2012 compared to \$373.0 million in 2011, or a decrease of \$46.2 million. Improved operating performance in 2012 drove higher net income between years, but also higher net cash income taxes paid. Net cash income taxes paid in 2012 were \$123.2 million compared to a net cash tax refund of \$20.9 million in 2011. In addition to the \$53.3 million in cash tax refunds received in 2011, we also fully utilized our remaining federal net operating tax loss carryforwards during 2011.

Net cash provided by operating activities for 2011 decreased \$209.0 million compared to 2010. The decrease was primarily driven by the changes in assets and liabilities, resulting in a \$323.6 million reduction in cash between years. For 2011, the changes in assets and liabilities, excluding cash and cash equivalents, reduced cash by \$158.3 million compared to a cash contribution of \$165.3 million in 2010. The most significant driver of the cash contribution in 2010 was an increase in accounts payable-trade of \$269.3 million as we reduced the amount of accelerated payments we made in exchange for early pay discounts at December 31, 2010 compared to the prior year. Accounts payable-trade decreased \$19.8 million in 2011 compared to 2010, resulting in a relatively small reduction in cash. Cash flow from operating activities was further reduced by \$101.9 million in 2011 compared to 2010 following an

increase in accounts receivable between years driven by higher fourth quarter net sales in 2011. During 2011, we collected \$53.3 million in cash tax refunds which reduced other assets between years, resulting in an increase in cash flow from operating activities. Net income, adjusting for the impact of non-cash items such as losses on extinguishment of long-term debt, increased \$114.6 million between years reflecting our improved operating results in 2011.

Table of Contents

In order to manage our working capital and operating cash needs, we monitor our cash conversion cycle, defined as days of sales outstanding in accounts receivable plus days of supply in inventory, less days of purchases outstanding in accounts payable. The following table presents the components of our cash conversion cycle:

(in days)	December 31,		
	2012	2011	2010
Days of sales outstanding (DSO) ⁽¹⁾	42	45	43
Days of supply in inventory (DIO) ⁽²⁾	14	15	15
Days of purchases outstanding (DPO) ⁽³⁾	(32)	(32)	(26)
Cash conversion cycle	24	28	32

- (1) Represents the rolling three month average of the balance of trade accounts receivable, net at the end of the period divided by average daily net sales for the same three-month period. Also incorporates components of other miscellaneous receivables.
- (2) Represents the rolling three month average of the balance of inventory at the end of the period divided by average daily cost of goods sold for the same three-month period.
- (3) Represents the rolling three month average of the combined balance of accounts payable-trade, excluding cash overdrafts, and accounts payable-inventory financing at the end of the period divided by average daily cost of goods sold for the same three-month period.

The cash conversion cycle decreased to 24 days at December 31, 2012 compared to 28 days at December 31, 2011, driven by improvements in DSO and DIO. The DSO decline was primarily related to improved collections in the Public segment. The DIO decline was primarily related to an increase in the percentage of products delivered to customers via drop-shipment in 2012 compared to 2011, which had the effect of increasing cost of sales without a corresponding increase in inventory-related working capital.

The cash conversion cycle decreased to 28 days at December 31, 2011 compared to 32 days at December 31, 2010, driven by a six-day increase in DPO. The increase in DPO reflected a higher combined balance of accounts payable-trade and accounts payable-inventory financing at December 31, 2011 compared to December 31, 2010 as purchase volumes increased to support higher net sales and we received more favorable payment terms for payables related to certain vendors. The two-day increase in DSO primarily reflected our overall sales growth and a higher proportion of government sales in the fourth quarter of 2011 compared to the same period in 2010.

Investing Activities

Net cash used in investing activities in 2012 decreased \$14.3 million compared to 2011. This decline was primarily due to a reduction in cash payments between years of \$6.6 million related to interest rate swap agreements, as the \$6.6 million paid in 2011 reflected the final payment upon termination of the swap agreements on January 14, 2011. Capital expenditures were \$41.4 million for 2012 and \$45.7 million for 2011, primarily for improvements to our information technology systems during both years. During 2012 and 2011, we paid \$0.3 million and \$3.7 million, respectively, for new interest rate cap agreements.

Net cash used in investing activities in 2011 decreased \$69.4 million compared to 2010. This decline was primarily due to a reduction in cash payments between years of \$71.5 million under our interest rate swap agreements, as the

\$6.6 million paid in 2011 reflected the final payment upon termination of the swap agreements. Capital expenditures were \$45.7 million for 2011 and \$41.5 million for 2010, primarily for improvements to our information technology systems during both years. During 2011 and 2010, we paid \$3.7 million and \$5.9 million, respectively, for new interest rate cap agreements.

