

LANDS' END, INC.  
Form 10-K  
March 28, 2019

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

---

FORM 10-K

---

Annual report pursuant to section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
For the fiscal year ended February 1, 2019

-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: 001-09769

---

Lands' End, Inc.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

---

Delaware 36-2512786  
(State or Other Jurisdiction of (I.R.S. Employer  
Incorporation of Organization) Identification No.)

1 Lands' End Lane 53595  
Dodgeville, Wisconsin  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)  
(608) 935-9341  
(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

Securities registered under Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act:  
Title of each class: Name of each exchange on which registered:  
Common stock, par value \$0.01 per share The NASDAQ Stock Market  
Securities registered under Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act:

None  
(Title of Class)

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 15(d) of the Exchange Act. YES  NO

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

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

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the 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.

Edgar Filing: LANDS' END, INC. - Form 10-K

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

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer  Smaller reporting company

Emerging growth company

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

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

The aggregate market value (based on the closing price of the registrant's common stock quoted on the NASDAQ Stock Market) of the registrant's common stock owned by non-affiliates, as of August 3, 2018, the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter, was approximately \$260.3 million.

As of March 27, 2019, the registrant had 32,249,492 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value, outstanding.

---

LANDS' END, INC.  
INDEX TO ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K  
Table of Contents

	Page
PART I	
Item 1. <u>Business</u>	<u>2</u>
Item 1A. <u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>10</u>
Item 1B. <u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	<u>22</u>
Item 2. <u>Properties</u>	<u>23</u>
Item 3. <u>Legal Proceedings</u>	<u>24</u>
Item 4. <u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	<u>25</u>
PART II	
Item 5. <u>Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	<u>26</u>
Item 6. <u>Selected Financial Data</u>	<u>28</u>
Item 7. <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	<u>30</u>
Item 7A. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	<u>44</u>
Item 8. <u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	<u>45</u>
Item 9. <u>Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	<u>79</u>
Item 9A. <u>Controls and Procedures</u>	<u>80</u>
Item 9B. <u>Other Information</u>	<u>81</u>
PART III	
Item 10. <u>Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u>	<u>82</u>
Item 11. <u>Executive Compensation</u>	<u>83</u>
Item 12. <u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	<u>84</u>
Item 13. <u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	<u>85</u>
Item 14. <u>Principal Accounting Fees and Services</u>	<u>86</u>

PART IV

Item 15. <u>Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules</u>	<u>87</u>
Item 16. <u>Form 10-K Summary</u>	<u>92</u>
<u>Signatures</u>	<u>93</u>

Table of Contents

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

As used in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, references to the "Company", "Lands' End", "we", "us", "our" and similar terms refer to Lands' End, Inc. and its subsidiaries. Our fiscal year ends on the Friday preceding the Saturday on or closest to January 31. Other terms commonly used in this Annual Report on Form 10-K are defined as follows:

- ABL Facility - Asset-based senior secured credit agreements, dated as of November 16, 2017, with Wells Fargo, N.A. and certain other lenders
- Brexit - The United Kingdom's vote to exit from the European Union
- Company Operated stores - Lands' End retail stores in the Retail channel
- Debt Facilities - Collectively, the ABL Facility and the Term Loan Facility
- ERP - enterprise resource planning software solutions
- ESL - ESL Investments, Inc. and its investment affiliates, including Edward S. Lampert
- Fiscal 2019 - The Company's next fiscal year representing the 52 weeks ending January 31, 2020
- Fiscal 2018 - The 52 weeks ended February 1, 2019
- Fiscal 2017 - The 53 weeks ended February 2, 2018
- Fiscal 2016 - The 52 weeks ended January 27, 2017
- Fiscal 2015 - The 52 weeks ended January 29, 2016
- Sears Holdings - Sears Holdings Corporation, a Delaware corporation, and its consolidated subsidiaries (other than, for all periods following the Separation, Lands' End)
- Sears Roebuck - Sears, Roebuck and Co., a wholly owned subsidiary of Sears Holdings
- SEC - United States Securities and Exchange Commission
- Separation - On April 4, 2014 Sears Holdings distributed 100% of the outstanding common stock of Lands' End to its shareholders
- Tax Act - The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act passed by the United States government on December 22, 2017
- Tax Sharing Agreement - A tax sharing agreement entered into by Sears Holdings Corporation and Lands' End in connection with the Separation
- Term Loan Facility - Term loan credit agreements, dated as of April 4, 2014, with Bank of America, N.A. and certain other lenders
- Transform Holdco - Transform Holdco LLC, an affiliate of ESL, which on February 11, 2019 acquired from Sears Holdings substantially all of the go-forward retail footprint and other assets and component businesses of Sears Holdings as a going concern
- UTBs - Gross unrecognized tax benefits

Lands' End is an iconic American brand and a leading multi-channel retailer of casual clothing, accessories and footwear, as well as home products. Operating out of America's heartland, our vision and values make a strong connection with our core customers. We offer products through catalogs, online at [www.landsend.com](http://www.landsend.com), on international websites, third-party online marketplaces, and through retail locations. We have a passion for delivering quality products, uncompromising service and exceptional value to our customers and we seek to deliver timeless style for women, men, kids and the home.

Lands' End was founded in 1963 by Gary Comer and his partners to sell sailboat hardware and equipment by catalog. While our product focus has shifted significantly over the years, we have continued to adhere to our founder's motto as one of our guiding principles: "Take care of the customer, take care of the employee and the rest will take care of itself."

As discussed more fully in the strategy section, Lands' End is a leading multi-channel retailer of casual clothing, accessories and footwear, as well as home products. Lands' End is building a multi-channel distribution network

Table of Contents

seeking to provide a common customer experience regardless of whether they are interacting with us on our company websites, third party marketplaces, at company owned stores or other distribution outlets. As we evolve our multi-channel strategy, and in conjunction with the accelerated closures of Lands' End Shops at Sears, during Fiscal 2018 we determined it was more appropriate to combine the previously disclosed external reportable segments of Direct and Retail, into one combined external reportable segment as it more closely represents how we are managing the Company. We identify our operating segments according to how our business activities are managed and evaluated. Our operating segments consist of U.S. eCommerce, Retail, Lands' End Outfitters ("Outfitters"), Europe eCommerce and Japan eCommerce. We have determined that each of our operating segments share similar economic and other qualitative characteristics, and therefore the results of our operating segments are aggregated into one reportable segment.

Lands' End's product channels are eCommerce, Retail and Outfitters. eCommerce offers products through the Company's eCommerce websites, third party online marketplaces and direct mail catalogs. Retail sells products and services through Company Operated stores and through dedicated Lands' End Shops at Sears. Outfitters sells products to end consumers, located primarily in the United States, through negotiated arrangements with client organizations to make specific styles or embroidered products available to members of client organizations.

In Fiscal 2018, we generated revenue of approximately \$1.45 billion. Our revenue is generated worldwide through an international, multi-channel network based in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany and Japan. This network reinforces and supports sales across the multiple channels in which we do business. Net revenue is presented by product channel in the following table:

(in thousands)	Fiscal 2018	% of Revenue	Fiscal 2017	% of Revenue	Fiscal 2016	% of Revenue
eCommerce	\$1,039,929	71.7 %	\$975,446	69.3 %	\$900,182	67.4 %
Outfitters	289,251	19.9 %	258,669	18.4 %	248,967	18.6 %
Retail	122,412	8.4 %	172,562	12.3 %	186,611	14.0 %
Total Revenue	\$1,451,592		\$1,406,677		\$1,335,760	

Utilizing this multi-channel network, we fulfilled orders to customers in approximately 155 countries outside the United States, totaling approximately 13.2% of revenue.

Revenue by the geographical location where the product is shipped is as follows:

(in thousands)	Fiscal 2018	% of Revenue	Fiscal 2017	% of Revenue	Fiscal 2016	% of Revenue
United States	\$1,245,157	85.8 %	\$1,204,199	85.6 %	\$1,143,529	85.6 %
Europe	138,761	9.6 %	134,543	9.6 %	125,410	9.4 %
Asia	50,203	3.5 %	48,704	3.5 %	50,030	3.7 %
Other	17,471	1.1 %	19,231	1.3 %	16,791	1.3 %
Total Revenue	\$1,451,592		\$1,406,677		\$1,335,760	

Long-lived assets by geographical location are as follows:

(in thousands)	Fiscal 2018	Fiscal 2017	Fiscal 2016
United States	\$140,663	\$126,015	\$113,045
Europe	8,773	9,862	9,075
Asia	458	625	716
Total Property and equipment, net	\$149,894	\$136,502	\$122,836



## Table of Contents

### Strategy

In Fiscal 2018, we continued to leverage our iconic American brand, which was founded on the principles of delivering great quality, uncompromising service and exceptional value to our customers. In Fiscal 2019 we plan to continue the momentum through four major growth initiatives that have been our focus over the past two years: Product. The soul of the Lands' End brand has always been products with a purpose. We are focused on delivering key items, made of quality materials, in iconic styles that offer great value to our customers and their families. We provide an assortment of products leveraging our key item strategy with a focus on delivering comfort, style and value with emphasis on major categories. In Fiscal 2019 we plan to continue to leverage customer data to drive decisions around our merchandise assortment, fabrics, silhouettes and price points that our customer desires. We have worked to standardize our fits across multiple categories and classifications. We are also focused on key partnerships, including growing our uniform business with the innovative products to meet the needs of our partners.

Digital. We are focused on utilizing digital technologies to obtain new customers and improve the overall customer experience, including leveraging data analytics to better tailor and personalize the shopping experience for each customer. We are becoming a digitally-led organization, applying technology as we adapt to ongoing shifts in customer shopping behaviors. During Fiscal 2018, we improved our search engine optimization, improved mobile site speed and implemented price clarity. We enhanced our website with updated product descriptions that better align with the language that our customers use when searching for products. We also enhanced our smartphone experience, as this is the device our customer increasingly prefers. As a part of our Fiscal 2019 initiatives we are focused on continuing to improve the customer's smartphone experience, including improved product presentation and a faster website.

Distribution. We utilize multi-point distribution, including our traditional catalogs, eCommerce and retail stores, to engage our customer where and how they choose to shop. Our stores represent the Lands' End American Heritage aesthetic, making it easy for our customers to find our products in an inviting, brand appropriate setting. For Fiscal 2019 and beyond, we plan to apply a customer analytics-driven distribution strategy, where we leverage our data to refine product assortment, target store locations, and explore opportunities with third party marketplaces.

Business Process. We continue to focus on building strategic competencies through improved business processes that are based on standardization and efficiency. As we enter Fiscal 2019, we are nearing completion of our ERP implementation, beginning the implementation of our Enterprise Order Management ("EOM") system and scoping of a Warehouse Management System solution. We also plan to focus on optimizing our logistics and transportation capabilities, which will further enable us to upgrade the way we take, process and fulfill orders across our enterprise. Additionally, we plan to continue to upgrade our inventory planning process and data analytic capabilities as we focus on growing the business and operating as a global multi-channel retailer.

### Key Capabilities

Lands' End was founded on certain principles of doing business that are embodied in our goal to deliver great quality, uncompromising service and exceptional value to our customers. These core principles of quality, service and value are the foundation of what we believe distinguish us from our competitors, including:

Customer base. Lands' End is an iconic American brand with a large and loyal customer base. Operating out of Wisconsin, in the heartland of the United States, our vision and values make a strong connection with our core customer. In Fiscal 2018, we grew the brand by reconnecting with those core customers. We believe that a principal indicator of our success to date has been the continued growth of our buyer file in Fiscal 2018, with increases in new and retained customers.

