AUTONATION, INC.
Form 10-K
February 15, 2013
UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-K
(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012
OR

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

For the transition period from ________ to ________
Commission File Number: 1-13107
AutoNation, Inc.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware	73-1105145
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
200 SW 1st Ave Fort Lauderdale, Florida	33301
(Address of principal executive offices)	(Zip Code)

(954) 769-6000
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)
Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, Par Value $0.01 Per Share	New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None
Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes þ No ¨
Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act. Yes ¨ No þ
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 þ No ¨
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the new registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes þ No ¨
Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. þ
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 þ	Accelerated filer o
Non-accelerated filer o (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company o

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

As of June 30, 2012, the aggregate market value of the common stock of the registrant held by non-affiliates was approximately $1.1 billion based on the closing price of the common stock on the New York Stock Exchange on such date (for the purpose of this calculation only, the registrant assumed that each of its directors, executive officers, and greater than 10% stockholders was an affiliate of the registrant as of June 30, 2012).

As of February 11, 2013, the registrant had 120,986,987 shares of common stock outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant’s Proxy Statement relating to its 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be filed with the SEC within 120 days after the end of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012 are incorporated herein by reference in Part III.

AUTONATION, INC.

FORM 10-K

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

INDEX

PART I

		Page
Item 1.	Business	1
Item 1A.	Risk Factors	10
Item 1B.	Unresolved Staff Comments	17
Item 2.	Properties	17
Item 3.	Legal Proceedings	17
Item 4.	Mine Safety Disclosures	17

PART II

Item 5.	Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities	18
Item 6.	Selected Financial Data	20
Item 7.	Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	21
Item 7A.	Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk	52
Item 8.	Financial Statements and Supplementary Data	53
Item 9.	Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure	95
Item 9A.	Controls and Procedures	95
Item 9B.	Other Information	95

PART III

Item 10.	Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance	96
Item 11.	Executive Compensation	96
Item 12.	Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters	96
Item 13.	Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence	96
Item 14.	Principal Accounting Fees and Services	96

PART IV

Item 15.	Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules	97

Table of Contents

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

General

AutoNation, Inc., through its subsidiaries, is the largest automotive retailer in the United States. As of December 31, 2012, we owned and operated 265 new vehicle franchises from 221 stores located in the United States, predominantly in major metropolitan markets in the Sunbelt region. Our stores, which we believe are some of the most recognizable and well-known in our key markets, sell 32 different new vehicle brands. The core brands of new vehicles that we sell, representing approximately 95% of the new vehicles that we sold in 2012, are manufactured by Toyota, Ford, Honda, Nissan, General Motors, Mercedes-Benz, BMW, Chrysler, and Volkswagen.

We offer a diversified range of automotive products and services, including new vehicles, used vehicles, “parts and service,” which includes automotive repair and maintenance services as well as wholesale parts and collision businesses, and automotive “finance and insurance” products, which includes the arranging of financing for vehicle purchases through third-party finance sources. The following charts present the contribution to total revenue and gross profit by each of new vehicle sales, used vehicle sales, parts and service, and finance and insurance in 2012.

We were incorporated in Delaware in 1991. For convenience, the terms “AutoNation,” “Company,” and “we” are used to refer collectively to AutoNation, Inc. and its subsidiaries, unless otherwise required by the context. Our store operations are conducted by our subsidiaries.

Operating Segments

As of December 31, 2012, we had three operating segments: Domestic, Import, and Premium Luxury. These segments are comprised of retail automotive franchises that sell the following new vehicle brands:

Domestic		Import		Premium Luxury	
Buick	Ford	Acura	Nissan	Audi	Mercedes-Benz
Cadillac	GMC	Fiat	Scion	Bentley	Mini
Chevrolet	Jeep	Honda	Subaru	BMW	Porsche
Chrysler	Lincoln	Hyundai	Toyota	Land Rover	smart
Dodge	Ram	Infiniti	Volkswagen	Lexus	
		Mazda	Volvo		
		Mitsubishi			

Table of Contents

The franchises in each segment also sell used vehicles, parts and automotive repair and maintenance services, and automotive finance and insurance products. For the year ended December 31, 2012, Domestic revenue represented 33% of total revenue, Import revenue represented 37% of total revenue, and Premium Luxury revenue represented 29% of total revenue. For additional financial information regarding our three operating segments, please refer to Note 20 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements set forth in Part II, Item 8 of this Form 10-K.

Except to the extent that differences among operating segments are material to an understanding of our business taken as a whole, the description of our business in this report is presented on a consolidated basis.

Business Strategy

We seek to create long-term value for our stockholders by being the best-run, most profitable automotive retailer in the United States. We believe that the significant scale of our operations and the quality of our managerial talent allow us to achieve efficiencies in our key markets. To achieve and sustain operational excellence, we are pursuing the following strategies:

- Create an industry-leading automotive retail consumer experience, both in our stores and online. We seek to deliver a consistently superior customer experience by offering a large selection of inventory, customer-friendly, transparent sales and service processes, and competitive pricing. We believe that this will benefit us by encouraging our customers to bring their vehicles to our stores for all of their vehicle service, maintenance, and collision repair needs and also by driving repeat and referral vehicle sales business. We emphasize the importance of customer satisfaction to our key store personnel by basing a portion of their compensation on the quality of customer service they provide. We also leverage the Internet to market our stores, new and used vehicle inventory, and parts and service business. Our websites are designed to facilitate consumer research, as we believe that most consumers are researching vehicle and service information online.
- Leverage our significant scale and cost structure to improve our operating efficiency. We manage our new and used vehicle inventories to optimize our stores' supply and mix of vehicle inventory in line with seasonal sales trends. We are also focused on maintaining appropriate inventory levels in order to minimize carrying costs. In order to improve financial controls and lower servicing costs, we shifted key store-level accounting and administrative activities to our Shared Services Center located in Irving, Texas. Further, we seek to increase employee productivity through our compensation and employee training programs, as well as disciplined management of staffing levels. Finally, we leverage our scale to reduce costs related to purchasing certain equipment, supplies, and services through national vendor relationships.
- Build a powerful AutoNation retail brand that represents a consistently superior customer experience. We plan to transition our Domestic and Import stores to a unified AutoNation retail brand throughout the first half of 2013. We believe that a unified AutoNation retail brand for our Domestic and Import stores will enhance our strong customer satisfaction and expand our market share. We also believe that we will drive more traffic to our websites through the AutoNation retail brand, which will allow us to market to more customers directly, rather than through third-party websites. Our Premium Luxury stores will continue to operate under their existing retail brands.

Our business benefits from a well-diversified portfolio of automotive retail franchises. In 2012, approximately 39% of our new vehicle revenue was generated by Import franchises, approximately 29% by Premium Luxury franchises, and approximately 32% was generated by Domestic franchises. We continue to look for acquisition and new store opportunities that meet our goal of offering all of our core vehicle brands within our existing markets as well as our return on investment threshold.

We believe that our business also benefits from diverse revenue streams generated by our new and used vehicle sales, parts and service business, and finance and insurance sales. Our higher-margin parts and service business has historically been less sensitive to macroeconomic conditions as compared to new and used vehicle sales.

Our capital allocation strategy is focused on maximizing stockholder returns. The first priority of our capital allocation strategy is to maintain a strong balance sheet. Second, we invest capital in our business to maintain and upgrade our existing facilities and to build new facilities, as well as for other strategic and technology initiatives. Third, we deploy capital opportunistically to repurchase our common stock and/or debt or to complete dealership acquisitions. Over the past three years, we repurchased over 60 million shares of common stock for an aggregate purchase price of $1.7

billion. We

Table of Contents

also purchased 14 franchises during this timeframe, including our December 2012 acquisitions of Boardwalk Audi, Boardwalk Porsche, and three Volkswagen franchises in the Dallas, Texas market and Spring Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram in the Houston, Texas market. Our capital allocation decisions are based on factors such as the expected rate of return on our investment, the market price of our common stock versus our view of its intrinsic value, the market price of our debt, the potential impact on our capital structure, our ability to complete dealership acquisitions that meet our market and vehicle brand criteria and return on investment threshold, and limitations set forth in our debt agreements. For additional information regarding our capital allocation, please refer to "Liquidity and Capital Resources – Capital Allocation" in Part II, Item 7 of this Form 10 K.

Operations

Each of our stores acquires new vehicles for retail sale either directly from the applicable automotive manufacturer or distributor or through dealer trades with other stores of the same franchise. We generally acquire used vehicles from customer trade-ins, auctions, lease terminations, and other sources, and we generally recondition used vehicles acquired for retail sale in our parts and service departments. Used vehicles that we do not sell at our stores generally are sold at wholesale prices through auctions. See also "Inventory Management" in Part II, Item 7 of this Form 10-K.

Our stores provide a wide range of vehicle maintenance, repair, and collision repair services, including warranty work that can be performed only at franchised dealerships and customer-pay service work. Our parts and service departments also provide reconditioning repair work for used vehicles acquired by our used vehicle departments and minor preparatory work for new vehicles acquired by our new vehicle departments. In addition to our retail business, we also have a wholesale parts operation, which sells automotive parts to both collision repair shops and independent vehicle repair providers.

We offer a wide variety of automotive finance and insurance products to our customers. We arrange for our customers to finance vehicles through installment loans or leases with third-party lenders, including the vehicle manufacturers' and distributors' captive finance subsidiaries, in exchange for a commission payable to us. We do not directly finance our customers' vehicle leases or purchases, and our exposure to loss in connection with these financing arrangements generally is limited to the commissions that we receive.

We also offer our customers various vehicle protection products, including extended service contracts, maintenance programs, guaranteed auto protection (known as "GAP," this protection covers the shortfall between a customer's loan balance and insurance payoff in the event of a casualty), "tire and wheel" protection, and theft protection products. These products are underwritten and administered by independent third parties, including the vehicle manufacturers' and distributors' captive finance subsidiaries. We primarily sell the products on a straight commission basis; however, we also participate in future underwriting profit for certain products pursuant to retrospective commission arrangements. See also "Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – Chargeback Reserve" in Part II, Item 7 of this Form 10-K.

Table of Contents

As of December 31, 2012, we operated stores in the following states:

State	Number of Stores	Number of Franchises	% of Total Revenue [1]
Florida	58	67	27
Texas	40	49	21
California	36	42	19
Colorado	17	24	7
Arizona	13	15	5
Nevada	10	11	4
Georgia	10	11	4
Washington	12	19	3
Illinois	5	5	3
Tennessee	7	8	2
Ohio	4	4	1
Minnesota	1	1	1
Virginia	2	2	1
Maryland	4	5	1
Alabama	2	2	1
Total	221	265	100

(1) Revenue by state includes non-store activities, such as collision centers, a customer lead generation business, and an auction operation.

The following table sets forth information regarding new vehicle revenues and retail new vehicle unit sales for the year ended, and the number of franchises owned as of, December 31, 2012:

	New Vehicle Revenues (in millions)	Retail New Vehicle Unit Sales	% of Total Retail New Vehicle Units Sold	Franchises Owned
Domestic:				
Ford, Lincoln	$1,551.6	46,858	17.5	41
Chevrolet, Buick, Cadillac, GMC	938.4	28,876	10.8	44
Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge	329.6	10,213	3.8	26
Domestic Total	2,819.6	85,947	32.1	111
Import:				
Honda	761.2	30,699	11.5	20
Toyota	1,451.1	54,955	20.5	19
Nissan	786.1	29,994	11.2	23
Other imports	524.0	18,290	6.8	37
Import Total	3,522.4	133,938	50.0	99
Premium Luxury:				
Mercedes-Benz	1,210.1	21,680	8.1	24
BMW	698.8	12,762	4.8	11
Lexus	268.6	5,947	2.2	3
Other premium luxury	387.4	7,536	2.8	17
Premium Luxury Total	2,564.9	47,925	17.9	55
	$8,906.9	267,810	100.0	265

Table of Contents

Agreements with Vehicle Manufacturers

Framework Agreements

We have entered into framework agreements with most major vehicle manufacturers and distributors. These agreements, which are in addition to the franchise agreements described below, contain provisions relating to our management, operation, advertising and marketing, and acquisition and ownership structure of automotive stores franchised by such manufacturers. These agreements contain certain requirements pertaining to our operating performance (with respect to matters such as sales volume, sales effectiveness, and customer satisfaction), which, if we do not satisfy, adversely impact our ability to make further acquisitions of such manufacturers' stores or could result in us being compelled to take certain actions, such as divesting a significantly underperforming store, subject to applicable state franchise laws. Additionally, these agreements set limits (nationally, regionally, and in local markets) on the number of stores that we may acquire of the particular manufacturer and contain certain restrictions on our ability to name and brand our stores. Some of these framework agreements give the manufacturer or distributor the right to acquire at fair market value, or the right to compel us to sell, the automotive stores franchised by that manufacturer or distributor under specified circumstances in the event of a change in control of our company (generally including certain material changes in the composition of our Board of Directors during a specified time period, the acquisition of 20% or more of the voting stock of our Company by another vehicle manufacturer or distributor, or the acquisition of 50% or more of our voting stock by a person, entity, or group not affiliated with a vehicle manufacturer or distributor) or other extraordinary corporate transactions such as a merger or sale of all or substantially all of our assets. In addition, we have granted certain manufacturers the right to acquire, at fair market value, our automotive dealerships franchised by such manufacturers in specified circumstances in the event of our default under certain of our debt agreements.

In January 2009, our Board of Directors authorized and approved letter agreements with certain automotive manufacturers in order to, among other things, eliminate any potential adverse consequences under our framework agreements with those manufacturers in the event that ESL Investments, Inc. and certain of its investment affiliates (together, "ESL") acquire 50% or more of our common stock. The letter agreements with American Honda Motor Co., Inc. ("Honda") and Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. ("Toyota") also contain governance-related and other provisions as described below. ESL is also a party to both the Honda and Toyota Agreements. Based on filings made with the SEC through February 13, 2013, ESL beneficially owns approximately 44% of the outstanding shares of our common stock.

Under the terms of the Honda Agreement, Honda has agreed not to assert its right to purchase our Honda and Acura franchises and/or similar remedies under the manufacturer framework agreement between Honda and the Company in the event that ESL acquires 50% or more of our common stock. ESL has agreed to vote all shares in excess of 50% in the same proportion as all non-ESL-owned shares are voted. In addition, we have agreed to ensure that a majority of our Board is independent of both the Company and ESL under existing New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") listing standards for so long as ESL owns more than 50% of our common stock. The Honda Agreement provides that Honda's consent does not apply to a "going private" transaction under Rule 13e-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Under the terms of the Toyota Agreement, Toyota has agreed not to assert its right to purchase our Toyota and Lexus franchises and/or similar remedies under the manufacturer framework agreement between Toyota and the Company in the event that ESL acquires 50% or more of our common stock. ESL has agreed to vote all shares in excess of 50% in the same proportion as all non-ESL-owned shares are voted. Furthermore, we have agreed that a majority of our Board will be independent from both the Company and from ESL under existing NYSE listing standards. We have also agreed not to merge, consolidate, or combine with any entity owned or controlled by ESL unless Toyota consents thereto. In addition, the Toyota Agreement provides that in the event that we appoint a Chief Operating Officer who, in the good faith judgment of our Board, does not have sufficient breadth and depth of experience, a relevant, successful automotive track record, and extensive successful automotive experience, ESL shall be required to divest its shares in excess of 50% within nine (9) months or its voting interest will be limited to 25%, and if ESL does not divest such shares within eighteen (18) months, it will lose all voting rights until it divests such shares. The Toyota Agreement will terminate in the event that ESL's ownership of our common stock falls to 40% or lower. In addition, the Toyota Agreement will terminate on December 31, 2013 with respect to future stock acquisitions by ESL,

provided that ESL may seek successive annual one-year extensions. The description of the Toyota Agreement set forth above reflects all amendments thereto, including the most recent extension dated as of December 12, 2012, which we filed with a Current Report on Form 8-K on December 14, 2012.

Table of Contents

We have also entered into separate letter agreements with certain other manufacturers that eliminate any potential adverse consequences under our framework agreements with those manufacturers in the event that ESL acquires 50% or more of our common stock. ESL is not a party to any of those agreements.

Franchise Agreements

We operate each of our new vehicle stores under a franchise agreement with a vehicle manufacturer or distributor. The franchise agreements grant the franchised automotive store a non-exclusive right to sell the manufacturer's or distributor's brand of vehicles and offer related parts and service within a specified market area. These franchise agreements grant our stores the right to use the relevant manufacturer's or distributor's trademarks in connection with their operations, and they also impose numerous operational requirements and restrictions relating to inventory levels, working capital levels, the sales process, marketing and branding, showroom and service facilities, signage, personnel, changes in management, and monthly financial reporting, among other things. The contractual terms of our stores' franchise agreements provide for various durations, ranging from one year to no expiration date, and in certain cases manufacturers have undertaken to renew such franchises upon expiration so long as the store is in compliance with the terms of the agreement. We generally expect our franchise agreements to survive for the foreseeable future and, when the agreements do not have indefinite terms, anticipate routine renewals of the agreements without substantial cost or modification. Our stores' franchise agreements provide for termination of the agreement by the manufacturer or non-renewal for a variety of causes (including performance deficiencies in such areas as sales volume, sales effectiveness, and customer satisfaction). However, in general, the states in which we operate have automotive dealership franchise laws that provide that, notwithstanding the terms of any franchise agreement, it is unlawful for a manufacturer to terminate or not renew a franchise unless "good cause" exists. It generally is difficult, outside of bankruptcy, for a manufacturer to terminate, or not renew, a franchise under these laws, which were designed to protect dealers. In addition, in our experience and historically in the automotive retail industry, dealership franchise agreements are rarely involuntarily terminated or not renewed by the manufacturer outside of bankruptcy. From time to time, certain manufacturers assert sales and customer satisfaction performance deficiencies under the terms of our framework and franchise agreements. We generally work with these manufacturers to address the asserted performance issues. For additional information, please refer to the risk factor captioned "We are subject to restrictions imposed by, and significant influence from, vehicle manufacturers that may adversely impact our business, financial condition, results of operations, cash flows, and prospects, including our ability to acquire additional stores" in Part I, Item 1A of this Form 10-K.

