

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

**FORM 10-Q**

Quarterly report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the quarterly period ended July 31, 2017

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 001-35588

**Liberty Tax, Inc.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**

(State of incorporation)

**27-3561876**

(IRS employer identification no.)

**1716 Corporate Landing Parkway  
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454**  
(Address of principal executive offices)  
**(757) 493-8855**  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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 and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No

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

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer

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

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

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

The number of shares outstanding of the registrant's Class A common stock as of September 1, 2017 was 12,683,459 shares.  
The number of shares outstanding of the registrant's Class B common stock as of September 1, 2017 was 200,000 shares.

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LIBERTY TAX, INC.

Form 10-Q for the Quarterly Period Ended July 31, 2017

Table of Contents

	<u>Page Number</u>	
<b><u>PART I.</u></b>	<b><u>FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u></b>	
<b><u>Item 1.</u></b>	<b><u>Financial Statements</u></b>	<b><u>1</u></b>
	<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of July 31, 2017, April 30, 2016 and July 31, 2016</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three months ended July 31, 2017 and 2016</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Loss for the three months ended July 31, 2017 and 2016</u>	<u>3</u>
	<u>Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the three months ended July 31, 2017 and 2016</u>	<u>4</u>
	<u>Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	<u>6</u>
<b><u>Item 2.</u></b>	<b><u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u></b>	<b><u>21</u></b>
<b><u>Item 3.</u></b>	<b><u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u></b>	<b><u>29</u></b>
<b><u>Item 4.</u></b>	<b><u>Controls and Procedures</u></b>	<b><u>29</u></b>
<b><u>PART II.</u></b>	<b><u>OTHER INFORMATION</u></b>	<b><u>30</u></b>
<b><u>Item 1.</u></b>	<b><u>Legal Proceedings</u></b>	<b><u>30</u></b>
<b><u>Item 1A.</u></b>	<b><u>Risk Factors</u></b>	<b><u>30</u></b>
<b><u>Item 2.</u></b>	<b><u>Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u></b>	<b><u>30</u></b>
<b><u>Item 6.</u></b>	<b><u>Exhibits</u></b>	<b><u>31</u></b>

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**ITEM 1  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**LIBERTY TAX, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

Consolidated Balance Sheets

July 31, 2017, April 30, 2017 and July 31, 2016

(In thousands, except share data)

Assets	July 31, 2017 (unaudited)	April 30, 2017	July 31, 2016 (unaudited)
<b>Current assets:</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 6,254	\$ 16,427	\$ 4,882
<b>Receivables:</b>			
Accounts receivable	43,225	54,723	38,561
Notes receivable - current	33,493	27,845	34,474
Interest receivable, net of uncollectible amounts	2,554	1,967	2,826
Allowance for doubtful accounts - current	(8,745)	(10,052)	(6,284)
Total current receivables, net	70,527	74,483	69,577
Assets held for sale	14,678	11,989	16,623
Income taxes receivable	47	55	7,093
Deferred income tax asset	—	6,956	2,847
Other current assets	4,717	5,757	2,796
Total current assets	96,223	115,667	103,818
Property, equipment, and software, net of accumulated depreciation of \$27,172, \$25,972 and \$23,826, respectively	39,744	39,789	41,013
Notes receivable, non-current	18,202	18,213	24,481
Allowance for doubtful accounts, non-current	(1,880)	(1,968)	(2,339)
Total notes receivables, non-current	16,322	16,245	22,142
Deferred tax asset - non-current	173	—	—
Goodwill	7,620	8,576	4,183
Other intangible assets, net	21,902	21,224	15,884
Other assets	2,814	2,767	3,246
Total assets	\$ 184,798	\$ 204,268	\$ 190,286
<b>Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</b>			
<b>Current liabilities:</b>			
Current installments of long-term obligations	\$ 5,202	\$ 7,738	\$ 6,754
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	13,958	12,953	9,590
Due to Area Developers (ADs)	9,168	23,143	10,449
Income taxes payable	208	6,442	—
Deferred revenue - current	2,854	2,892	3,687
Total current liabilities	31,390	53,168	30,480
Long-term obligations, excluding current installments, net	17,816	18,461	18,298
Revolving credit facility	20,611	—	27,984
Deferred revenue and other - non-current	5,466	5,817	6,555
Deferred income tax liability	3,585	10,367	6,259
Total liabilities	78,868	87,813	89,576
<b>Stockholders' equity:</b>			
Special voting preferred stock, \$0.01 par value per share, 10 shares authorized, issued and outstanding	—	—	—
Class A common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, 21,200,000 shares authorized, 12,682,550, 12,682,550 and 12,594,756 shares issued and outstanding, respectively	127	127	126
Class B common stock, \$0.01 par value per share, 1,000,000 shares authorized, 200,000, 200,000 and 300,000 shares issued and outstanding, respectively	2	2	3
Exchangeable shares, \$0.01 par value, 1,000,000 shares authorized, issued and outstanding	10	10	10
Additional paid-in capital	8,925	8,371	7,897
Accumulated other comprehensive loss, net of taxes	(1,065)	(2,084)	(1,580)
Retained earnings	97,931	110,029	94,254
Total stockholders' equity	105,930	116,455	100,710
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 184,798	\$ 204,268	\$ 190,286

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

**LIBERTY TAX, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Consolidated Statements of Operations  
Three Months Ended July 31, 2017 and 2016 (unaudited)  
(In thousands, except share count and per share data)

	<b>Three Months Ended July 31,</b>	
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Franchise fees	\$ 71	\$ 240
Area Developer fees	1,068	970
Royalties and advertising fees	1,689	1,455
Financial products	582	536
Interest income	2,297	2,658
Assisted tax preparation fees, net of discounts	1,639	986
Other revenues	842	304
Total revenues	8,188	7,149
<b>Operating expenses:</b>		
Employee compensation and benefits	9,991	9,682
Other costs and expenses	9,202	8,279
Area Developer expense	372	460
Advertising expense	2,376	1,918
Depreciation, amortization, and impairment charges	2,196	2,012
Total operating expenses	24,137	22,351
Loss from operations	(15,949)	(15,202)
<b>Other income (expense):</b>		
Foreign currency transaction gain (loss)	110	(8)
Gain on sale of available-for-sale securities	—	50
Interest expense	(281)	(344)
Loss before income taxes	(16,120)	(15,504)
Income tax benefit	(6,362)	(6,074)
Net loss	(9,758)	(9,430)
<b>Net loss per share attributable to Class A and Class B common stock:</b>		
Basic and diluted	\$ (0.76)	\$ (0.73)
Weighted-average shares outstanding basic and diluted	12,882,550	12,894,740
Dividends declared per share of common stock and common stock equivalents	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.16

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

**LIBERTY TAX, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
 Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Loss  
 Three Months Ended July 31, 2017 and 2016 (unaudited)  
 (In thousands)

	<b>Three Months Ended July 31,</b>	
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Net loss	\$ (9,758)	\$ (9,430)
Unrealized loss on interest rate swap agreement, net of taxes of \$- and \$-, respectively	(15)	—
Unrealized gain on available-for-sale securities, net of taxes of \$- and \$345, respectively	—	580
Reclassified gain on sale of available-for-sale securities included in income, net of taxes of \$- and \$20, respectively	—	(30)
Foreign currency translation adjustment	1,034	(431)
Comprehensive loss	\$ (8,739)	\$ (9,311)

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

**LIBERTY TAX, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows  
Three Months Ended July 31, 2017 and 2016 (unaudited)  
(In thousands)

	<b>Three Months Ended July 31,</b>	
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Net loss	\$ (9,758)	\$ (9,430)
<b>Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities:</b>		
Provision for doubtful accounts	1,408	1,380
Depreciation, amortization, and impairment charges	2,196	2,012
Stock-based compensation expense	554	683
Gain on sale of available-for-sale securities	—	(50)
Gain on bargain purchases and sales of Company-owned offices	(536)	(28)
Deferred tax expense	(34)	578
Changes in accrued income taxes	(6,187)	(10,997)
Changes in other assets and liabilities	(2,167)	(6,071)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(14,524)</u>	<u>(21,923)</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>		
Issuance of operating loans to franchisees and ADs	(11,275)	(10,828)
Payments received on operating loans to franchisees	1,545	1,096
Purchases of AD rights, Company-owned offices and acquired customer lists	(352)	(1,802)
Proceeds from sale of Company-owned offices and AD rights	76	46
Proceeds from sale of available-for-sale securities	—	5,049
Purchases of property, equipment and software	(1,110)	(1,556)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(11,116)</u>	<u>(7,995)</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>		
Dividends paid	(2,339)	(2,223)
Repayment of amounts due to former ADs and franchisees	—	(423)
Repayment of long-term obligations	(3,283)	(416)
Borrowings under revolving credit facility	20,706	28,002
Repayments under revolving credit facility	(95)	(18)
Tax benefit of stock option exercises	—	60
Net cash provided by financing activities	<u>14,989</u>	<u>24,982</u>
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash, net	<u>478</u>	<u>(88)</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	<u>(10,173)</u>	<u>(5,024)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	<u>16,427</u>	<u>9,906</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	<u>\$ 6,254</u>	<u>\$ 4,882</u>

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

**LIBERTY TAX, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows  
Three Months Ended July 31, 2017 and 2016 (unaudited)  
(In thousands)

	<b>Three Months Ended July 31,</b>	
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information:</b>		
Cash paid for interest, net of capitalized interest of \$145 and \$106, respectively	\$ 281	\$ 241
Cash paid for taxes, net of refunds	(137)	4,286
Accrued capitalized software costs included in accounts payable	54	144
During the three months ended July 31, 2017 and 2016, the Company acquired certain assets from ADs, franchisees, and third parties as follows:		
Fair value of assets purchased	\$ 3,664	\$ 8,622
Receivables applied, net of amounts written off, due ADs and related deferred revenue	(2,714)	(4,146)
Bargain purchase gains	(322)	(80)
Long-term obligations and accounts payable issued	(276)	(2,594)
Cash paid to ADs, franchisees and third parties	<u>\$ 352</u>	<u>\$ 1,802</u>
During the three months ended July 31, 2017 and 2016, the Company sold certain assets to ADs and franchisees as follows:		
Book value of assets sold	\$ 24	\$ 1,191
Gain on sale - revenue deferred	18	12
Gain (loss) on sale - gain (loss) recognized	37	(12)
Notes received	(3)	(1,145)
Long-term obligations and accounts payable assumed	—	—
Cash received from ADs and franchisees	<u>\$ 76</u>	<u>\$ 46</u>

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

## LIBERTY TAX, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

### Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

July 31, 2017 and 2016 (Unaudited)

#### (1) Organization and Significant Accounting Policies

##### *Description of Business*

Liberty Tax, Inc. (the "Company"), a Delaware corporation, is a holding company engaged through its subsidiaries as a franchisor and, to a lesser degree, an operator of a system of income tax preparation offices located in the United States and Canada. The Company's principal operations are conducted through JTH Tax, Inc. (d/b/a Liberty Tax Service), the Company's largest subsidiary, and SiempreTax, LLC. Through this system of income tax preparation offices, the Company also facilitates refund-based tax settlement financial products, such as refund transfer products in the United States ("U.S.") and personal income tax refund discounting in Canada. The Company also offers online tax preparation services. The majority of offices are operated under the Liberty Tax Service and SiempreTax+ brands.

