

**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 **September 24, 2010**

Commission File Number: 001-09249

GRACO INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Minnesota

(State of incorporation)

41-0285640

(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

88 - 11th Avenue N.E.

Minneapolis, Minnesota

(Address of principal executive offices)

55413

(Zip Code)

(612) 623-6000

(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, and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes ☒ X

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 such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Yes ☒ X

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.

Large Accelerated Filer ☒ X

Accelerated Filer ☐ _____

Non-accelerated Filer ☐ _____

Smaller reporting company ☐ _____

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes ☐ _____

No ☒ X

59,878,000 shares of the Registrant's Common Stock, \$1.00 par value, were outstanding as of October 14, 2010.

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PART I

Item 1.

GRACO INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EARNINGS

(Unaudited)

(In thousands except per share amounts)

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | | Thirty-nine Weeks Ended | |
|---|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 |
| Net Sales | \$ 189,963 | \$ 147,308 | \$ 546,772 | \$ 432,900 |
| Cost of products sold | 85,405 | 69,167 | 250,999 | 217,423 |
| Gross Profit | 104,558 | 78,141 | 295,773 | 215,477 |
| Product development | 9,263 | 8,752 | 28,209 | 28,584 |
| Selling, marketing and distribution | 33,280 | 26,589 | 95,087 | 86,814 |
| General and administrative | 18,592 | 16,613 | 57,139 | 49,317 |
| Operating Earnings | 43,423 | 26,187 | 115,338 | 50,762 |
| Interest expense | 1,038 | 1,148 | 3,159 | 3,735 |
| Other expense (income), net | 254 | 203 | 147 | 889 |
| Earnings Before Income Taxes | 42,131 | 24,836 | 112,032 | 46,138 |
| Income taxes | 11,700 | 7,500 | 36,200 | 14,400 |
| Net Earnings | <u>\$ 30,431</u> | <u>\$ 17,336</u> | <u>\$ 75,832</u> | <u>\$ 31,738</u> |
| Basic Net Earnings per Common Share | \$ 0.51 | \$ 0.29 | \$ 1.26 | \$ 0.53 |
| Diluted Net Earnings per Common Share | \$ 0.50 | \$ 0.29 | \$ 1.25 | \$ 0.53 |
| Cash Dividends Declared per Common Share | \$ 0.20 | \$ 0.19 | \$ 0.60 | \$ 0.57 |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

GRACO INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(Unaudited)
(In thousands)

| | Sep 24, 2010 | Dec 25, 2009 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current Assets | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 9,666 | \$ 5,412 |
| Accounts receivable, less allowances of \$5,300 and \$6,500 | 135,583 | 100,824 |
| Inventories | 85,342 | 58,658 |
| Deferred income taxes | 20,441 | 20,380 |
| Other current assets | 2,636 | 3,719 |
| Total current assets | 253,668 | 188,993 |
| Property, Plant and Equipment | | |
| Cost | 340,287 | 334,440 |
| Accumulated depreciation | (207,963) | (195,387) |
| Property, plant and equipment, net | 132,324 | 139,053 |
| Goodwill | 91,740 | 91,740 |
| Other Intangible Assets, net | 31,274 | 40,170 |
| Deferred Income Taxes | 9,618 | 8,372 |
| Other Assets | 8,516 | 8,106 |
| Total Assets | <u>\$ 527,140</u> | <u>\$ 476,434</u> |
| LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY | | |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Notes payable to banks | \$ 11,066 | \$ 12,028 |
| Trade accounts payable | 24,869 | 17,983 |
| Salaries and incentives | 29,059 | 14,428 |
| Dividends payable | 11,977 | 12,003 |
| Other current liabilities | 46,338 | 47,373 |
| Total current liabilities | 123,309 | 103,815 |
| Long-term Debt | 90,000 | 86,260 |
| Retirement Benefits and Deferred Compensation | 65,977 | 73,705 |
| Uncertain Tax Positions | - | 3,000 |
| Shareholders' Equity | | |
| Common stock | 59,868 | 59,999 |
| Additional paid-in-capital | 205,353 | 190,261 |
| Retained earnings | 30,035 | 11,121 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) | (47,402) | (51,727) |
| Total shareholders' equity | 247,854 | 209,654 |
| Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity | <u>\$ 527,140</u> | <u>\$ 476,434</u> |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

GRACO INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(Unaudited) (In thousands)

| | Thirty-nine Weeks Ended | |
|--|-------------------------|------------------|
| | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 |
| Cash Flows From Operating Activities | | |
| Net Earnings | \$ 75,832 | \$ 31,738 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash provided by operating activities | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 25,496 | 26,200 |
| Deferred income taxes | (3,848) | 4,671 |
| Share-based compensation | 7,339 | 7,441 |
| Excess tax benefit related to share-based payment arrangements | (1,000) | (300) |
| Change in | | |
| Accounts receivable | (34,845) | 22,434 |
| Inventories | (26,740) | 30,745 |
| Trade accounts payable | 6,892 | (2,050) |
| Salaries and incentives | 14,637 | (3,853) |
| Retirement benefits and deferred compensation | (2,810) | (4,741) |
| Other accrued liabilities | (258) | (2,437) |
| Other | 1,744 | 313 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 62,439 | 110,161 |
| Cash Flows From Investing Activities | | |
| Property, plant and equipment additions | (9,416) | (9,375) |
| Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment | 180 | 615 |
| Investment in life insurance | (1,499) | (1,499) |
| Capitalized software and other intangible asset additions | (342) | (501) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (11,077) | (10,760) |
| Cash Flows From Financing Activities | | |
| Net borrowings (payments) on short-term lines of credit | (334) | (4,700) |
| Borrowings on long-term line of credit | 10,000 | 75,491 |
| Payments on long-term line of credit | (6,260) | (148,127) |
| Excess tax benefit related to share-based payment arrangements | 1,000 | 300 |
| Common stock issued | 9,667 | 6,119 |
| Common stock retired | (24,218) | (157) |
| Cash dividends paid | (36,171) | (34,069) |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities | (46,316) | (105,143) |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash | (792) | (1,313) |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | 4,254 | (7,055) |
| Cash and cash equivalents: | | |
| Beginning of year | 5,412 | 12,119 |
| End of period | \$ 9,666 | \$ 5,064 |

See notes to consolidated financial statements

GRACO INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)

1. The consolidated balance sheet of Graco Inc. and Subsidiaries (the Company) as of September 24, 2010 and the related statements of earnings for the thirteen and thirty-nine weeks ended September 24, 2010 and September 25, 2009, and cash flows for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 24, 2010 and September 25, 2009 have been prepared by the Company and have not been audited.