Product innovation. We seek to develop new, innovative products for our customers by utilizing modern fabrics and quality construction to create timeless, affordable styles with excellent fits. We also seek to present our products in an engaging and inspiring way. We believe that our typical customers value quality, seek good value for their money and are looking to add classics to their wardrobe while also placing an emphasis on comfort, functionality and product innovation that supports their lifestyle. From a design and merchandising perspective, we believe that we have had success adding relevant items into our product assortment, many of which have become customer favorites. We devote significant time and resources to quality assurance, fit testing and product compliance. Our in-house team manages all product specifications and seeks to ensure brand integrity by providing our customers with the consistent,



high-quality merchandise for which Lands' End is known. We are a vertically integrated retailer that manages all aspects of our

4

---

## Table of Contents

design, marketing and distribution in-house, which provides us with maximum control over the promotion and sale of our products.

Customer service. We are committed to building on Lands' End's legacy of strong customer service. We believe we have a strong track record of improving the customer service experience through innovation. Today, Lands' End is focused on using our extensive customer data to make the shopping experience as effortless and personalized as possible, regardless of whether our customers shop online or in one of our retail locations. Our operations, including prompt order fulfillment, responsiveness to our customers' requests and our customer friendly return policy, have contributed to our award-winning customer service, which we believe is one of our core strengths and a key point of differentiation from our competitors. We have received many accolades over the years and most recently, received the following:

• Lands' End was included in the Newsweek list of America's Best Customer Service 2019, ranking No.1 for best customer service in the Online Retailers: Clothing in the Apparel category (November 2018)

• Lands' End Earns StellaService's Elite Award for Phone and Email, which is awarded to retailers who provide the very best in customer care, Source: StellaService (March 2017)

• Land's End Named Customer Experience Leader, Source: Mulitchannel Merchant (March 2017)

• Lands' End Named Customer Service Champion, Source: Prosper Insights & Analytics. Featured on Forbes.com (August 2017)

### Marketing

We believe that our most important asset is our brand. The Lands' End brand is well-recognized with a deeply rooted tradition of offering excellent quality, value and service along with the Lands' End return policy. We seek to reflect that tradition in all of our merchandise. We also invest significantly in brand development through our focus on providing excellent customer service and our emphasis on digital transformation and innovative product development. We believe that this commitment to our brand has helped to generate our large and loyal customer base for over fifty years.

We attempt to build on our brand recognition through multi-channel marketing campaigns including an eCommerce website, [www.landsend.com](http://www.landsend.com), catalog distribution, digital marketing and social media. Creative designs for these marketing platforms are primarily developed in-house by our creative team. We strive to be efficient in our overall spend, enabling us to invest in initiatives that we believe will yield benefits over the longer-term. We expect the majority of our marketing spend to be allocated to digital marketing and our catalog, where we believe we can generate near term return on investment. We are also seeking to enhance our branding initiatives by investing in strategic partnerships designed to showcase our apparel and personalizing promotions offered to customers.

### Information Technology

Our information technology systems provide comprehensive support for the design, merchandising, importing, marketing, distribution, sales, order processing and order fulfillment of our Lands' End products. We have a dedicated information technology team that provides strategic direction, application development, infrastructure services and systems support for the functions and processes of our business. The information technology team contracts with third-party consulting firms to provide cost-effective staff augmentation services and partners with leading hardware, software and cloud-based technology firms to provide the infrastructure necessary to run and operate our systems. Our core software applications are comprised of a combination of internally developed and packaged third-party systems. The eCommerce solutions powering [www.landsend.com](http://www.landsend.com), the Outfitters websites, and our international Lands' End websites are operated out of our own internal data centers, as well as through hosting relationships with third parties and industry-leading cloud providers.

We are in the process of implementing new information technology systems as part of a multi-year plan to expand and upgrade our information technology platforms and infrastructure. In Fiscal 2018, we implemented several financial, merchandising and inventory planning capabilities as part of our ERP implementation along with key enhancements to our eCommerce shopping experiences. We intend to build off these core capabilities to drive future improvements in our operations.

In Fiscal 2019, we intend to continue to pursue additional strategic investments, including fully rolling out our ERP platform. We plan to begin work on EOM and continue to improve on our digital capabilities including enhanced

mobile experiences, personalization, data science, and continue enhancements to the digital shopping experiences on our eCommerce platforms. In addition, we intend to invest in digital solutions to augment the customer and sales associate experiences within our Company Operated stores.

5

---

## Table of Contents

The nearly complete ERP platform implementation combined with the implementation of the EOM platform is expected to create efficiencies within our internal processes and reporting. However, implementation of these solutions and systems is highly dependent on coordination of numerous software, hardware, cloud and system integration providers. See also Item 1A, Risk Factors, in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

### Competition

We operate primarily in the apparel industry which is highly competitive. We compete with a diverse group of direct-to-consumer companies and retailers, including national department store chains, men's and women's specialty apparel chains, outdoor specialty stores, apparel catalog businesses, sportswear marketers and online apparel businesses that sell similar lines of merchandise. We compete principally on the basis of merchandise value (quality and price), product innovation, our established customer list and award-winning customer service, which includes reliable order fulfillment, our return policy and services, and information provided at our user-friendly websites.

### Seasonality

We experience seasonal fluctuations in our net revenue and operating results and historically have realized a significant portion of our net revenue and earnings for the year during our fourth fiscal quarter. We generated 34.6%, 36.3% and 34.4% of our net revenue in the fourth fiscal quarter of Fiscal 2018, Fiscal 2017 and Fiscal 2016, respectively. Thus, lower than expected fourth quarter net revenue could have an adverse impact on our annual operating results.

Working capital requirements typically increase during the second and third quarters of the fiscal year as inventory builds to support peak shipping/selling periods and, accordingly, working capital requirements typically decreases during the fourth quarter of the fiscal year as inventory is shipped/sold. Cash provided by operating activities is typically higher in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year due to reduced working capital requirements during that period.

### Vendors

Our products are produced globally by independent manufacturers who are selected, monitored and coordinated by the Lands' End Global Sourcing team based in Dodgeville, Wisconsin and other third-party buying agents. Our products are manufactured in approximately 30 countries and the majority are imported from Asia and South America, depending on the nature of the product mix. In Fiscal 2018 our top 10 vendors accounted for approximately 40% of the value of our merchandise purchases and we worked with approximately 200 vendors that manufactured substantially all of our products. We generally do not enter into long-term merchandise supply contracts. We continue to take advantage of opportunities to more efficiently source our products worldwide, consistent with our high standards of quality and value. Significant areas of non-product spend include transportation, information systems, marketing, packaging and catalog paper and print.

It is important to us that our partners share the same values in business as we do, therefore, we require that the vendors comply with applicable legal requirements, agree to our global compliance requirements and meet our product quality standards. Our vendors are required to provide us with full access to their facilities and to relevant records relating to their employment practices, such as, but not limited to, child labor, wages and benefits, forced labor, discrimination, freedom of association, unlawful inducements, safe and healthy working conditions and other business practices so that we may monitor their compliance with ethical and legal requirements relating to the conduct of their business.

### Sources and Availability of Raw Materials

We purchase, in the ordinary course of business, raw materials and supplies essential to our operations from numerous suppliers around the world, including in the United States. There have been no recent significant availability problems or supply shortages.

### Distribution

We own and operate three distribution centers in Wisconsin. Our Dodgeville facility is approximately 1.1 million square feet and is a full-service distribution center, including monogramming, hemming and embroidery services. Our Reedsburg location is approximately 400,000 square feet and offers all order fulfillment services except hemming. Our Stevens Point distribution center is approximately 150,000 square feet and primarily focuses on embroidery services. Customer orders are shipped via third parties.

We own and operate a distribution center in the United Kingdom based in Oakham, a community north of London. Order fulfillment and specialty services for our European businesses are performed at this facility, which opened in

1998 and totals approximately 175,000 square feet. We also lease a 56,000 square foot distribution center in Fujieda, Japan.

6

---

## Table of Contents

Orders are generally filled on a current basis, and order backlog is not material to our business.

### Intellectual Property

Lands' End owns or has rights to use certain word and design trademarks, service marks, and trade names that are registered or exist under common law in the United States and other jurisdictions. The Lands' End® trade name and trademark is used both in the United States and internationally, and is material to our business. Trademarks that are important in identifying and distinguishing our products and services are Guaranteed. Period.®, Lighthouse by Lands' End™, Square Rigger™, Squall®, Super-T™, Drifter™, Outrigger®, Marinac®, and Beach Living®, all of which are owned by us, as well as the licensed marks Supima®, No-Gape®, and others. Other recognized trademarks owned by Lands' End include SwimMates™, Starfish™, Iron Knees®, Hyde Park®, Year' Rounder®, ClassMate®, Pink Thread Project®, Willis & Geiger® and ThermaCheck®. Lands' End's rights to some of these trademarks are limited to select markets.

### Employees

We employ approximately 5,000 employees throughout our operations: approximately 4,200 employees in the United States and approximately 800 employees outside the United States. This workforce is comprised of approximately 20% salaried employees, 41% hourly employees and 39% part-time employees. With the seasonal nature of the retail industry, over 2,000 additional, flexible, part-time employees join us each year to support our varying peak seasons, including the fourth quarter holiday shopping season.

### Pledged Assets

All obligations under the Debt Facilities are unconditionally guaranteed by Lands' End, Inc. and, subject to certain exceptions, each of its existing and future direct and indirect wholly-owned domestic subsidiaries. The ABL Facility is secured by a first priority security interest in certain working capital of the borrowers and guarantors consisting primarily of accounts receivable and inventory. The Term Loan Facility is secured by a second priority security interest in the same collateral, with certain exceptions.

The Term Loan Facility also is secured by a first priority security interest in certain property and assets of the borrowers and guarantors, including certain fixed assets and stock of subsidiaries. The ABL Facility is secured by a second priority security interest in the same collateral.

### Corporate Citizenship

**Sustainability Initiatives.** Lands' End is working towards improving its sustainable footprint through key practices like waste reduction, purchasing recycled consumables and through corporate partnerships. Lands' End hopes to inspire customers and other corporations to increase sustainability awareness and initiatives.

We have a focus on raising awareness and educating associates on reducing our internal use of consumables and natural resources. In addition, we have a broad range of recycling and waste management initiatives at our corporate office and distribution centers to address our use of paper products, aluminum cans, glass, electronics and plastic as well as maintenance operations, disposal of non-recyclables with composting and water management.

Additionally, we believe that we also demonstrate marketplace leadership by participating in industry educational workshops and initiatives. Lands' End has formed strategic partnerships with organizations like the Sustainable Apparel Coalition, bluesign, National Forest Foundation, where we have helped plant over 1 million trees, and the Clean Lakes Alliance, where we help protect and improve maintenance of local lakes in Wisconsin. These partnerships, which respectively operate globally, nationally, and locally allow us to engage at a variety of levels.

### History

We were founded in 1963, incorporated in Delaware in 1986 and our common stock was listed on the New York Stock Exchange from 1986 to 2002. On June 17, 2002, we became a wholly owned subsidiary of Sears Roebuck. Sears Holdings distributed 100 percent of the outstanding common stock of Lands' End to its stockholders on April 4, 2014.