Financing Activities

Net cash used in financing activities increased \$242.6 million in 2012 compared to 2011. This change was primarily driven by 2011 net inflows from accounts payable-inventory financing of \$250.5 million compared to 2012 outflows of \$29.5 million, resulting in a total impact on the change in cash used in financing activities of \$280.0 million from accounts payable-inventory financing. The reduction in cash during 2012 from accounts payable-inventory financing was primarily due to the termination of one of our inventory financing agreements in the first quarter of 2012, with amounts owed for subsequent purchases being included in accounts payable-trade on the consolidated balance sheet and classified as cash flows from operating activities on the consolidated statement of cash flows. As discussed below under *Inventory Financing Arrangements*, in June 2011 we entered into a new inventory financing agreement with a financial intermediary to facilitate the purchase of inventory from a certain vendor. Inventory purchases from this vendor under the June 2011 inventory financing agreement are included in accounts payable-inventory financing and reported as cash flows from financing activities. The net impact of our debt transactions resulted in cash outflows of \$310.6 million during 2012 and \$346.5 million during 2011 as cash was used in each period to reduce our total long-term debt. Each debt transaction is described below under *Long-Term Debt and Financing Arrangements*.

Table of Contents

Net cash used in financing activities decreased \$254.7 million in 2011 compared to 2010, primarily driven by higher cash inflows of \$247.3 million from accounts payable-inventory financing. As discussed below under Inventory Financing Arrangements, inventory purchases from a certain vendor under a new inventory financing agreement are included in accounts payable-inventory financing and reported as cash flows from financing activities. A combination of the increase in overall purchase volume under inventory financing agreements to support higher net sales in 2011 along with more favorable payment terms under the new inventory financing agreement drove the majority of the increase in cash flows from financing activities during 2011 compared to 2010. The net impact of our debt transactions resulted in cash outflows of \$346.5 million during 2011 compared to cash outflows of \$352.7 million during 2010 as cash was used in each period to reduce our total long-term debt. Each debt transaction is described below under Long-Term Debt and Financing Arrangements .

Long-Term Debt and Financing Arrangements

Long-term debt was as follows:

(dollars in millions)	Interest rate (1)	December 31,	
		2012	2011
Senior secured asset-based revolving credit facility	%	\$	\$
Senior secured term loan facility	3.9%	1,339.5	1,540.5
Senior secured notes due 2018	8.0%	500.0	500.0
Senior notes due 2019	8.5%	1,305.0	1,175.0
Unamortized premium on senior notes due 2019		5.0	
Senior notes due 2015	%		129.0
Senior subordinated notes due 2017	12.535%	621.5	721.5
Total long-term debt		3,771.0	4,066.0
Less current maturities of long-term debt		(40.0)	(201.0)
Long-term debt, excluding current maturities		\$ 3,731.0	\$ 3,865.0

(1) Weighted-average interest rate as of December 31, 2012.

As of December 31, 2012, we were in compliance with the covenants under our various credit agreements as described below.

Senior Secured Asset-Based Revolving Credit Facility (Revolving Loan)

At December 31, 2012, we had no outstanding borrowings under the Revolving Loan, \$1.7 million of undrawn letters of credit and \$275.9 million reserved related to the floorplan sub-facility.

On June 24, 2011, we entered into the Revolving Loan, a new five-year \$900.0 million senior secured asset-based revolving credit facility, with the facility being available to us for borrowings, issuance of letters of credit and floorplan financing for certain vendor products. The Revolving Loan matures on June 24, 2016, subject to an acceleration provision discussed below. The Revolving Loan replaced our previous revolving loan credit facility that was to mature on October 12, 2012. The Revolving Loan (i) increased the overall revolving credit facility capacity

available to us from \$800.0 million to \$900.0 million, (ii) increased the maximum aggregate amount of increases that may be made to the revolving credit facility from \$100.0 million to \$200.0 million, (iii) added a maturity acceleration provision based upon excess cash availability whereby the Revolving Loan may mature 45 days prior to the maturity of certain subject debt, if excess cash availability does not exceed an amount equal to \$150 million plus the outstanding borrowings under such subject debt, (iv) increased the fee on the unused portion of the revolving credit facility from 25 basis points to either 37.5 or 50 basis points, depending on the amount of utilization, (v) increased the applicable interest rate margin, and (vi) incorporated a \$300.0 million floorplan sub-facility, which was increased to \$400.0 million on August 2, 2011. In connection with the termination of the previous facility, we recorded a loss on extinguishment of long-term debt of \$1.6 million in the consolidated statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2011, representing a write-off of a portion of unamortized deferred financing costs. Fees of \$7.2 million related to the Revolving Loan were capitalized as deferred financing costs and are being amortized over the term of the facility on a straight-line basis.

