# UNITED STATES <br> SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION <br> Washington, D.C. 20549 

## FORM 8-K

## CURRENT REPORT <br> Pursuant to Section 13 OR 15(d) of The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): November 29, 2007

| Commission File Number | Registrant, State of Incorporation Address and Telephone Number | I.R.S. Employer Identification No. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 333-42427 | J.CREW GROUP, INC. | 22-2894486 |
|  | (Incorporated in Delaware) |  |
|  | 770 Broadway |  |
|  | New York, New York 10003 |  |
|  | Telephone: (212) 209-2500 |  |

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):
q Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
q Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
q Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
q Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

## Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

On November 29, 2007, J.Crew Group, Inc. issued a press release announcing the Company’s financial results for the third quarter ended November 3, 2007. The Company is furnishing a copy of the press release hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

## Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Press Release issued by J.Crew Group, Inc. on November 29, 2007.

The information in this Current Report is being furnished and shall not be deemed to be "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended ("Exchange Act"), nor shall such information be deemed incorporated by reference into any filing under the Act, or the Exchange Act, except as expressly stated by specific reference in such filing.

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

By: /s/ James S. Scully
Name: James S. Scully
Title: Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

## Investor Contact:

Allison Malkin/Chad Jacobs/Joe Teklits Integrated Corporate Relations (203) 682-8200

## J. CREW GROUP, INC. ANNOUNCES THIRD QUARTER FISCAL 2007 RESULTS <br> Third Quarter Operating Income Increases 44\% Third Quarter Diluted EPS of \$0.42 <br> Raises Fiscal 2007 Guidance

New York, NY - November 29, 2007 - J. Crew Group, Inc. [NYSE:JCG] today announced financial results for the three months (Third Quarter) and nine months (First Nine Months) ended November 3, 2007.

Third Quarter highlights:

- Revenues increased $21 \%$ to $\$ 332.7$ million. Store sales (Retail and Factory) increased $16 \%$ to $\$ 233.6$ million, with comparable store sales increasing $8 \%$. Realigning last year's calendar weeks to be consistent with the current year retail calendar weeks would result in a comparable store sales increase of $5 \%$ in the third quarter of fiscal 2007. Comparable store sales increased 19\% in the third quarter of fiscal 2006. Direct sales (Internet and Catalog) rose by $36 \%$ to $\$ 90.3$ million. Direct sales increased $18 \%$ in the third quarter of fiscal 2006.
- Operating income increased $44 \%$ to $\$ 47.7$ million, or $14.3 \%$ of revenues, compared to $\$ 33.2$ million, or $12.0 \%$ of revenues, in the third quarter of fiscal 2006.
- Net income available to common stockholders was $\$ 26.8$ million, or $\$ 0.42$ per diluted share, compared to $\$ 26.0$ million, or $\$ 0.40$ per diluted share, in the third quarter of fiscal 2006. The current year period reflects an effective tax rate of $39.8 \%$ as compared to an effective tax rate of $7.1 \%$ in the third quarter of fiscal 2006.
- Adjusted net income for the third quarter of fiscal 2006 totaled $\$ 17.2$ million, or $\$ 0.27$ per diluted share. A reconciliation of net income on a GAAP basis to adjusted net income is included in Exhibit (3) of this press release.

Millard Drexler, J. Crew’s Chairman and CEO stated: "We are pleased with our third quarter results, which reflect the strength of both our Store and Direct businesses and our ongoing commitment to great style, quality and design. Our focus continues to be on driving high quality earnings growth by investing in the areas where we get superior returns - improving quality and design, differentiating our assortments and expanding our Store and Direct businesses."

## First Nine Months highlights:

- Revenues increased $19 \%$ to $\$ 934.8$ million. Store sales (Retail and Factory) increased $15 \%$ to $\$ 654.2$ million, with comparable store sales increasing $8 \%$. Realigning last year's calendar weeks to be consistent with the current year retail calendar weeks would result in a comparable store sales increase of $6 \%$ in the first nine months of fiscal 2007. Comparable store sales increased $16 \%$ in the first nine months of fiscal 2006. Direct sales (Internet and Catalog) rose by $29 \%$ to $\$ 251.4$ million in the first nine months of fiscal 2007. Direct sales increased $12 \%$ in the first nine months of fiscal 2006.
- Operating income increased $46 \%$ to $\$ 129.2$ million, or $13.8 \%$ of revenues, compared to $\$ 88.3$ million, or $11.2 \%$ of revenues, in the first nine months of fiscal 2006.
- Net income available to common stockholders was $\$ 72.1$ million, or $\$ 1.13$ per diluted share, compared to $\$ 27.7$ million, or $\$ 0.62$ per diluted share, in the first nine months of fiscal 2006.
- Adjusted net income for the first nine months of fiscal 2006 totaled $\$ 44.7$ million, or $\$ 0.70$ per diluted share. A reconciliation of net income on a GAAP basis to adjusted net income is included in Exhibit (3) of this press release.