In the opinion of management, these consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments (consisting of only normal recurring adjustments) necessary to present fairly the financial position of Graco Inc. and Subsidiaries as of September 24, 2010, and the results of operations and cash flows for all periods presented.

Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles have been condensed or omitted. Therefore, these statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes thereto included in the Company's 2009 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

The results of operations for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of results that will be realized for the full fiscal year.

2. The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted earnings per share (in thousands, except per share amounts):

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | | Thirty-nine Weeks Ended | |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 |
| Net earnings available to common shareholders | \$ 30,431 | \$ 17,336 | \$ 75,832 | \$ 31,738 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding for basic earnings per share | 60,107 | 59,940 | 60,304 | 59,827 |
| Dilutive effect of stock options computed using the treasury stock method and the average market price | 517 | 374 | 536 | 306 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding for diluted earnings per share | 60,624 | 60,314 | 60,840 | 60,133 |
| Basic earnings per share | \$ 0.51 | \$ 0.29 | \$ 1.26 | \$ 0.53 |
| Diluted earnings per share | \$ 0.50 | \$ 0.29 | \$ 1.25 | \$ 0.53 |

Stock options to purchase 2,965,000 and 2,834,000 shares were not included in the 2010 and 2009 computations of diluted earnings per share, respectively, because they would have been anti-dilutive.

3. Information on option shares outstanding and option activity for the thirty-nine weeks ended September 24, 2010 is shown below (in thousands, except per share amounts):

| | Option Shares | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Options Exercisable | Weighted Average Exercise Price |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--|------------------------|--|
| Outstanding, December 25, 2009 | 4,813 | \$ 28.98 | 2,445 | \$ 28.38 |
| Granted | 827 | 27.80 | | |
| Exercised | (251) | 12.54 | | |
| Canceled | (61) | 32.23 | | |
| Outstanding, September 24, 2010 | <u>5,328</u> | \$ 29.53 | 2,841 | \$ 30.41 |

The Company recognized year-to-date share-based compensation of \$7.3 million in 2010 and \$7.7 million in 2009. As of September 24, 2010, there was \$7.3 million of unrecognized compensation cost related to unvested options, expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 2.1 years.

The fair value of each option grant is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the following weighted average assumptions and results:

| | Thirty-nine Weeks Ended | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 |
| Expected life in years | 6.0 | 6.0 |
| Interest rate | 2.7 % | 2.1 % |
| Volatility | 34.0 % | 30.1 % |
| Dividend yield | 3.0 % | 3.7 % |
| Weighted average fair value per share | \$ 7.38 | \$ 4.27 |

Under the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan, the Company issued 436,000 shares in 2010 and 312,000 shares in 2009. The fair value of the employees' purchase rights under this Plan was estimated on the date of grant. The benefit of the 15 percent discount from the lesser of the fair market value per common share on the first day and the last day of the plan year was added to the fair value of the employees' purchase rights determined using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the following assumptions and results:

| | Thirty-nine Weeks Ended | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 |
| Expected life in years | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Interest rate | 0.3 % | 0.7 % |
| Volatility | 42.8 % | 51.5 % |
| Dividend yield | 2.9 % | 4.5 % |
| Weighted average fair value per share | \$ 8.48 | \$ 5.60 |

4. The components of net periodic benefit cost for retirement benefit plans were as follows (in thousands):

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | | Thirty-nine Weeks Ended | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 |
| Pension Benefits | | | | |
| Service cost | \$ 1,038 | \$ 1,078 | \$ 3,173 | \$ 3,498 |
| Interest cost | 3,160 | 2,926 | 9,575 | 9,261 |
| Expected return on assets | (3,564) | (2,593) | (10,364) | (8,143) |
| Amortization and other | 1,547 | 2,034 | 4,599 | 6,761 |
| Net periodic benefit cost | <u>\$ 2,181</u> | <u>\$ 3,445</u> | <u>\$ 6,983</u> | <u>\$ 11,377</u> |
| Postretirement Medical | | | | |
| Service cost | \$ 138 | \$ 174 | \$ 413 | \$ 424 |
| Interest cost | 310 | 335 | 930 | 985 |
| Amortization | (50) | (45) | (145) | (45) |
| Net periodic benefit cost | <u>\$ 398</u> | <u>\$ 464</u> | <u>\$ 1,198</u> | <u>\$ 1,364</u> |

The Company made voluntary tax-deductible contributions to its funded defined benefit plan in the amount of \$10 million in the third quarter of 2010 and \$15 million in the third quarter of 2009.

The Company paid \$1.5 million in June 2010 and \$1.5 million in June 2009 for contracts insuring the lives of certain employees who are eligible to participate in certain non-qualified pension and deferred compensation plans. These insurance contracts will be used to fund the non-qualified pension and deferred compensation arrangements. The insurance contracts are held in a trust and are available to general creditors in the event of the Company's insolvency. Cash surrender value of \$6.0 million and \$4.4 million is included in other assets in the consolidated balance sheet as of September 24, 2010 and December 25, 2009, respectively.