Regulations

We operate in a highly regulated industry. A number of state and federal laws and regulations affect our business. In every state in which we operate, we must obtain various licenses in order to operate our businesses, including dealer, sales and finance, and insurance licenses issued by state regulatory authorities. Numerous laws and regulations govern our conduct of business, including those relating to our sales, operations, financing, insurance, advertising, and employment practices. These laws and regulations include state franchise laws and regulations, consumer protection laws, privacy laws, escheatment laws, anti-money laundering laws, and other extensive laws and regulations applicable to new and used motor vehicle dealers, as well as a variety of other laws and regulations. These laws also include federal and state wage-hour, anti-discrimination, and other employment practices laws. Furthermore, we expect that new laws and regulations, particularly at the federal level, may be enacted that could also affect our business. See the risk factor "Our operations are subject to extensive governmental laws and regulations. If we are found to be in violation of or subject to liabilities under any of these laws or regulations, or if new laws or regulations are enacted that adversely affect our operations, our business, operating results, and prospects could suffer" in Part I, Item 1A of this Form 10-K.

Automotive and Other Laws and Regulations

Our operations are subject to the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards promulgated by the United States Department of Transportation, and the rules and regulations of various state motor vehicle regulatory agencies. The imported automobiles we purchase are subject to United States customs duties and, in the ordinary course of our business we may, from time to time, be subject to claims for duties, penalties, liquidated damages, or other charges.

Our financing activities with customers are subject to federal truth-in-lending, consumer leasing, and equal credit opportunity laws and regulations as well as state and local motor vehicle finance laws, leasing laws, installment finance laws, usury laws, and other installment sales and leasing laws and regulations, some of which regulate finance and other

Table of Contents

fees and charges that may be imposed or received in connection with motor vehicle retail installment sales and leasing. Claims arising out of actual or alleged violations of law may be asserted against us or our stores by individuals, a class of individuals, or governmental entities and may expose us to significant damages or other penalties, including revocation or suspension of our licenses to conduct store operations and fines.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the “Dodd-Frank Act”), which was signed into law on July 21, 2010, established a new consumer financial protection agency with broad regulatory powers. Although automotive dealers are generally excluded, the Dodd-Frank Act could lead to additional, indirect regulation of automotive dealers through its regulation of automotive finance companies and other financial institutions.

Environmental, Health, and Safety Laws and Regulations

Our operations involve the use, handling, storage, and contracting for recycling and/or disposal of materials such as motor oil and filters, transmission fluids, antifreeze, refrigerants, paints, thinners, batteries, cleaning products, lubricants, degreasing agents, tires, and fuel. Consequently, our business is subject to a complex variety of federal, state, and local requirements that regulate the environment and public health and safety.

Most of our stores utilize aboveground storage tanks, and to a lesser extent underground storage tanks, primarily for petroleum-based products. Storage tanks are subject to periodic testing, containment, upgrading, and removal under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and its state law counterparts. Clean-up or other remedial action may be necessary in the event of leaks or other discharges from storage tanks or other sources. In addition, water quality protection programs under the federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly known as the Clean Water Act), the Safe Drinking Water Act, and comparable state and local programs govern certain discharges from some of our operations. Similarly, certain air emissions from operations, such as auto body painting, may be subject to the federal Clean Air Act and related state and local laws. Certain health and safety standards promulgated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the United States Department of Labor and related state agencies also apply.

Some of our stores are parties to proceedings under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, or CERCLA, typically in connection with materials that were sent to former recycling, treatment, and/or disposal facilities owned and operated by independent businesses. The remediation or clean-up of facilities where the release of a regulated hazardous substance occurred is required under CERCLA and other laws.

We have a proactive strategy related to environmental, health, and safety laws and regulations, which includes contracting with third-party vendors to inspect our facilities periodically in an effort to ensure compliance. We incur significant costs to comply with applicable environmental, health, and safety laws and regulations in the ordinary course of our business. We do not anticipate, however, that the costs of such compliance will have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, cash flows, or financial condition, although such outcome is possible given the nature of our operations and the extensive environmental, health, and safety regulatory framework. We do not have any material known environmental commitments or contingencies.

Competition

We operate in a highly competitive industry. We believe that the principal competitive factors in the automotive retail business are location, service, price, and selection. Each of our markets includes a large number of well-capitalized competitors that have extensive automotive retail managerial experience and strong retail locations and facilities. According to CNW Marketing Research, Inc., the total number of U.S. franchised automotive dealerships was approximately 15,900 and 15,600 at the end of 2012 and 2011, respectively, and the total number of U.S. independent used vehicle dealers was approximately 37,900 and 37,600 at the end of 2012 and 2011, respectively. We face competition from (i) several public companies that operate numerous automotive retail stores on a regional or national basis, including franchised dealers that sell new and used vehicles as well as non-franchised dealers that sell only used vehicles, (ii) private companies that operate automotive retail stores in our markets, and (iii) online marketplaces. We compete with dealers that sell the same vehicle brands that we sell, as well as those that sell other vehicle brands that we do not represent in a particular market. Our new vehicle store competitors have franchise agreements with the various vehicle manufacturers and, as such, generally have access to new vehicles on the same terms as we have. We also compete with other dealers for qualified employees, particularly for general managers and sales and service personnel.

7

Table of Contents

In general, the vehicle manufacturers have designated marketing and sales areas within which only one franchised dealer of a given vehicle brand may operate. Under most of our framework agreements with the vehicle manufacturers, our ability to acquire multiple dealers of a given vehicle brand within a particular market is limited. We are also restricted by various state franchise laws from relocating our stores or establishing new stores of a particular vehicle brand within any area that is served by another dealer of the same vehicle brand, and we generally need the manufacturer to approve the relocation or grant a new franchise in order to relocate or establish a store. However, to the extent that a market has multiple dealers of a particular vehicle brand, as most of our key markets do with respect to most vehicle brands we sell, we face significant intra-brand competition.

We also compete with independent automobile service shops and service center chains. We believe that the principal competitive factors in the parts and service business are price, location, the use of factory-approved replacement parts, expertise with the particular vehicle lines, and customer service. We also compete with a broad range of financial institutions in our finance and insurance business. We believe that the principal competitive factors in the finance and insurance business are product selection, convenience, price, contract terms, and the ability to finance vehicle protection and aftermarket products.

Insurance and Bonding

Our business exposes us to the risk of liabilities arising out of our operations. For example, liabilities may arise out of claims of employees, customers, or other third parties for personal injury or property damage occurring in the course of our operations. We could also be subject to fines and civil and criminal penalties in connection with alleged violations of federal and state laws or regulatory requirements.

The automotive retail business is also subject to substantial risk of property loss due to the significant concentration of property values at store locations. In our case in particular, our operations are concentrated in states and regions in which natural disasters and severe weather events (such as hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, landslides, and hail storms) may subject us to substantial risk of property loss and operational disruption. Under self-insurance programs, we retain various levels of aggregate loss limits, per claim deductibles, and claims-handling expenses as part of our various insurance programs, including property and casualty, workers' compensation, and employee medical benefits. Costs in excess of this retained risk per claim may be insured under various contracts with third-party insurance carriers. We estimate the ultimate costs of these retained insurance risks based on actuarial evaluation and historical claims experience, adjusted for current trends and changes in claims-handling procedures. The level of risk we retain may change in the future as insurance market conditions or other factors affecting the economics of our insurance purchasing change. Although we have, subject to certain limitations and exclusions, substantial insurance, we cannot assure you that we will not be exposed to uninsured or underinsured losses that could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows.

Provisions for retained losses and deductibles are made by charges to expense based upon periodic evaluations of the estimated ultimate liabilities on reported and unreported claims. The insurance companies that underwrite our insurance require that we secure certain of our obligations for deductible reimbursements with collateral. Our collateral requirements are set by the insurance companies and, to date, have been satisfied by posting surety bonds, letters of credit, and/or cash deposits. Our collateral requirements may change from time to time based on, among other things, our claims experience.

Employees

As of December 31, 2012, we employed approximately 21,000 full-time and part-time employees, approximately 200 of whom were covered by collective bargaining agreements. We believe that we have good relations with our employees.

Seasonality

Our operations generally experience higher volumes of vehicle sales and service in the second and third quarters of each year due in part to consumer buying trends and the introduction of new vehicle models. Also, demand for vehicles and light trucks is generally lower during the winter months than in other seasons, particularly in regions of the United States where stores may be subject to adverse winter conditions. Accordingly, we expect our revenue and operating results generally to be lower in the first and fourth quarters as compared to the second and third quarters. However, revenue may be impacted significantly from quarter to quarter by changing economic conditions, vehicle

manufacturer incentive programs, and actual or threatened severe weather events.

Table of Contents

Trademarks

We own a number of registered service marks and trademarks, including, among other marks, AutoNation®. Pursuant to agreements with vehicle manufacturers, we have the right to use and display manufacturers' trademarks, logos, and designs at our stores and in our advertising and promotional materials, subject to certain restrictions. We also have licenses pursuant to various agreements with third parties authorizing the use and display of the marks and/or logos of such third parties, subject to certain restrictions. The current registrations of our service marks and trademarks are effective for varying periods of time, which we may renew periodically, provided that we comply with all applicable laws.

Executive Officers of AutoNation

The following sets forth certain information regarding our executive officers as of February 13, 2013. Amounts reported under "Number of Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned" include shares subject to stock options that become exercisable within 60 days of February 13, 2013.

Name	Age	Position	Years with AutoNation	Years in Automotive Industry	Number of Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned
Mike Jackson	64	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer	13	42	1,140,136
Michael E. Maroone	59	Director, President and Chief Operating Officer	16	38	3,476,487
Michael J. Short	51	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	6	6	384,713
Jonathan P. Ferrando	47	Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary	16	16	396,081
Alan J. McLaren	46	Senior Vice President, Customer Care	1	29	4,036

Mike Jackson has served as our Chairman of the Board since January 2003, and as our Chief Executive Officer and Director since September 1999. From October 1998 until September 1999, Mr. Jackson served as Chief Executive Officer of Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC, a North American operating unit of DaimlerChrysler AG, a multinational automotive manufacturing company. From April 1997 until September 1999, Mr. Jackson also served as President of Mercedes-Benz USA. From July 1990 until March 1997, Mr. Jackson served in various capacities at Mercedes-Benz USA, including as Executive Vice President immediately prior to his appointment as President of Mercedes-Benz USA. Mr. Jackson was also the managing partner from March 1979 to July 1990 of Euro Motorcars of Bethesda, Maryland, a regional group that owned and operated eleven automotive dealership franchises, including Mercedes-Benz and other brands of automobiles. In January 2011, Mr. Jackson was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's Miami Branch.

Michael E. Maroone has served as a director since July 2005 and as our President and Chief Operating Officer since August 1999. Following our acquisition of the Maroone Automotive Group in January 1997, Mr. Maroone served as President of our New Vehicle Dealer Division. In January 1998, Mr. Maroone was named President of our Automotive Retail Group with responsibility for our new and used vehicle operations. Prior to joining AutoNation, Mr. Maroone was President and Chief Executive Officer of the Maroone Automotive Group, one of the country's largest privately-held automotive retail groups prior to its acquisition by us.

Michael J. Short has served as our Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since January 2007. From 2000 to January 2007, Mr. Short served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Universal City Development Partners, Ltd. (dba Universal Orlando) ("Universal Orlando"). From 2005 until January 2007, he also served as Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer of Universal City Florida Holding Co. I, the limited partner of Universal Orlando, and Universal City Florida Holding Co. II, the general partner of Universal Orlando. From 1991 to 2000, Mr. Short held various finance positions at Universal Orlando, Joseph E. Seagram & Sons, Inc., and IBM

Corporation. Prior to that, he was a helicopter pilot and tactics instructor for the United States Navy, based out of Norfolk, Virginia.

Table of Contents

Jonathan P. Ferrando has served as our Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary since March 2005. Prior thereto, he served as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary from January 2000 until March 2005. In addition to his role as General Counsel, in September 2004, Mr. Ferrando assumed responsibility for our human resources and labor relations functions, and in March 2011, he assumed responsibility for our corporate development function. Mr. Ferrando joined our Company in July 1996 and served in various capacities within our Company, including as Senior Vice President and General Counsel of our Automotive Retail Group from March 1998 until January 2000. Prior to joining our company, Mr. Ferrando was a corporate attorney with Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom from 1991 until 1996.

Alan J. McLaren has served as our Senior Vice President, Customer Care, with responsibility for corporate initiatives in the area of parts and service, since January 2012. From February 2007 until December 2011, he was a senior executive with Mercedes-Benz USA, where he served as Vice President, Customer Services and President of Mercedes-Benz Manhattan. From June 2001 until February 2007, he was a senior executive with DaimlerChrysler Australia/Pacific.

Available Information

Our website is located at www.autonation.com, and our Investor Relations website is located at investors.autonation.com. The information on or accessible through our websites is not incorporated by reference in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. Our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to reports filed or furnished pursuant to Sections 13(a) and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, are available, free of charge, on our Investor Relations website as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC").

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Our business, financial condition, results of operations, cash flows, and prospects, and the prevailing market price and performance of our common stock may be adversely affected by a number of factors, including the matters discussed below. Certain statements and information set forth in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, including without limitation statements regarding our expectations for the automotive retail industry and the Company, as well as other written or oral statements made from time to time by us or by our authorized executive officers on our behalf, constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. All statements other than statements of historical fact, including statements that describe our objectives, plans, or goals, are, or may be deemed to be, forward-looking statements. Words such as "anticipate," "expect," "intend," "goal," "plan," "believe," "continue," "may," "will," and variations words and similar expressions are intended to identify such forward-looking statements. Our forward-looking statements reflect our current expectations concerning future results and events, and they involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors that are difficult to predict and may cause our actual results, performance, or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance, or achievements expressed or implied by these statements. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this report or when made, and we undertake no obligation to revise or update these statements to reflect subsequent events or circumstances. The risks, uncertainties, and other factors that our stockholders and prospective investors should consider include the following:

The automotive retail industry is sensitive to changing economic conditions and various other factors. Our business and results of operations are substantially dependent on new vehicle sales levels in the United States and in our particular geographic markets and the level of gross profit margins that we can achieve on our sales of new vehicles, all of which are very difficult to predict.

We believe that many factors affect sales of new vehicles and automotive retailers' gross profit margins in the United States and in our particular geographic markets, including the economy, fuel prices, credit availability, interest rates, consumer confidence, the level of personal discretionary spending, unemployment rates, the state of housing markets, auto emission and fuel economy standards, the rate of inflation, currency exchange rates, the level of manufacturers' production capacity, manufacturer incentives (and consumers' reaction to such offers), intense industry competition, the prospects of war, other international conflicts or terrorist attacks, severe weather events, product quality,

affordability and innovation, the number of consumers whose vehicle leases are expiring, and the length of consumer loans on existing vehicles. Changes in interest rates can significantly impact industry new vehicle sales and vehicle affordability due to the direct relationship between interest rates and monthly loan payments, a critical factor for many vehicle buyers, and the impact interest rates have on customers' borrowing capacity and disposable income. Sales of certain new vehicles, particularly larger trucks and sport utility vehicles that historically have provided us with higher gross margins, are sensitive to fuel

prices and the level of construction activity. In addition, volatility in fuel prices can cause rapid shifts in consumer preferences which are difficult to accommodate given the long lead-time of inventory acquisition. In recent years, new vehicle sales have been impacted by unfavorable economic conditions in the United States, including low economic growth, high unemployment, and a decline in wealth resulting from depressed housing and equity markets, and the annual rate of new vehicle sales has remained below pre-recession levels.

Approximately 14.5 million, 12.7 million, and 11.5 million new vehicles were sold in the United States in 2012, 2011, and 2010, respectively. While we expect that the annual rate of U.S. new vehicle unit sales will improve in 2013 as compared to 2012, there can be no assurance that it will. Further, our performance may differ from the performance of the automotive retail industry due to particular economic conditions and other factors in the geographic markets in which we operate. Economic conditions and the other factors described above may also materially adversely impact our sales of used vehicles, parts and automotive repair and maintenance services, and automotive finance and insurance products.

Our results of operations and financial condition have been and could continue to be adversely affected by the unfavorable economic conditions in the United States and/or Europe.

The unfavorable economic conditions that have affected the United States for the past few years, including low economic growth, high unemployment, and the decline in wealth resulting from depressed housing and equity markets, have adversely impacted the automotive retail market. Concerns over sovereign debt levels in the United States and/or the failure by Congress and the President of the United States to address federal deficits and rising debt levels or to raise the debt ceiling, and the possible negative implications to banks and the global economy arising out of the European debt crisis, could adversely impact the U.S. economy, credit availability, consumer confidence, and demand for new and used vehicles. Continuing or worsened unfavorable economic conditions in the United States or elsewhere could continue to adversely impact our business and results of operations.

If we are not able to maintain and enhance our retail brands and reputation, or if events occur that damage our retail brands and reputation, our business and financial results may be harmed.