Balance Sheet highlights as of November 3, 2007:

- Inventories at the end of the quarter were $\$ 210.8$ million, reflecting the impact of 29 net stores opened since the end of the third quarter of fiscal 2006. Additionally, the $53^{\text {rd }}$ week in fiscal 2006 causes each quarter in 2007 to begin and end one week later, resulting in non-comparable point in time inventory increases. The impact of the calendar shift increased inventory by approximately $\$ 15$ million at the end of the quarter.
- Long-term debt was reduced to $\$ 125$ million, which reflects the Company's voluntary principal prepayments of $\$ 75$ million and $\$ 50$ million made during the first nine months of fiscal 2007 and the fourth quarter of fiscal 2006, respectively.


## Guidance

The Company's long-term annual financial targets include comparable store sales growth in the mid single-digit range, Direct sales growth in the high single-digits, net square footage expansion in the $7 \%$ to $9 \%$ range, and diluted EPS growth in excess of $20 \%$.

Based on better than anticipated third quarter results, the Company currently expects fiscal 2007 diluted earnings per share in the range of $\$ 1.50$ to $\$ 1.52$, as compared to its previous guidance range of $\$ 1.42$ to $\$ 1.46$.

## Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures

In addition to providing financial results in accordance with GAAP, the Company has provided non-GAAP adjusted interest expense, income taxes, net income, preferred stock dividends and earnings per share information for the three and nine months ended October 28, 2006 in this release. This information reflects, on a non-GAAP adjusted basis, the Company's adjusted interest expense, income taxes, net income, preferred stock dividends, weighted average shares outstanding and earnings per share after considering the effects of transactions which resulted from the

Company's initial public offering, refinancings and adjusted tax rates. This non-GAAP financial information is provided to enhance the user's overall understanding of the Company's current financial performance. Specifically, the Company believes the non-GAAP adjusted results provide useful information to both management and investors by adjusting the items discussed above that the Company believes are not indicative of future results. The non-GAAP financial information should be considered in addition to, not as a substitute for or as being superior to, net income, earnings per share or other measures of financial performance prepared in accordance with GAAP. This non-GAAP information and a reconciliation of this information to GAAP amounts for the three and nine months ended October 28, 2006 are included in Exhibit (3).

## Conference Call Information

A conference call to discuss third quarter results is scheduled for today, November 29, 2007, at 4:30 PM Eastern Time. Investors and analysts interested in participating in the call are invited to dial (888) 802-8577 approximately ten minutes prior to the start of the call. The conference call will also be webcast live at www.jcrew.com. A replay of this call will be available until December 5, 2007 and can be accessed by dialing (877) 519-4471 and entering code 9473389.

## About J. Crew Group, Inc.

J. Crew Group, Inc. is a nationally recognized multi-channel retailer of women's and men's apparel, shoes and accessories. As of November 24, 2007, the Company operates 198 retail stores (including four crewcuts and six Madewell stores), the J. Crew catalog business, jcrew.com, and 61 factory outlet stores. Additionally, certain product, press release and SEC filing information concerning the Company are available at the Company's website www.jcrew.com.

## Forward-Looking Statements:

Certain statements herein are "forward-looking statements" made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements reflect the Company's current expectations or beliefs concerning future events and actual results of operations may differ materially from historical results or current expectations. Any such forward-looking statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties, including the strength of the economy, changes in the overall level of consumer spending or preferences in apparel, our ability to compete with other retailers, the performance of the Company's products within the prevailing retail environment, our strategy and expansion plans, reliance on key personnel, trade restrictions, political or financial instability in countries where the Company's goods are manufactured, postal rate increases, paper and printing costs, availability of suitable store locations at appropriate terms and other factors which are set forth in the Company's Form 10-K and in all filings with the SEC made by the Company subsequent to the filing of the Form 10-K. The Company does not undertake to publicly update or revise its forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