As described in Note 5 to the consolidated financial statements, we have entered into agreements with certain financial intermediaries to facilitate the purchase of inventory from various suppliers. In connection with the floorplan sub-facility, we entered into an inventory financing agreement on an unsecured basis with a financial intermediary to facilitate the purchase of

Table of Contents

inventory from this vendor (the Revolving Loan inventory financing agreement). Amounts outstanding under the Revolving Loan inventory financing agreement are unsecured and noninterest bearing. We will either pay the outstanding Revolving Loan inventory financing agreement amounts when they become due, or the Revolving Loan's administrative agent will automatically initiate an advance on the Revolving Loan and use the proceeds to pay the balance on the due date. As of December 31, 2012, the financial intermediary reported an outstanding balance of \$267.9 million under the Revolving Loan inventory financing agreement, which did not reflect payments we made on December 31, 2012. The total amount reported on the consolidated balance sheet as accounts payable-inventory financing related to the Revolving Loan inventory financing agreement is \$19.6 million less than the \$267.9 million owed to the financial intermediary due to differences in the timing of reporting activity under the Revolving Loan inventory financing agreement. The outstanding balance reported by the financial intermediary excludes \$8.0 million in reserves for open orders that reduce the availability under the Revolving Loan. Changes in cash flows from the Revolving Loan inventory financing agreement are reported in financing activities on the consolidated statement of cash flows.

Borrowings under the Revolving Loan bear interest at a variable interest rate plus an applicable margin. The variable interest rate is based on one of two indices, either (i) LIBOR, or (ii) the Alternate Base Rate (ABR) with the ABR being the greatest of (a) the prime rate, (b) the federal funds effective rate plus 50 basis points or (c) the one-month LIBOR plus 1.00%. The applicable margin varies (2.00% to 2.50% for LIBOR borrowings and 1.00% to 1.50% for ABR borrowings) depending upon our average daily excess cash availability under the agreement and is subject to a reduction of 0.25% if, and for as long as, the senior secured leverage ratio is less than 3.0. The senior secured leverage ratio is defined as the ratio of senior secured debt (including amounts owed under certain inventory floorplan arrangements and capital leases) less cash and cash equivalents, to Adjusted EBITDA, a non-GAAP measure, for the four most recently ended fiscal quarters. For the four quarters ended December 31, 2012, the senior secured leverage ratio was 2.4.

Availability under the Revolving Loan is limited to (a) the lesser of the revolving commitment of \$900.0 million and the amount of the borrowing base less (b) outstanding borrowings, letters of credit, and amounts outstanding under the Revolving Loan inventory financing agreement plus a reserve of 15% of open orders. The borrowing base is (a) the sum of the products of the applicable advance rates on eligible accounts receivable and on eligible inventory as defined in the agreement less (b) any reserves. At December 31, 2012, the borrowing base was \$1,018.2 million based on the amount of eligible inventory and accounts receivable balances as of November 30, 2012. We could have borrowed up to an additional \$622.4 million under the Revolving Loan at December 31, 2012.

CDW LLC is the borrower under the Revolving Loan. All obligations under the Revolving Loan are guaranteed by Parent and each of CDW LLC's direct and indirect, 100% owned, domestic subsidiaries. Borrowings under the Revolving Loan are collateralized by a first priority interest in inventory (excluding inventory collateralized under the inventory floorplan arrangements as described in Note 5 to the consolidated financial statements), deposits, and accounts receivable, and a second priority interest in substantially all other assets. The Revolving Loan contains negative covenants that, among other things, place restrictions and limitations on the ability of Parent and each of CDW LLC's direct and indirect, 100% owned, domestic subsidiaries to dispose of assets, incur additional indebtedness, incur guarantee obligations, prepay other indebtedness, make distributions or other restricted payments, create liens, make equity or debt investments, make acquisitions, engage in mergers or consolidations, or engage in certain transactions with affiliates. The Revolving Loan also includes maintenance of a minimum average daily excess cash availability requirement. Should we fall below the minimum average daily excess cash availability requirement for five consecutive business days, we become subject to a fixed charge coverage ratio until such time as the daily excess cash availability requirement is met for 30 consecutive business days.