We believe that we have built an excellent reputation as an automotive retailer in the United States. On January 31, 2013, we announced that we will begin marketing our Domestic and Import stores under the AutoNation retail brand. The re-branding of these stores, which previously operated under various local market retail brands, will take place throughout the first half of 2013. Our Premium Luxury stores will continue to operate under their existing retail brands. We believe that our continued success will depend on our ability to maintain and enhance the value of our retail brands across all of our sales channels. An isolated business incident at a single store could adversely affect our retail brands and reputation, particularly if such incident results in adverse publicity, governmental investigations, or litigation. The growing use of social and digital media by consumers increases the speed and extent that information and opinions can be shared, and negative posts or comments on social media platforms about AutoNation or any of our stores could materially damage our retail brands and reputation. All of our stores could be adversely affected if we fail to preserve the value of our retail brands or to maintain our reputation.

We will be investing substantial resources in marketing activities in order to extend and enhance the AutoNation retail brand. There can be no assurances that our marketing strategies will be successful or that the amount we invest in marketing activities will result in improved sales. If our marketing initiatives are not successful, we will have incurred significant expenses without the benefit of higher revenues.

Our debt agreements contain certain financial ratios and other restrictions on our ability to conduct our business, and our substantial indebtedness could adversely affect our financial condition and operations and prevent us from fulfilling our debt service obligations.

The credit agreement governing our term loan and revolving credit facilities, our mortgage facility, and the indentures relating to our 6.75% Senior Notes due 2018 and 5.5% Senior Notes due 2020 contain covenants that limit the discretion of our management with respect to various business matters. These covenants place restrictions on, among other things, our ability to incur additional indebtedness, to create liens or other encumbrances, and to sell or otherwise dispose of assets and to merge or consolidate with other entities. A failure by us to comply with the obligations contained in any of our debt agreements could result in an event of default, which could permit acceleration of the related debt as well as acceleration of debt under other debt agreements that contain

cross-acceleration or cross-default provisions. If any debt is accelerated, our liquid assets may not be sufficient to repay in full such indebtedness and our other indebtedness. Additionally, we have

Table of Contents

granted certain manufacturers the right to acquire, at fair market value, our automotive stores franchised by those manufacturers in specified circumstances in the event of our default under our debt agreements.

Under our credit agreement, we are required to remain in compliance with a maximum leverage ratio and a maximum capitalization ratio. See "Liquidity and Capital Resources — Restrictions and Covenants" in Part II, Item 7 of this Form 10-K. If our earnings decline, we may be unable to comply with the financial ratios required by our credit agreement. In such case, we would seek an amendment or waiver of our credit agreement or consider other options, such as raising capital through an equity issuance to pay down debt, which could be dilutive to stockholders. There can be no assurance that our lenders would agree to an amendment or waiver of our credit agreement. In the event we obtain an amendment or waiver of our credit agreement, we would likely incur additional fees and higher interest expense.

As of December 31, 2012, we had approximately $2.1 billion of total indebtedness (including amounts outstanding under our mortgage facility and capital leases but excluding floorplan financing), and our subsidiaries also had $2.5 billion of floorplan financing. Our substantial indebtedness could have important consequences. For example:

- We may have difficulty satisfying our debt service obligations and, if we fail to comply with these requirements, an event of default could result;
- We may be required to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to make required payments on indebtedness, thereby reducing the availability of cash flow for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions, and other general corporate activities;
- Covenants relating to our indebtedness may limit our ability to obtain financing for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions, and other general corporate activities;
- Covenants relating to our indebtedness may limit our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business and the industry in which we operate;
- We may be more vulnerable to the impact of economic downturns and adverse developments in our business;
- We may be placed at a competitive disadvantage against any less leveraged competitors;
- Our variable interest rate debt will fluctuate with changing market conditions and, accordingly, our interest expense will increase if interest rates rise; and
- Future share repurchases may be limited by the maximum leverage ratio described above.

The occurrence of any one of these events could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, prospects, and ability to satisfy our debt service obligations.

We are dependent upon the success and continued financial viability of the vehicle manufacturers and distributors with which we hold franchises.

The success of our stores is dependent on vehicle manufacturers in several key respects. First, we rely exclusively on the various vehicle manufacturers for our new vehicle inventory. Our ability to sell new vehicles is dependent on a vehicle manufacturer's ability to produce and allocate to our stores an attractive, high-quality, and desirable product mix at the right time in order to satisfy customer demand. Second, manufacturers generally support their franchisees by providing direct financial assistance in various areas, including, among others, floorplan assistance and advertising assistance. Third, manufacturers provide product warranties and, in some cases, service contracts to customers. Our stores perform warranty and service contract work for vehicles under manufacturer product warranties and service contracts, and direct bill the manufacturer as opposed to invoicing the store customer. At any particular time, we have significant receivables from manufacturers for warranty and service work performed for customers. In addition, we rely on manufacturers to varying extents for original equipment manufactured replacement parts, training, product brochures and point of sale materials, and other items for our stores. Our business, results of operations, and financial condition could be materially adversely affected as a result of any event that has a material adverse effect on the vehicle manufacturers or distributors that are our primary franchisors.

Vehicle manufacturers may be adversely impacted by economic downturns or recessions, significant declines in the sales of their new vehicles, natural disasters, increases in interest rates, adverse fluctuations in currency exchange rates,

Table of Contents

declines in their credit ratings, labor strikes or similar disruptions (including within their major suppliers), supply shortages or rising raw material costs, rising employee benefit costs, adverse publicity that may reduce consumer demand for their products (including due to bankruptcy), product defects, vehicle recall campaigns, litigation, poor product mix or unappealing vehicle design, governmental laws and regulations, import product restrictions, or other adverse events.

Vehicle manufacturers are subject to federal fuel economy requirements, which will increase substantially as a result of a new national program being implemented by the U.S. government to regulate greenhouse gases and fuel economy standards. These new requirements could materially adversely affect the ability of manufacturers to produce, and our ability to sell, vehicles in demand by consumers at affordable prices, which could materially adversely impact our business. These and other risks could materially adversely affect any manufacturer and impact its ability to profitably design, market, produce, or distribute new vehicles, which in turn could materially adversely affect our ability to obtain or finance our desired new vehicle inventories, our ability to take advantage of manufacturer financial assistance programs, our ability to collect in full or on a timely basis our manufacturer warranty and other receivables, and/or our ability to obtain other goods and services provided by the impacted manufacturer.

The core brands of vehicles that we sell are manufactured by Toyota, Ford, Honda, Nissan, General Motors, Mercedes-Benz, BMW, Chrysler, and Volkswagen. These manufacturers have been adversely impacted by the unfavorable economic conditions that have affected the United States and elsewhere for the past few years. In the second quarter of 2009, each of Chrysler and General Motors filed voluntary petitions for relief under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code.

Our business could be materially adversely impacted by another bankruptcy of a major vehicle manufacturer or related lender. For example, (i) a manufacturer in bankruptcy could attempt to terminate all or certain of our franchises, in which case we may not receive adequate compensation for our franchises, (ii) consumer demand for such manufacturer’s products could be materially adversely affected, (iii) a lender in bankruptcy could attempt to terminate our floorplan financing and demand repayment of any amounts outstanding, (iv) we may be unable to arrange financing for our customers for their vehicle purchases and leases through such lender, in which case we would be required to seek financing with alternate financing sources, which may be difficult to obtain on similar terms, if at all, (v) we may be unable to collect some or all of our significant receivables that are due from such manufacturer or lender, and we may be subject to preference claims relating to payments made by such manufacturer or lender prior to bankruptcy, and (vi) such manufacturer may be relieved of its indemnification obligations with respect to product liability claims. Additionally, any such bankruptcy may result in us being required to incur impairment charges with respect to the inventory, fixed assets, and intangible assets related to certain franchises, which could adversely impact our results of operations, financial condition, and our ability to remain in compliance with the financial ratios contained in our debt agreements. Tens of billions of dollars of U.S. government support were provided to Chrysler, General Motors, and Ally Financial (formerly known as GMAC), and we believe that this support mitigated the potential adverse impacts to us resulting from the Chrysler and General Motors bankruptcies. There can be no assurance that U.S. government support will be provided to the same extent or at all in the event of another bankruptcy of a major vehicle manufacturer or related lender. As a result, the potential adverse impact on our financial condition and results of operations could be relatively worse in a manufacturer or related lender bankruptcy which is not financially supported by the U.S. government.

Goodwill and other intangible assets comprise a significant portion of our total assets. We must test our goodwill and other intangible assets for impairment at least annually, which could result in a material, non-cash write-down of goodwill or franchise rights and could have a material adverse impact on our results of operations and shareholders’ equity.

Goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets are subject to impairment assessments at least annually (or more frequently when events or changes in circumstances indicate that an impairment may have occurred) by applying a fair-value based test. See “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – Goodwill” and “Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates – Other Intangible Assets” in Part II, Item 7 of this Form 10-K for additional information regarding our impairment testing. Our principal intangible assets are goodwill and our rights under our franchise agreements with vehicle manufacturers. An impairment loss could have a material adverse impact on our results of operations and

shareholders' equity.

Our new vehicle sales are impacted by the consumer incentive and marketing programs of vehicle manufacturers. Most vehicle manufacturers from time to time establish various incentive and marketing programs designed to spur consumer demand for their vehicles. These programs impact our operations, particularly our sales of new vehicles. Since

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these programs are often not announced in advance, they can be difficult to plan for when ordering inventory. Additionally, manufacturers may modify and discontinue these incentive and marketing programs from time to time, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and cash flows.

Natural disasters and adverse weather events can disrupt our business.

Our stores are concentrated in states and regions in the United States, including primarily Florida, Texas, and California, in which actual or threatened natural disasters and severe weather events (such as hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, landslides, and hail storms) may disrupt our store operations, which may adversely impact our business, results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows. In addition to business interruption, the automotive retail business is subject to substantial risk of property loss due to the significant concentration of property values at store locations. Although we have, subject to certain deductibles, limitations, and exclusions, substantial insurance, we cannot assure you that we will not be exposed to uninsured or underinsured losses that could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows.

In addition, natural disasters may adversely impact new vehicle production and the global automotive supply chain. In 2011, the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan and the flooding in Thailand caused significant production and supply chain disruptions that resulted in significantly reduced new vehicle production and lower new vehicle shipments by Japanese manufacturers. These disruptions also impacted non-Japanese manufacturers that rely on components produced in Japan and/or Thailand. In 2011, our unit sales of new vehicles were adversely impacted by these disruptions.

We are subject to restrictions imposed by, and significant influence from, vehicle manufacturers that may adversely impact our business, financial condition, results of operations, cash flows, and prospects, including our ability to acquire additional stores.

Vehicle manufacturers and distributors with whom we hold franchises have significant influence over the operations of our stores. The terms and conditions of our framework, franchise, and related agreements and the manufacturers' interests and objectives may, in certain circumstances, conflict with our interests and objectives. For example, manufacturers can set performance standards with respect to sales volume, sales effectiveness, and customer satisfaction, and can influence our ability to acquire additional stores, the naming and marketing of our stores, the operations of our e-commerce sites, our selection of store management, product stocking and advertising spending levels, and the level at which we capitalize our stores. Manufacturers also impose minimum facility requirements that can require significant capital expenditures. Manufacturers may also have certain rights to restrict our ability to provide guaranties of our operating companies, pledges of the capital stock of our subsidiaries, and liens on our assets, which could adversely impact our ability to obtain financing for our business and operations on favorable terms or at desired levels. From time to time, we are precluded under agreements with certain manufacturers from acquiring additional franchises, or subject to other adverse actions, to the extent we are not meeting certain performance criteria at our existing stores (with respect to matters such as sales volume, sales effectiveness, and customer satisfaction) until our performance improves in accordance with the agreements, subject to applicable state franchise laws. Manufacturers also have the right to establish new franchises or relocate existing franchises, subject to applicable state franchise laws. The establishment or relocation of franchises in our markets could have a material adverse effect on the financial condition, results of operations, cash flows, and prospects of our stores in the market in which the franchise action is taken.

Our framework, franchise, and related agreements also grant the manufacturer the right to terminate or compel us to sell our franchise for a variety of reasons (including uncured performance deficiencies, any unapproved change of ownership or management, or any unapproved transfer of franchise rights or impairment of financial standing or failure to meet capital requirements), subject to applicable state franchise laws. From time to time, certain major manufacturers assert sales and customer satisfaction performance deficiencies under the terms of our framework and franchise agreements. Additionally, our framework agreements contain restrictions regarding a change in control, which may be outside of our control. See "Agreements with Vehicle Manufacturers" in Part I, Item 1 of this Form 10-K.

While we believe that we will be able to renew all of our franchise agreements, we cannot guarantee that all of our franchise agreements will be renewed or that the terms of the renewals will be favorable to us. We cannot assure you that our stores will be able to comply with manufacturers' sales, customer satisfaction performance, facility and other

requirements in the future, which may affect our ability to acquire new stores or renew our franchise agreements, or subject us to other adverse actions, including termination or compelled sale of a franchise, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition,

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Table of Contents

results of operations, cash flows, and prospects. Furthermore, we rely on the protection of state franchise laws in the states in which we operate and if those laws are repealed or weakened, our framework, franchise, and related agreements may become more susceptible to termination, non-renewal, or renegotiation.

In addition, we have granted certain manufacturers the right to acquire, at fair market value, our automotive dealerships franchised by that manufacturer in specified circumstances in the event of our default under certain of our debt agreements.

We are subject to numerous legal and administrative proceedings, which, if the outcomes are adverse to us, could materially adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition, cash flows, and prospects.

We are involved and will continue to be involved in numerous legal proceedings arising out of the conduct of our business, including litigation with customers, employment-related lawsuits, class actions, purported class actions, and actions brought by governmental authorities. We do not believe that the ultimate resolution of these matters will have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition, or cash flows. However, the results of these matters cannot be predicted with certainty, and an unfavorable resolution of one or more of these matters could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition, cash flow, and prospects.

Our operations are subject to extensive governmental laws and regulations. If we are found to be in violation of or subject to liabilities under any of these laws or regulations, or if new laws or regulations are enacted that adversely affect our operations, our business, operating results, and prospects could suffer.

The automotive retail industry, including our facilities and operations, is subject to a wide range of federal, state, and local laws and regulations, such as those relating to motor vehicle sales, retail installment sales, leasing, sales of finance, insurance, and vehicle protection products, licensing, consumer protection, consumer privacy, escheatment, anti-money laundering, environmental, vehicle emissions and fuel economy, health and safety, wage-hour, anti-discrimination, and other employment practices. With respect to motor vehicle sales, retail installment sales, leasing, and the sale of finance, insurance, and vehicle protection products at our stores, we are subject to various laws and regulations, the violation of which could subject us to consumer class action or other lawsuits or governmental investigations and adverse publicity, in addition to administrative, civil, or criminal sanctions. The violation of other laws and regulations to which we are subject also can result in administrative, civil, or criminal sanctions against us, which may include a cease and desist order against the subject operations or even revocation or suspension of our license to operate the subject business, as well as significant fines and penalties. We currently devote significant resources to comply with applicable federal, state, and local regulation of health, safety, environmental, zoning, and land use regulations, and we may need to spend additional time, effort, and money to keep our operations and existing or acquired facilities in compliance therewith. In addition, we may be subject to broad liabilities arising out of contamination at our currently and formerly owned or operated facilities, at locations to which hazardous substances were transported from such facilities, and at such locations related to entities formerly affiliated with us. Although for some such liabilities we believe we are entitled to indemnification from other entities, we cannot assure you that such entities will view their obligations as we do or will be able to satisfy them. Failure to comply with applicable laws and regulations may have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition, cash flows, and prospects.

The Dodd-Frank Act, which was signed into law on July 21, 2010, established a new consumer financial protection agency with broad regulatory powers. Although automotive dealers are generally excluded, the Dodd-Frank Act could lead to additional, indirect regulation of automotive dealers through its regulation of automotive finance companies and other financial institutions. In addition, we expect that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which was signed into law on March 23, 2010, will increase our annual employee health care costs that we fund, with the most significant increases commencing in 2014, and significantly increase our cost of compliance and compliance risk related to offering health care benefits.

Furthermore, we expect that new laws and regulations, particularly at the federal level, in other areas may be enacted, which could also materially adversely impact our business. The labor policy of the current administration could lead to increased unionization efforts, which could lead to higher labor costs, disrupt our store operations, and reduce our profitability.