According to statements on form Schedule 13D filed with the SEC by ESL, ESL beneficially owned significant portions of both the Company's and Sears Holdings' outstanding shares of common stock. Therefore, Sears Holdings, the Company's former parent company, is considered a related party both prior to and subsequent to the Separation. On February 11, 2019, Transform Holdco acquired from Sears Holdings substantially all of the go-forward retail footprint and other assets and component businesses of Sears Holdings as a going concern. We believe that ESL holds a significant portion of the membership interests of Transform Holdco and therefore consider that entity to be a related

party as well.

7

---

Table of Contents

In connection with and subsequent to the Separation, we entered into various agreements with Sears Holdings or its subsidiaries that govern our relationship with Sears Holdings with respect to the Lands' End Shops at Sears, various general corporate services, and other relationships. At this time we cannot predict if these agreements will be assumed by and assigned to Transform Holdco. See Note 11, Related Party Agreements and Transactions.

**Corporate Information**

Our principal executive offices are located at 1 Lands' End Lane, Dodgeville, Wisconsin 53595. Our telephone number is (608) 935-9341.

**Available Information, Internet Address and Internet Access to Current and Periodic Reports and Other Information**

Our website address is [www.landsend.com](http://www.landsend.com). References to [www.landsend.com](http://www.landsend.com) do not constitute incorporation by reference of the information at [www.landsend.com](http://www.landsend.com), and such information is not part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K. We file our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, and all amendments to those reports electronically with the SEC, and they are available on the SEC's web site ([www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)). We also make our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports available through our website, free of charge, as soon as reasonably practicable after we file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC.

Our Corporate Governance Guidelines, the charters of the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and the Related Party Relationships Committee of the Board of Directors, our Related Party Transactions Policy, our Director Compensation Policy, our Code of Conduct, and our Board of Directors Code of Conduct are available at the "Investor Relations" link under "Corporate Governance" at [www.landsend.com](http://www.landsend.com).

**Executive Officers of the Registrant**

The following table sets forth information regarding our executive officers, including their positions.

Name	Position	Age
Jerome S. Griffith	Chief Executive Officer and President	61
James F. Gooch	Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer	51
Peter L. Gray	Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary	51
Kelly Ritchie	Senior Vice President, Employee and Customer Services	55
Chieh Tsai	Chief Product Officer	53

Jerome S. Griffith joined Lands' End as Chief Executive Officer and President and as a member of the Board of Directors in March 2017. He served as the Chief Executive Officer and President and as a member of the board of directors of Tumi Holdings, Inc., a manufacturer and retailer of consumer goods including business bags, luggage, apparel and other travel-related goods, from April 2009 until its sale to Samsonite International S.A. in August 2016. From 2002 to February 2009, he was employed at Esprit Holdings Limited, a global fashion brand, where he was promoted to Chief Operating Officer and appointed to the board in 2004, then promoted to President of Esprit North and South America in 2006. From 1999 to 2002, he worked as an executive vice president at Tommy Hilfiger, a global fashion brand. From 1998 to 1999, he worked as the president of retail at the J. Peterman Company, a catalog-based apparel and retail company. From 1989 through 1998, he worked in various positions of increasing responsibility at Gap, Inc., a global clothing and accessories retailer. He has served as a member of the board of Vince Holding Corp. since November 2013, Samsonite International S.A. since August 2016, and Parsons School of Design, which is part of the New School, since September 2013.



Table of Contents

James F. Gooch joined the Company as Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer in January 2016. He also served as our Co-Interim Chief Executive Officer from September 2016 to March 2017. From March 2014 until December 2014, he served as Co-Chief Executive Officer and Chief Administrative Officer of DeMoulas Supermarkets, Inc., a regional supermarket chain. He served as President and Chief Executive Officer of RadioShack Corporation, an electronics retailer, from May 2011 to October 2012, as President and Chief Financial Officer of RadioShack Corporation from January 2011 to May 2011, and as Chief Financial Officer of RadioShack Corporation from August 2006 to January 2011. Earlier in his career he was employed by Helene Curtis, The Quaker Oats Company, Kmart Corporation, and Sears Holdings. Mr. Gooch has served as a member of the board of directors of Sears Hometown and Outlet Stores, Inc. since March 2013.

Peter L. Gray joined Lands' End as Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary in May 2017. Mr. Gray served as Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of Tumi Holdings, Inc., a manufacturer and retailer of consumer goods including business bags, luggage, apparel and other travel-related goods, from December 2013 until November 2016. He was employed by ModusLink Global Solutions, Inc. (formerly CMGI, Inc.), a supply chain business process management company from June 1999 to October 2013. Beginning in March 2002, he was ModusLink's Executive Vice President and General Counsel, additionally becoming its Secretary in December 2005 and its Chief Administrative Officer in June 2012. Prior to joining ModusLink, Mr. Gray was Assistant General Counsel at Cambridge Technology Partners (Massachusetts), Inc., and a junior partner at Hale and Dorr LLP. Mr. Gray also serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Tufts University Hillel Foundation.

Kelly Ritchie joined Lands' End in 1985 and has served as Senior Vice President, Employee and Customer Services since 2003, and also assumed responsibility for our distribution centers from 2005 to 2015. She served as Senior Vice President, Employee Services from 1999 until 2003. She also served as Vice President of Employee Services from 1995 to 1999 and in various other Customer Service and Employee Services roles from 1985 to 1995.

Chieh Tsai joined Lands' End in May 2016 and has served as the Company's Chief Product Officer since January 2019. From September 2017 to January 2019 she served as Senior Vice President of Design and from May 2016 to August 2017 she served as Vice President of Design. Prior to joining Lands' End, Ms. Tsai served in multiple leadership roles with AnnTaylor, Inc. from May 2005 until May 2015, most recently as the Vice President of Design. Ms. Tsai served as the Design Director for CK Calvin Klein from March 2004 until May 2005 and as Senior Designer of Nine West from August 2000 until March 2004.

Table of Contents

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

You should carefully consider the following risks and other information in this Annual Report on Form 10-K in evaluating our company and our common stock. Any of the following risks could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations or financial condition.

Risks Related to Our Business

If we fail to offer merchandise and services that customers want to purchase, our business and results of operations could be adversely affected.

Our products and services must satisfy the desires of customers, whose preferences change over time. In order to be successful, we must identify, obtain supplies of, and offer customers attractive, innovative and high-quality merchandise on a continuous and timely basis. Failure to effectively gauge the direction of customer preferences or convey a compelling brand image or price/value equation to customers may result in lower sales and resultant lower gross profit margins. This could have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

Customer preference for our branded merchandise could change, which may adversely affect our profitability. Sales of branded merchandise account for substantially all of our total revenues and the Lands' End brand, in particular, is a critical differentiating factor for our business. Our inability to develop products that resonate with our existing customers and attract new customers, our inability to maintain our strict quality standards or to develop, produce and deliver products in a timely manner, or any unfavorable publicity with respect to the foregoing or otherwise could negatively impact the image of our brand with our customers and could result in diminished loyalty to our brand. As customer tastes change, our failure to anticipate, identify and react in a timely manner to emerging fashion trends and appropriately supply our stores, catalogs and websites with attractive high-quality products that maintain or enhance the appeal of our brand could have an adverse effect on our sales, operating margins and results of operations.

If we cannot compete effectively in the apparel industry, our business and results of operations may be adversely affected.

The apparel industry is highly competitive. We compete with a diverse group of direct-to-consumer companies and retailers, including national department store chains, men's and women's specialty apparel chains, outdoor specialty stores, apparel catalog businesses, sportswear marketers and online apparel businesses that sell similar lines of merchandise. Brand image, marketing, design, price, service, quality, image presentation and fulfillment are all competitive factors. Our competitors may be able to adopt more aggressive pricing policies, adapt to changes in customer tastes or requirements more quickly, devote greater resources to the design, sourcing, distribution, marketing and sale of their products, or generate greater national brand recognition than we can. An inability to overcome these potential competitive disadvantages or effectively market our products relative to our competitors could have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations. Similarly, our inability to market and sell our products in foreign jurisdictions could have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

The success of our business, depends on customers' use of our digital platform, including our eCommerce websites, and response to direct mail catalogs and digital marketing; if our overall marketing strategies, including our maintenance of a robust customer list, is not successful, our business and results of operations could be adversely affected.

The success of our business depends on customers' use of our eCommerce websites and their response to our direct mail catalogs and digital marketing.

The level of customer traffic and volume of customer purchases on our eCommerce websites is substantially dependent on our ability to provide attractive and accessible websites, a high-quality customer experience and reliable delivery of our merchandise. Although the success of our eCommerce websites also has historically been dependent on the performance of our direct mail catalogs, our strategy includes initiatives that are intended to improve marketing productivity and optimize catalog productivity. If we are unable to maintain and increase customers' use of our eCommerce websites and the volume of goods they purchase, including, as a result of changes to the level and types of marketing or amount of spend allocated to each type of marketing, or through our failure to otherwise successfully promote and maintain our eCommerce websites and their associated services, our business and results of operations could be adversely affected.

Customer response to our catalogs and digital marketing is substantially dependent on merchandise assortment, merchandise availability and creative presentation, as well as the selection of customers to whom our catalogs are sent and to whom our digital marketing is directed, changes in mailing strategies and the size of our mailings. Our maintenance

10

---

## Table of Contents

of a robust customer list, which we believe includes desirable demographic characteristics for the products we offer, has also been a key component of our overall strategy. If the performance of our catalogs, emails and eCommerce websites decline, or if our overall marketing strategy is not successful, our business and results of operations could be adversely affected.

Our approach to merchandise promotions and markdowns to encourage consumer purchases could adversely affect our gross margins and results of operations.

The apparel industry is dominated by large brands and national/mass retailers, where price competition, promotion, and branded product assortment drive differentiation between competitors in the industry. In order to be competitive, we must offer customers compelling products at attractive prices. In recent periods, the use of promotions and markdowns, as appropriate, is a strategy we have employed to offer attractive prices. Heavy reliance on promotions and markdowns to encourage customers to purchase our merchandise, could have a negative impact on our brand equity, gross margins and results of operations.

Our implementation of ERP and EOM software solution, along with other information technology systems changes could result in significant disruptions to our operations.

We are nearing the completion of the ERP solution. Additionally, we will be working to implement a new EOM software solution to provide improved capabilities to better serve our customers and accommodate future growth.