Senior Secured Term Loan Facility (Term Loan)

At December 31, 2012, the outstanding principal amount of the Term Loan was \$1,339.5 million, with \$421.3 million of non-extended term loans due October 10, 2014 and \$918.2 million of extended term loans due July 15, 2017. The effective weighted-average interest rate on Term Loan principal amounts outstanding on December 31, 2012 was 3.9% per annum.

Borrowings under the Term Loan bear interest at either (a) the ABR plus a margin; or (b) LIBOR plus a margin. The margin is based on our senior secured leverage ratio as defined in the amended agreement evidencing the Term Loan. Effective with the March 2011 amendment discussed below, the margins were reduced on extended loans. For ABR borrowings, the applicable margin varies within a range of 2.50% to 3.00% for non-extended loans and 1.75% to 2.25% for extended loans. For LIBOR borrowings, the applicable margin varies within a range of 3.50% to 4.00% for non-extended loans and 2.75% to 3.25% for extended loans.

On March 11, 2011, we entered into an amendment to the Term Loan, which became effective on March 14, 2011. This amendment, among other things: (i) reduced the margins with respect to extended loans, (ii) established a LIBOR floor of 1.25% and an ABR floor of 2.25% with respect to extended loans, (iii) reset the start date for accumulating restricted payments that count against the general limit of \$25.0 million and (iv) provided a 1% prepayment premium for certain repayments or repricings of any extended loans for the six-month period following the effective date of the amendment. In connection with this amendment, we recorded a loss on extinguishment of long-term debt of \$3.2 million in the consolidated statement of operations for the year ended December 31, 2011. This loss represented a write-off of a portion of the unamortized deferred financing costs related to the Term Loan.

Table of Contents

The Term Loan requires us to make certain mandatory prepayments of principal amounts under certain circumstances, including (i) a prepayment in an amount equal to 50% of our excess cash flow for a fiscal year (the percentage rate of which decreases to 25% when the total net leverage ratio, as defined in the governing agreement, is less than or equal to 5.5 but greater than 4.5; and decreases to 0% when the total net leverage ratio is less than or equal to 4.5), and (ii) the net cash proceeds from the incurrence of certain additional indebtedness by us or our subsidiaries. Excess cash flow is defined as Adjusted EBITDA, plus items such as reductions in working capital, less items such as increases in working capital, certain taxes paid in cash, interest that will be paid in cash, capital expenditures and repayment of long-term indebtedness. The total net leverage ratio was 5.2 at December 31, 2012. On January 30, 2013, we made an optional prepayment of \$40.0 million aggregate principal amount. The prepayment was allocated on a pro rata basis between the extended and non-extended term loans. The optional prepayment satisfied the excess cash flow payment provision of the Term Loan with respect to the year ended December 31, 2012. We were required to make a mandatory prepayment of \$201.0 million under the excess cash flow provision with respect to the year ended December 31, 2011. The requirement was satisfied through \$180.0 million of optional prepayments in February 2012 and \$21.0 million of mandatory prepayments in March 2012. The prepayments were allocated on a pro rata basis between the extended and non-extended term loans. On March 16, 2011, we made a mandatory prepayment of \$132.0 million with respect to the year ended December 31, 2010, under the excess cash flow provision.

CDW LLC is the borrower under the Term Loan. All obligations under the Term Loan are guaranteed by Parent and each of CDW LLC's direct and indirect, 100% owned, domestic subsidiaries. The Term Loan is collateralized by a second priority interest in substantially all inventory (excluding inventory collateralized under the inventory floorplan arrangements as described in Note 5 to the consolidated financial statements), deposits, and accounts receivable, and by a first priority interest in substantially all other assets. The Term Loan contains negative covenants that, among other things, place restrictions and limitations on the ability of Parent and each of CDW LLC's direct and indirect, 100% owned, domestic subsidiaries to dispose of assets, incur additional indebtedness, incur guarantee obligations, prepay other indebtedness, make distributions or other restricted payments, create liens, make equity or debt investments, make acquisitions, engage in mergers or consolidations, or engage in certain transactions with affiliates.

