

KROGER CO
Form 11-K
June 24, 2011
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**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 11-K

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010.

OR

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the transition period from to

Commission file number 1-303

The Kroger Co. Savings Plan

1014 Vine Street

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Cincinnati, OH 45202

(Full title of the plan and the address of the plan)

The Kroger Co.

1014 Vine Street

Cincinnati, OH 45202

(Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office)

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REQUIRED INFORMATION

Item 4. Plan Financial Statements and Schedules Prepared in Accordance with the Financial Reporting Requirements of ERISA.

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THE KROGER CO. SAVINGS PLAN

Financial Statements

And

Supplemental Schedule

December 31, 2010 and 2009

With

Report of Independent Registered

Public Accounting Firm

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THE KROGER CO. SAVINGS PLAN

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To Participants and Administrative Committee of

The Kroger Co. Savings Plan:

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of The Kroger Co. Savings Plan as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying supplemental Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. The supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. The supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audits of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

/s/ Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co.

Cincinnati, Ohio
June 24, 2011

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Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

December 31, 2010 and 2009

(In Thousands)

	2010		2009
Assets:			
Cash	\$ 655	\$	688
Investments, at fair value:			
Interest in Master Trust	2,030,323		1,896,014
Receivables:			
Notes receivable from participants	46,507		45,921
Accrued income	5		5
	46,512		45,926
Total assets	2,077,490		1,942,628
Liabilities:			
Administrative fees payable	243		279
Net assets available for benefits at fair value	2,077,247		1,942,349
Adjustment from fair value to contract value for interest in Master Trust relating to investment contracts	(31,293)		(14,553)
Net assets available for benefits	\$ 2,045,954	\$	1,927,796

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

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THE KROGER CO. SAVINGS PLAN

Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

Years Ended December 31, 2010 and 2009

(In Thousands)

	2010	2009
Additions:		
Participant contributions	\$ 65,983	\$ 70,023
Investment income (loss) - participation in Master Trust	187,158	(31,615)
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	2,268	2,804
Deductions:		
Transfer to other plan		(6)
Benefits paid to participants	(136,541)	(113,811)
Administrative expenses	(710)	(746)
Net increase (decrease)	118,158	(73,351)
Net assets available for benefits:		
Beginning of year	1,927,796	2,001,147
End of year	\$ 2,045,954	\$ 1,927,796

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

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THE KROGER CO. SAVINGS PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

(All dollar amounts are in thousands)

1. Description of Plan:

The following description of The Kroger Co. Savings Plan (Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the plan document for a more complete description of Plan provisions.

General

The Plan is sponsored by The Kroger Co., an Ohio corporation, and its wholly-owned subsidiaries (collectively the Company). The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering all employees of the Company who have attained age 21, have been employed 30 days, and have completed 72 hours of service within the 30-day period, excluding those employees eligible to participate under another defined contribution pension plan sponsored by the Company. It is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA).

Contributions

Subject to certain limits, participants may contribute up to 75% (7% of compensation for the Plan year if the participant is a highly compensated employee as defined by the Internal Revenue Service) of compensation per pay period to the Plan. It is at the discretion of participants to modify and direct investments. Participants are eligible to make catch-up contributions beginning in the year in which they reach age 50. Participants are also permitted to deposit into the Plan distributions from other qualified plans.

Participant Accounts

Each participant account is credited with the participant contribution and an allocation of Plan earnings or losses. Allocations of earnings or losses are based upon the performance of the investment funds chosen by the participant. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Vesting

All accounts of a participant are fully vested at all times.

Benefits

Payment of benefits can be made under various methods, depending upon the reason for the distribution, such as termination of service, death, or retirement, as well as other factors. At termination, those participants with a balance of less than or equal

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to one thousand dollars will receive a single lump sum distribution. Absent specific elections by the participant, those with balances greater than one thousand dollars and less than or equal to five thousand dollars shall be distributed, in the form of a direct rollover, to an individual retirement account designated by the Plan Administrator. Those with balances greater than five thousand dollars may elect to leave their funds in the Plan or choose other options. Participants are entitled to benefits beginning at normal retirement age (generally age 65). Benefits are recorded when paid. Unclaimed benefits are forfeited and are applied to pay Plan expenses. Forfeited unclaimed benefits are restored if a participant later establishes a valid benefit claim.