15

Table of Contents

We are subject to interest rate risk in connection with our vehicle floorplan payables, revolving credit facility, and term loan facility that could have a material adverse effect on our profitability.
Most of our debt, including our vehicle floorplan payable, is subject to variable interest rates. Our variable interest rate debt will fluctuate with changing market conditions and, accordingly, our interest expense will increase if interest rates rise. In addition, our net inventory carrying cost (new vehicle floorplan interest expense net of floorplan assistance that we receive from automotive manufacturers) may increase due to changes in interest rates, inventory levels, and manufacturer assistance. We cannot assure you that a significant increase in interest rates would not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows.
Our largest stockholders, as a result of their ownership stakes in us, have the ability to exert substantial influence over actions to be taken or approved by our stockholders or Board of Directors. In addition, future share repurchases and flutuations in the levels of ownership of our largest stockholders could impact the volume of trading, liquidity, and market price of our common stock.
Based on filings made with the SEC through February 13, 2013, ESL Investments, Inc. together with certain of its investment affiliates (collectively, "ESL") beneficially owns approximately 44% of the outstanding shares of our common stock. As a result, ESL has the ability to exert substantial influence over actions to be taken or approved by our stockholders, including the election of directors and any transactions involving a change of control.
Based on filings made with the SEC through February 13, 2013, Cascade Investment, L.L.C. ("Cascade"), which is solely owned by William H. Gates III, beneficially owns approximately 13% of the outstanding shares of our common stock, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Trust (the "Trust"), of which William H. Gates III is a co-trustee, beneficially owns approximately 2% of the outstanding shares of our common stock. As a result, Cascade and the Trust may have the ability to exert substantial influence over actions to be taken or approved by our stockholders. In addition, Michael Larson, the chief investment officer for William H. Gates III and Business Manager for Cascade, is one of our directors. Cascade and the Trust, therefore, may also have the ability to exert substantial influence over actions to be taken or approved by our Board.
In the future, our largest stockholders may acquire or dispose of shares of our common stock and thereby increase or decrease their ownership stake in us. Based on public filings made with the SEC, in the fourth quarter of 2012, ESL disposed of approximately 13.5 million shares of our common stock. Significant fluctuations in the levels of ownership of our largest stockholders could impact the volume of trading, liquidity, and market price of our common stock.
In the aggregate, based on filings made with the SEC through February 13, 2013, ESL, Cascade, the Trust, our executive officers, and our directors beneficially own approximately 62% of our outstanding shares. Future share repurchases by the Company, together with any future share purchases by our affiliates, will reduce our "public float" (shares owned by non-affiliate stockholders and available for trading). Such reduction in our public float could decrease the volume of trading and liquidity of our common stock, could lead to increased volatility in the market price of our common stock, or could adversely impact the market price of our common stock.
A failure of our information systems or any security breach or unauthorized disclosure of confidential information could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Our business is dependent upon the efficient operation of our information systems. In particular, we rely on our information systems to effectively manage our pricing strategy and tools, sales, inventory, and service efforts, the preparation of our consolidated financial and operating data, consumer financing, and customer information. The failure of our information systems to perform as designed or the failure to maintain and enhance or protect the integrity of these systems could disrupt our business operations, impact sales and results of operations, expose us to customer or third-party claims, or result in adverse publicity. Additionally, we collect, process, and retain sensitive and confidential customer information in the normal course of our business. Despite the security measures we have in place and any additional measures we may implement in the future, our facilities and systems, and those of our third-party service providers, could be vulnerable to security breaches, computer viruses, lost or misplaced data, programming errors, human errors, acts of vandalism, or other events. Any security breach or event resulting in the misappropriation, loss, or other unauthorized disclosure of confidential information, whether by us directly or our

third-party service providers, could damage our reputation, expose us to the risks of litigation and liability, disrupt our business, or otherwise affect our results of operations.

Table of Contents

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

We lease our current corporate headquarters facility in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, pursuant to a lease expiring on December 31, 2020. As of February 2013, we also own or lease numerous facilities relating to our operations under each of our operating segments. These facilities are located in the following 15 states: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. These facilities consist primarily of automobile showrooms, display lots, service facilities, collision repair centers, supply facilities, automobile storage lots, parking lots, and offices. We believe that our facilities are sufficient for our current needs and are in good condition in all material respects.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

We are involved and will continue to be involved in numerous legal proceedings arising out of the conduct of our business, including litigation with customers, employment-related lawsuits, class actions, purported class actions, and actions brought by governmental authorities. We do not believe that the ultimate resolution of these matters will have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition, or cash flows. However, the results of these matters cannot be predicted with certainty, and an unfavorable resolution of one or more of these matters could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition, cash flow, and prospects.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

Table of Contents

PART II

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

Market Information, Holders, and Dividends

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "AN." The following table sets forth the high and low sales prices of our common stock for the periods indicated.

	High	Low
2012		
Fourth Quarter	$48.56	$38.28
Third Quarter	$43.79	$35.44
Second Quarter	$37.77	$31.57
First Quarter	$38.27	$31.91
2011		
Fourth Quarter	$41.51	$30.46
Third Quarter	$41.55	$32.18
Second Quarter	$37.30	$31.07
First Quarter	$36.07	$27.32

As of February 11, 2013, there were approximately 1,932 holders of record of our common stock. A substantially greater number of holders of our common stock are "street name" or beneficial holders, whose shares are held of record by banks, brokers, and other financial institutions.

We have not declared or paid any cash dividends on our common stock during our two most recent fiscal years. We do not currently anticipate paying cash dividends for the foreseeable future.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

The table below sets forth information with respect to shares of common stock repurchased by AutoNation, Inc. during 2012.

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid Per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs [1]	Approximate Dollar Value of Shares That May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs (in millions) [1]
October 1, 2012 – October 31, 2012	—	$—	—	$368.2
November 1, 2012 – November 30, 2012	1,323	$39.86	—	$368.2
December 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012	1,250,000	$39.21	1,250,000	$319.2
Total for three months ended December 31, 2012	1,251,323		1,250,000	
Total for twelve months ended December 31, 2012	16,722,690		16,640,973	

[1] Our Board of Directors from time to time authorizes the repurchase of shares of our common stock up to a certain monetary limit. As of December 31, 2012, $319.2 million remained available under our stock repurchase authorization limit. Our stock repurchase program does not have an expiration date. In 2012, all of our shares were repurchased under our stock repurchase program, except for 81,717 shares that were surrendered to AutoNation to

satisfy tax withholding obligations in connection with the vesting of restricted stock or pay for an option exercise (8,632 shares in the first quarter of 2012, 28,303 shares in the second quarter of 2012, 43,459 shares in the third quarter of 2012, and 1,323 shares in the fourth quarter 2012).

Table of Contents

Stock Performance Graph

The following graph and table compare the cumulative total stockholder return on our common stock from December 31, 2007 through December 31, 2012 with the performance of: (i) the Standard & Poor's ("S&P") 500 Index and (ii) a self-constructed peer group consisting of other public companies in the automotive retail market, referred to as the "Public Auto Retail Peer Group." The Public Auto Retail Peer Group consists of Asbury Automotive Group, Inc., CarMax, Inc., Group 1 Automotive, Inc., Lithia Motors, Inc., Penske Automotive Group, Inc., and Sonic Automotive, Inc., and these companies are weighted by market capitalization. We have created these comparisons using data supplied by Research Data Group, Inc. The comparisons reflected in the graph and table are not intended to forecast the future performance of our stock and may not be indicative of future performance. The graph and table assume that $100 was invested on December 31, 2007 in each of our common stock, the S&P 500 Index, and the Public Auto Retail Peer Group and that any dividends were reinvested.

Comparison of Five-Year Cumulative Return for AutoNation, Inc.,
the S&P 500 Index, and the Public Auto Retail Peer Group

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	12/07	12/08	12/09	12/10	12/11	12/12
AutoNation Inc.	100.00	63.09	122.29	180.08	235.44	253.51
S&P 500	100.00	63.00	79.67	91.67	93.61	108.59
Public Auto Retail Peer Group	100.00	38.73	105.64	139.53	145.42	193.31

Table of Contents

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

You should read the following Selected Financial Data in conjunction with "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," our Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes thereto, and other financial information included elsewhere in this Form 10-K.

	As of and for the Years Ended December 31,				
(In millions, except per share data and unit sales)	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Consolidated Statements of Income Data:					
Revenue	$15,668.8	$13,832.3	$12,461.0	$10,666.0	$13,238.7
Operating income (loss) less floorplan interest expense [(1)] [(2)]	$599.8	$529.3	$454.1	$372.3	$(1,360.9)
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes[(2)]	$516.8	$461.3	$381.3	$349.2	$(1,401.5)
Net income (loss)[(2)]	$316.4	$281.4	$226.6	$198.0	$(1,243.1)
Basic earnings (loss) per share:					
Continuing operations[(2)]	$2.56	$1.96	$1.50	$1.32	$(6.82)
Discontinued operations[(2)]	$(0.01)	$(0.02)	$(0.06)	$(0.20)	$(0.17)
Net income (loss)	$2.56	$1.94	$1.44	$1.12	$(6.99)
Weighted average common shares outstanding	123.8	144.8	156.9	176.5	177.8
Diluted earnings (loss) per share:					
Continuing operations[(2)]	$2.52	$1.93	$1.48	$1.31	$(6.82)
Discontinued operations[(2)]	$(0.01)	$(0.02)	$(0.05)	$(0.20)	$(0.17)
Net income (loss)	$2.52	$1.91	$1.43	$1.12	$(6.99)
Weighted average common shares outstanding	125.8	147.3	158.6	177.3	177.8
Common shares outstanding, net of treasury stock	120.9	135.8	148.4	171.7	176.9
Consolidated Balance Sheets Data:					
Total assets	$7,203.0	$6,198.8	$5,974.2	$5,407.3	$6,014.1
Long-term debt, net of current maturities	$2,066.3	$1,634.4	$1,340.6	$1,105.0	$1,225.6
Shareholders' equity	$1,688.5	$1,894.6	$2,078.9	$2,303.2	$2,198.1
Retail vehicle unit sales (continuing operations):					
New vehicle	267,810	224,034	206,456	182,160	241,625
Used vehicle	180,973	171,094	160,126	133,990	166,897
Total	448,783	395,128	366,582	316,150	408,522

(1) Operating income (loss) less floorplan interest expense is calculated by subtracting floorplan interest expense from operating income (loss), and is used as a key measure of profitability by management. Operating income (loss) and floorplan interest expense are each presented in our financial statements.

(2) During 2008, we recorded impairment charges of $1.76 billion ($1.46 billion after-tax) associated with goodwill and franchise rights. During 2009, we reclassified impairment charges related to franchise rights of $19.1 million ($11.7 million after-tax) that were recorded during 2008 to Loss from Discontinued Operations in our Consolidated Statements of Income for the year ended December 31, 2008, as the stores associated with these impairment charges were reclassified to discontinued operations during 2009.

See the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for discussion of Shareholders' Equity (Note 9), Income Taxes (Note 11), Earnings (Loss) Per Share (Note 12), Discontinued Operations (Note 13), Acquisitions (Note 14), and Segment Information (Note 20), and the effect on comparability of year-to-year data. See Part II, Item 5 of this Form 10-K for a discussion of our dividend policy.

Table of Contents

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

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with Part I, including matters set forth in the "Risk Factors" section of this Form 10-K, and our Consolidated Financial Statements and notes thereto included in Part II, Item 8 of this Form 10-K.

Except to the extent that differences among operating segments are material to an understanding of our business taken as a whole, we present the discussion in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations on a consolidated basis.

Overview

AutoNation, Inc., through its subsidiaries, is the largest automotive retailer in the United States. As of December 31, 2012, we owned and operated 265 new vehicle franchises from 221 stores located in the United States, predominantly in major metropolitan markets in the Sunbelt region. Our stores, which we believe include some of the most recognizable and well known in our key markets, sell 32 different new vehicle brands. The core brands of new vehicles that we sell, representing approximately 95% of the new vehicles that we sold in 2012, are manufactured by Toyota, Ford, Honda, Nissan, General Motors, Mercedes-Benz, BMW, Chrysler, and Volkswagen.

We offer a diversified range of automotive products and services, including new vehicles, used vehicles, "parts and service," which includes automotive repair and maintenance services as well as wholesale parts and collision businesses, and automotive "finance and insurance" products, which includes the arranging of financing for vehicle purchases through third-party finance sources.

As of December 31, 2012, we had three operating segments: Domestic, Import, and Premium Luxury. As of March 31, 2012, we revised the basis of segmentation of our Import and Premium Luxury segments to reclassify Audi franchises from the Import segment to the Premium Luxury segment. In connection with this change, we reclassified historical amounts to conform to our current segment presentation. We reclassified revenue of $187.7 million and segment income of $13.2 million for 2011, and revenue of $126.2 million and segment income of $11.3 million for 2010 related to the five Audi franchises we held during these periods.

Our Domestic segment is comprised of retail automotive franchises that sell new vehicles manufactured by General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler. Our Import segment is comprised of retail automotive franchises that sell new vehicles manufactured primarily by Toyota, Honda, and Nissan. Our Premium Luxury segment is comprised of retail automotive franchises that sell new vehicles manufactured primarily by Mercedes-Benz, BMW, and Lexus. The franchises in each segment also sell used vehicles, parts and automotive repair and maintenance services, and automotive finance and insurance products.

For the year ended December 31, 2012, new vehicle sales accounted for approximately 57% of our total revenue, but approximately 23% of our total gross profit. Used vehicle sales accounted for approximately 24% of our total revenue, and approximately 12% of our total gross profit. Our parts and service and finance and insurance operations, while comprising approximately 19% of total revenue, contributed approximately 64% of our gross profit.

Results of Operations

We had net income from continuing operations of $317.3 million and diluted earnings per share of $2.52 in 2012, as compared to net income from continuing operations of $284.2 million and diluted earnings per common share of $1.93 in 2011, and net income from continuing operations of $235.3 million and diluted earnings per common share of $1.48 in 2010.

The 2012 results were impacted by a non-cash franchise rights impairment charge of $4.2 million ($2.6 million after-tax).

The 2011 results were impacted by a loss on debt extinguishment, including debt refinancing costs and the write-off of previously deferred debt issuance costs, of $2.2 million ($1.4 million after-tax).

The 2010 results were impacted by a loss on debt extinguishment, including debt refinancing costs and the write-off of previously deferred debt issuance costs, of $19.6 million ($12.1 million after-tax).

Table of Contents

Acquisitions

On December 21, 2012, we acquired Boardwalk Audi, Boardwalk Porsche, Boardwalk Volkswagen, Park Cities Volkswagen, and McKinney Volkswagen in the Dallas, Texas market and Spring Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram in the Houston, Texas market. The aggregate purchase price for these acquisitions was $203.7 million, including $141.6 million paid at closing and $62.1 million in liabilities related to capital leases and deferred purchase price commitments.

Market Conditions

Full-year U.S. industry new vehicle unit sales were 14.5 million in 2012, as compared to 12.7 million in 2011 and 11.5 million in 2010. In 2012, new vehicle industry sales were driven in part by replacement demand. Based on industry data, the average age of cars and trucks in the United States is at a record high of nearly 11 years compared to an average age of 9 years during the period from 2000 to 2007. A robust consumer credit environment and an increase in new product offerings from automotive manufacturers were also supportive of a strong selling environment. Further, inventory levels of vehicles produced by Japanese manufacturers were significantly improved as compared to 2011, as vehicle production by Japanese manufacturers was adversely impacted in 2011 by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan.

We currently anticipate full-year U.S. industry new vehicle unit sales will increase to the mid-15 million unit level in 2013 driven by replacement need, attractive products, and continued access to affordable credit. We also believe that improving conditions in the housing market may be supportive of sales. However, actual sales may materially differ.

The rate of industry new vehicle unit sales over the past few years has led to a decline in the number of recent-model-year vehicles in operation, our primary service base. We expect our parts and service business to benefit as the units in operation in our primary service base begin increasing in 2013. We expect that our parts and service business will continue to benefit over the next several years as this service base is expected to gradually return to pre-recession levels.

Inventory Management

Our new and used vehicle inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market in our Consolidated Balance Sheets. We monitor our vehicle inventory levels closely based on current economic conditions and seasonal sales trends.

We have generally not experienced losses on the sale of new vehicle inventory, in part due to incentives provided by manufacturers to promote sales of new vehicles and our inventory management practices. We had 58,819 units in new vehicle inventory at December 31, 2012, and 43,906 units at December 31, 2011.

We recondition the majority of used vehicles acquired for retail sale in our parts and service departments and capitalize the related costs to the used vehicle inventory. Used vehicles that are not sold on a retail basis are generally liquidated at wholesale auctions. We record estimated losses on used vehicle inventory. Our used vehicle inventory balance was net of cumulative write-downs of $1.2 million at December 31, 2012, and $0.9 million at December 31, 2011.

Parts, accessories, and other inventory are carried at the lower of acquisition cost (first-in, first-out method) or market. We estimate the amount of potential obsolete inventory based upon past experience and market trends. Our parts, accessories, and other inventory balance was net of cumulative write-downs of $3.2 million at December 31, 2012, and $2.8 million at December 31, 2011.

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

We prepare our Consolidated Financial Statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, which require us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. We evaluate our estimates on an ongoing basis and we base our estimates on historical experience and various other assumptions we believe to be reasonable. Actual outcomes could differ materially from those estimates in a manner that could have a material effect on our Consolidated Financial Statements. Set forth below are the policies and estimates that we have identified as critical to our business operations and an understanding of our results of operations, based on the high degree of judgment or complexity in their application.

22

Table of Contents

Goodwill

Goodwill for our Domestic, Import, and Premium Luxury reporting units is tested for impairment annually on April 30 or more frequently when events or changes in circumstances indicate that impairment may have occurred. Under accounting standards, we chose to make a qualitative evaluation about the likelihood of goodwill impairment to determine whether it was necessary to calculate the fair values of our reporting units under the two-step goodwill impairment test. We completed our qualitative assessment of potential goodwill impairment as of April 30, 2012, and we determined that it was not more likely than not that the fair values of our reporting units were less than their carrying amounts.

The quantitative goodwill impairment analysis is dependent on many variables used to determine the fair value of our reporting units. See Note 5 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information on how the fair values and carrying values of our reporting units are derived for the quantitative goodwill impairment test.

As of December 31, 2012, we have $165.2 million of goodwill related to the Domestic reporting unit, $534.2 million related to the Import reporting unit, and $538.0 million related to the Premium Luxury reporting unit. The fair values of the Domestic, Import, and Premium Luxury reporting units were substantially in excess of their carrying values as of April 30, 2011, the date of our most recent quantitative impairment test.

Other Intangible Assets

Our principal identifiable intangible assets are individual store rights under franchise agreements with vehicle manufacturers, which have indefinite lives and are tested at least annually on April 30 for impairment. The impairment test for intangibles with indefinite lives requires the comparison of estimated fair value to its carrying value by store. Fair values of rights under franchise agreements are estimated by discounting expected future cash flows of the store. The forecasted cash flows contain inherent uncertainties, including significant estimates and assumptions related to growth rates, margins, working capital requirements, capital expenditures, and cost of capital, for which we utilize certain market participant-based assumptions, using third-party industry projections, economic projections, and other marketplace data we believe to be reasonable. See Note 17 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information on how fair value measurements are derived for our franchise rights.