5. Total comprehensive income was as follows (in thousands):

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | | Thirty-nine Weeks Ended | |
|---|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 |
| Net earnings | \$ 30,431 | \$ 17,336 | \$ 75,832 | \$ 31,738 |
| Cumulative translation adjustment | - | - | - | 234 |
| Pension and postretirement medical liability adjustment | 1,507 | 2,432 | 4,466 | 7,183 |
| Gain (loss) on interest rate hedge contracts | 763 | 303 | 2,401 | 594 |
| Income taxes | (841) | (1,011) | (2,542) | (2,877) |
| Comprehensive income | <u>\$ 31,860</u> | <u>\$ 19,060</u> | <u>\$ 80,157</u> | <u>\$ 36,872</u> |

Components of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) were (in thousands):

| | Sep 24, 2010 | Dec 25, 2009 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Pension and postretirement medical liability adjustment | \$ (45,747) | \$ (48,560) |
| Gain (loss) on interest rate hedge contracts | (832) | (2,344) |
| Cumulative translation adjustment | (823) | (823) |
| Total | <u>\$ (47,402)</u> | <u>\$ (51,727)</u> |

6. The Company has three reportable segments: Industrial, Contractor and Lubrication. The Company does not track assets by segment. Sales and operating earnings by segment for the thirteen and thirty-nine weeks ended September 24, 2010 and September 25, 2009 were as follows (in thousands):

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | | Thirty-nine Weeks Ended | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 |
| Net Sales | | | | |
| Industrial | \$ 99,236 | \$ 78,242 | \$ 296,489 | \$ 226,808 |
| Contractor | 70,362 | 55,379 | 194,941 | 163,213 |
| Lubrication | 20,365 | 13,687 | 55,342 | 42,879 |
| Total | <u>\$ 189,963</u> | <u>\$ 147,308</u> | <u>\$ 546,772</u> | <u>\$ 432,900</u> |
| Operating Earnings | | | | |
| Industrial | \$ 31,195 | \$ 20,332 | \$ 91,234 | \$ 45,262 |
| Contractor | 13,753 | 11,138 | 31,839 | 24,420 |
| Lubrication | 2,751 | (167) | 6,326 | (3,348) |
| Unallocated corporate (expense) | (4,276) | (5,116) | (14,061) | (15,572) |
| Total | <u>\$ 43,423</u> | <u>\$ 26,187</u> | <u>\$ 115,338</u> | <u>\$ 50,762</u> |

7. Major components of inventories were as follows (in thousands):

| | Sep 24, 2010 | Dec 25, 2009 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Finished products and components | \$ 48,690 | \$ 36,665 |
| Products and components in various stages of completion | 28,742 | 22,646 |
| Raw materials and purchased components | 41,284 | 31,826 |
| | 118,716 | 91,137 |
| Reduction to LIFO cost | (33,374) | (32,479) |
| Total | \$ 85,342 | \$ 58,658 |

8. Information related to other intangible assets follows (dollars in thousands):

| | Estimated Life (years) | Original Cost | Accumulated Amortization | Foreign Currency Translation | Book Value |
|---|------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| <u>September 24, 2010</u> | | | | | |
| Customer relationships | 3 - 8 | \$ 41,075 | \$ (23,294) | \$ (181) | \$ 17,600 |
| Patents, proprietary technology and product documentation | 3 - 10 | 21,072 | (14,347) | (85) | 6,640 |
| Trademarks, trade names and other | 3 - 10 | 8,154 | (4,300) | - | 3,854 |
| | | 70,301 | (41,941) | (266) | 28,094 |
| Not Subject to Amortization: | | | | | |
| Brand names | | 3,180 | - | - | 3,180 |
| Total | | \$ 73,481 | \$ (41,941) | \$ (266) | \$ 31,274 |
| <u>December 25, 2009</u> | | | | | |
| Customer relationships | 3 - 8 | \$ 41,075 | \$ (18,655) | \$ (181) | \$ 22,239 |
| Patents, proprietary technology and product documentation | 3 - 10 | 22,862 | (13,708) | (87) | 9,067 |
| Trademarks, trade names and other | 3 - 10 | 8,154 | (2,470) | - | 5,684 |
| | | 72,091 | (34,833) | (268) | 36,990 |
| Not Subject to Amortization: | | | | | |
| Brand names | | 3,180 | - | - | 3,180 |
| Total | | \$ 75,271 | \$ (34,833) | \$ (268) | \$ 40,170 |

Amortization of intangibles was \$3.0 million in the third quarter of 2010 and \$8.9 million year-to-date. Estimated annual amortization expense is as follows: \$11.8 million in 2010, \$10.7 million in 2011, \$8.8 million in 2012, \$4.1 million in 2013, \$0.9 million in 2014 and \$0.7 million thereafter.

9. Components of other current liabilities were (in thousands):

| | Sep 24, 2010 | Dec 25, 2009 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Accrued self-insurance retentions | \$ 7,282 | \$ 7,785 |
| Accrued warranty and service liabilities | 6,815 | 7,437 |
| Accrued trade promotions | 4,757 | 2,953 |
| Payable for employee stock purchases | 4,040 | 5,115 |
| Income taxes payable | 2,739 | 1,550 |
| Other | 20,705 | 22,533 |
| Total other current liabilities | \$ 46,338 | \$ 47,373 |

A liability is established for estimated future warranty and service claims that relate to current and prior period sales. The Company estimates warranty costs based on historical claim experience and other factors including evaluating specific product warranty issues. Following is a summary of activity in accrued warranty and service liabilities (in thousands):

| | Thirty-nine Weeks Ended Sep 24, 2010 | Year Ended Dec 25, 2009 |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Balance, beginning of year | \$ 7,437 | \$ 8,033 |
| Charged to expense | 2,203 | 4,548 |
| Margin on parts sales reversed | 1,921 | 2,876 |
| Reductions for claims settled | (4,746) | (8,020) |
| Balance, end of period | \$ 6,815 | \$ 7,437 |

10. The Company accounts for all derivatives, including those embedded in other contracts, as either assets or liabilities and measures those financial instruments at fair value. The accounting for changes in the fair value of derivatives depends on their intended use and designation.