Implementation of these solutions and systems is highly dependent on coordination of numerous software and system providers and internal business teams. The interdependence of these solutions and systems is a significant risk to the successful completion of the initiatives and the failure of any one system could have a material adverse effect on the implementation of our overall information technology infrastructure. We may experience difficulties as we transition to these new or upgraded systems and processes, including loss or corruption of data, delayed shipments, decreases in productivity as our personnel and third party providers implement and become familiar with new systems, increased costs and lost revenues. In addition, transitioning to these new systems requires significant capital investments and personnel resources. Difficulties in implementing new or upgraded information systems or significant system failures could disrupt our operations and have a material adverse effect on our capital resources, financial condition, results of operations or cash flows. Implementation of new information technology infrastructure has a significant impact on our business processes and information systems across a significant portion of our operations. As a result, we will be undergoing significant changes in our operational processes and internal controls as our implementation progresses, which in turn require significant change management, including recruiting and training of qualified personnel. If we are unable to successfully manage these changes as we implement these systems, including harmonizing our systems, data, processes and reporting analytics, our ability to conduct, manage and control routine business functions could be negatively affected and significant disruptions to our business could occur. In addition, we could incur material unanticipated expenses, including additional costs of implementation or costs of conducting business. These risks could result in significant business disruptions or divert management's attention from key strategic initiatives and have a material adverse effect on our capital resources, financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

We depend on information technology and a failure of information technology systems, including with respect to our eCommerce operations, or an inability to effectively upgrade or adapt our systems could adversely affect our business. We rely on sophisticated information technology systems to operate our business, including the eCommerce websites that drive our direct-to-consumer, Outfitters, and international sales channels and in-store/point-of-sale systems, inventory management, warehouse management, financial and human resources. Some of these systems are based on end-of-life or legacy technology, operate with minimal or no vendor support and are otherwise difficult to maintain. Our systems are subject to damage or interruption from power outages, computer and telecommunications failures, computer viruses, security breaches, catastrophic events such as fires, tornadoes and hurricanes, and usage errors by our employees or vendors. Operating legacy systems subjects us to inherent costs and risks associated with maintaining, upgrading and replacing these systems and recruiting and retaining sufficiently skilled personnel to maintain and operate the systems, demands on management time, and other risks and costs. Our eCommerce websites are subject to numerous risks associated with selling merchandise that could have an adverse effect on our results of operations, including unanticipated operating problems, reliance on third-party computer hardware and software providers, system failures and the need to invest in additional and updated computer platforms.

Our information technology systems are potentially vulnerable to malicious intrusion and targeted or random attack or breakdown. Although we have invested in the protection of our data and information technology and also monitor our systems on an ongoing basis, there can be no assurance that these efforts will prevent breakdowns or breaches in our information technology systems that could adversely affect our business.

## Table of Contents

Sears Holdings or its successor's point of sale and supply chain management information technology systems are leveraged in support of the Lands' End Shops at Sears. There can be no assurance that Sears Holdings or its successor, will maintain and protect these information technology systems in such a way that would prevent breakdowns or breaches in such systems, which could adversely affect our business.

Our success depends, in part, on our ability to identify, develop, acquire or license leading technologies useful in our business, enhance our existing services, develop new services and technologies that address the increasingly sophisticated and varied needs of our existing and prospective customers, and respond to technological advances and emerging industry standards and practices on a cost-effective and timely basis. The development and operation of our eCommerce websites and other proprietary technology entails significant technical and business risks. We can provide no assurance that we will be able to effectively use new technologies or adapt our eCommerce websites, proprietary technologies and transaction-processing systems to meet customer requirements or emerging industry standards. If we are unable to accurately project the need for such system expansion or upgrade or adapt our systems in a cost-effective and timely manner in response to changing market conditions or customer requirements, whether for technical, legal, financial or other reasons, our business and results of operations could be adversely affected.

If we do not maintain the security of customer, employee or company information, we could experience damage to our reputation, incur substantial additional costs and become subject to litigation.

Any significant compromise or breach of customer, employee or company data security, whether held and maintained by us or by our third-party providers, or whether intentional or inadvertent, could significantly damage our reputation and result in additional costs, lost sales, fines and lawsuits. The regulatory environment related to information security and privacy is increasingly rigorous, with new and constantly changing requirements applicable to our business, and compliance with those requirements could result in additional costs. There is no guarantee that the procedures that Lands' End or our third party providers have implemented to protect against unauthorized access to secured data are adequate to safeguard against all data security breaches. We could be held liable to our customers or other parties or be subject to regulatory or other actions for breaching privacy and information security laws and regulations, and our business and reputation could be adversely affected by any resulting loss of customer confidence, litigation, civil or criminal penalties or adverse publicity.

The payment methods that we offer also subject us to potential fraud and theft by criminals, who continue to increase in sophistication, seeking to obtain unauthorized access to or exploit weaknesses that may exist in the payment systems. If we fail to comply with applicable rules or requirements for the payment methods we accept, or if payment-related data is compromised due to a breach or misuse of data, we may have higher transaction fees, be subject to fines or our ability to accept or facilitate certain types of payments may be impaired. In addition, our customers could lose confidence in certain payment types, which may result in a shift to other payment types or potential changes to our payment systems that may result in higher costs.

We conduct business in and rely on sources for merchandise located in foreign markets, and our business may therefore be adversely affected by legal, regulatory, economic and political risks associated with international trade and those markets.

The majority of our merchandise is manufactured in Asia and South America, depending on the nature of the product mix. In Fiscal 2018, we worked with approximately 200 vendors that manufactured substantially all of our products. These products are either imported directly by us or indirectly by distributors who, in turn, sell products to us. We purchase, in the ordinary course of business, raw materials and supplies essential to our operations from numerous suppliers around the world, including suppliers in the United States. We also sell our products in Canada, Northern and Central Europe and Japan, and we may develop a sales presence in other international markets. Our reliance on vendors in and marketing of products to customers in foreign markets create risks inherent in doing business in foreign jurisdictions, including:

- the burdens of complying with a variety of foreign laws and regulations, including trade and labor restrictions;
- economic and political instability in the countries and regions where our customers or vendors are located;
- adverse fluctuations in currency exchange rates;
- compliance with United States and other country laws relating to foreign operations, including the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which prohibits United States companies from making improper payments to foreign officials for the

purpose of obtaining or retaining business, and the U.K. Bribery Act, which prohibits U.K. and related companies from any form of bribery;

12

---

Table of Contents

changes in United States and non-United States laws (or changes in the enforcement of those laws) affecting the importation and taxation of goods, including duties, tariffs and quotas, enhanced security measures at United States ports, or imposition of new legislation relating to import quotas;

- increases in shipping, labor, fuel, travel and other transportation costs;
- the imposition of anti-dumping or countervailing duty proceedings resulting in the potential assessment of special anti-dumping or countervailing duties;
- transportation delays and interruptions, including due to the failure of vendors or distributors to comply with import regulations; and
- political instability and acts of terrorism.

Any increase in the cost of merchandise purchased from these vendors or restriction on the merchandise made available by these vendors could have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

Manufacturers in China have experienced increased costs in recent years due to shortages of labor and the fluctuation of the Chinese Yuan in relation to the United States dollar. If we are unable to successfully mitigate a significant portion of such product costs, our results of operations could be adversely affected.

New initiatives and tariffs may be proposed in the United States that may have an impact on the trading status of certain countries and may include retaliatory duties or other trade sanctions that, if enacted, would increase the cost of products purchased from suppliers in such countries with which we do business. Any inability on our part to rely on our foreign sources of production due to any of the factors listed above could have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

The United Kingdom's referendum to exit from the European Union will continue to have uncertain effects and could adversely impact our business, results of operations and financial condition.

The terms of Brexit and the United Kingdom's relationship with the European Union after the withdrawal are subject to ongoing negotiations. The Brexit vote and subsequent negotiations have impacted global markets and the value of the British Pound and Euro as compared to the U.S. dollar and other major currencies. In addition, there remains considerable uncertainty around Brexit and volatility in the securities markets and in currency exchange rates may continue. The effects of Brexit on the economies of the European Union are also unknown and unpredictable, and they may be greater if Brexit occurs without an agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union. At this time it is unknown whether such an agreement will be reached. It is possible that the level of economic activity in the United Kingdom and the European region will be adversely impacted and that there will be increased regulatory and legal complexities and costs.

While we have not experienced any material financial impact from Brexit on our business to date, we cannot predict the results of the Brexit negotiations or their future effects. Any impact from Brexit on our business and operations over the long term will depend, in part, on the outcome of negotiations related to tariffs, tax, trade, security and other regulatory matters. The effects of Brexit could be disruptive to our operations and business relationships in the European markets and elsewhere, especially related to shipments from our main European distribution center which is located in the United Kingdom.

Deterioration of relationships with our vendors and/or the failure of our new merchandise sourcing initiatives could have an adverse effect on our competitive position and operational results.

We have long standing relationships with the vendors that supply a significant portion of our merchandise, but do not operate under long-term agreements. Therefore, our success relies on maintaining good relations with these vendors. Our growth strategy depends to a significant extent on the willingness and ability of our vendors to efficiently supply merchandise that is consistent with our standards for quality and value. In the event we engage new vendors, it may cause us to encounter delays in production and added costs as a result of the time it takes to train our vendors in producing our products and adhering to our standards. If we cannot obtain a sufficient amount and variety of quality product at acceptable prices, including at prices that offset increased buying agent commissions incurred, it could have a negative impact on our competitive position. This could result in lower revenues and decreased customer interest in our product offerings, which, in turn, could adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Our arrangements with our vendors are generally not exclusive. As a result, our vendors might be able to sell similar or identical products to certain of our competitors, some of which purchase products in significantly greater volume.



Our competitors may enter into arrangements with suppliers that could impair our ability to sell those suppliers'

13

---

Table of Contents

products, including by requiring suppliers to enter into exclusive arrangements, which could limit our access to such arrangements or products.

Our business is affected by worldwide economic and market conditions; an unstable economy, a decline in consumer-spending levels and other adverse developments, including inflation, could lead to reduced revenues and gross margins and adversely affect our business, results of operations and liquidity.

Many economic and other factors are outside of our control, including general economic and market conditions, consumer and commercial credit availability, inflation, unemployment, consumer debt levels and other challenges affecting the global economy. Increases in the rates of unemployment, decreases in home values, reduced access to credit and issues related to the domestic and international political situations may adversely affect consumer confidence and disposable income levels. Low consumer confidence and disposable incomes could lead to reduced consumer spending and lower demand for our products, which are discretionary items, the purchase of which can be reduced before customers adjust their budgets for necessities. These factors could have a negative impact on our sales and cause us to increase inventory markdowns and promotional expenses, thereby reducing our gross margins and operating results.

Our efforts to expand our channels and geographic reach may not be successful.

Our strategy includes initiatives to further our reach in the United States and pursue international expansion in a number of countries around the world, through various channels and brands, including through relationships with third party eCommerce marketplaces. We have limited experience operating in many of these locations and with third parties, and face major, established competitors and barriers to entry. We may seek additional business partners or licensees to assist us in these efforts however may not be successful in establishing such relationships. In addition, in many of these international locations, the real estate, employment and labor, transportation and logistics, regulatory and other operating requirements differ dramatically from those in the places where we have experience. Foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations may also adversely affect our international operations and sales, including by increasing the cost of business in certain locations. Moreover, consumer tastes and trends may differ in many of these locations from those in our existing locations, and as a result, the sales of our products may not be successful or profitable. If our expansion efforts are not successful or do not deliver an appropriate return on our investments, our business could be adversely affected.

Our growth initiatives include the development of Company Operated stores which may not be successful and as a result our business and results of operations could be adversely affected.

Historically, our retail sales were achieved primarily through Lands' End Shops at Sears across the United States and to a lesser extent at our Company Operated stores. The number of Lands' End Shops at Sears has declined from 174 at the end of Fiscal 2017 to 49 stores at the end of Fiscal 2018.