We completed our annual impairment test for our franchise rights as of April 30, 2012, and we recorded $4.2 million ($2.6 million after-tax) of non-cash impairment charges related to rights under a Premium Luxury store’s franchise agreement. This non-cash impairment charge was recorded to reduce the carrying value of the store’s franchise agreement to its estimated fair value. Our franchise rights, which related to 27 franchises and totaled $208.4 million at April 30, 2012, are evaluated for impairment on a franchise-by-franchise basis. If the fair value of each of our franchise rights had been determined to be a hypothetical 10% lower as of the valuation date of April 30, 2012, we would not have had to record any additional impairment charges.

Long-Lived Assets

We estimate the depreciable lives of our property and equipment, including leasehold improvements, and review them for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying amounts may be impaired. Such events or changes may include a significant decrease in market value, a significant change in the business climate in a particular market, a current expectation that more-likely-than-not a long-lived asset will be sold or otherwise disposed of significantly before the end of its previously estimated useful life, or a current-period operating or cash flow loss combined with historical losses or projected future losses.

When evaluating potential impairment of long-lived assets held and used, we first compare the carrying amount of the asset group to the asset group’s estimated future undiscounted cash flows. If the estimated future undiscounted cash flows are less than the carrying amount of the asset group, we then compare the carrying amount of the asset group to the asset group’s estimated fair value to determine if impairment exists. The fair value measurements for our long-lived assets held and used were based on Level 3 inputs, which considered information obtained from third-party real estate valuation sources. See Note 17 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for more information about our fair value measurements. We recognize an impairment loss if the amount of the asset group’s carrying amount exceeds the asset group’s estimated fair value. If we recognize an impairment loss, the adjusted carrying amount of the asset group becomes

Table of Contents

its new cost basis. For a depreciable long-lived asset, the new cost basis will be depreciated over the remaining useful life of that asset.

During 2012, we fully impaired certain long-lived assets held and used in continuing operations and recorded non-cash impairment charges of $0.8 million. These charges are recorded as a component of Other Expenses (Income), Net in the Consolidated Statements of Income and are reported in the "Corporate and other" category of our segment information.

When property and equipment is identified as held for sale, we reclassify the held for sale assets to Other Current Assets and cease recording depreciation. We measure each long-lived asset or disposal group at the lower of its carrying amount or fair value less cost to sell and recognize a loss for any initial adjustment of the long-lived asset's or disposal group's carrying amount to fair value less cost to sell in the period the "held for sale" criteria are met. We periodically evaluate the carrying value of assets held for sale to determine if, based on market conditions, the values of these assets should be adjusted. Any subsequent change in the fair value less cost to sell (increase or decrease) of each asset held for sale is reported as an adjustment to its carrying amount, except that the adjusted carrying amount cannot exceed the carrying amount of the long-lived asset or disposal group at the time it was initially classified as held for sale. Such valuations include estimations of fair values and incremental direct costs to transact a sale. The fair value measurements for our long-lived assets held for sale were based on Level 3 inputs, which considered information obtained from third-party real estate valuation sources, or, in certain cases, pending agreements to sell the related assets.

We had assets held for sale in continuing operations of $70.4 million at December 31, 2012, and $70.1 million at December 31, 2011. We recorded no impairment charges during 2012 and impairment charges of $1.1 million during 2011 associated with assets held for sale in continuing operations to reduce the carrying value of these assets to fair value less cost to sell. During 2011, we also recorded $1.1 million of non-cash impairment charges related to a valuation adjustment for the cumulative depreciation not recorded during the held for sale period for continuing operations assets that were reclassified from held for sale to held and used during 2011. The 2011 charges are recorded as a component of Other Expenses (Income), Net in the Consolidated Statements of Income and are reported in the "Corporate and other" category of our segment information.

We had assets held for sale in discontinued operations of $43.2 million at December 31, 2012, and $49.5 million at December 31, 2011. We recorded $0.1 million during 2012 and $0.5 million during 2011 of non-cash impairment charges associated with assets held for sale in discontinued operations to reduce the carrying value of these assets to fair value less cost to sell. These charges are recorded as a component of Loss from Discontinued Operations in the Consolidated Statements of Income.

Our impairment loss calculations contain uncertainties because they require us to make assumptions and to apply judgment to estimate future undiscounted cash flows and asset fair values, including forecasting useful lives of the assets. Although we believe our property and equipment and assets held for sale are appropriately valued, the assumptions and estimates used may change and we may be required to record impairment charges to reduce the value of these assets.

Chargeback Reserve

Revenue on finance and insurance products represents commissions earned by us for: (i) loans and leases placed with financial institutions in connection with customer vehicle purchases financed, (ii) vehicle service contracts sold, and (iii) insurance and other products sold. We primarily sell these products on a straight commission basis; however we also participate in future underwriting profit on certain extended service contracts pursuant to retrospective commission arrangements, which are recognized as earned.

We may be charged back for commissions related to financing, insurance, or vehicle protection products in the event of early termination, default, or prepayment of the contracts by customers ("chargebacks"). However, our exposure to loss in connection with financing arrangements generally is limited to the commissions that we receive. These commissions are recorded at the time of the sale of the vehicles, net of an estimated liability for chargebacks.

We estimate our liability for chargebacks on an individual product basis using our historical chargeback experience, based primarily on cancellation data we receive from third parties that sell and administer these products. Our estimated liability for chargebacks totaled $56.0 million at December 31, 2012, and $46.2 million at December 31,

2011.
Chargebacks are influenced by the volume of vehicle sales in recent years and increases or decreases in early termination rates resulting from cancellation of vehicle protection products, defaults, refinancings, payoffs before maturity,

and other factors. While we consider these factors in the estimation of our chargeback liability, actual events may differ from our estimates, which could result in a change in our estimated liability for chargebacks. The increase in our liability for chargebacks is largely attributable to higher volume of vehicle sales in recent years, as well as an increase in customer cancellations of finance and insurance products. A 10% change in our estimated cancellation rates would have changed our estimated liability for chargebacks at December 31, 2012, by approximately $5.6 million.

See Note 19 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for further information regarding chargeback liabilities.

Self Insurance Reserves

Under our self insurance programs, we retain various levels of aggregate loss limits, per claim deductibles, and claims-handling expenses as part of our various insurance programs, including property and casualty, employee medical benefits, automobile, and workers' compensation. Costs in excess of this retained risk per claim may be insured under various contracts with third-party insurance carriers. We review our claim and loss history on a periodic basis to assist in assessing our future liability. The ultimate costs of these retained insurance risks are estimated by management and by third-party actuarial evaluation of historical claims experience, adjusted for current trends and changes in claims-handling procedures. Our results could be materially impacted by claims and other expenses related to our self insurance programs if future occurrences and claims differ from these assumptions and historical trends. Self insurance reserves totaled $61.5 million at December 31, 2012, and $58.2 million at December 31, 2011. We believe our actual loss experience has not been materially different from our recorded estimates.

Revenue Recognition

Revenue consists of the sales of new and used vehicles, sales of parts and services, commissions from finance and insurance products, and sales of other products. We recognize revenue in the period in which products are sold or services are provided. We recognize vehicle and finance and insurance revenue when a sales contract has been executed, the vehicle has been delivered, and payment has been received or financing has been arranged. Rebates, holdbacks, floorplan assistance, and certain other incentives received from manufacturers are recorded as a reduction of the cost of the vehicle and recognized into income upon the sale of the vehicle or when earned under a specific manufacturer program, whichever is later. See Note 1 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for further information regarding revenue recognition.

Income Taxes

Estimates and judgments are used in the calculation of certain tax liabilities and in the determination of the recoverability of certain deferred tax assets. In assessing the realizability of deferred tax assets, we consider whether it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. We regularly evaluate the recoverability of our deferred tax assets and provide valuation allowances to offset portions of deferred tax assets due to uncertainty surrounding the future realization of such deferred tax assets. Valuation allowances are based on historical taxable income, projected future taxable income, the expected timing of the reversals of existing temporary differences, and the implementation of tax-planning strategies. We adjust the valuation allowance in the period we determine it is more likely than not that deferred tax assets will or will not be realized. If a change in circumstances results in a change in our ability to realize our deferred tax assets, our tax provision would be adjusted in the period when the change in circumstances occurs.

Accounting for our income taxes also requires significant judgment in the evaluation of our uncertain tax positions and in the calculation of our provision for income taxes. Accounting standards related to accounting for uncertainty in income taxes prescribe a two-step approach to recognizing and measuring uncertain tax positions. The first step is to evaluate available evidence to determine if it appears more likely than not that an uncertain tax position will be sustained on an audit by a taxing authority, based solely on the technical merits of the tax position. The second step is to measure the tax benefit as the largest amount that is more than 50% likely of being realized upon settling the uncertain tax position.

Although we believe we have adequately reserved for our uncertain tax positions, the ultimate outcome of these tax matters may differ from our expectations. We adjust our reserves in light of changing facts and circumstances, such as the completion of a tax audit, expiration of a statute of limitations, the refinement of an estimate, and interest accruals associated with uncertain tax positions until they are resolved. To the extent that the final tax outcome of these matters

is different than the amounts recorded, such differences will impact the provision for income taxes in the period in which such determination is made.

Table of Contents

Our future effective tax rates could be affected by changes in our deferred tax assets or liabilities, the valuation of our uncertain tax positions, or by changes in tax laws, regulations, accounting principles, or interpretations thereof.

Other

Additionally, estimates have been made by us in the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements including allowances for doubtful accounts, accruals related to certain legal proceedings, estimated losses from disposals of discontinued operations, and certain assumptions related to determining stock-based compensation.

Table of Contents

Reported Operating Data

($ in millions, except per vehicle data)	Years Ended December 31, 2012	2011	2012 vs. 2011 Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance	2010	2011 vs. 2010 Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance
Revenue:							
New vehicle	$8,906.9	$7,498.9	$1,408.0	18.8	$6,669.1	$829.8	12.4
Used vehicle	3,714.7	3,512.8	201.9	5.7	3,116.1	396.7	12.7
Parts and service	2,399.2	2,293.1	106.1	4.6	2,209.1	84.0	3.8
Finance and insurance, net	571.2	474.5	96.7	20.4	418.9	55.6	13.3
Other	76.8	53.0	23.8		47.8	5.2	
Total revenue	$15,668.8	$13,832.3	$1,836.5	13.3	$12,461.0	$1,371.3	11.0
Gross profit:							
New vehicle	$579.5	$547.7	$31.8	5.8	$451.2	$96.5	21.4
Used vehicle	299.3	284.8	14.5	5.1	266.7	18.1	6.8
Parts and service	1,007.9	970.1	37.8	3.9	963.2	6.9	0.7
Finance and insurance	571.2	474.5	96.7	20.4	418.9	55.6	13.3
Other	28.5	26.9	1.6		27.5	(0.6)	
Total gross profit	2,486.4	2,304.0	182.4	7.9	2,127.5	176.5	8.3
Selling, general, and administrative expenses	1,749.5	1,649.4	(100.1)	(6.1)	1,552.1	(97.3)	(6.3)
Depreciation and amortization	87.3	83.7	(3.6)		76.8	(6.9)	
Franchise rights impairment	4.2	—	(4.2)		—	—	
Other expenses (income), net	0.1	(1.1)	(1.2)		2.0	3.1	
Operating income	645.3	572.0	73.3	12.8	496.6	75.4	15.2
Non-operating income (expense) items:							
Floorplan interest expense	(45.5)	(42.7)	(2.8)		(42.5)	(0.2)	
Other interest expense	(86.9)	(66.0)	(20.9)		(56.1)	(9.9)	
Loss on debt extinguishment	—	(2.2)	2.2		(19.6)	17.4	
Interest income	0.3	0.7	(0.4)		1.4	(0.7)	
Other income (losses), net	3.6	(0.5)	4.1		1.5	(2.0)	
Income from continuing operations before income taxes	$516.8	$461.3	$55.5	12.0	$381.3	$80.0	21.0
Retail vehicle unit sales:							
New vehicle	267,810	224,034	43,776	19.5	206,456	17,578	8.5
Used vehicle	180,973	171,094	9,879	5.8	160,126	10,968	6.8
	448,783	395,128	53,655	13.6	366,582	28,546	7.8
Revenue per vehicle retailed:							
New vehicle	$33,258	$33,472	$(214)	(0.6)	$32,303	$1,169	3.6
Used vehicle	$17,850	$17,812	$38	0.2	$17,266	$546	3.2
Gross profit per vehicle retailed:							
New vehicle	$2,164	$2,445	$(281)	(11.5)	$2,185	$260	11.9
Used vehicle	$1,623	$1,640	$(17)	(1.0)	$1,612	$28	1.7
Finance and insurance	$1,273	$1,201	$72	6.0	$1,143	$58	5.1

Table of Contents

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2012 (%)	2011 (%)	2010 (%)
Revenue mix percentages:			
New vehicle	56.8	54.2	53.5
Used vehicle	23.7	25.4	25.0
Parts and service	15.3	16.6	17.7
Finance and insurance, net	3.6	3.4	3.4
Other	0.6	0.4	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Gross profit mix percentages:			
New vehicle	23.3	23.8	21.2
Used vehicle	12.0	12.4	12.5
Parts and service	40.5	42.1	45.3
Finance and insurance	23.0	20.6	19.7
Other	1.2	1.1	1.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Operating items as a percentage of revenue:			
Gross profit:			
New vehicle	6.5	7.3	6.8
Used vehicle-retail	9.1	9.2	9.3
Parts and service	42.0	42.3	43.6
Total	15.9	16.7	17.1
Selling, general and administrative expenses	11.2	11.9	12.5
Operating income	4.1	4.1	4.0
Other operating items as a percentage of total gross profit:			
Selling, general and administrative expenses	70.4	71.6	73.0
Operating income	26.0	24.8	23.3

	December 31,	
	2012	2011
Days supply:		
New vehicle (industry standard of selling days, including fleet)	55 days	50 days
Used vehicle (trailing calendar month days)	35 days	31 days

The following table details net new vehicle inventory carrying benefit, consisting of new vehicle floorplan interest expense net of floorplan assistance earned (amounts received from manufacturers specifically to support store financing of new vehicle inventory). Floorplan assistance is accounted for as a component of new vehicle gross profit.

	Years Ended December 31,				
($ in millions)	2012	2011	Variance 2012 vs. 2011	2010	Variance 2011 vs. 2010
Floorplan assistance	$73.5	$61.1	$12.4	$55.6	$5.5
Floorplan interest expense (new vehicles)	(43.7)	(40.3)	(3.4)	(40.2)	(0.1)
Net new vehicle inventory carrying benefit	$29.8	$20.8	$9.0	$15.4	$5.4

Table of Contents

Same Store Operating Data

We have presented below our operating results on a same store basis to reflect our internal performance. The "Same Store" amounts presented below include the results of dealerships for the identical months in each period presented in the comparison, commencing with the first full month in which the dealership was owned by us. For example, the results for a dealership acquired in February 2011 would be included only in our same store comparison of 2012 to 2011, not in our same store comparison of 2011 to 2010. Therefore, the amounts presented in the year 2011 column that is being compared to the 2012 column may differ from the amounts presented in the year 2011 column that is being compared to the year 2010 column.

