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

**FORM 10-Q**

(X) QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(D) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended April 1, 2018

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: 1-2207**

**THE WENDY'S COMPANY**  
(Exact name of registrants as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**38-0471180**

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**One Dave Thomas Blvd., Dublin, Ohio**

(Address of principal executive offices)

**43017**

(Zip Code)

**(614) 764-3100**

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes [x] No [ ]

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (section 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes [x] No [ ]

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

Large accelerated filer [x]

Non-accelerated filer [ ] (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Accelerated filer [ ]

Smaller reporting company [ ]

Emerging growth company [ ]

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

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

Yes [ ] No [x]

There were 239,213,450 shares of The Wendy's Company common stock outstanding as of May 2, 2018.

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**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**INDEX TO FORM 10-Q**

	<u><b>Page</b></u>
<b>PART I: FINANCIAL INFORMATION</b>	
Item 1. Financial Statements	3
Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets as of April 1, 2018 and December 31, 2017	3
Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations for the three months ended April 1, 2018 and April 2, 2017	4
Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the three months ended April 1, 2018 and April 2, 2017	5
Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the three months ended April 1, 2018 and April 2, 2017	6
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements	8
Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	27
Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk	37
Item 4. Controls and Procedures	38
<b>PART II: OTHER INFORMATION</b>	39
Item 1. Legal Proceedings	41
Item 1A. Risk Factors	41
Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds	41
Item 6. Exhibits	42
Signatures	43

## PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Item 1. Financial Statements.

#### THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (In Thousands Except Per Share Amounts)

	April 1, 2018	December 31, 2017
	(Unaudited)	
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 187,709	\$ 171,447
Restricted cash	30,113	32,633
Accounts and notes receivable, net	109,874	114,390
Inventories	3,149	3,156
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	20,086	20,125
Advertising funds restricted assets	91,483	62,602
Total current assets	442,414	404,353
Properties	1,245,377	1,263,059
Goodwill	742,555	743,334
Other intangible assets	1,311,217	1,321,585
Investments	53,669	56,002
Net investment in direct financing leases	229,600	229,089
Other assets	85,006	79,516
Total assets	\$ 4,109,838	\$ 4,096,938
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Current portion of long-term debt	\$ 30,838	\$ 30,172
Accounts payable	19,315	22,764
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	99,307	111,624
Advertising funds restricted liabilities	100,646	62,602
Total current liabilities	250,106	227,162
Long-term debt	2,777,183	2,724,230
Deferred income taxes	267,156	299,053
Deferred franchise fees	92,727	10,881
Other liabilities	259,669	262,409
Total liabilities	3,646,841	3,523,735
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock, \$0.10 par value; 1,500,000 shares authorized; 470,424 shares issued; 240,199 and 240,512 shares outstanding, respectively	47,042	47,042
Additional paid-in capital	2,878,804	2,885,955
Accumulated deficit	(233,700)	(163,289)
Common stock held in treasury, at cost; 230,225 and 229,912 shares, respectively	(2,177,024)	(2,150,307)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(52,125)	(46,198)
Total stockholders' equity	462,997	573,203
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 4,109,838	\$ 4,096,938

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS**  
(In Thousands Except Per Share Amounts)

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>	
	<b>April 1, 2018</b>	<b>April 2, 2017</b>
	<b>(Unaudited)</b>	
Revenues:		
Sales	\$ 153,649	\$ 148,212
Franchise royalty revenue and fees	97,908	94,690
Franchise rental income	50,107	42,917
Advertising funds revenue	78,900	—
	<u>380,564</u>	<u>285,819</u>
Costs and expenses:		
Cost of sales	132,219	124,543
Franchise support and other costs	6,173	3,643
Franchise rental expense	23,263	18,868
Advertising funds expense	78,900	—
General and administrative	50,356	51,314
Depreciation and amortization	32,152	29,165
System optimization losses (gains), net	570	(1,407)
Reorganization and realignment costs	2,626	181
Impairment of long-lived assets	206	510
Other operating income, net	(1,163)	(1,718)
	<u>325,302</u>	<u>225,099</u>
Operating profit	55,262	60,720
Interest expense, net	(30,178)	(28,975)
Loss on early extinguishment of debt	(11,475)	—
Other income, net	744	389
Income before income taxes	14,353	32,134
Benefit from (provision for) income taxes	5,806	(9,793)
Net income	<u>\$ 20,159</u>	<u>\$ 22,341</u>
Basic and diluted net income per share	\$ .08	\$ .09
Dividends per share	\$ .085	\$ .07

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
(In Thousands)

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>	
	<b>April 1,</b>	<b>April 2,</b>
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	<b>(Unaudited)</b>	
Net income	\$ 20,159	\$ 22,341
Other comprehensive (loss) income, net:		
Foreign currency translation adjustment	(6,044)	1,945
Change in unrecognized pension loss:		
Unrealized gains arising during the period	156	156
Income tax provision	(39)	(60)
	117	96
Effect of cash flow hedges:		
Reclassification of losses into Net income	—	723
Income tax provision	—	(278)
	—	445
Other comprehensive (loss) income, net	(5,927)	2,486
Comprehensive income	\$ 14,232	\$ 24,827