As part of its risk management program, the Company may periodically use forward exchange contracts and interest rate swaps to manage known market exposures. Terms of derivative instruments are structured to match the terms of the risk being managed and are generally held to maturity. The Company does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for trading purposes. All other contracts that contain provisions meeting the definition of a derivative also meet the requirements of, and have been designated as, normal purchases or sales. The Company's policy is to not enter into contracts with terms that cannot be designated as normal purchases or sales.

In 2007, the Company entered into interest rate swap contracts that effectively fix the rates paid on a total of \$80 million of variable rate borrowings. One contract fixed the rate on \$40 million of borrowings at 4.7 percent plus the applicable spread (depending on cash flow leverage ratio) until December 2010. The second contract fixed an additional \$40 million of borrowings at 4.6 percent plus the applicable spread until January 2011. Both contracts have been designated as cash flow hedges against interest rate volatility. Consequently, changes in the fair market value are recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) (AOCI). Amounts included in AOCI will be reclassified to earnings as interest rates increase and as the swap contracts approach their expiration dates. Net amounts paid or payable under terms of the contracts were charged to interest expense and totaled \$2.6 million in the first nine months of 2010.

The Company periodically evaluates its monetary asset and liability positions denominated in foreign currencies. The Company enters into forward contracts or options, or borrows in various currencies, in order to hedge its net monetary positions. These instruments are recorded at current market values and the gains and losses are included in other expense (income), net. There were seven contracts outstanding as of September 24, 2010, with notional amounts totaling \$20 million. The Company believes it uses strong financial counterparts in these transactions and that the resulting credit risk under these hedging strategies is not significant.

The Company uses significant other observable inputs to value the derivative instruments used to hedge interest rate volatility and net monetary positions. The fair market value and balance sheet classification of such instruments follows (in thousands):

| | Balance Sheet Classification | Sep 24, 2010 | Dec 25, 2009 |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Gain (loss) on interest rate hedge contracts | Other current liabilities | \$ (1,321) | \$ (3,722) |
| Gain (loss) on foreign currency forward contracts | | | |
| Gains | | \$ 42 | \$ 207 |
| Losses | | (280) | (249) |
| Net | Other current liabilities | \$ (238) | \$ (42) |

Item 2.**GRACO INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF
FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS****Overview**

The Company designs, manufactures and markets systems and equipment to move, measure, control, dispense and spray fluid materials. Management classifies the Company's business into three reportable segments: Industrial, Contractor and Lubrication. Key strategies include developing and marketing new products, expanding distribution globally, opening new markets with technology and channel expansion and completing strategic acquisitions.

The following Management's Discussion and Analysis reviews significant factors affecting the Company's results of operations and financial condition. This discussion should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and the accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Results of Operations

Net sales, net earnings and earnings per share were as follows (in millions except per share amounts and percentages):

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | | | Thirty-nine Weeks Ended | | |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 | % Change | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 | % Change |
| Net Sales | \$ 190.0 | \$ 147.3 | 29% | \$ 546.8 | \$ 432.9 | 26% |
| Net Earnings | \$ 30.4 | \$ 17.3 | 76% | \$ 75.8 | \$ 31.7 | 139% |
| Diluted Net Earnings per Common Share | \$ 0.50 | \$ 0.29 | 72% | \$ 1.25 | \$ 0.53 | 136% |

All segments and geographic regions had double-digit percentage revenue growth for both the quarter and year-to-date. Volume increases drove improvements in gross margin rates and net earnings. Currency translation did not have a significant effect on consolidated results for the quarter or year-to-date.

Consolidated Results

Sales by geographic area were as follows (in millions):

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | | Thirty-nine Weeks Ended | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 |
| Americas ¹ | \$ 108.7 | \$ 84.1 | \$ 305.6 | \$ 252.6 |
| Europe ² | 43.4 | 35.6 | 129.2 | 105.9 |
| Asia Pacific | 37.9 | 27.6 | 112.0 | 74.4 |
| Consolidated | <u>\$ 190.0</u> | <u>\$ 147.3</u> | <u>\$ 546.8</u> | <u>\$ 432.9</u> |

¹ North and South America, including the U.S.

² Europe, Africa and Middle East

Sales for the quarter increased 29 percent in the Americas, 22 percent in Europe (32 percent at consistent translation rates) and 37 percent in Asia Pacific (33 percent at consistent translation rates). Year-to-date sales increased 21 percent in the Americas, 22 percent in Europe (25 percent at consistent translation rates) and 51 percent in Asia Pacific (45 percent at consistent translation rates). Translation rates did not have a significant impact on the overall sales increases of 29 percent for the quarter and 26 percent year-to-date.

Gross profit margin, expressed as a percentage of sales, was 55 percent for the quarter and 54 percent year-to-date, up from 53 percent and 50 percent, for the comparable periods last year, respectively. Higher production volume in 2010 was the major factor in the improvement in both the quarter and year-to-date rates. Selling price increases and lower pension costs contributed to the increase in margin rates. Costs related to workforce reductions lowered the 2009 nine-month gross margin rate.

Total operating expenses increased \$9 million for the quarter and \$16 million year-to-date. Higher incentives expense, driven by improved results, accounted for most of the increase in both the quarter and year-to-date. As a percentage of sales, operating expenses decreased to 32 percent for the quarter and 33 percent year-to-date, from 35 percent and 38 percent for the comparable periods last year.

The effective income tax rate of 28 percent for the quarter reflects the effects of expiring statutes of limitations and recent tax law rulings. The year-to-date effective income tax rate of 32 percent for 2010 was higher than the 31 percent rate for the comparable period of 2009. The federal R&D credit has not been renewed for 2010, so no credit is included in the 2010 rate.