	Years Ended December 31,				Years Ended December 31,			
($ in millions, except per vehicle data)	2012	2011	Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance	2011	2010	Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance
Revenue:								
New vehicle	$8,854.6	$7,498.9	$1,355.7	18.1	$7,307.6	$6,669.1	$638.5	9.6
Used vehicle	3,682.5	3,512.8	169.7	4.8	3,415.0	3,116.1	298.9	9.6
Parts and service	2,388.2	2,293.1	95.1	4.1	2,250.9	2,209.1	41.8	1.9
Finance and insurance, net	568.1	474.5	93.6	19.7	463.9	418.9	45.0	10.7
Other	76.0	53.0	23.0		52.2	47.8	4.4	
Total revenue	$15,569.4	$13,832.3	$1,737.1	12.6	$13,489.6	$12,461.0	$1,028.6	8.3
Gross profit:								
New vehicle	$576.1	$547.7	$28.4	5.2	$533.4	$451.2	$82.2	18.2
Used vehicle	297.0	284.8	12.2	4.3	279.7	266.7	13.0	4.9
Parts and service	1,003.2	970.1	33.1	3.4	950.7	963.2	(12.5)	(1.3)
Finance and insurance	568.1	474.5	93.6	19.7	463.9	418.9	45.0	10.7
Other	28.2	26.9	1.3		26.4	27.5	(1.1)	
Total gross profit	$2,472.6	$2,304.0	$168.6	7.3	$2,254.1	$2,127.5	$126.6	6.0
Retail vehicle unit sales:								
New vehicle	266,050	224,034	42,016	18.8	217,685	206,456	11,229	5.4
Used vehicle	179,669	171,094	8,575	5.0	167,563	160,126	7,437	4.6
Total	445,719	395,128	50,591	12.8	385,248	366,582	18,666	5.1
Revenue per vehicle retailed:								
New vehicle	$33,282	$33,472	$(190)	(0.6)	$33,570	$32,303	$1,267	3.9
Used vehicle	$17,860	$17,812	$48	0.3	$17,818	$17,266	$552	3.2
Gross profit per vehicle retailed:								
New vehicle	$2,165	$2,445	$(280)	(11.5)	$2,450	$2,185	$265	12.1
Used vehicle	$1,622	$1,640	$(18)	(1.1)	$1,642	$1,612	$30	1.9
Finance and insurance	$1,275	$1,201	$74	6.2	$1,204	$1,143	$61	5.3

Table of Contents

	Years Ended December 31,		Years Ended December 31,	
	2012 (%)	2011 (%)	2011 (%)	2010 (%)
Revenue mix percentages:				
New vehicle	56.9	54.2	54.2	53.5
Used vehicle	23.7	25.4	25.3	25.0
Parts and service	15.3	16.6	16.7	17.7
Finance and insurance, net	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.4
Other	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Gross profit mix percentages:				
New vehicle	23.3	23.8	23.7	21.2
Used vehicle	12.0	12.4	12.4	12.5
Parts and service	40.6	42.1	42.2	45.3
Finance and insurance	23.0	20.6	20.6	19.7
Other	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Operating items as a percentage of revenue:				
Gross profit:				
New vehicle	6.5	7.3	7.3	6.8
Used vehicle-retail	9.1	9.2	9.2	9.3
Parts and service	42.0	42.3	42.2	43.6
Total	15.9	16.7	16.7	17.1

Table of Contents

New Vehicle

($ in millions, except per vehicle data)	Years Ended December 31, 2012	2011	2012 vs. 2011 Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance	2010	2011 vs. 2010 Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance
Reported:							
Revenue	$8,906.9	$7,498.9	$1,408.0	18.8	$6,669.1	$829.8	12.4
Gross profit	$579.5	$547.7	$31.8	5.8	$451.2	$96.5	21.4
Retail vehicle unit sales	267,810	224,034	43,776	19.5	206,456	17,578	8.5
Revenue per vehicle retailed	$33,258	$33,472	$(214)	(0.6)	$32,303	$1,169	3.6
Gross profit per vehicle retailed	$2,164	$2,445	$(281)	(11.5)	$2,185	$260	11.9
Gross profit as a percentage of revenue	6.5%	7.3%			6.8%		
Days supply (industry standard of selling days, including fleet)	55 days	50 days					

	Years Ended December 31, 2012	2011	2012 vs. 2011 Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance	2011	2010	2011 vs. 2010 Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance
Same Store:								
Revenue	$8,854.6	$7,498.9	$1,355.7	18.1	$7,307.6	$6,669.1	$638.5	9.6
Gross profit	$576.1	$547.7	$28.4	5.2	$533.4	$451.2	$82.2	18.2
Retail vehicle unit sales	266,050	224,034	42,016	18.8	217,685	206,456	11,229	5.4
Revenue per vehicle retailed	$33,282	$33,472	$(190)	(0.6)	$33,570	$32,303	$1,267	3.9
Gross profit per vehicle retailed	$2,165	$2,445	$(280)	(11.5)	$2,450	$2,185	$265	12.1
Gross profit as a percentage of revenue	6.5%	7.3%			7.3%	6.8%		

2012 compared to 2011

Same store new vehicle revenue increased during 2012, as compared to 2011, as a result of an increase in same store unit volume, partially offset by a decrease in same store revenue per new vehicle retailed. The increase in same store unit volume was due to significantly improved inventory levels of vehicles produced by Japanese manufacturers, as well as to replacement demand and improved market conditions, including increased consumer borrowing and improved consumer confidence as compared to the prior year. An improved credit environment and an increase in new product offerings from automotive manufacturers also favorably impacted same store unit volume.

Same store revenue per new vehicle retailed during 2012, as compared to 2011, was adversely impacted by a shift in mix away from premium luxury and domestic vehicles to import vehicles, which have relatively lower average selling prices, primarily as a result of the improved inventory levels of vehicles produced by Japanese manufacturers as compared to the prior year. Same store revenue per new vehicle retailed was also adversely impacted by a decrease in the average selling price for import vehicles as the prior year benefited from the supply and demand imbalances resulting from the Japan supply constraints.

Same store gross profit per new vehicle retailed decreased during 2012, as compared to 2011, primarily due to the prior year benefiting from the tight supply of vehicles produced by Japanese manufacturers and by certain performance-based manufacturer incentives related to premium luxury vehicles previously sold. These incentives were $7.0 million higher during 2011 as compared to 2012.

Table of Contents

2011 compared to 2010

Same store new vehicle revenue increased during 2011, as compared to 2010, as a result of an increase in same store unit volume and an increase in same store revenue per new vehicle retailed. The increase in same store unit volume was primarily due to improved market conditions, including improved credit availability offered to consumers and increased consumer demand, as well as reinstatement or expansion of certain manufacturer leasing programs. The increase in same store unit volume for 2011 was partially offset by the Japan supply constraints, which adversely impacted unit sales in the second, third, and fourth quarters of 2011, and by a decrease in manufacturer incentives.

Same store revenue per new vehicle retailed increased during 2011, as compared to 2010, primarily due to a shift in mix away from import vehicles, which have relatively lower average selling prices, toward domestic and premium luxury vehicles. Same store revenue per new vehicle retailed also benefited from an increase in the average selling prices for new vehicles in all three segments - Domestic, Import, and Premium Luxury.

Same store gross profit per new vehicle retailed benefited from a shift in mix away from import vehicles, which generate relatively lower gross profit per vehicle retailed, due to the tight supply of vehicles produced by Japanese manufacturers, as well as from an increase in new vehicle gross profit in all three segments. The increase in same store gross profit per vehicle retailed was partially offset by a decrease in certain performance-based manufacturer incentives primarily related to premium luxury vehicles previously sold as compared to the prior year. These incentives favorably impacted gross profit by $8.0 million in 2011, compared to $13.1 million in 2010. We were able to recognize these incentives due to our achievement of certain manufacturer incentive program goals during 2011 and 2010.

New Vehicle Inventories

Our new vehicle inventories were $1.9 billion or 55 days supply at December 31, 2012, as compared to new vehicle inventories of $1.4 billion or 50 days supply at December 31, 2011. We had 58,819 units in new vehicle inventory at December 31, 2012, and 43,906 units at December 31, 2011.

The following table details net new vehicle inventory carrying benefit, consisting of new vehicle floorplan interest expense net of floorplan assistance earned (amounts received from manufacturers specifically to support store financing of new vehicle inventory). Floorplan assistance is accounted for as a component of new vehicle gross profit.

	Years Ended December 31,				
($ in millions)	2012	2011	Variance 2012 vs. 2011	2010	Variance 2011 vs. 2010
Floorplan assistance	$73.5	$61.1	$12.4	$55.6	$5.5
Floorplan interest expense (new vehicles)	(43.7)	(40.3)	(3.4)	(40.2)	(0.1)
Net new vehicle inventory carrying benefit	$29.8	$20.8	$9.0	$15.4	$5.4

2012 compared to 2011

The net new vehicle inventory carrying benefit increased in 2012, as compared to 2011, due to an increase in floorplan assistance, partially offset by an increase in floorplan interest expense. Floorplan assistance increased due to higher new vehicle sales and an increase in the floorplan assistance rate per unit. Floorplan interest expense increased due to higher average vehicle floorplan payable balances during the year, partially offset by lower negotiated floorplan interest rates.

2011 compared to 2010

The net new vehicle inventory carrying benefit increased in 2011, as compared to 2010, due to an increase in floorplan assistance as a result of higher new vehicle sales and an increase in the floorplan assistance rate per unit, partially offset by an increase in floorplan interest expense primarily due to higher average vehicle floorplan payable balances during the year.

32

Table of Contents

Used Vehicle

($ in millions, except per vehicle data)	Years Ended December 31, 2012	2011	2012 vs. 2011 Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance	2010	2011 vs. 2010 Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance
Reported:							
Retail revenue	$3,230.4	$3,047.6	$182.8	6.0	$2,764.8	$282.8	10.2
Wholesale revenue	484.3	465.2	19.1	4.1	351.3	113.9	32.4
Total revenue	$3,714.7	$3,512.8	$201.9	5.7	$3,116.1	$396.7	12.7
Retail gross profit	$293.8	$280.6	$13.2	4.7	$258.1	$22.5	8.7
Wholesale gross profit	5.5	4.2	1.3		8.6	(4.4)	
Total gross profit	$299.3	$284.8	$14.5	5.1	$266.7	$18.1	6.8
Retail vehicle unit sales	180,973	171,094	9,879	5.8	160,126	10,968	6.8
Revenue per vehicle retailed	$17,850	$17,812	$38	0.2	$17,266	$546	3.2
Gross profit per vehicle retailed	$1,623	$1,640	$(17)	(1.0)	$1,612	$28	1.7
Gross profit as a percentage of retail revenue	9.1 %	9.2 %			9.3 %		
Days supply (trailing calendar month days)	35 days	31 days					

	Years Ended December 31, 2012	2011	2012 vs. 2011 Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance	2011	2010	2011 vs. 2010 Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance
Same Store:								
Retail revenue	$3,208.9	$3,047.6	$161.3	5.3	$2,985.6	$2,764.8	$220.8	8.0
Wholesale revenue	473.6	465.2	8.4	1.8	429.4	351.3	78.1	22.2
Total revenue	$3,682.5	$3,512.8	$169.7	4.8	$3,415.0	$3,116.1	$298.9	9.6
Retail gross profit	$291.5	$280.6	$10.9	3.9	$275.1	$258.1	$17.0	6.6
Wholesale gross profit	5.5	4.2	1.3		4.6	8.6	(4.0)	
Total gross profit	$297.0	$284.8	$12.2	4.3	$279.7	$266.7	$13.0	4.9
Retail vehicle unit sales	179,669	171,094	8,575	5.0	167,563	160,126	7,437	4.6
Revenue per vehicle retailed	$17,860	$17,812	$48	0.3	$17,818	$17,266	$552	3.2
Gross profit per vehicle retailed	$1,622	$1,640	$(18)	(1.1)	$1,642	$1,612	$30	1.9
Gross profit as a percentage of retail revenue	9.1 %	9.2 %			9.2 %	9.3 %		

2012 compared to 2011

Same store retail used vehicle revenue increased during 2012, as compared to 2011, as a result of an increase in same store unit volume and an increase in revenue per used vehicle retailed. The increase in same store unit volume was driven in part by an increase in sales of certified pre-owned vehicles, as well as an increase in trade-in volume.

Same store revenue per used vehicle retailed during 2012 benefited from a shift in mix toward premium luxury vehicles, which have relatively higher average selling prices.
Same store gross profit per used vehicle retailed decreased during 2012, as compared to 2011, due in part to compressed margins on certified pre-owned vehicles.

Table of Contents

2011 compared to 2010

Same store retail used vehicle revenue increased during 2011, as compared to 2010, as a result of both an increase in same store unit volume and an increase in revenue per used vehicle retailed. The increase in used vehicle sales volume was driven in part by an increase in sales of value-priced vehicles. We opened 19 Value Vehicle Outlets ("VVOs") primarily in the second half of 2010 and an additional 8 in 2011 to address industry supply constraints and meet market demand. Through our VVOs, which are located on existing store facilities, we sell vehicles that we would have traditionally wholesaled with an average retail price lower than that of used vehicles we typically retail. Additionally, used vehicle sales volumes benefited from an increase in trade-in volume associated with the increase in new vehicle sales volume. These increases were partially offset by a decline in certified pre-owned vehicle sales.

Same store revenue per used vehicle retailed benefited from an increase in the average selling prices for used vehicles in the Domestic and Import segments primarily due to tighter supply, which drove up the wholesale values of used vehicles. Used vehicle supply was impacted by historically low new vehicle unit sales in recent years, and the decline in off-lease vehicles, as well as by customers retaining their vehicles for longer periods of time. The increase in same store revenue per used vehicle retailed was partially offset by a decline in revenues as a result of increased sales of value-priced vehicles, which have lower average retail prices than used vehicles we typically retail.

Same store gross profit per used vehicle retailed increased during 2011, as compared to 2010, due to modest increases in the first half of 2011, primarily due to temporarily elevated used vehicle values driven by Japanese new vehicle supply constraints. These increases were partially offset by declines in the second half of 2011 related to the liquidation of additional inventory acquired in the second quarter of 2011 when the timeline for the Japanese disruption in new vehicle inventory was anticipated to be longer. The increase in same store gross profit per used vehicle retailed was also partially offset by increased sales of value-priced vehicles, which generate a relatively lower gross profit per vehicle retailed than used vehicles we typically retail.

Used Vehicle Inventories

Used vehicle inventories were $318.7 million or 35 days supply at December 31, 2012, compared to $286.3 million or 31 days at December 31, 2011.

Table of Contents

Parts & Service

Parts and service revenue is primarily derived from vehicle repairs paid directly by the customers or via reimbursement from manufacturers and others under warranty programs, as well as from wholesale parts and collision businesses.

	Years Ended December 31,						
($ in millions)	2012	2011	2012 vs. 2011 Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance	2010	2011 vs. 2010 Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance
Reported:							
Revenue	$2,399.2	$2,293.1	$106.1	4.6	$2,209.1	$84.0	3.8
Gross profit	$1,007.9	$970.1	$37.8	3.9	$963.2	$6.9	0.7
Gross profit as a percentage of revenue	42.0 %	42.3 %			43.6 %		

	Years Ended December 31,							
	2012	2011	2012 vs. 2011 Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance	2011	2010	2011 vs. 2010 Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance
Same Store:								
Revenue	$2,388.2	$2,293.1	$95.1	4.1	$2,250.9	$2,209.1	$41.8	1.9
Gross profit	$1,003.2	$970.1	$33.1	3.4	$950.7	$963.2	$(12.5)	(1.3)
Gross profit as a percentage of revenue	42.0 %	42.3 %			42.2 %	43.6 %		

2012 compared to 2011

Same store parts and service gross profit increased during 2012, as compared to 2011, primarily due to increases in gross profit associated with the preparation of vehicles for sale of $25.1 million, customer-pay service of $7.5 million, and collision business of $2.7 million, partially offset by a decline in gross profit associated with warranty of $1.2 million.

Gross profit associated with the preparation of vehicles for sale benefited from higher new and used vehicle sales volume. Customer-pay service gross profit benefited from improved market conditions and better marketing of products and services in the service department. Gross profit associated with our collision businesses benefited from expanded relationships with insurance providers and increased capacity at certain of our collision centers. Warranty gross profit was adversely impacted during 2012 by fewer vehicles in operation as a result of historically lower vehicle sales in recent years and, to a lesser extent, improved quality of vehicles manufactured in recent years.

2011 compared to 2010

Same store parts and service gross profit decreased during 2011, as compared to 2010, primarily due to a decline in gross profit associated with warranty of $19.5 million, partially offset by an increase in gross profit associated with customer-pay service of $6.5 million and an increase in gross profit associated with the preparation of vehicles for sale of $4.5 million.

Warranty gross profit was adversely impacted during 2011 by fewer vehicles in operation as a result of historically lower vehicle sales in recent years and, to a lesser extent, improved quality of vehicles manufactured in recent years. Additionally, in 2010, warranty gross profit benefited from an increase in warranty service related to the rise of manufacturer recalls in the automotive industry. Customer-pay service gross profit benefited from improved market conditions and better marketing of products and services in the service department. Gross profit associated with the preparation of vehicles for sale was favorably impacted by higher new and used vehicle sales volume.

Table of Contents

Finance and Insurance

($ in millions, except per vehicle data)	Years Ended December 31, 2012	2011	2012 vs. 2011 Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance	2010	2011 vs. 2010 Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance
Reported:							
Revenue and gross profit	$571.2	$474.5	$96.7	20.4	$418.9	$55.6	13.3
Gross profit per vehicle retailed	$1,273	$1,201	$72	6.0	$1,143	$58	5.1

	Years Ended December 31, 2012	2011	2012 vs. 2011 Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance	2011	2010	2011 vs. 2010 Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance
Same Store:								
Revenue and gross profit	$568.1	$474.5	$93.6	19.7	$463.9	$418.9	$45.0	10.7
Gross profit per vehicle retailed	$1,275	$1,201	$74	6.2	$1,204	$1,143	$61	5.3

2012 compared to 2011

Same store finance and insurance revenue and gross profit increased during 2012, as compared to 2011, due to an increase in new and used vehicle sales volume and an increase in same store finance and insurance revenue and gross profit per vehicle retailed. Finance and insurance revenue and gross profit during 2012 were also impacted by a favorable adjustment of $5.1 million ($3.2 million after-tax) associated with certain product maintenance contracts. This benefit was partially offset by a decrease in retrospective commissions.

Same store finance and insurance revenue and gross profit per vehicle retailed benefited from an increase in margin on product contracts sold, an increase in product penetration, more customers financing vehicles through our stores, and an increase in amounts financed per transaction.

2011 compared to 2010

Same store finance and insurance revenue and gross profit increased during 2011, as compared to 2010, primarily due to an increase in new and used vehicle sales volume and an increase in same store finance and insurance revenue and gross profit per vehicle retailed, partially offset by a decrease in same store new vehicle sales in the Import segment.

Same store finance and insurance revenue and gross profit per vehicle retailed increased during 2011, as compared to 2010, due to an increase in revenue associated with arranging customer financing, an increase in margin on product contracts sold, more customers financing vehicles through our stores, and an increase in amounts financed per transaction. This benefit was partially offset by a decline in profit resulting from chargeback experience.

Table of Contents

Segment Results

In the following table of financial data, total segment income of the operating segments is reconciled to consolidated operating income.

	Years Ended December 31,						
($ in millions)	2012	2011	Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance	2010	Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance
Revenue:							
Domestic	$5,131.6	$4,655.4	$476.2	10.2	$4,111.3	$544.1	13.2
Import	5,828.8	4,933.3	895.5	18.2	4,582.2	351.1	7.7
Premium Luxury	4,553.3	4,096.4	456.9	11.2	3,635.2	461.2	12.7
Total segment revenue	15,513.7	13,685.1	1,828.6	13.4	12,328.7	1,356.4	11.0
Corporate and other	155.1	147.2	7.9	5.4	132.3	14.9	11.3
Total consolidated revenue	$15,668.8	$13,832.3	$1,836.5	13.3	$12,461.0	$1,371.3	11.0
Segment income*:							
Domestic	$209.4	$180.0	$29.4	16.3	$152.7	$27.3	17.9
Import	257.9	227.1	30.8	13.6	188.2	38.9	20.7
Premium Luxury	270.4	244.1	26.3	10.8	219.7	24.4	11.1
Total segment income	737.7	651.2	86.5	13.3	560.6	90.6	16.2
Corporate and other	(137.9)	(121.9)	(16.0)		(106.5)	(15.4)	
Floorplan interest expense	45.5	42.7	(2.8)		42.5	(0.2)	
Operating income	$645.3	$572.0	$73.3	12.8	$496.6	$75.4	15.2

*Segment income for each of our segments is defined as operating income less floorplan interest expense.