In 2018, we began opening Company Operated stores as part of our multi-channel strategy. Our retail strategy includes the design and implementation of a standardized store concept in our new store locations. The strategy is dependent on our ability to identify appropriate locations for the stores and attract customers with a compelling assortment. Once a location is identified, we must successfully negotiate lease terms, manage the store build out and recruit and hire store management and associates. In addition, this strategy will require us to implement retail-specific marketing plans, and enhance inventory management skills specific to Retail, such as those related to allocation and replenishment of product. We may be unable to open retail stores in desired locations, due to availability and on terms that are acceptable to us. If customers are not receptive of our new store concept, projected store sales and profitability may suffer.

The success of this strategy is also dependent on our ability to generate customer traffic by locating our new stores in prominent, successful shopping areas. Sales at these new stores will be derived from the volume of traffic. Our sales volume and store traffic generally may be adversely affected by, among other things, economic downturns in a particular area, competition from eCommerce retailers, non-mall retailers and other malls, increases in gasoline prices, fluctuations in exchange rates in border or tourism-oriented locations and the closing or decline in popularity of other stores in the vicinity in which we are located.

If we fail to timely and effectively obtain shipments of products from our vendors and deliver merchandise to our customers, our business and operating results could be adversely affected.

We do not own or operate any manufacturing facilities and therefore depend upon independent third-party vendors for the manufacture of our merchandise. We cannot control all of the various factors that might affect timely and effective procurement of supplies of product from our vendors and delivery of merchandise to our customers. A majority of the products that we purchase must be shipped to our distribution centers in Dodgeville, Reedsburg and Stevens Point,

## Table of Contents

Wisconsin; Oakham, United Kingdom; and Fujieda, Japan. While our reliance on a limited number of distribution centers provides certain efficiencies, it also makes us more vulnerable to natural disasters, weather-related disruptions, accidents, system failures or other unforeseen causes that could delay or impair our ability to fulfill customer orders and/or ship merchandise to our stores, which could adversely affect sales. Our ability to mitigate the adverse impacts of these events depends in part upon the effectiveness of our disaster preparedness and response planning, as well as business continuity planning. Our utilization of imports also makes us vulnerable to risks associated with products manufactured abroad, including, among other things, risks of damage, destruction or confiscation of products while in transit to a distribution center, organized labor strikes and work stoppages, transportation and other delays in shipments, including as a result of heightened security screening and inspection processes or other port-of-entry limitations or restrictions in the United States, the United Kingdom (including as a result of Brexit) and Japan, unexpected or significant port congestion, lack of freight availability and freight cost increases. In addition, if we experience a shortage of a popular item, we may be required to arrange for additional quantities of the item, if available, to be delivered through airfreight, which is significantly more expensive than standard shipping by sea. We may not be able to obtain sufficient freight capacity on a timely basis or at favorable shipping rates and, therefore, may not be able to timely receive merchandise from vendors or deliver products to customers.

We rely upon third-party land-based and air freight carriers for merchandise shipments from our distribution centers to customers. Accordingly, we are subject to the risks, including labor disputes, union organizing activity, inclement weather and increased transportation costs, associated with such carriers' ability to provide delivery services to meet outbound shipping needs. In addition, if the cost of fuel rises or remains at current levels, the cost to deliver merchandise from distribution centers to customers may rise, and, although some of these costs are paid by our customers, such costs could have an adverse impact on our profitability. Failure to procure and deliver merchandise to customers in a timely, effective and economically viable manner could damage our reputation and adversely affect our business. In addition, any increase in distribution costs and expenses could adversely affect our future financial performance.

If our independent vendors do not use ethical business practices or comply with applicable regulations and laws, our reputation could be materially harmed and have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

Our reputation and customers' willingness to purchase our products depend in part on our vendors' compliance with ethical employment practices, such as with respect to child labor, wages and benefits, forced labor, discrimination, freedom of association, unlawful inducements, safe and healthy working conditions, and with all legal and regulatory requirements relating to the conduct of their business and safety standards of materials. While we operate compliance and monitoring programs to promote ethical and lawful business practices and verify compliance with safety standards, we do not exercise ultimate control over our independent vendors or their business practices and cannot guarantee their compliance with ethical and lawful business practices and safety standards. Violation of labor, safety, or other laws by vendors, or the divergence of a vendor's labor and safety practices from those generally accepted as ethical in the United States could materially hurt our reputation and force recalls of product, which could have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

If we are unable to protect or preserve the image of our brands and our intellectual property rights, our business may be adversely affected.

We regard our copyrights, service marks, trademarks, trade dress, trade secrets and similar intellectual property as critical to our success. As such, we rely on trademark and copyright law, trade secret protection and confidentiality agreements with our associates, consultants, vendors and others to protect our proprietary rights. Nevertheless, the steps we take to protect our proprietary rights may be inadequate and we may experience difficulty in effectively limiting unauthorized use of our trademarks and other intellectual property worldwide. Unauthorized use of our trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets or other proprietary rights may cause significant damage to our brands and our ability to effectively represent ourselves to agents, suppliers, vendors, licensees and/or customers. While we intend to enforce our trademark and other proprietary rights, there can be no assurance that we are adequately protected in all countries or that we will prevail when defending our trademark and proprietary rights. If we are unable to protect or preserve the value of our trademarks or other proprietary rights for any reason, or if we fail to maintain the image of our brands due to merchandise and service quality issues, actual or perceived, adverse publicity, governmental

investigations or litigation, or other reasons, our brands and reputation could be damaged, and our business may be adversely affected.

Third parties may sue us for alleged infringement of their proprietary rights. The party claiming infringement might have greater resources than we do to pursue its claims, and we could be forced to incur substantial costs and devote significant management resources to defend against such litigation. If the party claiming infringement were to prevail, we could be forced to discontinue the use of the related trademark or design and/or pay significant damages,

Table of Contents

or to enter into expensive royalty or licensing arrangements with the prevailing party, assuming these royalty or licensing arrangements are available at all on an economically feasible basis, which they may not be.

We could incur charges due to impairment of goodwill, other intangible assets and long-lived assets.

As of February 1, 2019, we had goodwill and intangible asset balances totaling \$367.0 million, which are subject to testing for impairment annually or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the asset might be impaired. Our intangible assets consist of \$257.0 million for our trade name and goodwill of \$110.0 million. Any event that impacts our reputation could result in impairment charges for our trade name. Long-lived assets, primarily property and equipment, are also subject to testing for impairment if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the asset might be impaired. A significant amount of judgment is involved in our impairment assessment. If actual results fall short of our estimates and assumptions used in estimating revenue growth, future cash flows and asset fair values, we could incur further impairment charges for intangible assets, goodwill or long-lived assets, which could have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

Our failure to retain our executive management team and to attract qualified new personnel could adversely affect our business and results of operations.

We depend on the talents and continued efforts of our executive management team. The loss of members of our executive management may disrupt our business and adversely affect our results of operations. Furthermore, our ability to manage further expansion will require us to continue to train, motivate and manage employees and to attract, motivate and retain additional qualified personnel, including field sales representatives for Outfitters. We believe that having personnel who are passionate about our brand, have industry experience and have strong customer service skills has been an important factor in our historical success, and we believe that it will continue to be important to growing our business. Competition for these types of personnel is intense, and we may not be successful in attracting, assimilating and retaining the personnel required to grow and operate our business profitably.

Fluctuations and increases in the cost, availability, and quality of raw materials as well as fluctuations in transportation and utility costs could adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Our products are manufactured using several key raw materials, including wool, cotton and down, which are subject to fluctuations in price and availability and many of which are produced in emerging markets in Asia and Central America. The prices of these raw materials can be volatile due to the demand for fabrics, weather conditions, supply conditions, government regulations, general economic conditions, crop yields and other unpredictable factors. Such factors may be exacerbated by legislation and regulations associated with global climate change. The prices of these raw materials may also fluctuate based on a number of other factors beyond our control, including commodity prices such as prices for oil, changes in supply and demand, labor costs, competition, import duties, tariffs, anti-dumping duties, currency exchange rates and government regulation. These fluctuations may result in an increase in our transportation costs for freight and distribution, utility costs for our retail stores and overall costs to purchase products from our vendors. Fluctuations in the cost, availability and quality of the raw materials used to manufacture our merchandise could have an adverse effect on our cost of goods, or our ability to meet customer demand.

Increases in postage, paper and printing costs could adversely affect the costs of producing and distributing our catalog and promotional mailings, which could have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

Catalog mailings are a key aspect of our business and increases in costs relating to postage, paper and printing would increase the cost of our catalog mailings and could reduce our profitability to the extent that we are unable to offset such increases by raising prices, by implementing more efficient printing, mailing, delivery and order fulfillment systems or by using alternative direct-mail formats.

We currently use the national mail carriers for distribution of substantially all of our catalogs and are therefore vulnerable to postal rate increases. The current economic and legislative environments may lead to further rate increases or a discontinuation of the discounts for bulk mailings and sorting by zip code and carrier routes which Lands' End currently leverages for cost savings.

Paper for catalogs and promotional mailings is a vital resource in the success of our business. The market price for paper has fluctuated significantly in the past and may continue to fluctuate in the future. In addition, future pricing and supply availability of catalog paper may be impacted by the continued consolidation or closings of production facilities in the United States. We do not have multi-year fixed-price contracts for the supply of paper and are not

guaranteed access to, or reasonable prices for, the amounts required for the operation of our business over the long term.

16

---

## Table of Contents

We also depend upon external vendors to print and mail our catalogs. Partially due to the consolidation of printing companies, there is a limited number of printers that are capable of handling such needs which subjects us to risks if any printer fails to perform under our agreement. A substantial amount of our catalog-related costs are incurred prior to mailing, and we are not able to adjust the costs of a particular catalog mailing to reflect the actual subsequent performance of the catalog.

If we do not efficiently manage inventory levels, our results of operations could be adversely affected.

We must maintain sufficient inventory levels to operate our business successfully, but we must also avoid accumulating excess inventory, which increases working capital needs and lowers gross margins. We obtain substantially all of our inventory from vendors located outside the United States. Some of these vendors require lengthy advance notice of order requirements in order to be able to supply products in the quantities requested. This usually requires us to order merchandise and enter into commitments for the purchase of such merchandise, well in advance of the time these products will be offered for sale. As a result, it may be difficult to respond to changes in the apparel, footwear, accessories or home products markets. If we do not accurately anticipate the future demand for a particular product or the time it will take to obtain new inventory, inventory levels will not be appropriate, and our results of operations could be adversely affected.

Inventory shrinkage could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. We hold high volumes of inventory and are subject to the attendant risks of inventory loss, spoilage, shrink, scrap and theft (which we collectively refer to as "shrinkage"). Although some level of inventory shrinkage is an unavoidable cost of doing business, if we were to experience higher rates of inventory shrinkage or incur increased security costs to combat inventory theft, it could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We rely on third parties to provide us with services in connection with certain aspects of our business, and any failure by these third parties to perform their obligations could have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

We have entered into agreements with third parties for logistics services, information technology systems (including hosting some of our eCommerce websites), onshore and offshore software development and support, merchandise buying agent services, catalog production, distribution and packaging and employee benefits. Services provided by any of our third-party suppliers could be interrupted as a result of many factors, such as acts of nature or contract disputes. Any failure by a third party to provide us with contracted-for services on a timely basis or within service level expectations and performance standards could result in a disruption of our business and have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

We may be subject to periodic litigation and other regulatory proceedings, including with respect to product liability claims. These proceedings may be affected by changes in laws and government regulations or changes in their enforcement.