Notes Receivable from Participants

The Plan permits participants to borrow from their vested account. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is the lesser of fifty thousand dollars or 50% of the vested balance of the account. Loan terms range from 1-4 years or up to 6 years for the purchase of a primary residence. The loans are collateralized by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at a rate of Prime plus 1.0%. The rate is changed quarterly and the Prime rate used for a quarter is the Prime rate on the last business day of the previous quarter. Principal and interest are paid through periodic payroll deductions.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

Basis of accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Master Trust

The investments of the Plan, along with investments of other plans of The Kroger Co. and its subsidiaries, are located for investment purposes in a master trust pursuant to an agreement dated July 1, 2004, between Bank of America N.A., as successor in interest to Merrill Lynch Bank & Trust Co., FSB, the trustee, and the Company - The Kroger Defined Contribution Plan Master Trust (the Master Trust).

Investment valuation and income recognition

The Plan's investments within the Master Trust are stated at fair value. Fair value is 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. See Note 7 for discussion of fair value measurements.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade date basis. Gains or losses on sales of securities are based on average cost. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Income from other investments is recorded as earned.

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Investment contracts held by a defined contribution plan are required to be reported at fair value. However, contract value is the relevant measurement attribute for that portion of the net assets available for benefits of a defined-contribution plan attributable to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts because contract value is the amount participants would receive if they were to initiate a permitted transaction under the terms of the Plan. The Plan invests in investment contracts through the Master Trust. The Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits presents the fair value of the investment in the Master Trust as well as the adjustment of the investment in the Master Trust from fair value to contract value relating to investment contracts. The Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits is prepared on a contract value basis.

Effective with the plan year ended December 31, 2010, the Plan elected to adopt the new standard which requires that participant loans be classified as notes receivable from the participants. The loans are segregated from Plan investments and are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus accrued but unpaid interest. This change is retroactive to December 31, 2009.

Estimates

The presentation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

Administrative expenses

The Plan will pay the administrative costs and expenses of the Plan, including the trustee and management fees. Any expenses that are unable to be allocated to participants are paid by the Company.

Subsequent events

The Company evaluates events and transactions occurring subsequent to the date of the financial statements for matters requiring recognition or disclosure in the financial statements. The accompanying financial statements consider events through the date on which the financial statements were available to be issued.

3. Transfers:

During 2009, participant balances of approximately \$6 were transferred to The Kroger Co. 401(k) Retirement Savings Account Plan. No transfers occurred in 2010.

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4. Investments:

The Plan provides for participant directed investments into common stock of The Kroger Co., mutual funds, collective trusts, stable value funds, and certain retirement date funds, through the investment in the Master Trust. Investments that represent 5% or more of the Plan's net assets as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 are as follows:

	2010	2009
Interest in Master Trust, at fair value	\$ 2,030,323	\$ 1,896,014

Included in investment income (loss) from the Plan's participation in the Master Trust is net appreciation (depreciation) from investments bought, sold and held during the year of \$151,581 and \$(68,583) for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

5. Investment Contracts:

The Master Trust holds several synthetic investment contracts which are managed by investment fund managers. The Master Trust also purchases wrapper contracts from financial institutions which provide assurance that crediting rates will never be less than zero. All Plans have an undivided interest in each investment contract. The investment contracts are fully benefit-responsive. A fully benefit-responsive investment provides a liquidity guarantee by a financially responsible third party of principal and previously accrued interest for liquidations, transfers, loans, or withdrawals initiated by Plan participants under the terms of the ongoing Plan. Certain employer-initiated events (i.e. layoffs, mergers, bankruptcy, Plan termination) are not eligible for the liquidity guarantee.

In general, issuers may terminate the investment contracts and settle at other than contract value if the qualification status of the employer or plan changes, breach of material obligations under the contract and misrepresentation by the contract holder, or failure of the underlying portfolio to conform to the pre-established investment guidelines.

The Plan Administrator does not believe that the occurrence of any such event, which would limit the Plan's ability to transact at contract value with participants, is probable.

The following information relates to the Master Trust interest in investment contracts:

	2010	2009
Contract value	\$ 1,001,156	\$ 1,040,677
Fair value	\$ 1,056,438	\$ 1,066,553
Crediting interest rate range	.05% to 5.23%	