Retail new vehicle unit sales:							
Domestic	85,947	76,335	9,612	12.6	64,317	12,018	18.7
Import	133,938	106,175	27,763	26.1	106,100	75	0.1
Premium Luxury	47,925	41,524	6,401	15.4	36,039	5,485	15.2
	267,810	224,034	43,776	19.5	206,456	17,578	8.5

As of March 31, 2012, we revised the basis of segmentation of our Import and Premium Luxury segments to reclassify Audi franchises from the Import segment to the Premium Luxury segment. In connection with this change, we reclassified historical amounts to conform to our current segment presentation. We reclassified revenue of $187.7 million and segment income of $13.2 million for 2011, and revenue of $126.2 million and segment income of $11.3 million for 2010 related to the five Audi franchises we held during these periods.

Table of Contents

Domestic

The Domestic segment operating results included the following:

	Years Ended December 31,						
($ in millions)	2012	2011	Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance	2010	Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance
Revenue	$5,131.6	$4,655.4	$476.2	10.2	$4,111.3	$544.1	13.2
Segment income	$209.4	$180.0	$29.4	16.3	$152.7	$27.3	17.9
Retail new vehicle unit sales	85,947	76,335	9,612	12.6	64,317	12,018	18.7

2012 compared to 2011

Domestic revenue increased during 2012, as compared to 2011, primarily due to an increase in new vehicle unit volume and an increase in revenue per new vehicle retailed. The increase in new vehicle unit volume was due in part to replacement demand and improved market conditions, including increased consumer borrowing and improved consumer confidence as compared to the prior year. An improved credit environment and an increase in new product offerings from automotive manufacturers also favorably impacted new vehicle unit volume. New vehicle revenue and unit sales increased for all three domestic manufacturers as compared to 2011.

Domestic segment income increased during 2012, as compared to 2011, primarily due to an increase in finance and insurance revenue and gross profit, which benefited from higher new and used vehicle unit volume, as well as an increase in new vehicle gross profit due to higher new vehicle unit volume. Increases in Domestic segment income were partially offset by an increase in variable expenses.

2011 compared to 2010

Domestic revenue increased during 2011, as compared to 2010, due to an increase in new and used vehicle unit volume and an increase in revenue per used vehicle retailed. The increase in new vehicle unit volume was primarily due to improved market conditions, including increased consumer demand, as well as reinstatement or expansion of certain manufacturer leasing programs. New vehicle revenue and unit sales increased for all three domestic manufacturers as compared to 2010. The increases in used vehicle unit volume and revenue per used vehicle retailed were primarily due to improved market conditions. The increase in revenue per used vehicle retailed was partially offset by a decline in revenues as a result of increased sales of value-priced vehicles, which have lower average retail prices than used vehicles we typically retail.

Domestic segment income increased during 2011, as compared to 2010, primarily due to an increase in new and used vehicle unit volume. Domestic segment income also benefited from an increase in finance and insurance revenue and gross profit. Increases in Domestic segment income were partially offset by an increase in volume-related expenses.

Table of Contents

Import

The Import segment operating results included the following:

	Years Ended December 31,						
($ in millions)	2012	2011	Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance	2010	Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance
Revenue	$5,828.8	$4,933.3	$895.5	18.2	$4,582.2	$351.1	7.7
Segment income	$257.9	$227.1	$30.8	13.6	$188.2	$38.9	20.7
Retail new vehicle unit sales	133,938	106,175	27,763	26.1	106,100	75	0.1

2012 compared to 2011

Import revenue increased during 2012, as compared to 2011, primarily due to an increase in new vehicle unit volume, partially offset by a decrease in revenue per new vehicle retailed. The increase in new vehicle unit volume was due to significantly improved inventory levels of vehicles produced by Japanese manufacturers, as well as to replacement demand and improved market conditions, including increased consumer borrowing and improved consumer confidence as compared to the prior year. An improved credit environment and an increase in new product offerings from automotive manufacturers also favorably impacted new vehicle unit volume.

Import segment income increased during 2012, as compared to 2011, primarily due to an increase in finance and insurance revenue and gross profit and parts and service gross profit, both of which benefited from higher new and used vehicle unit volume, as well as an increase in new vehicle gross profit due to higher new vehicle unit volume. Increases in Import segment income were partially offset by an increase in variable expenses.

2011 compared to 2010

Import revenue increased during 2011, as compared to 2010, due to an increase in used vehicle unit volume, primarily due to the recent acquisitions we completed in the third quarter of 2010 and the first quarter of 2011, and an increase in revenue per new and used vehicle retailed. Revenue per new and used vehicle retailed benefited from an increase in the average selling prices for both new and used vehicles, due in part to the Japan supply constraints.

Import segment income increased during 2011, as compared to 2010, primarily due to the effect of the recent acquisitions noted above, as well as an increase in used vehicle unit volume and new and used vehicle gross profit due to the Japan supply constraints. Import segment income also benefited from an increase in finance and insurance revenue and gross profit. Increases in Import segment income were partially offset by an increase in selling, general, and administrative expenses primarily due to an increase in sales commissions resulting from higher new and used vehicle gross profit.

Table of Contents

Premium Luxury

The Premium Luxury segment operating results included the following:

	Years Ended December 31,						
($ in millions)	2012	2011	Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance	2010	Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance
Revenue	$4,553.3	$4,096.4	$456.9	11.2	$3,635.2	$461.2	12.7
Segment income	$270.4	$244.1	$26.3	10.8	$219.7	$24.4	11.1
Retail new vehicle unit sales	47,925	41,524	6,401	15.4	36,039	5,485	15.2

2012 compared to 2011

Premium Luxury revenue increased during 2012, as compared to the same period in 2011, primarily due to an increase in new vehicle unit volume. The increase in new vehicle unit volume was due in part to significantly improved inventory levels of vehicles produced by a Japanese manufacturer, as well as to replacement demand and improved market conditions, including increased consumer borrowing and improved consumer confidence as compared to the prior year. An improved credit environment and an increase in new product offerings from automotive manufacturers also favorably impacted new vehicle unit volume.

Premium Luxury segment income increased during 2012, as compared to 2011, primarily due to an increase in finance and insurance revenue and gross profit and parts and service gross profit, both of which benefited from higher new and used vehicle unit volume, as well as an increase in new vehicle gross profit due to higher new vehicle unit volume. Increases in Premium Luxury segment income were partially offset by an increase in variable expenses. The prior year period was also more favorably impacted by a higher amount of certain performance-based manufacturer incentives as noted above in the “New Vehicle” section.

2011 compared to 2010

Premium Luxury revenue increased during 2011, as compared to the same period in 2010, primarily due to an increase in new and used vehicle unit volume and an increase in revenue per new vehicle retailed. The increases in new and used vehicle unit volume and revenue per new vehicle retailed was primarily due to improved market conditions, including increased consumer demand.

Premium Luxury segment income increased during 2011, as compared to 2010, primarily due to an increase in new vehicle unit volume and supply and demand imbalances for vehicles produced by Japanese manufacturers as a result of the Japan supply constraints. Premium Luxury segment income also benefited from an increase in finance and insurance revenue and gross profit. The increases in Premium Luxury segment income were partially offset by an increase in volume-related expenses, as well as by a decrease in certain performance-based manufacturer incentives as compared to the prior year. As noted above in the “New Vehicle” section, we achieved certain manufacturer incentive program goals during 2011 and 2010.

Table of Contents

Selling, General, and Administrative Expenses

Our Selling, General, and Administrative expenses ("SG&A") consist primarily of compensation, including store and corporate salaries, commissions, and incentive-based compensation, as well as advertising (net of reimbursement-based manufacturer advertising rebates), and store and corporate overhead expenses, which include occupancy costs, legal, accounting, and professional services, and general corporate expenses. The following table presents the major components of our SG&A.

	Years Ended December 31,						
($ in millions)	2012	2011	Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance	2010	Variance Favorable / (Unfavorable)	% Variance
Reported:							
Compensation	$1,162.4	$1,072.0	$(90.4)	(8.4)	$1,011.9	$(60.1)	(5.9)
Advertising	135.7	130.2	(5.5)	(4.2)	126.2	(4.0)	(3.2)
Store and corporate overhead	451.4	447.2	(4.2)	(0.9)	414.0	(33.2)	(8.0)
Total	$1,749.5	$1,649.4	$(100.1)	(6.1)	$1,552.1	$(97.3)	(6.3)
SG&A as a % of total gross profit:							
Compensation	46.8	46.5	(30)	bps	47.6	110	bps
Advertising	5.5	5.7	20	bps	5.9	20	bps
Store and corporate overhead	18.1	19.4	130	bps	19.5	10	bps
Total	70.4	71.6	120	bps	73.0	140	bps

2012 compared to 2011

SG&A expenses increased in 2012, as compared to 2011, due to a performance-driven increase in compensation expense, an increase in gross advertising expenditures, which was partially offset by an increase in advertising reimbursements from manufacturers, and an increase in store and corporate overhead expenses. As a percentage of total gross profit, SG&A expenses decreased to 70.4% in 2012 from 71.6% in 2011 resulting from our continued effective management of our cost structure, improved associate productivity, and improved gross profit.

2011 compared to 2010

SG&A expenses increased in 2011, as compared to 2010, primarily due to a performance-driven increase in compensation expense, an increase in store and corporate overhead expenses, including a $4.9 million increase associated with hail-storm related losses, and an increase in gross advertising expenditures, partially offset by an increase in advertising reimbursements from manufacturers. As a percentage of total gross profit, SG&A expenses decreased to 71.6% in 2011 from 73.0% in 2010 resulting from our continued effective management of our cost structure and improved gross profit.

Re-Branding Initiative

On January 31, 2013, we announced that we will begin marketing our Domestic and Import stores under the AutoNation retail brand. The re-branding of these stores, which previously operated under various local market retail brands, will take place throughout the first half of 2013. As part of this re-branding initiative, we expect to incur, primarily during the first half of 2013, incremental, non-recurring expenses of approximately $18 million.

Table of Contents

Non-Operating Income (Expenses)

Floorplan Interest Expense

Floorplan interest expense was $45.5 million in 2012, $42.7 million in 2011, and $42.5 million in 2010.

2012 compared to 2011

The increase in floorplan interest expense of $2.8 million in 2012, as compared to 2011, is primarily the result of higher average vehicle floorplan balances, partially offset by lower negotiated floorplan interest rates.

2011 compared to 2010

The increase in floorplan interest expense of $0.2 million in 2011, as compared to 2010, is primarily the result of higher average vehicle floorplan balances, partially offset by lower negotiated floorplan interest rates.

Other Interest Expense

Other interest expense was incurred primarily on borrowings under our term loan facility, revolving credit facility, mortgage facility, and outstanding senior unsecured notes. Other interest expense was $86.9 million in 2012, $66.0 million in 2011, and $56.1 million in 2010.

2012 compared to 2011

The increase in other interest expense of $20.9 million in 2012, as compared to 2011, was primarily due to a $17.6 million increase resulting from the February 2012 issuance of our 5.5% Senior Notes due 2020 and a $5.5 million increase resulting from higher levels of debt outstanding during the year associated with our revolving credit facility and capital lease and other debt obligations. These increases were partially offset by decreases in interest expense of $2.5 million resulting from lower interest rates on our term loan facility, $0.7 million resulting from the redemption of our 7% Senior Notes due 2014, and $0.4 million resulting from lower levels of debt outstanding during the year associated with our mortgage facility.

2011 compared to 2010

The increase in other interest expense of $9.9 million in 2011, as compared to 2010, was primarily due to a $10.7 million increase in interest expense resulting from higher levels of debt outstanding during the year associated with our 6.75% Senior Notes due 2018 and revolving credit facilities, and a $1.2 million increase in interest expense resulting from higher interest rates on our prior term loan facility due 2014. These increases were partially offset by a $3.7 million decrease due to lower levels of debt outstanding during the year associated with our Floating Rate Senior Notes due 2013, 7% Senior Notes due 2014, and mortgage facility.

Loss on Debt Extinguishment

We expensed $2.2 million pre-tax in the fourth quarter of 2011 and $19.6 million pre-tax in the second quarter of 2010 related to certain debt refinancing transactions that we completed in each respective period. These expenses included $0.4 million during 2011 and $3.5 million during 2010 for the write-off of previously deferred debt issuance costs. These expenses are recorded in Loss on Debt Extinguishment in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income.

Provision for Income Taxes

Income taxes are provided based upon our anticipated underlying annual blended federal and state income tax rates, adjusted, as necessary, for any other tax matters occurring during the period. As we operate in various states, our effective tax rate is also dependent upon our geographic revenue mix.

Our effective income tax rate was 38.6% in 2012. See Note 11 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for discussion of our unrecognized tax benefits. We do not expect that our unrecognized tax benefits will significantly increase or decrease during the twelve months beginning January 1, 2013.

Our effective income tax rate was 38.4% in 2011 and 38.3% in 2010, both of which reflect the benefit of certain favorable tax adjustments.

Table of Contents

Discontinued Operations

Discontinued operations are related to stores that were sold or terminated, that we have entered into an agreement to sell or terminate, or for which we otherwise deem a proposed sales transaction or termination to be probable, with no material changes expected. We account for a store that either has been disposed of or is classified as held for sale as a discontinued operation if (a) the operations and cash flows of the store have been (or will be) eliminated from our ongoing operations and (b) we will not have any significant continuing involvement in the operations of the store after the disposal transaction.

In evaluating whether a store's cash flows will be eliminated from our ongoing operations, we consider whether we expect to continue to generate revenues or incur expenses from the sale of similar products or services to customers of the disposed store in the same geographic market. If we believe that a significant portion of the cash flows previously generated by the disposed store will migrate to our other operating stores, we will not treat the disposition as a discontinued operation.

We had a loss from discontinued operations totaling $0.9 million in 2012, net of income taxes, primarily related to carrying costs for real estate we have not yet sold associated with stores that have been closed.

We had a loss from discontinued operations totaling $2.8 million in 2011, net of income taxes, primarily related to carrying costs for real estate we have not yet sold associated with stores that have been closed, as well as expected losses on real estate to be sold.

We had a loss from discontinued operations totaling $8.7 million in 2010, net of income taxes, primarily related to operational losses for stores that were classified as discontinued operations, as well as carrying costs for real estate not yet sold related to stores that had been closed.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

We manage our liquidity to ensure access to sufficient funding at acceptable costs to fund our ongoing operating requirements and future capital expenditures while continuing to meet our financial obligations. We believe that our cash and cash equivalents, funds generated through future operations, and amounts available under our revolving credit facility and secured used vehicle floorplan facilities will be sufficient to fund our working capital requirements, service our debt, pay our tax obligations and commitments and contingencies, and meet any seasonal operating requirements for the foreseeable future.

Available Liquidity Resources

We had the following sources of liquidity available for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011:

(In millions)	December 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
Cash and Cash Equivalents	$69.7	$86.6
Revolving Credit Facility[1]	$603.5	$648.5
Secured Used Floorplan Facilities[2]	$92.9	$75.4

(1) Based on aggregate borrowings outstanding of $540.0 million and outstanding letters of credit of $56.5 million at December 31, 2012, and aggregate borrowings outstanding of $495.0 million and outstanding letters of credit of $56.5 million at December 31, 2011. See "Long-Term Debt – Credit Agreement" for additional information.

(2) Based on the eligible used vehicle inventory that could have been pledged as collateral. See "Long-Term Debt – Vehicle Floorplan Payable" for additional information.

In the ordinary course of business, we are required to post performance and surety bonds, letters of credit, and/or cash deposits as financial guarantees of our performance. At December 31, 2012, surety bonds, letters of credit, and cash deposits totaled $92.2 million, including the $56.5 million of letters of credit outstanding under our revolving credit facility. We do not currently provide cash collateral for outstanding letters of credit.

Table of Contents

In February 2012, we filed an automatic shelf registration statement with the SEC that enables us to offer for sale, from time to time and as the capital markets permit, an unspecified amount of common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants, subscriptions rights, depositary shares, stock purchase contracts, units, and guarantees of debt securities.

Capital Allocation

Our capital allocation strategy is focused on maximizing stockholder returns. The first priority of our capital allocation strategy is to maintain a strong balance sheet. Second, we invest capital in our business to maintain and upgrade our existing facilities and to build new facilities, as well as for other strategic and technology initiatives. Third, we deploy capital opportunistically to repurchase our common stock and/or debt or to complete dealership acquisitions. Our capital allocation decisions will be based on factors such as the expected rate of return on our investment, the market price of our common stock versus our view of its intrinsic value, the market price of our debt, the potential impact on our capital structure, our ability to complete dealership acquisitions that meet our market and vehicle brand criteria and return on investment threshold, and limitations set forth in our debt agreements.

Share Repurchases

A summary of shares repurchased under our share repurchase program authorized by our Board of Directors follows:

(In millions, except per share data)	2012	2011	2010
Shares repurchased	16.6	17.1	26.6
Aggregate purchase price	$580.6	$583.4	$523.7
Average purchase price per share	$34.89	$34.14	$19.70

The decision to repurchase shares at any given point in time is based on such factors as the market price of our common stock versus our view of its intrinsic value, the potential impact on our capital structure (including compliance with our 3.75x maximum leverage ratio and other financial covenants in our debt agreements as well as our available liquidity), and the expected return on competing uses of capital such as dealership acquisitions, capital investments in our current businesses, or repurchases of our debt.