The Company provides a substantial amount of lending to its franchisees and Area Developers ("ADs"). The Company allows franchisees and ADs to defer a portion of the franchise fee and AD fee, which are paid over time. The Company also offers its franchisees working capital loans to fund their operations between tax seasons.

The Company's operating revenues are seasonal in nature, with peak revenues occurring in the months of January through April. Therefore, results for interim periods are not indicative of results to be expected for the full year.

Unless the context requires otherwise, the terms "Liberty Tax," "Liberty Tax Service," "we," "the Company," "us," and "our" refer to Liberty Tax, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries.

##### *Basis of Presentation*

The condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Liberty Tax, Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. Assets and liabilities of the Company's Canadian operations have been translated into U.S. dollars using the exchange rate in effect at the end of the period. Revenues and expenses have been translated using the average exchange rates in effect each month of the period. Foreign exchange transaction gains and losses are recognized when incurred. The Company consolidates any entities in which it has a controlling interest, the usual condition of which is ownership of a majority voting interest. The Company also considers for consolidation an entity in which the Company has certain interests where a controlling financial interest may be achieved through arrangements that do not involve voting interests. Such an entity, known as a variable interest entity ("VIE"), is required to be consolidated by its primary beneficiary. The Company does not possess any ownership interests in franchisee entities; however, the Company may provide financial support to franchisee entities. Because the Company's franchise arrangements provide franchisee entities the power to direct the activities that most significantly impact their economic performance, the Company does not consider itself the primary beneficiary of any such entity that might be a VIE. Based on the results of management's analysis of potential VIEs, the Company has not consolidated any franchisee entities. The Company's maximum exposure to loss resulting from involvement with potential VIEs is attributable to accounts and notes receivables and future lease payments due from franchisees. When the Company does not have a controlling interest in an entity but exerts significant influence over the entity, the Company applies the equity method of accounting. All intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

The unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") for interim financial information. The condensed consolidated financial statements, including these notes, are unaudited and exclude some of the disclosures required only in annual financial statements. Consolidated balance sheet data as of April 30, 2017 was derived from the Company's April 30, 2017 Annual Report on Form 10-K filed on July 7, 2017.

In the opinion of management, all adjustments necessary for a fair presentation of such financial statements in accordance with GAAP have been recorded. These adjustments consisted only of normal recurring items. The accompanying consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Company's financial statements and notes thereto included in its April 30, 2017 Annual Report on Form 10-K filed on July 7, 2017.



### **Office Count**

As a seasonal business, the Company works throughout the off season to open new offices, and at the same time, some of our franchisees will choose not to reopen for the next season. Some of these decisions are not made until January each year and the Company will report office count information for the quarter ended January 31, 2018 once all offices have been opened.

### **Use of Estimates**

Management has made a number of estimates and assumptions relating to the reporting of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the condensed consolidated financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period, to prepare these condensed consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes in conformity with GAAP. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### **Accounting Pronouncements**

On May 1, 2017, the Company adopted Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") No. 2016-09, "*Compensation-Stock Compensation (Topic 718) Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting*." This update provides for simplification of the accounting for share-based payment transactions, including the income tax consequences and classification on the statement of cash flows. Under the update, the excess tax benefits and deficiencies that result from the difference between the deduction for tax purposes and the compensation cost recognized for financial reporting purposes should be recognized as income tax expense or benefit in the reporting period in which they occur. Previously, the excess tax benefits were recognized in additional paid-in capital and tax deficiencies were recognized either as an offset to accumulated excess tax benefits, if any, or in the statement of operations. This amendment has been adopted by the Company on a prospective basis. The update also provides that excess tax benefits should be classified along with other income tax cash flows as an operating activity on the statement of cash flows. Prior to the update, excess tax benefits were separated from other income tax cash flows and classified as a financing activity. This amendment has been adopted by the Company on a prospective transition method basis. Additionally, cash paid by an employer when directly withholding shares for tax-withholding purposes should be classified as a financing activity on the statement of cash flows. Previously, no guidance was provided for cash flow classification of cash paid for tax-withholding purposes for shares withheld for tax purposes. This amendment has been adopted by the Company on a retrospective basis. There were no reclassifications of prior periods required as a result of the retrospective adoption of this amendment. Under the update, an entity can elect to either estimate the number of awards that are expected to vest or account for forfeitures as they occur. The Company has elected to account for forfeitures when they occur. The impact to retained earnings as a result of the adoption was immaterial. All amendments of the update have been adopted for all periods beginning on or after May 1, 2017.

On May 1, 2017, the Company adopted ASU 2015-17, "*Income Taxes (Topic 740)*," which requires entities with a classified balance sheet to present all deferred tax assets and liabilities as non-current. The update has been adopted prospectively to all deferred tax liabilities and assets and prior periods have not been retrospectively adjusted.

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued ASU No. 2014-09, "*Revenue from Contracts with Customers*." This update will replace existing revenue recognition guidance in GAAP and requires an entity to recognize the amount of revenue to which it expects to be entitled for the transfer of promised goods or services to customers. The new standard is effective for the Company in fiscal year 2019, which begins on May 1, 2018. The standard may be applied retrospectively to each prior period presented or retrospectively with the cumulative effect recognized as of the date of adoption ("modified retrospective method"). The Company currently expects to apply the modified retrospective transition method upon adoption. The Company expects the adoption of the new guidance to change the timing of recognition of initial franchise fees and AD fees. Currently, franchise fees are generally recognized when our obligations to prepare the franchise for operation have been substantially completed and cash has been received and AD fees are recognized on the straight-line basis over the contract term not to exceed the amount of cash received. The new guidance will generally require these fees to be recognized over the term of the related franchise or AD agreements, which will impact the revenue recognized for franchise fees. The Company does not expect this new guidance to materially impact the recognition of royalty and advertising fees, financial products revenue or tax preparation fees. The Company is continuing to evaluate the impact the adoption of this new guidance will have on these and other revenue transactions, in addition to the impact on accounting policies and related disclosures.

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-02, "*Leases*." This update will replace existing lease guidance in GAAP and will require lessees to recognize lease assets and lease liabilities on the balance sheet for all leases and disclose key information about leasing arrangements, such as information about variable lease payments and options to renew and terminate leases. When implemented, lessees and lessors will be required to recognize and measure leases at the beginning of the earliest period presented using a modified retrospective approach. The update is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018. Early adoption is permitted. The Company is currently finalizing its implementation plan

and evaluating the impact of the new pronouncement on its consolidated financial statements. The Company expects the adoption of this pronouncement to result in a material increase in the assets and liabilities on its consolidated balance sheets and to not have a material impact on its consolidated statement of operations.

In August 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-15, "*Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230)*", which clarifies how companies present and classify certain cash receipts and cash payments in the statement of cash flows. The update is intended to reduce the existing diversity in practice and is effective for the Company beginning with its first quarterly filing in fiscal year 2019. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of the adoption of this newly issued standard to its consolidated financial statements.

In June 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-13, "*Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments*", which changes how companies will measure credit losses for most financial assets and certain other instruments that aren't measured at fair value through net income. The standard replaces the "incurred loss" approach with an "expected loss" model for instruments measured at amortized cost (which generally will result in the earlier recognition of allowances for losses) and requires companies to record allowances for available-for-sale debt securities, rather than reduce the carrying amount. In addition, companies will have to disclose significantly more information, including information used to track credit quality by year of origination, for most financing receivables. The ASU should be applied as a cumulative-effect adjustment to retained earnings as of the beginning of the first reporting period in which the standard is effective. The ASU is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2019. Early adoption is permitted for all entities for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2018, and interim periods therein. The ASU is effective for the Company beginning in the first quarter of fiscal year 2021. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of the adoption of this newly issued standard to its consolidated financial statements.

In January 2017, the FASB issued ASU 2017-01, "*Business Combinations (Topic 805): Clarifying the Definition of a Business*", which clarifies the definition of a business with the objection of adding guidance to assist entities with evaluating whether transactions should be accounted for as acquisitions (or disposals) of assets or businesses. The definition of a business affects many areas of accounting including acquisitions, disposals, goodwill and consolidation. The ASU is effective for the Company beginning in the first quarter of fiscal year 2019. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of the adoption of this newly issued standard to its consolidated financial statements.

In January 2017, the FASB issued ASU 2017-04, "*Intangibles - Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Simplifying the Test for Goodwill Impairment*." This new standard eliminates Step 2 from the goodwill impairment test. Instead, an entity should compare the fair value of a reporting unit with its carrying amount and recognize an impairment charge for the amount by which the carrying amount exceeds the reporting unit's fair value, not to exceed the total amount of goodwill allocated to the reporting unit. The standard will be effective for the Company in the first quarter of our fiscal year 2021. Early adoption is permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of the adoption of this newly issued standard to its consolidated financial statements.