Segment Results

Certain measurements of segment operations compared to last year are summarized below:

Industrial

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | | Thirty-nine Weeks Ended | |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 |
| Net sales (in millions) | | | | |
| Americas | \$ 46.7 | \$ 37.0 | \$ 134.1 | \$ 108.3 |
| Europe | 25.6 | 22.0 | 80.6 | 65.7 |
| Asia Pacific | 26.9 | 19.2 | 81.8 | 52.8 |
| Total | <u>\$ 99.2</u> | <u>\$ 78.2</u> | <u>\$ 296.5</u> | <u>\$ 226.8</u> |
| Operating earnings as a percentage of net sales | <u>31 %</u> | <u>26 %</u> | <u>31 %</u> | <u>20 %</u> |

Industrial segment sales for the quarter increased 26 percent in the Americas, 16 percent in Europe (25 percent at consistent translation rates) and 40 percent in Asia Pacific (36 percent at consistent translation rates). Year-to-date sales increased 24 percent in the Americas, 23 percent in Europe and 55 percent in Asia Pacific (49 percent at consistent translation rates).

Higher volume and leveraging of expenses, along with price increases, contributed to the improvement in operating earnings as a percentage of sales.

Contractor

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | | Thirty-nine Weeks Ended | |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 |
| Net sales (in millions) | | | | |
| Americas | \$ 46.8 | \$ 36.2 | \$ 130.2 | \$ 109.0 |
| Europe | 16.2 | 12.5 | 44.1 | 37.3 |
| Asia Pacific | 7.4 | 6.7 | 20.6 | 16.9 |
| Total | <u>\$ 70.4</u> | <u>\$ 55.4</u> | <u>\$ 194.9</u> | <u>\$ 163.2</u> |
| Operating earnings as a percentage of net sales | <u>20 %</u> | <u>20 %</u> | <u>16 %</u> | <u>15 %</u> |

Contractor segment sales for the quarter increased 29 percent in the Americas, 30 percent in Europe (41 percent at consistent translation rates) and 10 percent in Asia Pacific (7 percent at consistent translation rates). Year-to-date sales increased 20 percent in the Americas, 18 percent in Europe (22 percent at consistent translation rates) and 22 percent in Asia Pacific (16 percent at consistent translation rates). Sales of new products contributed to the increased pace of sales in the third quarter.

Operating margin percentages were steady compared to last year as the favorable effects of higher volume were offset by costs and expenses related to new product introductions.

Lubrication

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | | Thirty-nine Weeks Ended | |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 |
| Net sales (in millions) | | | | |
| Americas | \$ 15.2 | \$ 10.9 | \$ 41.2 | \$ 35.4 |
| Europe | 1.6 | 1.1 | 4.5 | 2.9 |
| Asia Pacific | 3.6 | 1.7 | 9.6 | 4.6 |
| Total | <u>\$ 20.4</u> | <u>\$ 13.7</u> | <u>\$ 55.3</u> | <u>\$ 42.9</u> |
| Operating earnings as a percentage of net sales | <u>14 %</u> | <u>(1)%</u> | <u>11 %</u> | <u>(8)%</u> |

Lubrication segment sales for the quarter increased 39 percent in the Americas. From small bases, sales increased 49 percent in Europe and approximately doubled in Asia Pacific. Year-to-date sales increased 17 percent in the Americas, 53 percent in Europe and 111 percent in Asia Pacific.

Higher volume, actions to reduce product costs, leveraging of expenses and price increases contributed to the improvement in operating earnings as a percentage of sales.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

In the first nine months of 2010, the Company paid dividends of \$36 million and purchased \$24 million of its common stock. The Company also made a \$10 million voluntary contribution to a funded defined benefit pension plan. Significant uses of cash in the first nine months of 2009 included \$73 million for reduction of borrowings under the long-term line of credit, \$34 million for payment of dividends and \$15 million for a contribution to a funded pension plan.

Since the end of 2009, inventories increased by \$27 million to meet higher demand. Accounts receivable increased by \$35 million due to higher sales levels.

At September 24, 2010, the Company had various lines of credit totaling \$270 million, of which \$171 million was unused. Internally generated funds and unused financing sources are expected to provide the Company with the flexibility to meet its liquidity needs in 2010.

Outlook

During the recession, the Company continued to invest in new product development and international expansion. Management is pleased with the resulting flow of new products and the strengthened teams, infrastructure and channel in Europe and Asia Pacific that are contributing to sales and earnings growth. Although management expects construction markets in the U.S. and parts of Europe will remain in difficult shape for the near-term, we are optimistic that the global industrial recovery will continue.

SAFE HARBOR CAUTIONARY STATEMENT

A forward-looking statement is any statement made in this report and other reports that the Company files periodically with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or in press or earnings releases, analyst briefings and conference calls, which reflects the Company's current thinking on market trends and the Company's future financial performance at the time they are made. All forecasts and projections are forward-looking statements.

The Company desires to take advantage of the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 by making cautionary statements concerning any forward-looking statements made by or on behalf of the Company. The Company cannot give any assurance that the results forecasted in any forward-looking statement will actually be achieved. Future results could differ materially from those expressed, due to the impact of changes in various factors. These risk factors include, but are not limited to: economic conditions in the United States and other major world economies, currency fluctuations, political instability, changes in laws and regulations, and changes in product demand. Please refer to Item 1A of, and Exhibit 99 to, the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal year 2009 for a more comprehensive discussion of these and other risk factors.

Investors should realize that factors other than those identified above and in Item 1A and Exhibit 99 might prove important to the Company's future results. It is not possible for management to identify each and every factor that may have an impact on the Company's operations in the future as new factors can develop from time to time.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

There have been no material changes related to market risk from the disclosures made in the Company's 2009 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures

As of the end of the fiscal quarter covered by this report, the Company carried out an evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of its disclosure controls and procedures. This evaluation was done under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, the Vice President and Controller, and the Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary. Based upon that evaluation, they concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

Changes in internal controls

During the quarter, there was no change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that has materially affected or is reasonably likely to materially affect the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

PART II OTHER INFORMATION**Item 1A. Risk Factors**

There have been no material changes to the Company's risk factors from those disclosed in the Company's 2009 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds**Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities**

On September 18, 2009, the Board of Directors authorized the Company to purchase up to 6,000,000 shares of its outstanding common stock, primarily through open-market transactions. The authorization expires on September 30, 2012.