From time to time, we may be involved in lawsuits and regulatory actions relating to our business or products we sell or have sold. These proceedings may be in jurisdictions with reputations for aggressive application of laws and procedures against corporate defendants. We are impacted by trends in litigation, including class-action allegations brought under various consumer protection and employment laws, including wage and hour laws, privacy laws, and laws relating to eCommerce. Due to the inherent uncertainties of litigation and regulatory proceedings, we cannot accurately predict the ultimate outcome of any such proceedings. An unfavorable outcome could have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations. Regardless of the outcome of any litigation or regulatory proceedings, any such proceeding could result in substantial costs and may require that we devote substantial resources to defend the proceeding, which could affect the future premiums we would be required to pay on our insurance policies. Changes in governmental regulations could also have adverse effects on our business and subject us to additional regulatory actions.

Some of the products we sell may expose us to product liability claims relating to personal injury, death or property damage allegedly caused by these products, and could require us to take corrective actions, including product recalls. Although we maintain liability insurance, there is no guarantee that our current or future coverage will be adequate for liabilities actually incurred, or that insurance will continue to be available on economically reasonable terms, or at all.



Product liability claims can be expensive to defend and can divert the attention of management and other personnel for significant periods, regardless of the ultimate outcome. Claims of this nature, as well as product recalls, could also

## Table of Contents

have an adverse effect on customer confidence in the products we sell and, on our reputation, business and results of operations.

The Company may have significant uncertain impacts related to changes in tax law in the United States.

On December 22, 2017, the Tax Act was signed into law. The Tax Act contains significant changes to corporate taxation, including reduction of the corporate tax rate from 35% to 21%, additional limitations on the tax deductibility of interest, substantial changes to the taxation of foreign earnings, immediate deductions for certain new investments instead of deductions for depreciation expense over time, and modification or repeal of many business deductions and credits. Notwithstanding the reduction in the corporate income tax rate, the overall impact of the Tax Act is uncertain, and changes in interpretation or tax planning strategies could significantly impact the Company's results of operations, cash flows and financial conditions, as well as the trading price of Common Stock, which could be adversely affected. We may be subject to assessments for additional state taxes, which could adversely affect our business.

In accordance with current law, we pay, collect and/or remit taxes in those states where we or our subsidiaries, as applicable, maintain a physical presence. While we believe that we have appropriately remitted all taxes based on our interpretation of applicable law, tax laws are complex, and their application differs from state to state. It is possible that some taxing jurisdictions may attempt to assess additional taxes and penalties on us or assert either an error in our calculation, a change in the application of law, or an interpretation of the law that differs from our own which may, if successful, adversely affect our business and results of operations.

On June 21, 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court decided, in *South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc.*, that state and local jurisdictions may, at least in certain circumstances, enforce a sales and use tax collection obligation on remote vendors that have no physical presence in such jurisdiction. A number of states have already begun, or have positioned themselves to begin, requiring sales and use tax collection by remote vendors and/or by online marketplaces. The details and effective dates of these collection requirements vary from state to state. We are in the process of determining how and when our collection practices will need to change in the relevant jurisdictions. It is possible that one or more jurisdictions may assert that we have liability for periods for which we have not collected sales, use or other similar taxes, and if such an assertion or assertions were successful it could result in substantial tax liabilities, including for past sales taxes and penalties and interest, which could materially affect our business, financial condition and operating results.

Our business is seasonal in nature, and any decrease in our sales or margins could have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

The apparel industry is highly seasonal, with the highest levels of sales occurring during the fourth quarter of our fiscal year. Our sales and margins during the fourth quarter may fluctuate based upon factors such as the timing of holiday seasons and promotions, the amount of net revenue contributed by new and existing stores, the timing and level of markdowns, competitive factors, weather and general economic conditions. Any decrease in sales or margins, whether as a result of increased promotional activity or because of economic conditions, poor weather or other factors, could have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations. In addition, seasonal fluctuations also affect our inventory levels, since we usually order merchandise in advance of peak selling periods and sometimes before new fashion trends are confirmed by customer purchases. We generally carry a significant amount of inventory, especially before the fourth quarter peak selling periods. If we are not successful in selling inventory during these periods, we may have to sell the inventory at significantly reduced prices, which could adversely affect our business and results of operations. Furthermore, with the seasonal nature of the retail business, over 2,000 flexible part-time employees join us each year to support our varying peak seasons, including the fourth quarter holiday shopping season. An inability to attract qualified seasonal personnel could interrupt our sales during this period.

Unseasonal or severe weather conditions may adversely affect our merchandise sales.

Our business is adversely affected by unseasonal weather conditions. Sales of certain seasonal apparel items, specifically outerwear and swimwear, are dependent, in part, on the weather and may decline in years in which weather conditions do not favor the use of these products. Sales of our spring and summer products, which traditionally consist of lighter clothing and swimwear, are adversely affected by cool or wet weather. Similarly, sales of our fall and winter products, which are traditionally weighted toward outerwear, are adversely affected by mild, dry or warm weather. In addition, severe weather events typically lead to temporarily reduced traffic at our retail locations which could lead to reduced sales of our merchandise. Severe weather events may impact our ability to supply our

stores, deliver orders to customers on schedule and staff our stores and fulfillment centers, which could have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

Other factors may have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

## Table of Contents

Many other factors may affect our profitability and financial condition, including:

- changes in or interpretations of laws and regulations, including changes in accounting standards, taxation requirements, product marketing application standards and environmental laws;
- differences between the fair value measurement of assets and liabilities and their actual value, particularly for intangibles and goodwill; and for contingent liabilities such as litigation, the absence of a recorded amount, or an amount recorded at the minimum, compared to the actual amount;
- changes in the rate of inflation, interest rates and the performance of investments held by us;
- changes in the creditworthiness of counterparties that transact business with or provide services to us; and
- changes in business, economic and political conditions, including war, political instability, terrorist attacks, the threat of future terrorist activity and related military action; natural disasters; the cost and availability of insurance due to any of the foregoing events; labor disputes, strikes, slow-downs or other forms of labor or union activity; and pressure from third-party interest groups.

**Additional Risks Related to Our Separation from, and Relationship with, Sears**

If Sears or its subsidiaries fail to perform under various agreements with us as a result of the Sears Filing, our business and results of operations could be adversely affected.

On October 15, 2018, Sears Holdings Corporation (“Sears”) and certain of its subsidiaries filed voluntary petitions in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York seeking relief under Chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Code (collectively the “Sears Filing”). On February 11, 2019, Transform Holdco acquired from Sears Holdings substantially all of the go-forward retail footprint and other assets and component businesses of Sears Holdings as a going concern.

Pursuant to the Tax Sharing Agreement, Sears Holdings Corporation is generally responsible for all United States federal, state and local UTBs, through the date of the Separation. As of February 1, 2019, the Company had UTBs of \$1.5 million. Of this amount, \$1.2 million would, if recognized, impact its effective tax rate. The Company does not expect that UTBs will fluctuate in the next 12 months for tax audit settlements and the expiration of the statute of limitations for certain jurisdictions. As a result of the Sears Filing, the Company believes that the recovery of the UTBs provided by the Tax Sharing Agreement is uncertain. The Company recorded a non-cash charge of \$2.6 million in the Third Quarter 2018 as the result of establishing a reserve against the indemnification asset. On February 1, 2019 and February 2, 2018, respectively, a \$0.0 and \$7.4 million indemnification receivable were recorded in Other assets in the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Additionally, Lands’ End is party to a master sublease agreement with Sears and a retail operations agreement for the Lands’ End Shops at Sears, under which we lease those locations from Sears Roebuck and rely on it and other subsidiaries of Sears Holdings to provide logistics, point-of-sale and related store systems to the Lands’ End Shops at Sears. During Fiscal 2018 the number of Lands’ End Shops at Sears declined from 174 stores to 49 stores. While the retail operations agreement has been assumed by and assigned to Transform Holdco, the status of the other agreements with Sears Holdings is uncertain at this time.

The inability of Sears Holdings, or in the event an agreement is assumed and assigned, Transform Holdco, to perform its obligations under these post-Separation agreements, could have a material adverse effect on our business or our results of operations.

ESL, whose interests may be different from the interests of other stockholders, may be able to exert substantial influence over our company.

According to an amendment to Schedule 13D filed on January 25, 2018 with the SEC, and subsequent Form 4 filing, ESL beneficially owned on the filing date 66.5% of our outstanding shares of common stock. Accordingly, ESL could have substantial influence over many, if not all, actions to be taken or approved by our stockholders, and will have a significant voice in the election of directors and any transactions involving a change of control. The interests of ESL, which has investments in other companies (including Sears Holdings and Transform Holdco), may from time to time diverge from the interests of our other stockholders.

Potential liabilities may arise under fraudulent conveyance and transfer laws and legal capital requirements, which could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and our results of operations.

In connection with the court proceedings following the Sears Filing, the Unsecured Creditors Committee alleged that several transactions by ESL, including the Separation, should be challenged under United States federal, United

19

---

## Table of Contents

States state and foreign fraudulent conveyance and transfer laws, as well as legal capital requirements governing distributions and similar transactions. If a court were to determine under these laws that, (a) at the time of the Separation, Sears Holdings: (1) was insolvent; (2) was rendered insolvent by reason of the Separation; (3) had remaining assets constituting unreasonably small capital; (4) intended to incur, or believed it would incur, debts beyond its ability to pay these debts as they matured; or (b) the transaction in question failed to satisfy applicable legal capital requirements, the court could determine that the Separation was voidable, in whole or in part. Subject to various defenses, the court could then require Sears Holdings or us, or other recipients of value in connection with the Separation (potentially including our stockholders as recipients of shares of our common stock in connection with the Separation), as the case may be, to turn over value to other entities involved in the Separation and related transactions for the benefit of unpaid creditors. The measure of insolvency and applicable legal capital requirements will vary depending upon the jurisdiction whose law is being applied.

### Risks Related to Our Indebtedness

Our leverage may place us at a competitive disadvantage in our industry. The agreements governing our debt contain various covenants that impose restrictions on us that may affect our ability to operate our business.

We have significant debt service obligations. Our debt and debt service requirements could adversely affect our ability to operate our business and may limit our ability to take advantage of potential business opportunities. Our level of debt presents the following risks, among others:

- we could be required to use a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to pay principal (including amortization) and interest on our debt, thereby reducing the availability of our cash flow to fund working capital, capital expenditures, strategic acquisitions and other general corporate requirements or causing us to make non-strategic divestitures;

- our interest expense could increase if prevailing interest rates increase, because a substantial portion of our debt bears interest at variable rates;

- our substantial leverage could increase our vulnerability to economic downturns and adverse competitive and industry conditions and could place us at a competitive disadvantage compared to those of our competitors that are less leveraged;

- our debt service obligations could limit our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business, our industry and changing market conditions and could limit our ability to pursue other business opportunities, borrow more money for operations or capital in the future and implement our business strategies;

- our level of debt may restrict us from raising additional financing on satisfactory terms to fund working capital, capital expenditures, strategic acquisitions and other general corporate requirements;

- the agreements governing our debt contain covenants that limit our ability to pay dividends or make other restricted payments and investments;

- the agreements governing our debt contain operating covenants that limit our ability to engage in activities that may be in our best interests in the long term, including, without limitation, by restricting our subsidiaries' ability to incur debt, create liens, enter into transactions with affiliates or prepay certain kinds of indebtedness; and

- the failure to comply with these covenants could result in an event of default which, if not cured or waived, could result in the acceleration of the applicable debt, may result in the acceleration of any other debt to which a cross-acceleration or cross-default provision applies, and in the event our creditors accelerate the repayment of our borrowings, we and our subsidiaries may not have sufficient assets to repay that debt.