#### **Foreign Operations**

Canadian operations contributed \$1.0 million and \$0.9 million in revenues for the three months ended July 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

#### **(2) Accounts and Notes Receivable**

The Company provides financing to ADs and franchisees for the purchase of franchises, areas, Company-owned offices, and operating loans for working capital and equipment needs. The franchise-related notes generally are payable over five years and the operating loans generally are due within one year. Most notes bear interest at an annual rate of 12%.

Most of the notes receivable are due from the Company's ADs and franchisees and are collateralized by the underlying franchise and, when the AD or franchise is an entity, are guaranteed by the owners of the respective entity. The debtors' ability to repay the notes is dependent upon both the performance of the tax preparation industry as a whole and the individual franchise or AD areas.

At July 31, 2017, the Company had unfunded lending commitments for working capital loans to franchisees and ADs of \$18.4 million through the end of the current fiscal year.

### *Allowance for Doubtful Accounts*

The adequacy of the allowance for doubtful accounts is assessed on a quarterly basis and adjusted as deemed necessary. Management believes the recorded allowance is adequate based upon its consideration of the estimated fair value of the franchises and AD areas collateralizing the receivables. Any adverse change in the tax preparation industry or the individual franchise or AD areas could affect the Company's estimate of the allowance.

Activity in the allowance for doubtful accounts for the three months ended July 31, 2017 and 2016 was as follows:

	<b>Three Months Ended July 31,</b>	
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>(In thousands)</b>	
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 12,020	\$ 8,850
Provision for doubtful accounts	1,408	1,380
Write-offs	(2,950)	(1,571)
Foreign currency adjustment	147	(36)
Balance at end of period	<u>\$ 10,625</u>	<u>\$ 8,623</u>

Management considers specific accounts and notes receivable to be impaired if the net amounts due exceed the fair value of the underlying franchise at the time of the annual valuation performed as of April 30 of each year, and estimates an allowance for doubtful accounts based on that excess. The Company performs its impairment analysis annually due to the seasonal nature of its operations. At the end of each fiscal quarter, the Company considers the activity during the period for accounts and notes receivable impaired at each prior fiscal year end and adjusts the allowance for doubtful accounts accordingly. While not specifically identifiable as of the balance sheet date, the Company's analysis of its past experience also indicates that a portion of other accounts and notes receivable may not be collectible. Net amounts due include contractually obligated accounts and notes receivable plus accrued interest, reduced by unrecognized revenue, the allowance for uncollected interest, amounts due ADs, and amounts owed to the franchisee by the Company. In establishing the fair value of the underlying franchise, management considers a variety of factors, including recent sales between franchisees, sales of Company-owned stores, net fees of open offices earned during the most recently completed tax season, and the number of unopened offices.

The allowance for doubtful accounts at July 31, 2017, April 30, 2016 and July 31, 2016, was allocated as follows:

	July 31, 2017	April 30, 2017	July 31, 2016
	(In thousands)		
<b>Impaired:</b>			
Notes and interest receivable, net of unrecognized revenue	\$ 12,397	\$ 14,646	\$ 11,040
Accounts receivable	10,146	11,396	6,425
Less amounts due to ADs and franchisees	(1,312)	(1,834)	(1,251)
Amounts receivable less amounts due to ADs and franchisees	<u>\$ 21,231</u>	<u>\$ 24,208</u>	<u>\$ 16,214</u>
Allowance for doubtful accounts for impaired notes and accounts receivable	<u>\$ 7,973</u>	<u>\$ 9,542</u>	<u>\$ 6,240</u>
<b>Non-impaired:</b>			
Notes and interest receivable, net of unrecognized revenue	\$ 41,852	\$ 33,379	\$ 50,741
Accounts receivable	33,079	43,327	32,136
Less amounts due to ADs and franchisees	(8,239)	(23,119)	(10,335)
Amounts receivable less amounts due to ADs and franchisees	<u>\$ 66,692</u>	<u>\$ 53,587</u>	<u>\$ 72,542</u>
Allowance for doubtful accounts for non-impaired notes and accounts receivable	<u>\$ 2,652</u>	<u>\$ 2,478</u>	<u>\$ 2,383</u>
<b>Total:</b>			
Notes and interest receivable, net of unrecognized revenue	\$ 54,249	\$ 48,025	\$ 61,781
Accounts receivable	43,225	54,723	38,561
Less amounts due to ADs and franchisees	(9,551)	(24,953)	(11,586)
Amounts receivable less amounts due to ADs and franchisees	<u>\$ 87,923</u>	<u>\$ 77,795</u>	<u>\$ 88,756</u>
Total allowance for doubtful accounts	<u>\$ 10,625</u>	<u>\$ 12,020</u>	<u>\$ 8,623</u>

The Company's average investment in impaired receivables during the three months ended July 31, 2017 and 2016 was \$22.7 million and \$17.4 million, respectively.

#### ***Analysis of Past Due Receivables***

Accounts receivable are considered to be past due if unpaid 30 days after billing and notes receivable are considered past due if unpaid 90 days after the due date. If it is determined the likelihood of collecting substantially all of the note and accrued interest is not probable the notes are put on non-accrual status. Accounts receivables unpaid as of April 30 each year often remain unpaid until the following tax season due to the seasonal nature of the Company's operations and franchisees' cash flows. Non-accrual notes that are paid current and expected to remain current are moved back into accrual status during the next annual review.

The breakdown of accounts and notes receivable past due at July 31, 2017 was as follows:

	Past due	Current	Total receivables
	(In thousands)		
Accounts receivable	\$ 40,373	\$ 2,852	\$ 43,225
Notes and interest receivable, net of unrecognized revenue (1)	11,345	42,904	54,249
Total accounts, notes and interest receivable	<u>\$ 51,718</u>	<u>\$ 45,756</u>	<u>\$ 97,474</u>

(1) Interest receivable is shown net of an allowance for uncollectible interest of \$2.4 million.

The Company's investment in notes receivable on non-accrual status was \$13.7 million, \$7.0 million and \$13.2 million at July 31, 2017, April 30, 2017, and July 31, 2016, respectively. Payments received on notes in non-accrual status are applied to the principal until the note is current then to interest income.

### (3) Goodwill and Intangible Assets

Changes in the carrying amount of goodwill for the three months ended July 31, 2017 and 2016 were as follows:

	July 31, 2017	July 31, 2016
	(In thousands)	
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 8,576	\$ 4,228
Acquisitions of assets from franchisees and others	22	—
Disposals and foreign currency changes, net	54	(45)
Purchase price reallocation	(1,032)	
Balance at end of period	<u>\$ 7,620</u>	<u>\$ 4,183</u>

Components of intangible assets were as follows as of July 31, 2017, April 30, 2016 and July 31, 2016:

	Weighted average amortization period	July 31, 2017		
		Gross carrying amount	Accumulated amortization	Net carrying amount
(In thousands)				
Amortizable intangible assets:				
Customer lists acquired from unrelated third parties	5 years	\$ 3,188	\$ (1,058)	\$ 2,130
Tradenames	3 years	\$ 431	\$ (64)	367
Non-compete agreements	2 years	\$ 241	\$ (55)	186
Assets acquired from franchisees:				
Customer lists	4 years	1,266	(1,000)	266
Reacquired rights	2 years	956	(934)	22
AD rights	10 years	27,072	(8,141)	18,931
Total intangible assets		<u>\$ 33,154</u>	<u>\$ (11,252)</u>	<u>\$ 21,902</u>

	Weighted average amortization period	April 30, 2017		
		Gross carrying amount	Accumulated amortization	Net carrying amount
(In thousands)				
Amortizable intangible assets:				
Customer lists acquired from unrelated third parties	4 years	\$ 2,827	\$ (899)	\$ 1,928
Assets acquired from franchisees:				
Customer lists	4 years	1,189	(908)	281
Reacquired rights	2 years	935	(919)	16
AD rights	10 years	26,427	(7,428)	18,999
Total intangible assets		<u>\$ 31,378</u>	<u>\$ (10,154)</u>	<u>\$ 21,224</u>

July 31, 2016				
	Weighted average amortization period	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated amortization	Net carrying amount
(In thousands)				
Amortizable intangible assets:				
Customer lists acquired from unrelated third parties	4 years	\$ 1,027	\$ (408)	\$ 619
Assets acquired from franchisees:				
Customer lists	4 years	1,355	(551)	804
Reacquired rights	2 years	491	(452)	39
AD rights	10 years	20,415	(5,993)	14,422
Total intangible assets		<u>\$ 23,288</u>	<u>\$ (7,404)</u>	<u>\$ 15,884</u>

The Company acquired \$0.6 million of AD rights during the three months ended July 31, 2017. The Company did not acquire any AD rights during the three months ended July 31, 2016.

During the three months ended July 31, 2017 and July 31, 2016, the Company did not acquire any assets of U.S. or Canadian franchisees, or third parties that were not classified as assets held for sale.

During the third and fourth quarters of 2017, the Company acquired the assets of six unrelated offices of smaller regional or local accounting firms for cash of \$2.3 million and \$2.8 million of estimated contingent consideration that is included in long-term obligations. These offices perform year-round accounting services. The following table summarized the preliminary estimates of the fair values of the identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed as of the acquisition dates. The preliminary estimates of the fair value of identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed are subject to revisions, which may result in adjustments to the preliminary values presented below, when management's appraisals and estimates are finalized. In conjunction with the change in the preliminary estimate, the estimated life of customer lists was revised from four years to six years.