In addition to shares purchased under the Board authorizations, the Company purchases shares of common stock held by employees who wish to tender owned shares to satisfy the exercise price or tax withholding on option exercises.

Information on issuer purchases of equity securities follows:

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased | Average Price Paid per Share | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs | Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs (at end of period) |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Jun 26, 2010 – Jul 23, 2010 | 86,411 | \$ 29.30 | 86,411 | 5,590,000 |
| Jul 24, 2010 – Aug 20, 2010 | 215,000 | \$ 29.58 | 215,000 | 5,375,000 |
| Aug 21, 2010 – Sep 24, 2010 | 195,362 | \$ 28.13 | 195,362 | 5,179,638 |

Item 6. Exhibits

- 10.1 Graco Restoration Plan (2005 Statement). Fifth Amendment adopted September 16, 2010.
- 31.1 Certification of President and Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a).
- 31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer pursuant to rule 13a-14(a).
- 32 Certification of President and Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer pursuant to Section 1350 of Title 18, U.S.C.
- 99.1 Press Release, Reporting Third Quarter Earnings, dated October 20, 2010.
- 101 Interactive Data File.

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.

GRACO INC.

| | | | |
|-------|-------------------------|-----|---|
| Date: | <u>October 20, 2010</u> | By: | <u>/s/ Patrick J. McHale</u> Patrick J. McHale President and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer) |
|-------|-------------------------|-----|---|

| | | | |
|-------|-------------------------|-----|---|
| Date: | <u>October 20, 2010</u> | By: | <u>/s/ James A. Graner</u> James A. Graner Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (Principal Financial Officer) |
|-------|-------------------------|-----|---|

| | | | |
|-------|-------------------------|-----|--|
| Date: | <u>October 20, 2010</u> | By: | <u>/s/ Caroline M. Chambers</u> Caroline M. Chambers Vice President and Controller (Principal Accounting Officer) |
|-------|-------------------------|-----|--|

**FIFTH AMENDMENT
GRACO RESTORATION PLAN
(2005 Statement)**

Graco Inc. has established and maintains a nonqualified deferred compensation plan (the “Plan”) which, in its most recent amended and restated form, is embodied in a document entitled “GRACO RESTORATION PLAN (2005 Statement),” effective January 1, 2005 (as amended, the “Plan Statement”). The amendment to the Plan set forth below is not intended to make any change in the documentation or operation of the Plan that would cause a violation of section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code or its accompanying regulations. If any change that occurs as a result of this amendment is determined to be a violation of section 409A, this amendment shall be ineffective and shall be disregarded in the administration of the Plan. Subject to the limitation stated above, the Plan is hereby amended as follows:

1. ONE-TIME ELECTION. Effective October 1, 2010, a new Section 7.1.2(e) is added to the Plan Statement that reads as follows:

- (e) **One-Time Election.** If a Participant is an active employee of an Employer on October 1, 2010 and has accrued benefits under the Plan, the Participant shall be eligible to make a one-time election as described in this Section 7.1.2(e) with respect to the form of payment for benefits accrued under the Plan on and after January 1, 2011. The following rules shall apply if a Participant makes the one-time election provided for under this paragraph:
- (i) The election provided for under this paragraph may be made only once with respect to the benefits accrued on and after January 1, 2011. A one-time election form shall be completed, signed and returned to Graco’s Vice President-Human Resources on or before December 1, 2010.
 - (ii) On and after January 1, 2011, a Participant may make a subsequent election to change the form of payment of the benefits for which a one-time election has been made (benefits accrued on and after January 1, 2011), provided that the Participant complies with the provisions of Section 7.1.2(b) of the Plan. The Participant may also make a separate subsequent election pursuant to the provisions of Section 7.1.2(b) with respect to the benefits the Participant accrued prior to January 1, 2011.
 - (iii) If a Participant’s benefits under the Plan on or after January 1, 2011 exceed the Participant’s benefits as of December 31, 2010, the excess amount shall be subject to the one-time election (if any) made by the Participant between October 1, 2010 and December 1, 2010.
 - (iv) If a Participant makes a one-time election, this Section 7.1.2(e) is intended to bifurcate the Participant’s benefits under the Plan into (1) benefits accrued prior to January 1, 2011 and (2) benefits accrued on and after January 1, 2011. The Participant’s benefits accrued as of December 31, 2010 shall be calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Plan and the guidance provided under section 409A of the Code.
-

Any change in the amount of benefits accrued under the Plan is not intended to impermissibly accelerate or delay payment of those benefits within the meaning of section 409A of the Code. The intent is to freeze the benefits accrued as of December 31, 2010, so that no benefits are shifted from being paid under one form of payment to being paid under any other form of payment. If, at the time that the distribution of the Participant's benefits is to commence, the Participant's benefit exceeds the amount of the Participant's benefit as of December 31, 2010, the additional amount shall be paid as directed by the Participant in the one-time election made between October 1, 2010 and December 1, 2010, as modified by any subsequent election made pursuant to Section 7.1.2(b) with respect to benefits accrued on and after January 1, 2011. If, at the time that the distribution of the Participant's benefits is to commence, the Participant's benefit is equal to or less than the amount of the Participant's benefits as of December 31, 2010, the one-time election shall not apply and all of the Participant's benefits shall be paid as provided by the Plan as modified by any subsequent election with respect to the benefits accrued as of December 31, 2010, made pursuant to Section 7.1.2(b)

- (v) If a Participant does not make the one-time election provided for in this Section 7.1.2(e), then the provisions of this Section 7.1.2(e) shall not apply. No Participant shall be eligible to make the one-time election provided for under Section 7.1.2(e) after December 31, 2010.
- (vi) The Committee shall have complete discretion to interpret this Section 7.1.2(e) and to determine the Participant's benefit in a manner consistent with the intent of Section 7.1.2(e) and section 409A of the Code. The Committee may resolve questions regarding, and make adjustments to, the factors (such as compensation and years of service) used to calculate a Participant's benefits.