We may need additional financing in the future for our general corporate purposes or growth strategies and anticipate refinancing our long term debt and such financing may not be available on favorable terms, or at all, and may be dilutive to existing stockholders.

We may need to seek additional financing for our general corporate purposes or growth strategies. In addition, we anticipate the need to refinance some, or all, of the Term Loan that is due in April 2021. We may be unable to obtain any desired additional financing or refinance the Term Loan on terms favorable to us, or at all. The ability to raise additional financing depends on numerous factors that are outside of our control, including general economic and

market conditions, the health of financial institutions, our credit ratings and lenders' assessments of our prospects and

20

---

## Table of Contents

the prospects of the retail industry in general. The lenders under any credit facilities or loan agreements we may enter into may not be able to meet their commitments if they experience shortages of capital and liquidity. If we raise additional funds through the issuance of equity securities, our stockholders could experience dilution of their ownership interest. If we raise additional funds by issuing debt, we may be subject to limitations on our operations due to restrictive covenants. If adequate funds are not available on acceptable terms, we may be unable to fund our expansion, successfully develop or enhance our products, or respond to competitive pressures, any of which could negatively affect our business. There can be no assurance that our ability to otherwise access the credit markets will not be adversely affected by changes in the financial markets and the global economy. If we are not able to fulfill our liquidity needs through operating cash flows and/or borrowings under credit facilities or otherwise in the capital markets, our business and financial condition could be adversely affected.

### Risks Related to Our Common Stock

Our common stock price may decline if ESL decides to sell a portion of its holdings of our common stock. ESL will, in its sole discretion, determine the timing and terms of any transactions with respect to its shares common stock of the Company, taking into account business and market conditions and other factors that it deems relevant. ESL is not subject to any contractual obligation to maintain its ownership position in us, although it may be subject to certain transfer restrictions imposed by securities law. Consequently, we cannot assure you that ESL will maintain its ownership interest in us. Any sale by ESL of our common stock or any announcement by ESL that it has decided to sell shares of our common stock, or the perception by the investment community that ESL has sold or decided to sell shares of our common stock, could have an adverse impact on the price of our common stock.

Our share price may be volatile.

The market price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly due to a number of factors, some of which may be beyond our control, including:

- actual or anticipated fluctuations in our operating results;
- changes in earnings estimated by securities analysts or our ability to meet those estimates;
- the operating and stock price performance of comparable companies;
- changes to the regulatory and legal environment under which we operate; and
- domestic and worldwide economic conditions.

Further, when the market price of a company's common stock drops significantly, stockholders often initiate securities class action lawsuits against the company. A lawsuit against Lands' End could cause us to incur substantial costs and could divert the time and attention of our senior management and other resources.

Your percentage ownership in Lands' End may be diluted in the future.

In the future, your percentage ownership in Lands' End may be diluted because of equity issuances for acquisitions, strategic investments, capital market transactions or otherwise, including equity awards that we may grant to our directors, officers and employees. The Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors may grant additional stock-based awards to our employees, which would have a dilutive effect on our earnings per share, and which could adversely affect the market price of our common stock.



Table of Contents

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

Not applicable.

22

---

Table of Contents

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

Facilities and Store Locations

We own or lease domestic and international properties used as offices, customer sales/service centers, distribution centers and retail stores. We believe that our existing facilities are well maintained and are sufficient to meet our current needs. We review all leases set to expire in the short term to determine the appropriate action to take with respect to them, including moving or closing stores or entering into new leases.

Domestic Headquarters, Customer Service and Distribution Properties

The headquarters for our business is located on an approximately 200 acre campus in Dodgeville, Wisconsin. The Dodgeville campus includes approximately 1.7 million square feet of building space between eight different buildings that are all owned by Lands' End. The primary functions of these buildings are customer sales/service, distribution center and corporate headquarters. We also own customer sales/service and distribution centers in Reedsburg and Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

International Office, Customer Service and Distribution Properties

We own a distribution center and customer sales/service center in Oakham, United Kingdom that supports our northern European business. We lease two buildings in Mettlach, Germany for customer sales/service center supporting our central European business. We also lease office space in Shin Yokohama, Japan for a customer sales/service center as well as general administrative offices and a distribution center in Fujieda, Japan.

Lands' End Retail Properties

As of February 1, 2019, our retail footprint consists of 18 Company Operated stores, which averaged approximately 7,000 square feet and 49 Lands' End Shops at Sears, which averaged approximately 7,000 square feet. In addition, we have seven smaller school uniform showrooms that are used for fittings. We lease the premises of our Lands' End Shops at Sears from Sears Roebuck. Under the terms of the master lease agreement and master sublease agreement pursuant to which Sears Roebuck leases or subleases to us the premises for the Lands' End Shops at Sears, Sears Roebuck has certain rights to (1) relocate our leased premises within the building in which such premises are located, subject to certain limitations, including our right to terminate the applicable lease if we are not satisfied with the new premises, and (2) terminate without liability the lease with respect to a particular Lands' End Shop if the overall Sears store in which such Lands' End Shop is located is closed or sold. All leases for Lands' End Shops at Sears will terminate by January 31, 2020. With respect to our Company Operated stores, as of February 1, 2019, 16 were leased and two were owned, with 16 located in the United States, one in the United Kingdom and one in Germany.

Table of Contents

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

From time to time we are involved in various claims, legal proceedings and investigations arising in the ordinary course of business. Some of these actions involve complex factual and legal issues and are subject to uncertainties. At this time, the Company is not able to either predict the outcome of these legal proceedings or reasonably estimate a potential range of loss with respect to the proceedings. While it is not feasible to predict the outcome of pending claims, proceedings and investigations with certainty, management is of the opinion that their ultimate resolution should not have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, cash flows or financial position.

See Part II, Item 8, Financial Statements and Supplementary Data and Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, Note 10, Commitments and Contingencies, for additional information regarding legal proceedings (incorporated herein by reference).

Table of Contents

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

25

---

Table of Contents

PART II

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Market Information

Lands' End's common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Stock Market under the ticker symbol LE. There were 7,698 stockholders of record at February 1, 2019.

Stock Performance Graph

The following graph compares the cumulative total return to stockholders on Lands' End common stock from March 20, 2014, the first day our common stock began "when-issued" trading on the NASDAQ Stock Market, through February 1, 2019, the last day of Fiscal 2018, with the return on the NASDAQ Composite Index and the NASDAQ Global Retail Index for the same period. Our common stock began "regular-way" trading following the Separation on April 7, 2014. The graph assumes an initial investment of \$100 on March 20, 2014 in each of our common stock, the NASDAQ Composite Index and the NASDAQ Global Retail Index.

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

26

---

Table of Contents

	3/20/2014	1/30/2015	1/29/2016	1/27/2017	2/2/2018	2/1/2019
Lands' End, Inc.	\$ 100	\$ 104	\$ 65	\$ 46	\$ 49	\$ 53
NASDAQ Composite Index	\$ 100	\$ 107	\$ 107	\$ 131	\$ 168	\$ 168
NASDAQ Retail Index	\$ 100	\$ 107	\$ 108	\$ 115	\$ 148	\$ 147

This performance graph shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act or incorporated by reference into any of our filings, as amended, with the SEC, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

**Dividends**

Except for a \$500.0 million dividend we paid to a subsidiary of Sears Holdings prior to the Separation, we have not paid, and we do not expect to pay in the foreseeable future, dividends on our common stock. Any payment of dividends will be at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend upon various factors then existing, including earnings, financial condition, results of operations, capital requirements, level of indebtedness, any contractual restrictions with respect to payment of dividends, restrictions imposed by applicable law, general business conditions and other factors that our board of directors may deem relevant. Additionally, the Debt Facilities contain various representations and warranties and restrictive covenants that, among other things, and subject to specified exceptions, restrict the ability of Lands' End and its subsidiaries to make dividends or distributions with respect to capital stock.

Table of Contents

## ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The Consolidated Statements of Operations Data set forth below for the fiscal years ended February 1, 2019, February 2, 2018 and January 27, 2017 and the Consolidated Balance Sheet Data as of February 1, 2019 and February 2, 2018 are derived from the audited Consolidated Financial Statements included elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. The Consolidated Statements of Operations Data for the fiscal years ended January 29, 2016, and January 30, 2015 and the Consolidated Balance Sheet data as of January 27, 2017, January 29, 2016 and January 30, 2015 are derived from the audited Consolidated and Combined Financial Statements not included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. All historical financial and other data prior to the Separation reflects the Lands' End business of Sears Holdings, and the historical financial and other data subsequent to the Separation include the accounts of Lands' End, Inc. and its subsidiaries which are collectively referred to herein as "our" historical financial and other data. See Note 1, Background and Basis of Presentation, to the Consolidated Financial Statements and accompanying notes. The selected historical consolidated and combined financial statement and other financial data presented below should be read in conjunction with our Consolidated Financial Statements and accompanying notes and Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, included elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

(in thousands, except per share data and number of stores)	Fiscal Year				
	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014 <sup>(1)</sup>
Consolidated Statement of Operations Data <sup>(2)</sup>					
Net revenue	\$ 1,451,592	\$ 1,406,677	\$ 1,335,760	\$ 1,419,778	\$ 1,555,353
Net income (loss) <sup>(3)(4)(5)</sup>	\$ 11,590	\$ 28,195	\$ (109,782 )	\$ (19,548 )	\$ 73,799
Basic and diluted earnings (loss) per common share <sup>(3)(4)(5)(6)</sup>	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.88	\$ (3.43 )	\$ (0.61 )	\$ 2.31
Basic average shares outstanding	32,190	32,076	32,021	31,979	31,957
Diluted average shares outstanding	32,526	32,110	32,021	31,979	32,016
Consolidated Balance Sheet Data					
Total assets	\$ 1,110,911	\$ 1,124,135	\$ 1,114,391	\$ 1,288,526	\$ 1,349,999
Long-term debt, net	482,453	486,248	490,043	500,838	505,988
Other Financial and Operating Data					
Adjusted EBITDA <sup>(7)</sup>	\$ 70,466	\$ 58,264	\$ 39,832	\$ 107,288	\$ 164,298
Number of stores at year end	74	189	230	246	255

Fiscal 2014 shows results of the Company with combined financial information that may not be indicative of future (1) performance and does not necessarily reflect what the financial position and results of operations would have been had the Company operated as a publicly traded company independent from Sears Holdings during this period.

(2) The Company's fiscal year end is on the Friday preceding the Saturday closest to January 31 each year. Fiscal 2017 consisted of 53 weeks. All other fiscal years consisted of 52 weeks.

(3) Fiscal 2016 Net loss includes an impairment charge of \$173.0 million, \$107.8 million net of tax, related to the non-cash write-down of the Company's trade name intangible asset, Lands' End.

(4) Fiscal 2015 Net loss includes an impairment charge of \$98.3 million, \$62.0 million net of tax, related to the non-cash write-down of the Company's trade name intangible asset, Lands' End.