	Preliminary Estimates		
	As Reported	As Revised	Adjustments
	April 30, 2017	July 31, 2017	
(in thousands)			
Accounts receivable	\$ 261	\$ 261	\$ —
Property, equipment and software, net	55	55	—
Customer lists	1,120	1,480	360
Tradenames	—	431	431
Non-compete agreements	—	241	241
Goodwill	3,624	2,592	(1,032)
Total purchase price	<u>\$ 5,060</u>	<u>\$ 5,060</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

#### (4) Assets Held For Sale

At the end of the first quarter of fiscal 2018 and 2017, assets acquired from U.S. franchisees were classified as assets held for sale. During the three months ended July 31, 2017, the Company acquired \$3.0 million in assets from U.S. franchisees and third parties that were first accounted for as business combinations, with the value allocated to customer lists and reacquired rights of \$1.5 million and goodwill of \$1.5 million prior to being recorded as assets held for sale. During the three months ended July 31, 2016, the Company acquired \$7.6 million in assets from U.S. franchisees and third parties that were first accounted for as business combinations, with the value allocated to customer lists and reacquired rights of \$4.1 million and goodwill of \$3.5 million prior to being recorded as assets held for sale. The acquired businesses are operated as Company-owned offices until a buyer is located and a new franchise agreement is entered into.

Changes in the carrying amount of assets held for sale for the three months ended July 31, 2017 and 2016 were as follows:

	<b>Three Months Ended July 31,</b>	
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>(In thousands)</b>	
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 11,989	\$ 9,886
Reacquired and acquired from third parties	2,979	7,647
Dispositions, impairments and other	(290)	(910)
Balance at end of period	<u>\$ 14,678</u>	<u>\$ 16,623</u>

During fiscal 2017, the Company reviewed assets held for sale that were deemed unlikely to be sold in the proceeding 12 months. Those identified were transferred to assets held for use and amortization expense was recorded on a cumulative basis for customer lists and reacquired rights.

#### **(5) Long-Term Obligations**

The Company has a credit facility that consists of a \$21.2 million term loan and a revolving credit facility that currently allows borrowing of up to \$203.8 million with an accordion feature that permits the Company to request an increase in availability of up to an additional \$50.0 million. Outstanding borrowings accrue interest, which is paid monthly at a rate of the one-month London Interbank Offered Rate ("LIBOR") plus a margin ranging from 1.50% to 2.25% depending on the Company's leverage ratio.

The average interest rate paid during the three months ended July 31, 2017 and 2016 was 2.81% and 2.07%, respectively. The indebtedness is collateralized by substantially all the assets of the Company and both loans mature on April 30, 2019.

The credit facility contains certain financial covenants that the Company must meet, including leverage and fixed-charge coverage ratios as well as minimum net worth requirements. In addition, the Company must reduce the outstanding balance under its revolving credit facility to zero for a period of at least 45 consecutive days each fiscal year. The Company was in compliance with the financial covenants at July 31, 2017.

In December 2016, the Company obtained a mortgage payable to a bank in monthly installments of principle payments plus interest at the one-month LIBOR plus 1.85% through December 2026 with a balloon payment of \$0.8 million due at maturity. The mortgage is collateralized by land and building.

In December 2016, in connection with obtaining a mortgage payable to a bank, the Company entered into an interest rate swap agreement that allows it to manage fluctuations in cash flow resulting from changes in the interest rate on the mortgage. This swap effectively changes the variable-rate of the Company's mortgage into a fixed rate of 4.12%. The Company has designated this swap agreement as a cash flow hedge. At July 31, 2017, the fair value of the interest rate swap is less than \$0.1 million and is included in accounts payable and accrued expenses. The interest rate swap expires in December 2026.

Long-term obligations at July 31, 2017, April 30, 2017, and July 31, 2016 consisted of the following:

	July 31, 2017	April 30, 2017	July 31, 2016
	(In thousands)		
<b>Credit Facility:</b>			
Revolver	\$ 20,611	\$ —	\$ 27,984
Term loan, net of debt issuance costs	16,409	17,471	18,500
<b>Total credit facility</b>	<b>37,020</b>	<b>17,471</b>	<b>46,484</b>
<b>Long-Term Obligations</b>			
Term loan, net of debt issuance costs	16,409	17,471	18,500
Due former ADs, franchisees and third parties	4,479	6,568	4,330
Mortgages	2,130	2,160	2,222
	23,018	26,199	25,052
Less: current installments	(5,202)	(7,738)	(6,754)
<b>Long-term obligations</b>	<b>\$ 17,816</b>	<b>\$ 18,461</b>	<b>\$ 18,298</b>

#### (6) Income Taxes

The Company computes its provision for, or benefit from, income taxes by applying the estimated annual effective tax rate to income or loss from recurring operations and adjusting for the effects of any discrete income tax items specific to the period.

#### (7) Stockholders' Equity

##### *Stockholders' Equity Activity*

During the three months ended July 31, 2017 and 2016, activity in stockholders' equity was as follows:

	Three Months Ended July 31,	
	2017	2016
	(in thousands, except for share amounts)	
Class A common stock issued from the vesting of restricted stock and as director compensation	—	1,083
Class B common stock converted to Class A common shares	—	600,000
Stock-based compensation expense	\$ 554	\$ 683
Tax benefit of stock option exercises	\$ —	\$ 60
Dividends declared	\$ 2,339	\$ 2,223

During the three months ended July 31, 2016, the sole holder of the Company's Class B common stock converted 600,000 of those shares to the Company's Class A common stock on a one-for-one basis and for no additional consideration.



### Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss

The components of accumulated other comprehensive loss at July 31, 2017, April 30, 2017 and July 31, 2016 were as follows.

	July 31, 2017	April 30, 2017	July 31, 2016
	(In thousands)		
Foreign currency adjustment	\$ (1,026)	\$ (2,059)	\$ (1,580)
Unrealized loss on equity securities, available-for-sale, net of taxes	—	30	—
Gain on sale of available-for-sale securities, net of taxes	—	(30)	—
Unrealized gain on interest rate swap agreement, net of taxes	(39)	(25)	—
Total accumulated other comprehensive loss	<u>\$ (1,065)</u>	<u>\$ (2,084)</u>	<u>\$ (1,580)</u>

### Net Loss per Share

Net loss per share of Class A and Class B common stock is computed using the two-class method. Basic net loss per share is computed by allocating undistributed earnings to common stock and participating securities (exchangeable shares) and using the weighted-average number of common stock outstanding during the period. Undistributed losses are not allocated to participating securities because they do not meet the required criteria for such allocation.

Diluted net loss per share is computed using the weighted-average number of common stock and, if dilutive, the potential common stock outstanding during the period. Potential common stock consist of the incremental common stock issuable upon the exercise of stock options and vesting of restricted stock units. The dilutive effect of outstanding stock options and restricted stock units is reflected in diluted earnings per share by application of the treasury stock method. Additionally, the computation of the diluted net loss per share of Class A common stock assumes the conversion of Class B common stock and exchangeable shares, if dilutive, while the diluted net loss per share of Class B common stock does not assume conversion of those shares.

The rights, including liquidation and dividend rights, of the holders of Class A and Class B common stock are identical, with the exception of the election of directors. As a result, the undistributed earnings for each year are allocated based on the contractual participation rights of the Class A and Class B common stock as if the earnings for the year had been distributed. Participating securities have dividend rights that are identical to Class A and Class B common stock.

The computation of basic and diluted net loss per share for the three months ended July 31, 2017 and 2016 is as follows:

	Three Months Ended July 31, 2017		Three Months Ended July 31, 2016	
	Class A Common Stock	Class B Common Stock	Class A Common Stock	Class B Common Stock
	(in thousands, except for share and per share amounts)			
<b>Basic and diluted net loss per share:</b>				
<i>Numerator</i>				
Allocation of undistributed losses	\$ (9,607)	\$ (151)	\$ (9,120)	\$ (310)
<i>Denominator</i>				
Weighted-average common stock outstanding	<u>12,682,550</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>12,470,827</u>	<u>423,913</u>
Basic and diluted net loss per share	<u>\$ (0.76)</u>	<u>\$ (0.76)</u>	<u>\$ (0.73)</u>	<u>\$ (0.73)</u>

As a result of the net losses for the periods shown, diluted net loss per share excludes the impact of shares of potential common stock from the exercise of options to purchase 1,391,423 and 1,262,182 shares for the three months ended July 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively, because the effect would be anti-dilutive.

## (8) Stock Compensation Plans

### Stock Options

The Company has an equity and cash incentive plan, for the issuance of up to 2,500,000 shares of Class A common stock in which employees and outside directors are eligible to receive awards. At July 31, 2017, 940,594 shares of Class A common stock remain available for grant.

Stock option activity during the three months ended July 31, 2017 was as follows:

	Number of options	Weighted average exercise price
Balance at beginning of period	1,387,331	\$ 18.02
Granted	188,088	14.30
Exercised	—	—
Expired or forfeited	(73,353)	15.01
Balance at end of period	<u>1,502,066</u>	<u>17.70</u>

Intrinsic value is defined as the fair value of the stock less the cost to exercise. There were no options exercised during the three months ended July 31, 2017. The total intrinsic value of stock options outstanding at July 31, 2017 was \$0.8 million. Stock options vest from six months to five years from the date of grant and expire from four to five years after the vesting date.

Nonvested stock options activity during the three months ended July 31, 2017 was as follows:

	Nonvested options	Weighted average exercise price
Balance at beginning of period	678,118	\$ 15.88
Granted	188,088	14.30
Vested	(9,000)	10.51
Forfeited	—	—
Balance at end of period	<u>857,206</u>	<u>15.59</u>

At July 31, 2017, unrecognized compensation costs related to nonvested stock options were \$2.2 million. These costs are expected to be recognized through fiscal 2021.

The following table summarizes information about stock options outstanding and exercisable at July 31, 2017:

Range of exercise prices	Options Outstanding			Options Exercisable	
	Number of shares outstanding	Weighted average exercise price	Weighted average remaining contractual life (in years)	Number of options exercisable	Weighted average exercise price
\$10.51 - \$15.00	821,647	\$ 13.35	5.4	130,440	\$ 14.69
\$15.01 - \$19.75	284,616	17.92	2.8	266,616	17.96
\$19.76 - \$29.48	330,387	25.22	4.3	212,387	25.15
\$29.48 - \$33.38	65,416	33.38	4.3	35,417	33.38
	<u>1,502,066</u>	<u>17.70</u>		<u>644,860</u>	<u>20.51</u>

### Restricted Stock Units

Restricted stock activity during the three months ended July 31, 2017 was as follows:

	Number of Restricted stock units	Weighted average fair value at grant date
Balance at beginning of period	176,396	\$ 13.61
Granted	27,797	14.30
Vested	—	—
Forfeited	(714)	23.09
Balance at end of period	<u>203,479</u>	<u>13.67</u>

At July 31, 2017, unrecognized compensation costs related to restricted stock units were \$2.2 million. These costs are expected to be recognized through fiscal 2022.