2. SAVINGS CLAUSE. Save and except as hereinabove expressly amended, the Plan Statement shall continue in full force and effect.

CERTIFICATION

I, Patrick J. McHale, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q of Graco 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 control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of 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:
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control 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.

Date: October 20, 2010

/s/ Patrick J. McHale

Patrick J. McHale
President and Chief Executive Officer

CERTIFICATION

I, James A. Graner, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q of Graco 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 control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of 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:
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control 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.

Date: October 20, 2010

/s/ James A. Graner

James A. Graner

Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

CERTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 1350

Pursuant to Section 1350 of Title 18 of the United States Code, each of the undersigned certifies that this periodic report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and that information contained in this periodic report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of Graco Inc.

| | | |
|-------|-------------------------|--|
| Date: | <u>October 20, 2010</u> | <u>/s/ Patrick J. McHale</u> Patrick J. McHale President and Chief Executive Officer |
| Date: | <u>October 20, 2010</u> | <u>/s/ James A. Graner</u> James A. Graner Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer |

News Release

GRACO INC.
P.O. Box 1441
Minneapolis, MN
55440-1441
NYSE: GGG



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Wednesday, October 20, 2010

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
James A. Graner (612) 623-6635

GRACO REPORTS THIRD QUARTER SALES AND EARNINGS REVENUE GROWTH DRIVES IMPROVED RESULTS

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (October 20, 2010) - Graco Inc. (NYSE: GGG) today announced results for the quarter and nine months ended September 24, 2010.

Summary

\$ in millions except per share amounts

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | | | Thirty-nine Weeks Ended | | |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 | % Change | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 | % Change |
| Net Sales | \$ 190.0 | \$ 147.3 | 29 % | \$ 546.8 | \$ 432.9 | 26 % |
| Net Earnings | 30.4 | 17.3 | 76 % | 75.8 | 31.7 | 139 % |
| Diluted Net Earnings per Common Share | \$ 0.50 | \$ 0.29 | 72 % | \$ 1.25 | \$ 0.53 | 136 % |

- All divisions and regions had double-digit percentage revenue growth for the quarter and year-to-date.
- Year-to-date gross margin rate of 54 percent was 4 percentage points higher than the rate for the comparable period last year.
- Return on sales for the quarter was 16 percent, up from 12 percent for the third quarter last year. Year-to-date return on sales was 14 percent, up from 7 percent for the comparable period last year.
- Sales of new products contributed to third-quarter growth in the Contractor segment.
- Strong sales growth in Asia Pacific continued (up 37 percent for the quarter and 51 percent year-to-date).

“Revenue growth continued to drive improved earnings,” said Patrick J. McHale, President and Chief Executive Officer. “Sales gains were strong worldwide, with increases in excess of 20 percent in all regions. We are particularly pleased with the revenue performance of our Contractor segment, which was able to grow with new products despite the depressed conditions in major construction markets. Operating margins in our Industrial and Lubrication businesses improved nicely on strong top-line performance, driven by improved economic conditions, new products and solid global execution.”

Consolidated Results

Sales for the quarter increased 29 percent in the Americas, 22 percent in Europe (32 percent at consistent translation rates) and 37 percent in Asia Pacific (33 percent at consistent translation rates). Year-to-date sales increased 21 percent in the Americas, 22 percent in Europe (25 percent at consistent translation rates) and 51 percent in Asia Pacific (45 percent at consistent translation rates). Translation rates did not have a significant impact on the overall sales increases of 29 percent for the quarter and 26 percent year-to-date.

Gross profit margin, expressed as a percentage of sales, was 55 percent for the quarter and 54 percent year-to-date, up from 53 percent and 50 percent, for the comparable periods last year. Higher production volume in 2010 was the

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major factor in the improvement in both the quarter and year-to-date rates. Selling price increases and lower pension costs contributed to the increase in margin rates. Costs related to workforce reductions lowered the 2009 nine-month gross margin rate.

Total operating expenses increased \$9 million for the quarter and \$16 million year-to-date. Higher incentives expense, from improved results, accounted for most of the increase in both the quarter and year-to-date. As a percentage of sales, operating expenses decreased to 32 percent for the quarter and 33 percent year-to-date, from 35 percent and 38 percent for the comparable periods last year.

The effective income tax rate of 28 percent for the quarter reflects the effects of expiring statutes of limitations and recent tax law rulings. The year-to-date effective income tax rate of 32 percent for 2010 was higher than the 31 percent rate for the comparable period of 2009. The federal R&D credit has not been renewed for 2010, so no credit is included in the 2010 rate.

Segment Results

Certain measurements of segment operations are summarized below:

| | Thirteen Weeks | | | Thirty-nine Weeks | | |
|---|----------------|------------|-------------|-------------------|------------|-------------|
| | Industrial | Contractor | Lubrication | Industrial | Contractor | Lubrication |
| Net sales (in millions) | \$ 99.2 | \$ 70.4 | \$ 20.4 | \$ 296.5 | \$ 194.9 | \$ 55.3 |
| Net sales percentage change from last year | 27 % | 27 % | 49 % | 31 % | 19 % | 29 % |
| Operating earnings as a percentage of net sales | | | | | | |
| 2010 | 31 % | 20 % | 14 % | 31 % | 16 % | 11 % |
| 2009 | 26 % | 20 % | (1)% | 20 % | 15 % | (8)% |

Industrial segment sales increased 27 percent for the quarter and 31 percent year-to-date, with the strongest percentage growth in Asia Pacific (up 40 percent for the quarter and 55 percent year-to-date). Contractor segment sales increased 27 percent for the quarter and 19 percent year-to-date, including gains for the quarter of 29 percent in the Americas and 30 percent in Europe (41 percent at consistent translation rates). Sales of new products boosted third quarter sales in the Contractor segment. Lubrication segment sales increased 49 percent for the quarter and 29 percent year-to-date, with strong increases in all regions.