(5) Fiscal 2018 and Fiscal 2017 Net income includes an Income tax benefit of \$3.7 million and \$30.6 million respectively, as a result of the Tax Act reform. See Note 9, Income Taxes, for additional details.

On April 4, 2014, Sears Holdings distributed 31,956,521 shares of Lands' End common stock. Refer to Note 2, (6) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, to the Consolidated Financial Statements for information regarding earnings per share.





Table of Contents

Adjusted EBITDA—In addition to our Net income (loss) determined in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"), for purposes of evaluating operating performance, we use Adjusted EBITDA, which is adjusted to exclude certain significant items as set forth below. Our management uses Adjusted EBITDA to evaluate the operating performance of our business for comparable periods. This metric is also incorporated into executive compensation plans. Adjusted EBITDA should not be used by investors or other third parties as the sole basis for formulating investment decisions as it excludes a number of important cash and non-cash recurring items. Adjusted EBITDA should not be considered as a substitute for GAAP measurements.

While Adjusted EBITDA is a non-GAAP measurement, management believes that it is an important indicator of operating performance, and useful to investors, because:

EBITDA excludes the effects of financings, investing activities and tax structure by eliminating the effects of interest, depreciation and income tax costs or benefits.

Other significant items, while periodically affecting our results, may vary significantly from period to period and have a disproportionate effect in a given period, which affects comparability of results. We have adjusted our results for these items to make our statements more comparable and therefore more useful to investors as the items are not representative of our ongoing operations.

Intangible asset impairment—charge associated with the non-cash write-down of our trade name intangible asset, Lands' End, in Fiscal 2016 and Fiscal 2015.

Product recall—costs associated with a recall in Fiscal 2014 and the subsequent reversal of some costs in Fiscal 2016 and Fiscal 2015 as customer return rates were lower than Company estimates.

Transfer of corporate functions—severance and contract losses associated with a transition of certain corporate activities from our New York office to our Dodgeville headquarters.

Gain or loss on the sale of property and equipment—management considers the gains or losses on sale of assets to result from investing decisions rather than ongoing operations.

The following table presents a reconciliation of Adjusted EBITDA to net income (loss), the most comparable GAAP measure for each of the periods indicated:

(in thousands)	Fiscal Year				
	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014 <sup>(1)</sup>
Net income (loss)	\$11,590	\$28,195	\$(109,782)	\$(19,548)	\$73,799
Income tax (benefit) expense	(1,959)	(27,747)	(69,098)	(9,691)	46,758
Other expense (income), net	4,059	2,708	1,619	(671)	(1,408)
Interest expense	28,909	25,929	24,630	24,826	20,494
Intangible asset impairment	—	—	173,000	98,300	—
Depreciation and amortization	27,558	24,910	19,003	17,399	19,703
Product recall	—	—	(212)	(3,371)	4,713
Transfer of corporate functions	31	3,921	—	—	—
Loss on sale of property and equipment	278	348	672	44	239
Adjusted EBITDA	\$70,466	\$58,264	\$39,832	\$107,288	\$164,298

Table of Contents

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

You should read the following discussion in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and accompanying notes included elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. This Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations contains forward-looking statements. The matters discussed in these forward-looking statements are subject to risk, uncertainties, and other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those made, projected or implied in the forward-looking statements. See "Cautionary Statements Concerning Forward-Looking Statements" below and Item 1A, Risk Factors, in this Annual Report on Form 10-K and for a discussion of the uncertainties, risks and assumptions associated with these statements. As used in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, references to the "Company", "Lands' End", "we", "us", "our" and similar terms refer to Lands' End, Inc. and its subsidiaries. Our fiscal year ends on the Friday preceding the Saturday closest to January 31. Other terms that are commonly used in this Annual Report on Form 10-K are defined as follows:

- ASU - FASB Accounting Standards Update
- Company Operated stores - Lands' End retail stores in the Retail channel
- ABL Facility - Asset-based senior secured credit agreements, dated as of November 16, 2017, with Wells Fargo, N.A. and certain other lenders
- ERP - enterprise resource planning software solutions
- ESL - ESL Investments, Inc. and its investment affiliates, including Edward S. Lampert
- Debt Facilities - Collectively, the ABL Facility and the Term Loan Facility
- FASB - Financial Accounting Standards Board
- Fiscal 2019 - The Company's next fiscal year representing the 52 weeks ending January 31, 2020
- Fiscal 2018 - The 52 weeks ended February 1, 2019
- Fiscal 2017 - The 53 weeks ended February 2, 2018
- Fiscal 2016 - The 52 weeks ended January 27, 2017
- GAAP - Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States
- LIBOR - London inter-bank offered rate
- Same Store Sales - Net revenue, from stores that have been open for at least 13 full months where selling square footage has not changed by 15% or more within the past year
- Sears Holdings or Sears Holdings Corporation - Sears Holdings Corporation, a Delaware corporation, and its consolidated subsidiaries (other than, for all periods following the Separation, Lands' End)
- Sears Roebuck - Sears, Roebuck and Co., a wholly owned subsidiary of Sears Holdings
- Separation - On April 4, 2014 Sears Holdings distributed 100% of the outstanding common stock of Lands' End to its shareholders
- Tax Act - The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act passed by the United States government on December 22, 2017
- Tax Sharing Agreement - A tax sharing agreement entered into by Sears Holdings Corporation and Lands' End in connection with the Separation
- Term Loan Facility - Term loan credit agreements, dated as of April 4, 2014, with Bank of America, N.A. and certain other lenders
- Transform Holdco - Transform Holdco LLC, an affiliate of ESL, which on February 11, 2019 acquired from Sears Holdings substantially all of the go-forward retail footprint and other assets and component businesses of Sears Holdings as a going concern
- UTBs - Gross unrecognized tax benefits

## Table of Contents

### Introduction

Management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations accompanies our consolidated financial statements and provides additional information about our business, financial condition, liquidity and capital resources, cash flows and results of operations. We have organized the information as follows:

• **Executive overview.** This section provides a brief description of our business, accounting basis of presentation and a brief summary of our results of operations.

• **Discussion and analysis.** This section highlights items affecting the comparability of our financial results and provides an analysis of our results of operations for Fiscal 2018, Fiscal 2017 and Fiscal 2016.

• **Liquidity and capital resources.** This section provides an overview of our historical and anticipated cash and financing activities. We also review our historical sources and uses of cash in our operating, investing and financing activities.

• **Contractual Obligations and Off-Balance-Sheet Arrangements.** This section provides details of the Company's off-balance-sheet arrangements and contractual obligations for the next five years and thereafter.

• **Financial Instruments with Off-Balance-Sheet Risk.** This section discusses financial instruments of the Company that could have off-balance-sheet risk.

• **Quantitative and qualitative disclosures about market risk.** This section discusses how we monitor and manage market risk related to changing currency rates. We also provide an analysis of how adverse changes in market conditions could impact our results based on certain assumptions we have provided.

• **Application of critical accounting policies and estimates.** This section summarizes the accounting policies that we consider important to our financial condition and results of operations and which require significant judgment or estimates to be made in their application.

### Executive Overview

#### Description of the Company

Lands' End, Inc. is a leading multi-channel retailer of casual clothing, accessories, footwear and home products. We offer products through catalogs, online at [www.landsend.com](http://www.landsend.com), international websites, third party online marketplaces, and through retail locations. We are a classic American lifestyle brand with a passion for quality, legendary service and real value, and seek to deliver timeless style for women, men, kids and the home.

Lands' End was founded in 1963 by Gary Comer and his partners to sell sailboat hardware and equipment by catalog. While our product focus has shifted significantly over the years, we have continued to adhere to our founder's motto as one of our guiding principles: "Take care of the customer, take care of the employee and the rest will take care of itself."

As the Company evolves our multi-channel strategy, and in conjunction with the accelerated closures of Lands' End Shops at Sears, during Fiscal 2018 we determined it was more appropriate to combine the previously disclosed external reportable segments of Direct and Retail, into one combined external reportable segment as it more closely represents how we are managing the Company. We identify our operating segments according to how our business activities are managed and evaluated. Our operating segments consist of U.S. eCommerce, Retail, Outfitters, Europe eCommerce and Japan eCommerce. We have determined that each of our operating segments share similar economic and other qualitative characteristics, and therefore the results of our operating segments are aggregated into one reportable segment.

#### Basis of Presentation

The Consolidated Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with GAAP and include the accounts of Lands' End, Inc. and its subsidiaries. All intercompany transactions and balances have been eliminated.

#### Related party

Following the Separation, we began operating as a separate, publicly traded company, independent from Sears Holdings. According to statements on Schedule 13D filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission by ESL, ESL beneficially owned significant portions of both the Company's and Sears Holdings Corporation's outstanding shares of common stock. Therefore, Sears Holdings Corporation, the Company's former parent company, is considered a related party both prior to and subsequent to the Separation. On February 11, 2019, Transform Holdco acquired from Sears Holdings substantially all of the go-forward retail footprint and other assets and component businesses of Sears



Table of Contents

Holdings as a going concern. We believe that ESL holds a significant portion of the membership interests of Transform Holdco and therefore consider that entity to be a related party as well.

Seasonality

We experience seasonal fluctuations in our net revenue and operating results and historically have realized a significant portion of our net revenue and earnings for the year during our fourth fiscal quarter. We generated 34.6%, 36.3% and 34.4% of our net revenue in the fourth fiscal quarter of Fiscal 2018, Fiscal 2017 and Fiscal 2016, respectively. Thus, lower than expected fourth quarter net revenue could have an adverse impact on our annual operating results.

Working capital requirements typically increase during the second and third quarters of the fiscal year as inventory builds to support peak shipping/selling periods and, accordingly, typically decrease during the fourth quarter of the fiscal year as inventory is shipped/sold. Cash provided by operating activities is typically higher in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year due to reduced working capital requirements during that period.

Results of Operations

Fiscal Year. Our fiscal year end is on the Friday preceding the Saturday closest to January 31 each year. The fiscal periods in this report are presented as follows, unless the context otherwise requires:

Fiscal Year Ended	Weeks
2018	February 1, 2019 52
2017	February 2, 2018 53
2016	January 27, 2017 52

As noted in the above table, Fiscal 2017 had 53 weeks. When comparing Fiscal 2018 to Fiscal 2017, the Company may reference the amount of variance due to the extra week. This will be referred to as the 53<sup>rd</sup> week and represents the last week of Fiscal 2017.

The following tables sets forth, for the periods indicated, selected income statement data:

(in thousands)	Fiscal 2018		Fiscal 2017		Fiscal 2016	
	\$'s	% of Net Revenue	\$'s	% of Net Revenue	\$'s	% of Net Revenue
Net revenue	\$1,451,592	100.0 %	\$1,406,677	100.0 %	\$1,335,760	100.0 %
Cost of sales (excluding depreciation and amortization)	835,536	57.6 %	809,474	57.5 %	759,352	56.8 %
Gross profit	616,056	42.4 %	597,203	42.5 %	576,408	43.2 %
Selling and administrative	545,590	37.6 %	538,939	38.3 %	536,576	40.2 %
Depreciation and amortization	27,558	1.9 %	24,910	1.8 %	19,003	1.4 %
Intangible asset impairment	—	— %	—	— %	173,000	