### (9) Fair Value of Financial Instruments

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Financial assets and liabilities subject to fair value measurements on a recurring basis are classified according to a three-tier fair value hierarchy, which prioritizes the inputs used in measuring fair value. Valuation methodologies for the fair value hierarchy are as follows:

- Level 1 — Quoted prices for identical assets and liabilities in active markets.
- Level 2 — Quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar assets and liabilities in markets that are not active, and model-based valuations in which all significant inputs are observable in the market.
- Level 3 — Unobservable inputs in which little or no market data exists, therefore, requiring an entity to develop its own assumptions.

The Company measures or monitors certain of its assets and liabilities on a fair value basis. Fair value is used on a recurring basis for those assets and liabilities for which fair value is the primary basis of accounting. Other assets and liabilities are measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis; that is, they are subject to fair value adjustments in certain circumstances, such as when there is evidence of impairment. The following tables present, at July 31, 2017, April 30, 2017 and July 31, 2016, for each of the fair value hierarchy levels, the assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value on a recurring and nonrecurring basis (in thousands):

	July 31, 2017			
	Total	Fair value measurements using		
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<b>Assets:</b>				
Nonrecurring:				
Impaired accounts and notes receivable, net of unearned revenue	\$ 14,570	—	—	\$ 14,570
<b>Liabilities:</b>				
Recurring:				
Contingent consideration included in obligations due to former ADs, franchisees and others	\$ 4,186	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 4,186
Interest rate swap agreement	39	—	39	—
Total recurring liabilities	<u>\$ 4,225</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 39</u>	<u>\$ 4,186</u>

April 30, 2017				
	Total	Fair value measurements using		
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<b>Assets:</b>				
Recurring:				
Cash equivalents	\$ 10,393	\$ 10,393	\$ —	\$ —
Total recurring assets	10,393	10,393	—	—
Nonrecurring:				
Impaired accounts and notes receivable, net of unearned revenue	16,500	—	—	16,500
Impaired goodwill	94	—	—	94
Impaired customer lists	18	—	—	18
Assets held for sale	11,989	—	—	11,989
Total nonrecurring assets	28,601	—	—	28,601
Total recurring and nonrecurring assets	\$ 38,994	\$ 10,393	\$ —	\$ 28,601
<b>Liabilities:</b>				
Recurring:				
Contingent consideration included in obligations due to former ADs, franchisees and others	\$ 3,215	—	\$ —	\$ 3,215
Total recurring liabilities	\$ 3,215	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 3,215

July 31, 2016				
	Total	Fair value measurements using		
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<b>Assets:</b>				
Nonrecurring:				
Impaired accounts and notes receivable, net of unearned revenue	\$ 11,224	—	—	\$ 11,224
Total recurring and nonrecurring assets	\$ 11,224	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 11,224
<b>Liabilities:</b>				
Recurring:				
Contingent consideration included in obligations due to former ADs, franchisees and others	\$ 2,173	—	—	\$ 2,173
Total recurring liabilities	\$ 2,173	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 2,173

The Company's policy is to recognize transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy on the date of the event or change in circumstances that caused the transfer. There were no transfers into or out of level 1 or 2 requiring fair value measurements for each of the three months ended July 31, 2017 and 2016.

The following methods and assumptions are used to estimate the fair value of our financial instruments.

*Cash equivalents:* The carrying amounts approximate fair value because of the short maturity of these instruments. Cash equivalent financial instruments consist of money market accounts.

*Impaired accounts and notes receivable, net of unearned revenue:* Accounts and notes receivable are considered to be impaired if the net amounts due exceed the fair value of the underlying franchise or if management considers it probable that all principal and interest will not be collected when contractually due. In establishing the estimated fair value of the underlying

franchise, consideration is given to recent sales between franchisees, sales of Company-owned stores, the net fees of open offices, and the number of unopened offices.

*Impaired goodwill, reacquired rights, and customer lists:* Goodwill, reacquired rights and customer lists associated with a Company-owned office are considered to be impaired if the net carrying amount exceeds the fair value of the underlying office. In establishing the fair value of the underlying office, consideration is given to the related net fees and marketplace transactions and when appropriate a discounted cash flow model.

*Assets held for sale:* Assets held for sale are recorded at the lower of the carrying value or the sales price, less costs to sell, which approximates fair value. The sales price is calculated as a percentage of prior year net fees and marketplace transactions.

*Contingent consideration included in obligations due to former ADs, franchisee and others:* Obligations due to former ADs and franchisees related to estimated contingent consideration are carried at fair value. The fair value of these obligations was determined using a discounted cash flow model.

*Interest rate swap agreement:* Value of interest rate swap on variable rate mortgage debt. The fair value of this instrument was determined based on third party market research.

#### **Other Fair Value Measurements**

Additionally, accounting standards require the disclosure of the estimated fair value of financial instruments that are not recorded at fair value. For the financial instruments that the Company does not record at fair value, estimates of fair value are made at a point in time based on relevant market data and information about the financial instrument. No readily available market exists for a significant portion of the Company's financial instruments. Fair value estimates for these instruments are based on current economic conditions, interest rate risk characteristics, and other factors. Many of these estimates involve uncertainties and matters of significant judgment and cannot be determined with precision. Therefore, the calculated fair value estimates in many instances cannot be substantiated by comparison to independent markets and, in many cases, may not be realizable in a current sale of the instrument. In addition, changes in assumptions could significantly affect these fair value estimates. The following methods and assumptions were used by the Company in estimating fair value of these financial instruments.

*Notes receivable:* The carrying amount approximates fair value because the interest rate charged by the Company on these notes approximates rates currently offered by local lending institutions for loans of similar terms to individuals/entities with comparable credit risk (Level 3).

*Long-term obligations:* The carrying amount approximates fair value because the interest rate paid has a variable component (Level 2).

#### **(10) Related Party Transactions**

The Company considers directors and their affiliated companies, as well as executive officers and members of their immediate families, to be related parties.

During fiscal 2017, the Company entered into a three-year contract to purchase a license for the use of Canadian tax software at a price of \$0.9 million from a company in which it has an investment accounted for under the equity method. One of the members of the Company's Board of Directors is affiliated with the company providing this service.

#### **(11) Commitments and Contingencies**

In the ordinary course of operations, the Company may become a party to legal proceedings. Except as provided below and based upon information currently available, management believes that such legal proceedings, individually or in the aggregate, will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, financial condition, cash flows, or results of operations.

*JTH Tax, Inc. and SiempreTax LLC v. Gregory Aime, Aime Consulting, LLC, Aime Consulting, Inc. and Wolf Ventures, Inc. (Case No. 2:16-cv-279).* The Company filed suit in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia against the defendants, former Company franchisees, on June 9, 2016, as amended on June 22, 2016, claiming the defendants breached the purchase and sale agreement (the "PSA") entered between the parties on January 21, 2016 and that the defendants had failed to comply with the post termination obligations of the franchise agreements (together with the PSA, the "Aime

Agreements”). The Company sought damages in an amount equal to three times the defendants’ earnings and profits, as well as injunctive relief to enforce the defendants to comply with the post termination obligations of the Aime Agreements, to be determined by the trier of fact. The Company specifically sought, in part, to enjoin the defendants from continued operation of a tax preparation business using the Company’s protected trademarks, enforcement of the non-compete provision of the Aime Agreements, and an order that the defendants assign all of the leases related to the franchised businesses to the Company. On July 1, 2016, the Magistrate Judge issued a report and recommendation finding a likelihood of success on the merits and recommending entry of the requested temporary restraining order (the “TRO”) in favor of the Company, which was adopted in part on August 3, 2016. On September 9, 2016, the defendants filed an answer and counterclaim against the Company, alleging breach of the PSA, breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing and fraud and seeking approximately \$2.4 million in damages, plus future loss profits, punitive damages and other expenses. After a three-day bench trial, on January 13, 2017, the court vacated the TRO, finding in favor of the defendants. On February 15, 2017, the court issued its written opinion and order granting the defendants’ breach of contract and breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing claims, denying the Company’s claims against the defendants and finding certain post termination obligations to be unenforceable. Judgment was entered in favor of the defendants for approximately \$2.7 million. The Company has accrued \$2.7 million as of the fourth quarter of fiscal 2017 in connection with the judgment, which is recorded in "Accounts payable and accrued expense" in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. The Company has filed an appeal of the judgment with the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Company is also party to claims and lawsuits that are considered to be ordinary, routine litigation incidental to the business, including claims and lawsuits concerning the preparation of customers' income tax returns, the fees charged to customers for various products and services, relationships with franchisees, intellectual property disputes, employment matters, and contract disputes. Although the Company cannot provide assurance that it will ultimately prevail in each instance, it believes the amount, if any, it will be required to pay in the discharge of liabilities or settlements in these claims will not have a material adverse impact on its consolidated results of operations or financial position.

## **(12) Subsequent Events**

On September 5, 2017, the Board of Directors approved a quarterly cash dividend to stockholders of \$0.16 per share payable on or about October 23, 2017 to holders of record of common stock and common stock equivalents on October 13, 2017.

On September 5, 2017, John T. Hewitt, the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, was terminated by the Board of Directors, effective immediately. As Mr. Hewitt was terminated without cause, he will be eligible for severance of approximately \$1.8 million, which is not reflected in the accompanying consolidated financial statements.

As part of the Company's initiatives to improve its overall profitability, certain contractual arrangements are being evaluated. Subsequent to July 31, 2017, the Company stopped using the services of one of its vendors (and no longer receive any benefits from such services). The Company is attempting to negotiate a settlement with the vendor, but if it is unsuccessful, a charge will be recognized during the second quarter of up to \$2.4 million.