## J. Crew Group, Inc.

## Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations

(Unaudited)

| (Amounts in thousands, except percentages and per share amounts) | Three Months Ended November 3, 2007 |  | Three Months Ended October 28, 2006 |  | Nine Months <br> Ended <br> November 3, 2007 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Net sales |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Stores | \$ | 233,588 | \$ | 202,174 | \$ | 654,182 | \$ | 566,708 |
| Direct |  | 90,315 |  | 66,346 |  | 251,424 |  | 195,379 |
|  |  | 323,903 |  | 268,520 |  | 905,606 |  | 762,087 |
| Other |  | 8,841 |  | 7,055 |  | 29,181 |  | 23,343 |
| Total Revenues |  | 332,744 |  | 275,575 |  | 934,787 |  | 785,430 |
| Costs of goods sold, buying and occupancy costs |  | 180,909 |  | 147,703 |  | 511,224 |  | 434,944 |
| Gross profit |  | 151,835 |  | 127,872 |  | 423,563 |  | 350,486 |
| As a percent of revenues |  | 45.6\% |  | 46.4\% |  | 45.3\% |  | 44.6\% |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses |  | 104,150 |  | 94,690 |  | 294,385 |  | 262,188 |
| As a percent of revenues |  | 31.3\% |  | 34.4\% |  | 31.5\% |  | 33.4\% |
| Operating income |  | 47,685 |  | 33,182 |  | 129,178 |  | 88,298 |
| As a percent of revenues |  | 14.3\% |  | 12.0\% |  | 13.8\% |  | 11.2\% |
| Interest expense, net |  | 3,077 |  | 5,172 |  | 9,377 |  | 40,028 |
| Loss on refinancing of debt |  | - |  | - |  | - |  | 10,039 |
| Income before income taxes |  | 44,608 |  | 28,010 |  | 119,801 |  | 38,231 |
| Provision for income taxes |  | 17,771 |  | 2,000 |  | 47,683 |  | 4,400 |
| Net income |  | 26,837 |  | 26,010 |  | 72,118 |  | 33,831 |
| Preferred stock dividends |  | - |  | - |  | - |  | $(6,141)$ |
| Net income applicable to common shareholders | \$ | 26,837 | \$ | 26,010 | \$ | 72,118 | \$ | 27,690 |
| Income per share: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Basic | \$ | 0.44 | \$ | 0.45 | \$ | 1.20 | \$ | 0.69 |
| Diluted | \$ | 0.42 | \$ | 0.40 | \$ | 1.13 | \$ | 0.62 |

Weighted average shares outstanding:

| Basic | 60,725 | 58,036 | 60,257 | 63,923 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Diluted | 64,195 | 64,657 | 44,846 |  |

## J. Crew Group, Inc.

## Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets

## (Unaudited)

| (In thousands) | $\begin{gathered} \text { November 3, } \\ 2007 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | February 3, 2007 | $\begin{gathered} \text { October 28, } \\ \quad 2006 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Assets |  |  |  |
| Current assets: |  |  |  |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 63,760 | \$ 88,900 | \$ 72,475 |
| Inventories | 210,774 | 140,670 | 174,687 |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | 50,721 | 47,528 | 38,744 |
| Total current assets | 325,255 | 277,098 | 285,906 |
| Property and equipment, net | 156,524 | 121,814 | 113,925 |
| Other assets | 29,941 | 29,154 | 14,074 |
| Total assets | \$ 511,720 | \$ 428,066 | \$413,905 |
| Liabilities and Stockholders' equity |  |  |  |
| Current liabilities: |  |  |  |
| Accounts payable | \$ 106,811 | \$ 77,836 | \$ 85,335 |
| Other current liabilities | 80,310 | 76,666 | 64,341 |
| Income taxes payable | 13,401 | 5,496 | 5,087 |
| Current portion of long-term debt | - | - | 2,850 |
| Total current liabilities | 200,522 | 159,998 | 157,613 |
| Long-term debt | 125,000 | 200,000 | 247,150 |
| Deferred credits | 69,140 | 62,448 | 64,278 |
| Other liabilities | 6,689 | - | - |
| Stockholders' equity (deficit) | 110,369 | 5,620 | $(55,136)$ |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity (deficit) | \$ 511,720 | \$ 428,066 | \$413,905 |