As of December 31, 2012, $319.2 million remained available for share repurchases under the program.

Senior Note Repurchases and Debt Prepayment

We may from time to time repurchase our outstanding senior unsecured notes in open market purchases or privately negotiated transactions. Additionally, we may in the future prepay our term loan facility or other debt. The decision to repurchase senior unsecured notes or to prepay our term loan facility or other debt is based on prevailing market conditions, our liquidity requirements, contractual restrictions, and other factors.

Capital Expenditures

The following table sets forth information regarding our capital expenditures over the past three years:

(In millions)	2012	2011	2010
Purchases of property and equipment, including operating lease buy-outs [1]	$183.6	$158.1	$161.8

[1] Includes accrued construction in progress and excludes property acquired under capital leases.

Excluding land purchased for future sites and lease buy-outs, and net of related asset sales, we anticipate that our capital expenditures, including accrued construction in progress, will be approximately $170 million in 2013 primarily related to our store facilities.

Table of Contents

Acquisitions and Divestitures

The following table sets forth information regarding cash used in business acquisitions, net of cash acquired, and cash received from business divestitures, net of cash relinquished, over the past three years:

(In millions)	2012	2011	2010
Cash received from (used in) business acquisitions, net	$(141.6)	$(64.2)	$(73.1)
Cash received from (used in) business divestitures, net	$6.8	$4.9	$13.0

We purchased six stores and related assets during 2012, compared to one in 2011 and five in 2010. We acquired Boardwalk Audi, Boardwalk Porsche, Boardwalk Volkswagen, Park Cities Volkswagen, and McKinney Volkswagen in the Dallas, Texas market and Spring Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram in the Houston, Texas market on December 21, 2012. The aggregate purchase price of these acquisitions was $203.7 million, including $141.6 million paid at closing and $62.1 million in liabilities related to capital leases and deferred purchase price commitments.

Cash Dividends

We have not declared or paid any cash dividends on our common stock during our two most recent fiscal years. We do not currently anticipate paying cash dividends for the foreseeable future.

Long-Term Debt

The following table sets forth our non-vehicle long-term debt as of December 31, 2012 and 2011:

(In millions)	2012	2011
7% Senior Notes due 2014	$—	$14.7
6.75% Senior Notes due 2018	395.6	395.0
5.5% Senior Notes due 2020	350.0	—
Term loan facility due 2016	500.0	500.0
Revolving credit facility due 2016	540.0	495.0
Mortgage facility[1]	203.3	211.5
Capital leases and other debt	107.2	30.8
	2,096.1	1,647.0
Less: current maturities	(29.8)	(12.6)
Long-term debt, net of current maturities	$2,066.3	$1,634.4

(1) The mortgage facility requires monthly principal and interest payments of $1.7 million based on a fixed amortization schedule with a balloon payment of $155.4 million due November 2017.

Senior Unsecured Notes

On February 1, 2012, we issued $350.0 million aggregate principal amount of 5.5% Senior Notes due 2020. Interest is payable on February 1 and August 1 of each year. At any time prior to February 1, 2015, we may redeem up to 35% of the principal amount of these notes with the net cash proceeds of one or more public equity offerings of our common stock at 105.5% of principal. These notes will mature on February 1, 2020.

On April 16, 2012, we redeemed all of our outstanding 7% Senior Notes due 2014 at 100% of principal, for which we paid $15.2 million (which included accrued and unpaid interest).

At December 31, 2012, we had outstanding $395.6 million of 6.75% Senior Notes due 2018, net of debt discount. Interest is payable on April 15 and October 15 of each year. At any time prior to April 15, 2013, we may redeem up to 35% of the principal amount of these notes with the net cash proceeds of one or more public equity offerings of our common stock at 106.75% of principal. These notes will mature on April 15, 2018.

Our senior unsecured notes are guaranteed by substantially all of our subsidiaries.

Table of Contents

Credit Agreement

Under our credit agreement, we have a $500.0 million term loan facility and a $1.2 billion revolving credit facility. The term loan and revolving credit facilities under the credit agreement mature on December 7, 2016. As of December 31, 2012, we had borrowings outstanding of $540.0 million under the revolving credit facility. We have a $200 million letter of credit sublimit as part of our revolving credit facility. The amount available to be borrowed under the revolving credit facility is reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis by the cumulative amount of any outstanding letters of credit, which was $56.5 million at December 31, 2012, leaving an additional borrowing capacity under the revolving credit facility of $603.5 million at December 31, 2012.

Funds borrowed under our credit agreement may be used to repay indebtedness, finance acquisitions and for working capital, capital expenditures, share repurchases, and other general corporate purposes.

Our term loan facility provides for various interest rates generally at LIBOR plus 1.75%. Our revolving credit facility provides for a commitment fee on undrawn amounts of 0.30% and various interest rates on borrowings generally at LIBOR plus 1.75%.

The credit spread charged for both the term loan facility and the revolving credit facility is affected by our leverage ratio. For instance, an increase in our leverage ratio from greater than or equal to 2.0x but less than 3.25x to greater than or equal to 3.25x would result in a 25 basis point increase in the credit spread under both our term loan facility and revolving credit facility.

Borrowings under the credit agreement are guaranteed by substantially all of our subsidiaries.

Vehicle Floorplan Payable

Vehicle floorplan payable-trade totaled $1.8 billion at December 31, 2012 and $1.4 billion at December 31, 2011. Vehicle floorplan payable-trade reflects amounts borrowed to finance the purchase of specific new vehicle inventories with manufacturers’ captive finance subsidiaries.

Vehicle floorplan payable-non-trade totaled $773.9 million at December 31, 2012, and $536.5 million at December 31, 2011, and represents amounts borrowed to finance the purchase of specific new and, to a lesser extent, used vehicle inventories with non-trade lenders, as well as amounts borrowed under our secured used vehicle floorplan facilities, which are primarily collateralized by used vehicle inventories and related receivables.

At December 31, 2012, the aggregate capacity under our used vehicle floorplan facilities was $275.0 million. As of that date, $119.5 million had been borrowed under those facilities, and the remaining borrowing capacity of $155.5 million was limited to $92.9 million based on the eligible used vehicle inventory that could have been pledged as collateral.

At December 31, 2011, the aggregate capacity under our used vehicle floorplan facilities was $260.0 million. As of that date, $112.7 million had been borrowed under those facilities, and the remaining borrowing capacity of $147.3 million was limited to $75.4 million based on the eligible used vehicle inventory that could have been pledged as collateral.

All the vehicle floorplan facilities utilize LIBOR-based interest rates. Vehicle floorplan facilities are due on demand, but in the case of new vehicle inventories, are generally paid within several business days after the related vehicles are sold. Our manufacturer agreements generally require that the manufacturer have the ability to draft against the new vehicle floorplan facilities so the lender directly funds the manufacturer for the purchase of new vehicle inventory. Vehicle floorplan facilities are primarily collateralized by vehicle inventories and related receivables.

Other Debt

At December 31, 2012, we had $203.3 million outstanding under a mortgage facility with an automotive manufacturer’s captive finance subsidiary. The mortgage facility was refinanced under a new facility in November 2007 to provide a fixed interest rate (5.864%) and provide financing secured by 10-year mortgages on certain of our store properties. The mortgage facility requires monthly principal and interest payments of $1.7 million based on a fixed amortization schedule with a balloon payment of $155.4 million due November 2017. Repayment of the mortgage facility is subject to a prepayment penalty.

Table of Contents

At December 31, 2012, we had capital lease and other debt obligations of $107.2 million, which are due at various dates through 2032.

Restrictions and Covenants

Our credit agreement, the indentures for our 6.75% Senior Notes due 2018 and 5.5% Senior Notes due 2020, our vehicle floorplan facilities, and our mortgage facility contain customary financial and operating covenants that place restrictions on us, including our ability to incur additional indebtedness or prepay existing indebtedness, to create liens or other encumbrances, to sell (or otherwise dispose of) assets, and to merge or consolidate with other entities.

Under our credit agreement we are required to remain in compliance with a maximum leverage ratio and maximum capitalization ratio. The leverage ratio is a contractually defined amount principally reflecting non-vehicle debt divided by a contractually defined measure of earnings with certain adjustments. The capitalization ratio is a contractually defined amount principally reflecting vehicle floorplan payable and non-vehicle debt divided by our total capitalization including vehicle floorplan payable. Under the credit agreement, the maximum capitalization ratio is 65.0% and the maximum leverage ratio is 3.75x. In calculating our leverage and capitalization ratios, we are not required to include letters of credit in the definition of debt (except to the extent of letters of credit in excess of $150.0 million). In addition, in calculating our capitalization ratio, we are permitted to add back to shareholders’ equity all goodwill, franchise rights, and long-lived asset impairment charges subsequent to September 30, 2011 plus $1.52 billion. The specific terms of these covenants can be found in our credit agreement, which we filed with our Current Report on Form 8-K on December 8, 2011.

The indentures for our 6.75% Senior Notes due 2018 and 5.5% Senior Notes due 2020 contain certain limited covenants, including limitations on liens and sale and leaseback transactions, but do not contain restricted payments covenants or debt incurrence restrictions. Our mortgage facility contains covenants regarding maximum cash flow leverage and minimum interest coverage.

Our failure to comply with the covenants contained in our debt agreements could permit acceleration of all of our indebtedness. Our debt agreements have cross-default provisions that trigger a default in the event of an uncured default under other material indebtedness of AutoNation.

As of December 31, 2012, we were in compliance with the requirements of the financial covenants under our debt agreements. Under the terms of our credit agreement, at December 31, 2012, our leverage ratio and capitalization ratio were as follows:

	December 31, 2012	
	Requirement	Actual
Leverage ratio	< 3.75x	2.82x
Capitalization ratio	< 65.0%	59.1%

Both the leverage ratio and the capitalization ratio limit our ability to incur additional non-vehicle debt. The capitalization ratio also limits our ability to incur additional vehicle floorplan indebtedness.

In the event of a downgrade in our credit ratings, none of the covenants described above would be impacted. In addition, availability under the credit agreement described above would not be impacted should a downgrade in the senior unsecured debt credit ratings occur.

Cash Flows

The following table summarizes the changes in our cash provided by (used in) operating, investing, and financing activities:

	Years Ended December 31,		
(In millions)	2012	2011	2010
Net cash provided by operating activities	$316.6	$376.4	$251.8
Net cash used in investing activities	$(297.8)	$(206.2)	$(200.2)
Net cash used in financing activities	$(35.7)	$(178.7)	$(130.0)

Table of Contents

Cash Flows from Operating Activities

Our primary sources of operating cash flows are collections from contracts-in-transit and customers following the sale of vehicles and proceeds from vehicle floorplan payable-trade. Our primary uses of cash from operating activities are repayments of vehicle floorplan payable-trade, personnel-related expenditures, and payments related to taxes and leased properties.

2012 compared to 2011

Net cash provided by operating activities decreased during 2012, as compared to 2011, primarily due to an increase in working capital requirements, partially offset by an increase in earnings.

2011 compared to 2010

During 2011, we paid $14.8 million in connection with refinancing our indebtedness. Cash flows from operating activities reflect $1.8 million of these cash payments that we charged to expense related to this refinancing transaction. In addition, we charged to expense $0.4 million of previously deferred debt issuance costs. Cash flows from financing activities, discussed below, reflect $13.0 million of debt issuance costs that are being amortized to interest expense over the term of the new credit agreement.

Net cash provided by operating activities increased during 2011, as compared to 2010, primarily due to a decrease in working capital requirements and an increase in earnings.

Cash Flows from Investing Activities

Net cash flows from investing activities consist primarily of cash used in capital additions, activity from business acquisitions, business divestitures, property dispositions, purchases and sales of investments, and other transactions. We will make facility and infrastructure upgrades and improvements from time to time as we identify projects that are required to maintain our current business or that we expect to provide us with acceptable rates of return. Excluding land purchased for future sites and lease buy-outs, and net of related asset sales, we project that 2013 capital expenditures, including accrued construction in progress, will be approximately $170 million.

2012 compared to 2011

Net cash used in investing activities increased during 2012 as compared to 2011, primarily due to an increase in cash used in business acquisitions.

2011 compared to 2010

Net cash used in investing activities increased during 2011 as compared to 2010, primarily due to a decrease in cash received from business divestitures and a decrease in proceeds from property dispositions, partially offset by a decrease in cash used in business acquisitions.

Cash Flows from Financing Activities

Net cash flows from financing activities primarily include repurchases of common stock, debt activity, changes in vehicle floorplan payable-non-trade, and stock option exercises.

2012 compared to 2011

During 2012, under our share repurchase program authorized by our Board of Directors, we repurchased 16.6 million shares of common stock for an aggregate purchase price of $580.6 million (average purchase price per share of $34.89), including repurchases for which settlement occurred subsequent to December 31, 2012. Additionally, 46,467 shares were surrendered to AutoNation primarily to satisfy tax withholding obligations in connection with the vesting of restricted stock.

During 2011, under our share repurchase program authorized by our Board of Directors, we repurchased 17.1 million shares of our common stock for an aggregate purchase price of $583.4 million (average purchase price per share of $34.14), including repurchases for which settlement occurred subsequent to December 31, 2011. Additionally, 43,729

Table of Contents

shares were surrendered to AutoNation to satisfy tax withholding obligations in connection with the vesting of restricted stock.

During 2012, we borrowed $1.3 billion and repaid $1.2 billion under our revolving credit facility, for net borrowings of $45.0 million. During 2011, we borrowed $940.0 million and repaid $625.0 million under our revolving credit facility, for net borrowings of $315.0 million.

On February 1, 2012, we issued $350.0 million aggregate principal amount of 5.5% Senior Notes due 2020. See “Long-Term Debt - Senior Unsecured Notes” above for additional information regarding our 5.5% Senior Notes due 2020. Cash flows from financing activities in 2012 reflect cash payments of $6.0 million for debt issuance costs that are being amortized to expense over the term of the related debt.

On April 16, 2012, we redeemed all of our outstanding 7% Senior Notes due 2014 at 100% of principal, for which we paid $14.7 million.

During 2011, we entered into a new five-year unsecured credit agreement with a $500.0 million term loan facility and a $1.2 billion revolving credit facility. The new credit agreement replaced our prior unsecured credit agreement. The prior credit agreement was terminated concurrently with our entry into the new credit agreement, and the indebtedness outstanding under the prior credit agreement was paid off with proceeds from borrowings under the new credit agreement. Cash flows from financing activities in 2011 also reflect cash payments of $13.0 million for debt issuance costs that are being amortized to expense over the term of the new credit agreement.

Cash flows from financing activities include changes in vehicle floorplan payable-non-trade (vehicle floorplan payables with lenders other than the automotive manufacturers’ captive finance subsidiaries for that franchise) totaling net proceeds of $137.5 million during 2012 compared to net proceeds of $40.1 million in 2011.

During 2012, cash flows from financing activities were also impacted by a decrease in proceeds from the exercise of stock options and a decrease in the related excess tax benefit from stock-based awards as compared to 2011.

2011 compared to 2010

Net cash used in financing activities increased during 2011, as compared to 2010, primarily due to the net impact of the debt activity that occurred in 2011, as noted above, and 2010, described below, as well as a decrease in net proceeds from vehicle floorplan payable-non-trade and an increase in the repurchase of shares of our common stock, partially offset by increases in revolver borrowings and proceeds from the exercise of stock options in 2011 as compared to 2010.

During 2010, we accepted for payment, and thereafter cancelled, all of our outstanding Floating Rate Senior Notes due 2013 and 88.9% of our 7% Senior Notes due 2014, representing an aggregate principal amount of $264.0 million of old notes, and closed the debt offering and issued $400.0 million aggregate principal amount of 6.75% Senior Notes due 2018.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the 6.75% Senior Notes due 2018 was used (1) to pay approximately $274.5 million for the old notes that were validly tendered and accepted for payment (which included accrued and unpaid interest for the old notes, as well as consent payments for those that were tendered and accepted for payment by April 13, 2010), (2) to reduce the size of our term loan facility by approximately $66.6 million (from $600.0 million to $533.4 million), (3) to pay transaction fees and expenses related to the 2010 debt offering, the tender offers, and the amendment to then existing credit agreement, and (4) for general corporate purposes. Cash flows from financing activities in 2010 also reflect cash payments of $11.9 million for debt issuance costs that are being amortized to expense over the term of the related debt arrangements.

Table of Contents

Contractual Payment Obligations

The following table summarizes our payment obligations under certain contracts at December 31, 2012:

	Payments Due by Period				
(In millions)	Total	Less Than 1 Year (2013)	1 - 3 Years (2014 and 2015)	3 - 5 Years (2016 and 2017)	More Than 5 Years (2018 and thereafter)
Vehicle floorplan payable (Note 3)(1)	$2,540.2	$2,540.2	$—	$—	$—
Long-term debt, including capital leases (Note 7)(1)	2,096.1	29.8	53.7	1,218.7	793.9
Interest payments(2)	371.0	62.8	121.7	116.3	70.2
Operating lease and other commitments (Note 8)(3)	467.5	44.4	78.6	69.2	275.3
Unrecognized tax benefits, net (Note 11)(1)	5.8	0.8	1.3	—	3.7
Deferred compensation obligations(4)	40.6	1.4	—	—	39.2
Estimated liability for chargebacks (Note 19)(5)	56.0	31.1	22.0	2.8	0.1
Estimated liability for self-insurance obligations(6)	61.5	22.6	21.0	10.0	7.9
Purchase obligations(7)	126.9	55.7	40.9	29.5	0.8