## ITEM 2

### MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

#### Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This quarterly report contains forward-looking statements concerning our business, operations, financial performance, and condition as well as our plans, objectives, and expectations for our business operations and financial performance and condition. Any statements contained herein that are not of historical facts may be deemed to be forward-looking statements. You can identify these statements by words such as "aim," "anticipate," "assume," "believe," "could," "due," "estimate," "expect," "goal," "intend," "may," "objective," "plan," "predict," "potential," "positioned," "should," "target," "will," "would" and other similar expressions that are predictions of or indicate future events and future trends. These forward-looking statements are based on current expectations, estimates, forecasts, projections about our business and the industry in which we operate, and our management's beliefs and assumptions. They are not guarantees of future performance or development and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors that are in some cases beyond our control. As a result, any or all of our forward-looking statements in this quarterly report may turn out to be inaccurate. Factors that may cause such differences include, but are not limited to, the risks described under "Item 1A—Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2017 and other filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), including:

- our inability to grow on a sustainable basis;
- the seasonality of our business;
- the continued service of our senior management team and our ability to attract additional talent;
- our inability to secure reliable sources of the tax settlement products we make available to our customers;
- government regulation and oversight, including the regulation of tax preparers or settlement products such as refund transfers and loan settlement products;
- government initiatives that simplify tax return preparation, improve the timing and efficiency of processing tax returns, limit payments to tax preparers, or decrease the number of tax returns filed or the size of the refunds;
- government initiatives to pre-populate income tax returns;
- the effect of regulation of the products and services that we offer, including changes in laws and regulations;
- the possible characterization of refund transfers as a form of loan or extension of credit;
- changes in the tax settlement products offered to our customers that make our services less attractive to customers or more costly to us;
- our ability to maintain relationships with our tax settlement product service providers;
- any potential non-compliance, fraud or other misconduct by our franchisees or employees;
- our ability and the ability of our franchisees to comply with legal and regulatory requirements;
- failures by our franchisees and their employees to comply with their contractual obligations to us and with laws and regulations, to the extent these failures affect our reputation or subject us to legal risk;
- the ability of our franchisees to open new territories and operate them successfully;
- the ability of our franchisees to generate sufficient revenue to repay their indebtedness to us;
- our ability to profitably manage Company-owned offices and sell to franchisees;
- our exposure to litigation;

- our ability and our franchisees' ability to protect customers' personal information, including from a cyber-security incident;
- the impact of identity-theft concerns on customer attitudes toward our services;
- our ability to access the credit markets and satisfy our covenants to lenders;
- challenges in deploying accurate tax software in a timely way each tax season;
- delays in the commencement of the tax season attributable to Congressional action affecting tax matters and the resulting inability of federal and state tax agencies to accept tax returns on a timely basis, or other changes that have the effect of delaying the tax refund cycle;
- competition in the tax preparation market;
- the effect of federal and state legislation that affects the demand for paid tax preparation, such as the Affordable Care Act and potential immigration reform;
- our reliance on technology systems and electronic communications;
- our ability to effectively deploy software in a timely manner and with all the features our customers require;
- the impact of any acquisitions or dispositions, including our ability to integrate acquisitions and capitalize on their anticipated synergies; and
- other factors, including the risk factors discussed in our latest annual report filed with the SEC.

Potential investors and other readers are urged to consider these factors carefully in evaluating the forward-looking statements and are cautioned not to place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this quarterly report. Unless required by law, we do not intend to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements to reflect new information or future events or otherwise. A potential investor or other vendor should, however, review the factors and risks we describe in the reports we will file from time to time with the SEC after the date of this quarterly report.

## Overview

We are one of the leading providers of tax preparation services in the United States and Canada, last year, we operated 4,077 tax offices. As measured by the number of returns prepared, we believe we are one of the largest retail preparer of individual tax returns in the both the United States and Canada. Our tax preparation services and related tax settlement products are offered primarily through franchised locations, although we operate a limited number of Company-owned offices each tax season. See Note 1 "Description of Business and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies" in the notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2017, for details of the U.S. office activity and the number of Canadian and Company-owned offices for the years ended April 30, 2017, 2016 and 2015.

Our revenue primarily consists of the following components:

- **Franchise Fees:** Our standard franchise fee per territory ranges from \$20,000 to \$40,000, and we offer our franchisees flexible structures and financing options for franchise fees. Franchise fee revenue is recognized when our obligations to prepare the franchisee for operation are substantially complete and as cash is received.
- **Area Developer ("AD") Fees:** Our fees for AD areas vary based on our assessment of the revenue potential of each AD area and also depend on the performance of any existing franchisees within the AD area being sold. Our ADs generally receive 50% of franchise fees, royalties, and a portion of the interest income derived from territories located in their area. AD fees received are recognized as revenue on a straight-line basis over the initial contract term of each AD agreement, which has historically been ten years, with the cumulative amount of revenue recognized not to exceed the amount of cash received. We changed the term of new and renewal AD contracts to six years beginning in July 2014.



- **Royalties:** Our franchise agreements require franchisees to pay us a base royalty typically equal to 14% of the franchisee's tax preparation revenue, subject to certain specified minimums.
- **Advertising Fees:** Our franchise agreements require all franchisees to pay us an advertising fee of 5% of the franchisee's tax preparation revenue, which we use primarily to fund collective advertising efforts.
- **Financial Products:** We offer two types of tax settlement financial products: refund transfer products, which involve providing a means by which a customer may receive his or her refund more quickly and conveniently, and refund-based loans. We earn fees from the arranging of the sale of these financial products.
- **Interest Income:** We earn interest income from our franchisees and ADs related to both indebtedness for the unpaid portions of their franchise fees and AD territory fees, and for other loans we extend to our franchisees related to the operation of their territories. We also earn interest on our accounts receivable.
- **Assisted Tax Preparation Fees:** We earn tax preparation fees, net of discounts, directly from both the operation of Company-owned offices in the U.S. and Canada.

We operate Company-owned offices, substantially all of which are held for sale. If these offices remain unsold at the start of a tax season we will operate them for the tax season with the intent of selling them to qualified franchisees the next year and as a result the number of Company-owned offices will vary from year to year. Going forward the number of Company-owned offices may increase if the Company reacquires more offices from existing franchisees and does not find a suitable buyer to take over the office.

For purposes of this section and throughout this quarterly report, all references to "fiscal 2018" and "fiscal 2017" refer to our fiscal years ending April 30, 2018 and ended April 30, 2017, respectively, and corresponding references to fiscal quarters are references to quarters within those fiscal years. For purposes of this section and throughout this quarterly report, all references to "year" or "years" are the respective fiscal year or years ended April 30 unless otherwise noted in this quarterly report, and all references to "tax season" refer to the period between January 1 and April 30 of the referenced year.

## Results of Operations

The table below shows results of operations for the three months ended July 31, 2017 and 2016.

	Three Months Ended July 31,			
	2017	2016	Change	
			\$	%
<b>(dollars in thousands)</b>				
Total revenues	\$ 8,188	\$ 7,149	\$ 1,039	15%
Loss from operations	(15,949)	(15,202)	(747)	5%
Net loss	(9,758)	(9,430)	(328)	3%

*Revenues.* The table below sets forth the components and changes in our revenues for the three months ended July 31, 2017 and 2016.

	Three Months Ended July 31,			
	2017	2016	Change	
			\$	%
<b>(dollars in thousands)</b>				
Franchise fees	\$ 71	\$ 240	\$ (169)	(70)%
Area Developer fees	1,068	970	98	10 %
Royalties and advertising fees	1,689	1,455	234	16 %
Financial products	582	536	46	9 %
Interest income	2,297	2,658	(361)	(14)%
Assisted tax preparation fees, net of discounts	1,639	986	653	66 %
Other revenues	842	304	538	177 %
Total revenues	<u>\$ 8,188</u>	<u>\$ 7,149</u>	<u>\$ 1,039</u>	<u>15 %</u>

For the three months ended July 31, 2017, total revenues increased \$1.0 million, or 15%, to \$8.2 million compared to \$7.1 million the same period last year. The increase was largely due to higher assisted tax preparation fees of \$0.7 million driven by the year-round accounting offices we acquired in late fiscal 2017 along with an increase in other revenues of \$0.5 million due to bargain purchase gains from territories which we reacquired at below market values; partially offset by lower franchise fees resulting from fewer new sales as well as a free-territory promotion for selected existing franchisees.

*Operating expenses.* The table below details the amounts and changes in our operating expenses for the three months ended July 31, 2017 and 2016.

	Three Months Ended July 31,			
			Change	
	2017	2016	\$	%
<b>(dollars in thousands)</b>				
Employee compensation and benefits	\$ 9,991	\$ 9,682	\$ 309	3 %
Other costs and expenses	9,202	8,279	923	11 %
Area Developer expense	372	460	(88)	(19)%
Advertising expense	2,376	1,918	458	24 %
Depreciation, amortization, and impairment charges	2,196	2,012	184	9 %
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>\$ 24,137</b>	<b>\$ 22,351</b>	<b>\$ 1,786</b>	<b>8 %</b>

For the three months ended July 31, 2017, total operating expenses were \$24.1 million compared to \$22.4 million, representing an increase of \$1.8 million, or 8%. The increase was primarily driven by the following:

- a \$0.9 million increase in other costs and expenses due primarily to higher rent and utility expense from our company-owned stores;
- a \$0.5 million increase in advertising expense for the recruitment of new franchisees as well as advertising expense associated with new client growth;
- a \$0.3 million increase in employee compensation and benefits mainly due to higher compensation associated with our new year-round Company-owned offices;
- a \$0.2 million increase in amortization expense due to the acquisition of our new year-round Company-owned offices, slightly offset by;
- a reduction in area developer expense of \$0.1 million.

*Income tax benefit.* We recorded income tax benefits with effective rates of 39.5% and 39.2% during the three months ended July 31, 2017 and July 31, 2016, respectively. Due to the seasonal nature of our business, we expect any losses that we incur through the first eight months of each fiscal year will be more than offset by the results of the last four months of the fiscal year.