## Reconciliation of net income on a GAAP basis to "Adjusted net income"

|  | Three Months Ended October 28, 2006 |  |  |  | Nine Months Ended October 28, 2006 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (Amounts in thousands, except percentages and per share amounts) | GAAP Basis |  | justments | As Adjusted | GAAP Basis |  | Adjustments | As Adjusted |
| Total Revenues | \$ 275,575 |  | - | \$ 275,575 | \$ 785,430 |  | - | \$ 785,430 |
| Cost of goods sold, buying and occupancy costs | 147,703 |  | - | 147,703 | 434,944 |  | - | 434,944 |
| Gross profit | 127,872 |  | - | 127,872 | 350,486 |  | - | 350,486 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 94,690 |  | - | 94,690 | 262,188 |  | - | 262,188 |
| Operating income | 33,182 |  | - | 33,182 | 88,298 |  | - | 88,298 |
| Interest expense, net | 5,172 |  | - | 5,172 | 40,028 |  | $(24,556)(\mathrm{a})$ | 15,472 |
| Loss on refinancing of debt | - |  | - | - | 10,039 |  | $(10,039)(\mathrm{b})$ | - |
| Income before income taxes | 28,010 |  | - | 28,010 | 38,231 |  | 34,595 | 72,826 |
| Provision for income taxes | 2,000 |  | 8,812 (c) | 10,812 | 4,400 |  | 23,711 (c) | 28,111 |
| Net income | 26,010 |  | $(8,812)$ | 17,198 | 33,831 |  | 10,884 | 44,715 |
| Preferred stock dividends | - |  | - | - | $(6,141)$ |  | 6,141 (d) | - |
| Net income applicable to common stockholders | \$ 26,010 | \$ | $(8,812)$ | \$ 17,198 | \$ 27,690 |  | \$ 17,025 | \$ 44,715 |
| Earnings per share: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Basic | \$ 0.45 | \$ | (0.15) | \$ 0.30 | \$ 0.69 | \$ | \$ 0.08 | \$ 0.77 |
| Diluted | \$ 0.40 | \$ | (0.13) | \$ 0.27 | \$ 0.62 | \$ | \$ 0.08 | \$ 0.70 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Basic | 58,036 |  | - | 58,036 | 39,968 |  | 17,911 (e) | 57,879 |
| Diluted | 64,657 |  | - | 64,657 | 44,846 |  | 19,439 (e) | 64,285 |

(a) to adjust interest expense for (i) the redemption of all outstanding preferred stock, (ii) the conversion of the $5 \%$ notes payable into common stock, (iii) the redemption of $\$ 21.7$ million of the $131 / 8 \%$ debentures, (iv) the repayment of $\$ 275.0$ million aggregate principal amount of $9 / 4 \%$ notes with the proceeds of the $\$ 285.0$ million senior term loan, (v) the repayment of $\$ 35.0$ million of the senior term loan with the proceeds of the IPO completed in July 2006 and (vi) the amortization of deferred financing costs related to the term loan entered into in May 2006, assuming each of these transactions had been completed at the beginning of the fiscal year.
(b) to eliminate the loss on refinancing of debt.
(c) to adjust the provision for income taxes to reflect the Company's estimated future ongoing effective tax rate of $38.6 \%$, as the effective tax rate in the three and nine months ended October 28, 2006 is not representative of the Company's ongoing effective tax rate.
(d) to reflect the redemption of $\$ 92.8$ million of Series A preferred stock.
(e) to reflect the number of common shares outstanding after the IPO on a basic and diluted basis.

## Actual and Projected Store Count and Square Footage

| Fiscal 2007 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Quarter | Total stores open at beginning of the quarter | Number of stores opened during the quarter | Number of stores closed during the quarter | Total stores open at end of the quarter |
| $1^{\text {st }}$ Quarter (Actual) | 227 | $\bigcirc 6$ | 0 | 233 |
| $2^{\text {nd }}$ Quarter (Actual) | 233 | 7 | 2 | 238 |
| $3^{\text {rd }}$ Quarter (Actual) | 238 | 18 | 1 | 255 |
| $4^{\text {th }}$ Quarter (Projected) | 255 | 7 | 1 | 261 |

## Fiscal 2007

| Quarter | Total gross square feet at beginning of the quarter | Gross square feet <br> for stores opened or expanded during the quarter | Reduction of gross square feet for stores closed or downsized during the quarter | Total gross square feet at end of the quarter |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $1^{\text {st }}$ Quarter (Actual) | 1,543,904 | 22,615 | 0 | 1,566,519 |
| $2^{\text {nd }}$ Quarter (Actual) | 1,566,519 | 33,961 | $(20,939)$ | 1,579,541 |
| $3^{\text {rd }}$ Quarter (Actual) | 1,579,541 | 87,645 | $(6,662)$ | 1,660,524 |
| $4^{\text {th }}$ Quarter (Projected) | 1,660,524 | 42,459 | $(7,290)$ | 1,695,693 |