Higher volume and leveraging of expenses drove continued improvement in operating earnings, particularly in the Industrial and Lubrication segments. In the Contractor segment, operating margin percentages were steady as the favorable effects of higher volume were offset by costs and expenses related to new product introductions.

Outlook

“Although we expect construction markets in the U.S. and parts of Europe will remain in difficult shape for the near-term, we are optimistic that the global industrial recovery will continue,” said Patrick J. McHale, President and Chief Executive Officer. “During the recession, we continued to invest heavily in new product development and international expansion. We are pleased with the resulting flow of exciting new products, from every division, that are contributing to our growth performance, and with the continued strengthening of our teams, infrastructure and channel in Europe and Asia Pacific.”

More . . .

Page 3 GRACO**Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements**

A forward-looking statement is any statement made in this earnings release and other reports that the Company files periodically with the Securities and Exchange Commission, as well as in press releases, analyst briefings, conference calls and the Company's Annual Report to shareholders, which reflects the Company's current thinking on market trends and the Company's future financial performance at the time it is made. All forecasts and projections are forward-looking statements. The Company undertakes no obligation to update these statements in light of new information or future events.

The Company desires to take advantage of the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 by making cautionary statements concerning any forward-looking statements made by or on behalf of the Company. The Company cannot give any assurance that the results forecasted in any forward-looking statement will actually be achieved. Future results could differ materially from those expressed, due to the impact of changes in various factors. These risk factors include, but are not limited to: economic conditions in the United States and other major world economies, currency fluctuations, political instability, changes in laws and regulations, and changes in product demand. Please refer to Item 1A of, and Exhibit 99 to, the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal year 2009 (and most recent Form 10-Q, if applicable) for a more comprehensive discussion of these and other risk factors. These reports are available on the Company's website at www.graco.com and the Securities and Exchange Commission's website at www.sec.gov.

Conference Call

Graco management will hold a conference call, including slides via webcast, with analysts and institutional investors on Thursday, October 21, 2010, at 11:00 a.m. ET, to discuss Graco's third quarter results.

A real-time Webcast of the conference call will be broadcast live over the Internet. Individuals wanting to listen and view slides can access the call at the Company's website at www.graco.com. Listeners should go to the website at least 15 minutes prior to the live conference call to install any necessary audio software.

For those unable to listen to the live event, a replay will be available soon after the conference call at Graco's website, or by telephone beginning at approximately 2:00 p.m. ET on October 21, 2010, by dialing 800-406-7325, Conference ID #4370547, if calling within the U.S. or Canada. The dial-in number for international participants is 303-590-3030, with the same Conference ID #. The replay by telephone will be available through October 24, 2010.

Graco Inc. supplies technology and expertise for the management of fluids in both industrial and commercial applications. It designs, manufactures and markets systems and equipment to move, measure, control, dispense and spray fluid materials. A recognized leader in its specialties, Minneapolis-based Graco serves customers around the world in the manufacturing, processing, construction and maintenance industries. For additional information about Graco Inc., please visit us at www.graco.com.

More . . .

GRACO INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
Consolidated Statement of Earnings (Unaudited)

| (in thousands, except per share amounts) | Thirteen Weeks Ended | | Thirty-nine Weeks Ended | |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 |
| Net Sales | \$ 189,963 | \$ 147,308 | \$ 546,772 | \$ 432,900 |
| Cost of products sold | 85,405 | 69,167 | 250,999 | 217,423 |
| Gross Profit | 104,558 | 78,141 | 295,773 | 215,477 |
| Product development | 9,263 | 8,752 | 28,209 | 28,584 |
| Selling, marketing and distribution | 33,280 | 26,589 | 95,087 | 86,814 |
| General and administrative | 18,592 | 16,613 | 57,139 | 49,317 |
| Operating Earnings | 43,423 | 26,187 | 115,338 | 50,762 |
| Interest expense | 1,038 | 1,148 | 3,159 | 3,735 |
| Other expense (income), net | 254 | 203 | 147 | 889 |
| Earnings Before Income Taxes | 42,131 | 24,836 | 112,032 | 46,138 |
| Income taxes | 11,700 | 7,500 | 36,200 | 14,400 |
| Net Earnings | \$ 30,431 | \$ 17,336 | \$ 75,832 | \$ 31,738 |
| Net Earnings per Common Share | | | | |
| Basic | \$ 0.51 | \$ 0.29 | \$ 1.26 | \$ 0.53 |
| Diluted | \$ 0.50 | \$ 0.29 | \$ 1.25 | \$ 0.53 |
| Weighted Average Number of Shares | | | | |
| Basic | 60,107 | 59,940 | 60,304 | 59,827 |
| Diluted | 60,624 | 60,314 | 60,840 | 60,133 |

Segment Information (Unaudited)

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | | Thirty-nine Weeks Ended | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 | Sep 24, 2010 | Sep 25, 2009 |
| Net Sales | | | | |
| Industrial | \$ 99,236 | \$ 78,242 | \$ 296,489 | \$ 226,808 |
| Contractor | 70,362 | 55,379 | 194,941 | 163,213 |
| Lubrication | 20,365 | 13,687 | 55,342 | 42,879 |
| Total | \$ 189,963 | \$ 147,308 | \$ 546,772 | \$ 432,900 |
| Operating Earnings | | | | |
| Industrial | \$ 31,195 | \$ 20,332 | \$ 91,234 | \$ 45,262 |
| Contractor | 13,753 | 11,138 | 31,839 | 24,420 |
| Lubrication | 2,751 | (167) | 6,326 | (3,348) |
| Unallocated corporate (expense) | (4,276) | (5,116) | (14,061) | (15,572) |
| Total | \$ 43,423 | \$ 26,187 | \$ 115,338 | \$ 50,762 |

All figures are subject to audit and adjustment at the end of the fiscal year.

The consolidated Balance Sheets, Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows and Management's Discussion and Analysis are available in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q on our website at www.graco.com.

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