## Liquidity and Capital Resources

### *Overview of factors affecting our liquidity*

*Seasonality of cash flow.* Our tax return preparation business is seasonal, and most of our revenues and cash flow are generated during the period from late January through April 30. Following each tax season, from May 1 through late January of the following year, we rely on the use of our credit facility, excess operating cash flow from the previous tax season, and from cash payments made by franchisees and ADs who purchase new territories and development areas prior to the next tax season to fund our operating expenses and those of our franchisees, as well as invest in the future growth of our business. Our business has historically generated a strong annual operating cash flow.

*Credit facility.* Our credit facility consists of a term loan and a revolving credit facility that currently allows borrowing of up to \$203.8 million with an accordion feature that permits the Company to request an increase in availability of up to an additional \$50.0 million.

Under our credit facility, we are subject to a number of covenants that could potentially restrict how we carry out our business or that require us to meet certain periodic tests in the form of financial covenants. The restrictions we consider to be material to our ongoing business include the following:

- We must satisfy a “leverage ratio” test that is based on our outstanding indebtedness at the end of each fiscal quarter,
- We must satisfy a “fixed charge coverage ratio” test at the end of each fiscal quarter,
- We must reduce the outstanding balance under our revolving loan to zero for a period of at least 45 consecutive days each fiscal year, and
- We must maintain a minimum net worth requirement, measured at April 30 of each year.

In addition, were we to experience certain types of changes in control affecting Mr. Hewitt's continuing control of us, or certain changes to the composition of our Board of Directors, we might become subject to an event of default under our credit facility, which could result in the acceleration of our obligations under that facility.

Our credit facility also contains customary affirmative and negative covenants, including limitations on indebtedness, limitations on liens and negative pledges, limitations on investments, loans and acquisitions, limitations on mergers, consolidations, liquidations and dissolutions, limitations on sales of assets, limitations on certain restricted payments and limitations on transactions with affiliates, among others.

We were in compliance with our financial covenants as of July 31, 2017.

*Franchisee lending and potential exposure to credit loss.* At July 31, 2017, our total balance of loans to franchisees and ADs for working capital and equipment loans, representing cash amounts we had advanced to the franchisees and ADs, was \$22.8 million. In addition, at that date, our franchisees and ADs together owed us an additional \$74.7 million, net of unrecognized revenue of \$23.9 million, for amounts representing the unpaid purchase price for franchise territories or areas comprising clusters of territories and other amounts owed to us for royalties and other amounts for which our franchisees and ADs had outstanding payment obligations.

Our actual exposure to potential credit loss associated with franchisee loans is less than the aggregate amount of those loans because a significant portion of those loans are to franchisees located within AD areas, where our AD is ultimately entitled to a substantial portion of the franchise fee and royalty revenues represented by some of these loans. For this reason, the amount of indebtedness of franchisees to us is effectively offset in part by our related payable obligation to ADs in respect of franchise fees and royalties. As of July 31, 2017, the total indebtedness of franchisees to us where the franchisee is located in an AD area was \$57.5 million, of which \$9.2 million of that indebtedness represents amounts ultimately payable to ADs as their share of franchise fees and royalties once cash is received.

Our franchisees make electronic return filings for their customers utilizing our software. Our franchise agreements allow us to obtain repayment of amounts due to us from our franchisees through an electronic fee intercept program before our franchisees receive the net proceeds from tax preparation and other fees they have charged to their customers on tax returns associated with tax settlement products. Therefore, we are able to minimize the nonpayment risk associated with amounts outstanding from franchisees by obtaining direct electronic payment in the ordinary course throughout the tax season. Our credit risk associated with amounts outstanding to ADs is also mitigated by our electronic fee intercept program, which enables us to retain repayments of amounts that would otherwise flow through to ADs as their share of franchise fee and royalty payments, to the extent of an AD's indebtedness to us.

The unpaid amounts owed to us from our ADs and franchisees are collateralized by the underlying franchise or area and, when the franchise or area owner is an entity, are generally guaranteed by the related owners of the respective entity. Accordingly, to the extent a franchisee or AD does not satisfy its payment obligations to us, we may repossess the underlying franchise or area in order to resell it in the future. At July 31, 2017, we had an investment in impaired accounts and notes receivable and related interest receivable of approximately \$21.2 million. We consider accounts and notes receivable to be impaired if the amounts due exceed the fair value of the underlying franchise and estimate an allowance for doubtful accounts based on that excess. Amounts due include the recorded value of the accounts and notes receivable reduced by the allowance for uncollected interest, amounts due to ADs for their portion of franchise receivables, any related unrecognized revenue and amounts owed to the franchisee or AD by us. In establishing the fair value of the underlying franchise, we consider net fees of open territories and the number of unopened territories. At July 31, 2017, we have recorded an allowance for doubtful accounts for impaired accounts and notes receivable of \$8.0 million. There were no significant concentrations of credit risk with any individual franchisee or AD as of July 31, 2017. We believe our allowance for doubtful accounts as of July 31, 2017 is adequate for our existing loss exposure. We closely monitor the performance of our franchisees and ADs and will adjust our allowances as appropriate if we determine the existing allowances are inadequate to cover estimated losses.

*Dividends.* Beginning in April 2015, we announced a \$0.16 per share quarterly cash dividend and may continue to pay cash dividends in the future, the payment of dividends will be at the discretion of our Board of Directors and will depend, among other things, on our earnings, capital requirements, and financial condition. Our ability to pay dividends will also be subject to compliance with financial covenants that are contained in our credit facility and may be restricted by any future indebtedness that we incur or issuances of preferred stock. In addition, applicable law requires our Board of Directors to determine that we have adequate surplus prior to the declaration of dividends. We cannot provide an assurance that we will continue to pay dividends at any specific level or at all.

#### **Sources and uses of cash**

*Operating activities.* In the first three months of fiscal 2018, we used \$7.4 million less cash in our operating activities compared to the same period in fiscal 2017. This decrease is primarily due to a change in timing of our estimated tax payments to the second quarter of fiscal 2018 compared to the first quarter.

*Investing activities.* In the first three months of fiscal 2018, we utilized \$3.1 million more cash for investing activities compared to the same period in fiscal 2017. This increased usage is primarily due to a decrease of \$5.0 million in cash generated from the sale of securities in the three months ended July 31, 2018, partially offset by a decrease of \$1.5 million in cash used for the purchase of AD rights, Company-owned offices and acquired customers lists.

*Financing activities.* In the first three months of fiscal 2018, cash from financing activities decreased \$10.0 million compared to the same period in fiscal 2017, largely due to a \$7.3 million decrease in net borrowings under our revolving credit facility and an increase of \$2.9 million for the repayment of long-term obligations relating to prior year AD and customer list acquisitions.

#### **Future cash needs and capital requirements**

*Operating cash flow needs.* We believe our credit facility entered into on April 30, 2012, as amended, will be sufficient to support our cash flow needs for the foreseeable future. At July 31, 2017, using the leverage ratio applicable under our loan covenants at the end of the quarter, our maximum unused borrowing capacity was \$86.6 million.

Our credit facility also contains a requirement that we reduce the balance of our revolving loan to zero for a period of at least 45 consecutive days each fiscal year; however, because our term loan will remain outstanding during that 45 day period, and given our historic cash flow experience at the end of and beginning of each fiscal year, we do not anticipate that the unavailability of our revolving loan during that 45 day period each fiscal year will adversely affect our cash flow. As of June 14, 2017, we had maintained a zero balance on our revolver for the required 45 days and thus have already met the requirement for fiscal 2018.

Several factors could affect our cash flow in future periods, including the following:

- the delay by the IRS to issue refunds to taxpayers who claim the Earned Income Tax Credit or the Child Tax Credit;
- the extent to which we extend operating financing to our franchisees and ADs and the extent that our franchisees and ADs repay their notes to us;
- the extent and timing of capital expenditures;
- the cash flow effect of stock option exercises and the extent to which we engage in stock repurchases;
- our ability to generate fee and other income related to tax settlement products in light of regulatory pressures on us and our business partners;
- the extent to which we repurchase AD areas, which will involve the use of cash in the short-term, but improve cash receipts in future periods from what would have been the AD's share of royalties and franchise fees;
- the extent to which we repurchase certain assets from franchisees and third parties and our ability to operate these assets profitably; and
- the extent, if any, to which our Board of Directors elects to continue to declare cash dividends on our common stock.

*Effect of our credit facility covenants on our future performance.* Our credit facility, which matures on April 30, 2019, imposes several restrictive covenants, including a covenant that requires us to maintain a leverage ratio of not more than 5.5:1 at the end of each fiscal quarter ending January 31 and a leverage ratio of not more than 3.0:1 at the end of each other fiscal quarter. The higher permitted leverage ratio at the end of the January 31 quarter reflects the fact that as of that date, we have typically extended significant credit to our franchisees for working capital and other needs that is not reflected in repayments received from our franchisees until the period beginning in February each year. At July 31, 2017, our leverage ratio was 1.0:1.

We continue to be obligated under our credit facility to satisfy a fixed charge coverage ratio test, which requires that ratio to be not less than 1.50:1 at the end of every fiscal quarter. At July 31, 2017, our fixed charge coverage ratio was 4.9:1.

We were in compliance with the ratio tests described in this section as of July 31, 2017. We expect to be able to manage our cash flow and our operating activities in such a manner that we will continue to be able to satisfy our obligations under the credit facility for the remainder of the term of that facility.