The Term Loan also includes a senior secured leverage ratio requirement. The senior secured leverage ratio is required to be maintained on a quarterly basis and is defined as the ratio of senior secured debt (including amounts owed under certain inventory floorplan arrangements) less cash and cash equivalents, to Adjusted EBITDA, a non-GAAP financial measure, for the most recently ended four fiscal quarters. Compliance may be determined after giving effect to a designated equity contribution to the Company to be included in the calculation of Adjusted EBITDA. The senior secured leverage ratio for the four quarters ended December 31, 2012 was required to be at or below 6.75. For the four quarters ended December 31, 2012, the senior secured leverage ratio was 2.4. The senior secured leverage ratio requirement is a material component of the Term Loan. Non-compliance with the senior secured leverage ratio requirement would result in a default under the credit agreement governing the Term Loan and could prevent us from borrowing under our Revolving Loan. If there were an event of default under the credit agreement governing the Term Loan that was not cured or waived, the lenders under the Term Loan could cause all amounts outstanding under the Term Loan to be due and payable immediately, which would have a material adverse effect on our financial position and cash flows. For a discussion of net cash provided by (used in) operating activities, investing activities and financing activities, see [Cash Flows](#) above. For a reconciliation of Adjusted EBITDA to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities, see [Selected Financial Data](#).

We are required to maintain interest rate derivative arrangements to fix or cap the interest rate on at least 50% of the outstanding principal amount of the Term Loan through maturity, subject to certain limitations currently in effect. We utilize interest rate cap agreements to maintain compliance with this requirement. We have ten interest rate cap agreements in effect through January 14, 2015 with a combined notional amount of \$1,150.0 million. Of the ten cap agreements, four entitle us to payments from the counterparty of the amount, if any, by which three-month LIBOR

exceeds 3.5% during the agreement period. The other six cap agreements entitle us to payments from the counterparty of the amount, if any, by which the three-month LIBOR exceeds 1.5% during the agreement period. The fair value of our interest rate cap agreements was \$0.1 million at December 31, 2012.

8.0% Senior Secured Notes due 2018 (Senior Secured Notes)

The Senior Secured Notes were issued on December 17, 2010 and will mature on December 15, 2018. At December 31, 2012, the outstanding principal amount of the Senior Secured Notes was \$500.0 million.

CDW LLC and CDW Finance Corporation are the co-issuers of the Senior Secured Notes and the obligations under the notes are guaranteed by Parent and each of CDW LLC's direct and indirect, 100% owned, domestic subsidiaries. The Senior Secured Notes are secured on a pari passu basis with the Term Loan by a second priority interest in substantially all inventory

Table of Contents

(excluding inventory collateralized under the inventory floorplan arrangements as described in Note 5 to the consolidated financial statements), deposits, and accounts receivable, and by a first priority interest in substantially all other assets. The indenture governing the Senior Secured Notes contains negative covenants that, among other things, place restrictions and limitations on the ability of Parent and each of CDW LLC's direct and indirect, 100% owned, domestic subsidiaries to dispose of assets, incur additional indebtedness, incur guarantee obligations, prepay other indebtedness, make distributions or other restricted payments, create liens, make equity or debt investments, make acquisitions, engage in mergers or consolidations, or engage in certain transactions with affiliates. The indenture governing the Senior Secured Notes does not contain any financial covenants.

11.0% Senior Exchange Notes due 2015 (Senior Exchange Notes); 11.5% / 12.25% Senior PIK Election Exchange Notes due 2015 (PIK Election Notes together with the Senior Exchange Notes, the Senior Notes due 2015)

At December 31, 2012, there were no outstanding Senior Notes due 2015.

On April 13, 2011, we completed a cash tender offer (the Initial Senior Notes due 2015 Tender Offer) and purchased \$665.1 million aggregate principal amount of Senior Notes due 2015 comprised of \$519.2 million of the Senior Exchange Notes and \$145.9 million of the PIK Election Notes. We concurrently issued \$725.0 million aggregate principal amount of Senior Notes (as defined below). The proceeds from this issuance, together with cash on hand and borrowings under the then-outstanding revolving loan credit facility, were used to fund the purchase of the tendered Senior Notes due 2015, including \$665.1 million aggregate principal amount of Senior Notes due 2015, \$59.9 million in tender offer premium and \$36.5 million of accrued and unpaid interest, along with transaction fees and expenses.

On May 20, 2011, we completed a follow-on cash tender offer (the Follow-on Senior Notes due 2015 Tender Offer, and together with the Initial Senior Notes due 2015 Tender Offer, the Senior Notes due 2015 Tender Offers) and purchased an additional \$412.8 million aggregate principal amount of Senior Notes due 2015 comprised of \$321.4 million of the Senior Exchange Notes and \$91.4 million of the PIK Election Notes. We concurrently issued \$450.0 million aggregate principal amount of additional Senior Notes. The proceeds from