*Non-GAAP Financial Information.* We report our financial results in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the U.S. ("GAAP"); however, we believe that earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortization and impairment ("EBITDA") and non-GAAP results should be evaluated, in addition to, and not as an alternative for, net loss, as determined in accordance with GAAP. We consider our non-GAAP financial results to be a useful metric for management and investors to evaluate and compare current year results with prior periods. Because not all companies use the same calculations, our definition of EBITDA may not be comparable to similarly titled figures from other companies. In addition, when evaluating non-GAAP results, we exclude certain items that are not considered to be part of future operating results. Descriptions of the items which are excluded are as follows:

- Executive severance, including stock-based compensation: We exclude from our non-GAAP financial measures cash and non-cash stock-based compensation and perquisites associated with the separation of employment with executives of the Company.
- Compliance Task Force and related costs: We exclude from our non-GAAP financial measures third-party expenses we incur related to our Compliance Task Force, which we established in fiscal 2016 to examine and prevent non-compliance, fraud and other misconduct among our franchisees and employees. These expenses include professional and legal fees.
- Gain on available-for-sale securities: We exclude from our non-GAAP financial measures gains and losses we record when we sell equity securities and other investments.
- Executive sign-on bonus and recruitment costs: We exclude from our non-GAAP financial measures one-time costs incurred to attract and hire new executives.

The following is a reconciliation of EBITDA to GAAP Net Loss:

	<b>Three Months Ended July 31,</b>	
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>(in thousands)</b>	
Net loss - as reported	\$ (9,758)	\$ (9,430)
Add back:		
Interest expense	281	344
Income tax benefit	(6,362)	(6,074)
Depreciation, amortization, and impairment charges	2,196	2,012
Total Adjustments	(3,885)	(3,718)
EBITDA	<u>\$ (13,643)</u>	<u>\$ (13,148)</u>

The following is a reconciliation of our reported net loss to our non-GAAP financial measures. Amounts may not add or recalculate due to rounding.

**Three Months Ended July 31, 2017**

(in thousands except per share data)

	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Loss from Operations</u>	<u>EBITDA</u>	<u>Pre-tax Loss</u>	<u>Net Loss</u>	<u>Basic and Diluted EPS</u>
<b>As Reported</b>	\$ 8,188	\$ 24,137	\$ (15,949)	\$ (13,643)	\$ (16,120)	\$ (9,758)	\$ (0.76)
<b>Adjustments: (1)</b>							
Executive recruiting costs	—	(325)	325	325	325	197	0.02
Compliance Task Force and related costs	—	(172)	172	172	172	104	0.01
<b>Total adjustments</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(497)</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>0.03</b>
<b>Non-GAAP</b>	<b>\$ 8,188</b>	<b>\$ 23,640</b>	<b>\$ (15,452)</b>	<b>\$ (13,146)</b>	<b>\$ (15,623)</b>	<b>\$ (9,457)</b>	<b>\$ (0.73)</b>

**Three Months Ended July 31, 2016**

(in thousands except per share data)

	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Loss from Operations</u>	<u>EBITDA</u>	<u>Pre-tax Loss</u>	<u>Net Loss</u>	<u>Basic and Diluted EPS</u>
<b>As Reported</b>	\$ 7,149	\$ 22,351	\$ (15,202)	\$ (13,148)	\$ (15,504)	\$ (9,430)	\$ (0.73)
<b>Adjustments: (1)</b>							
Executive severance including stock-based compensation	—	(877)	877	877	877	533	0.04
Compliance Task Force and related costs	—	(640)	640	640	640	389	0.03
Gain on available-for-sale securities	—	—	—	(50)	(50)	(30)	—
<b>Total adjustments</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(1,517)</b>	<b>1,517</b>	<b>1,467</b>	<b>1,467</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>0.07</b>
<b>Non-GAAP</b>	<b>\$ 7,149</b>	<b>\$ 20,834</b>	<b>\$ (13,685)</b>	<b>\$ (11,681)</b>	<b>\$ (14,037)</b>	<b>\$ (8,538)</b>	<b>\$ (0.66)</b>

(1) The net loss impact of the adjustments is calculated using the effective tax rate for the period.

**Seasonality of Operations**

Given the seasonal nature of the tax return preparation business, we have historically generated and expect to continue to generate most of our revenues during the period from January 1 through April 30 of each year. For example, in fiscal 2017 we earned 28% of our annual revenues during our fiscal third quarter ended January 31 and 92% of our annual revenues during the combined fiscal third and fourth quarters of 2017. We historically operate at a loss through the first eight months of each fiscal year, during which we incur costs associated with preparing for the upcoming tax season.

**Off Balance Sheet Arrangements**

We are a party to an interest rate swap agreement that allows us to manage fluctuations in cash flow resulting from changes in the interest rate on our variable rate mortgage. This swap effectively changes the variable-rate of our mortgage into a fixed rate of 4.12%. At July 31, 2017, the fair value of our interest rate swap was a liability of less than \$0.1 million and was included in accounts payable and accrued expenses. The interest rate swap expires in December 2026.

**ITEM 3**  
**QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

There have been no material changes in our market risks from those reported in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2017.

**ITEM 4**  
**CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

*Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures*

We, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, have evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), as of July 31, 2017. Based on that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that, as of July 31, 2017, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective in providing reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported by our management on a timely basis in order to comply with our disclosure obligations under the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

*Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting*

During our most recent fiscal quarter ended July 31, 2017, there were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

## **PART II. OTHER INFORMATION**

### **ITEM 1 LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

For information regarding legal proceedings, please see "Note 13. Commitments and Contingencies" in Financial Statements, which information is incorporated herein by reference.

### **ITEM 1A RISK FACTORS**

There have been no material changes to our risk factors previously disclosed in Part I. Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended April 30, 2017.

### **ITEM 2 UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS**

There were no issuances of unregistered securities during the three months ended July 31, 2017.

### **SHARE REPURCHASES**

Our Board of Directors has authorized up to \$10.0 million for share repurchases, which was increased \$3.2 million on June 10, 2016. This authorization has no specific expiration date and cash proceeds from stock option exercises increase the amount of the authorization. In addition, the Board of Directors authorized an Area Developer repurchase program, which reduces the amount of the share repurchase authorization on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Shares repurchased from option exercises and RSUs vesting that are net-share settled by us and shares repurchased in privately negotiated transactions are not considered share repurchases under this authorization.



**ITEM 6  
EXHIBITS**

We have filed the following exhibits as part of this report:

Exhibit Number	Exhibit Description	Filed Herewith	Incorporated by Reference
<a href="#">10.1</a>	<a href="#">Retention Bonus and Restricted Stock Unit Agreement, effective as of September 6, 2017, by and between Liberty Tax, Inc. and Kathleen E. Donovan (Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on September 6, 2017)</a> *		X
<a href="#">10.2</a>	<a href="#">Retention Bonus and Restricted Stock Unit Agreement, effective as of September 6, 2017, by and between Liberty Tax, Inc. and Vanessa M. Szajnoga (Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on September 6, 2017)</a> *		X
<a href="#">10.3</a>	<a href="#">Retention Bonus and Restricted Stock Unit Agreement, effective as of September 6, 2017, by and between Liberty Tax, Inc. and Richard G. Artese (Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on September 6, 2017)</a> *		X
<a href="#">31.1</a>	<a href="#">Certification of Chief Executive Officer</a>	X	
<a href="#">31.2</a>	<a href="#">Certification of Chief Financial Officer</a>	X	
<a href="#">32.1(1)</a>	<a href="#">Section 1350 Certification (Chief Executive Officer)</a>	X	
<a href="#">32.2(1)</a>	<a href="#">Section 1350 Certification (Chief Financial Officer)</a>	X	
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document	X	
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema	X	
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase	X	
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase	X	
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase	X	
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase	X	

(1) This exhibit is furnished and shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

\* Management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement

SIGNATURES

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

**Liberty Tax, Inc.  
(Registrant)**

September 11, 2017

By:           /s/ Kathleen E. Donovan            
Kathleen E. Donovan  
Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial Officer)

## EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number	Exhibit Description	Filed Herewith	Incorporated by Reference
<a href="#">10.1</a>	<a href="#">Retention Bonus and Restricted Stock Unit Agreement, effective as of September 6, 2017, by and between Liberty Tax, Inc. and Kathleen E. Donovan (Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on September 6, 2017)</a> *		X
<a href="#">10.2</a>	<a href="#">Retention Bonus and Restricted Stock Unit Agreement, effective as of September 6, 2017, by and between Liberty Tax, Inc. and Vanessa M. Szajnoga (Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on September 6, 2017)</a> *		X
<a href="#">10.3</a>	<a href="#">Retention Bonus and Restricted Stock Unit Agreement, effective as of September 6, 2017, by and between Liberty Tax, Inc. and Richard G. Artese (Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on September 6, 2017)</a> *		X
<a href="#">31.1</a>	<a href="#">Certification of Chief Executive Officer</a>	X	
<a href="#">31.2</a>	<a href="#">Certification of Chief Financial Officer</a>	X	
<a href="#">32.1(1)</a>	<a href="#">Section 1350 Certification (Chief Executive Officer)</a>	X	
<a href="#">32.2(1)</a>	<a href="#">Section 1350 Certification (Chief Financial Officer)</a>	X	
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document	X	
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema	X	
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase	X	
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase	X	
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase	X	
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase	X	

(1) This exhibit is intended to be furnished and shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

\* Management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement

I, Edward L. Brunot, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q of LIBERTY TAX, INC.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - (b) Designed such internal controls over financial reporting, or caused such internal controls over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of the financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal controls over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

September 11, 2017 By: /s/ Edward L. Brunot  
Edward L. Brunot  
Chief Executive Officer  
(Principal Executive Officer)

I, Kathleen E. Donovan, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q of LIBERTY TAX, INC.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - (b) Designed such internal controls over financial reporting, or caused such internal controls over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of the financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
  - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal controls over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

September 11, 2017 By: /s/ Kathleen E. Donovan  
Kathleen E. Donovan  
Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial Officer)

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO  
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,  
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO  
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with the Quarterly Report of Liberty Tax, Inc. (the "Company") on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended July 31, 2017 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Edward L. Brunot, Chief Executive Officer of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

September 11, 2017 By:           /s/ Edward L. Brunot            
Edward L. Brunot  
Chief Executive Officer  
(Principal Executive Officer)

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO  
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,  
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO  
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with the Quarterly Report of Liberty Tax, Inc. (the "Company") on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended July 31, 2017 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Kathleen E. Donovan, Chief Financial Officer of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

September 11, 2017 By: /s/ Kathleen E. Donovan  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen E. Donovan  
Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial Officer)