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**  
(In Thousands)

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>	
	<b>April 1, 2018</b>	<b>April 2, 2017</b>
	<b>(Unaudited)</b>	
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 20,159	\$ 22,341
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	32,152	29,165
Share-based compensation	4,458	3,559
Impairment of long-lived assets	206	510
Deferred income tax	(9,799)	(938)
Non-cash rental income, net	(3,239)	(2,728)
Net receipt of deferred vendor incentives	7,340	9,602
System optimization losses (gains), net	570	(1,407)
Distributions received from TimWen joint venture	2,907	2,439
Equity in earnings in joint ventures, net	(1,824)	(1,846)
Loss on early extinguishment of debt	11,475	—
Accretion of long-term debt	313	308
Amortization of deferred financing costs	1,427	2,000
Reclassification of unrealized losses on cash flow hedges	—	723
Other, net	2,729	1,420
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts and notes receivable, net	2,934	(1,818)
Inventories	7	130
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	4	(1,328)
Advertising funds restricted assets and liabilities	17,189	3,653
Accounts payable	146	(2,485)
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	(20,443)	(21,180)
Net cash provided by operating activities	68,711	42,120
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Capital expenditures	(10,569)	(14,811)
Dispositions	351	1,650
Notes receivable, net	(872)	(1,754)
Payments for investments	(12)	(58)
Net cash used in investing activities	(11,102)	(14,973)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from long-term debt	928,167	4,511
Repayments of long-term debt	(871,747)	(10,670)
Deferred financing costs	(17,340)	(415)
Repurchases of common stock	(39,372)	(16,026)
Dividends	(20,355)	(17,273)
Proceeds from stock option exercises	9,385	4,459
Payments related to tax withholding for share-based compensation	(8,321)	(2,559)
Contingent consideration payment	(6,100)	—
Net cash used in financing activities	(25,683)	(37,973)
Net cash provided by (used in) operations before effect of exchange rate changes on cash	31,926	(10,826)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash	(2,482)	782
Net increase (decrease) in cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash	29,444	(10,044)
Cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash at beginning of period	212,824	275,949
Cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash at end of period	\$ 242,268	\$ 265,905

**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS—CONTINUED**  
(In Thousands)

	Three Months Ended	
	April 1, 2018	April 2, 2017
	(Unaudited)	
Supplemental cash flow information:		
Cash paid for:		
Interest	\$ 33,096	\$ 28,497
Income taxes, net of refunds	1,913	792
Supplemental non-cash investing and financing activities:		
Capital expenditures included in accounts payable	\$ 6,466	\$ 7,048
Capitalized lease obligations	1,101	44,483
Accrued debt issuance costs	332	—
	April 1, 2018	December 31, 2017
Reconciliation of cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash at end of period:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 187,709	\$ 171,447
Restricted cash	30,113	32,633
Restricted cash, included in Advertising funds restricted assets	24,441	8,579
Restricted cash, included in Other assets	5	165
Total cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash	\$ 242,268	\$ 212,824

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
(In Thousands Except Per Share Amounts)

**(1) Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements (the "Financial Statements") of The Wendy's Company ("The Wendy's Company" and, together with its subsidiaries, the "Company," "we," "us" or "our") have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP") for interim financial information and, therefore, do not include all information and footnotes required by GAAP for complete financial statements. In our opinion, the Financial Statements contain all adjustments of a normal recurring nature necessary to present fairly our financial position as of April 1, 2018 and the results of our operations and cash flows for the three months ended April 1, 2018 and April 2, 2017. The results of operations for the three months ended April 1, 2018 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full 2018 fiscal year. These Financial Statements should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements for The Wendy's Company and notes thereto included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 (the "Form 10-K").

The principal subsidiary of the Company is Wendy's International, LLC and its subsidiaries ("Wendy's"). The Company manages and internally reports its business geographically. The operation and franchising of Wendy's® restaurants in North America (defined as the United States of America ("U.S.") and Canada) comprises virtually all of our current operations and represents a single reportable segment. The revenues and operating results of Wendy's restaurants outside of North America are not material.

We report on a fiscal year consisting of 52 or 53 weeks ending on the Sunday closest to or on December 31. All three-month periods presented herein contain 13 weeks. All references to years and quarters relate to fiscal periods rather than calendar periods.

Certain reclassifications have been made to the prior year presentation to conform to the current year presentation.

The Company has reclassified certain costs associated with the Company's franchise operations to "Franchise support and other costs," which were previously recorded to "Other operating expense (income), net." The costs reclassified include costs incurred to provide direct support services to our franchisees, as well as certain other direct and incremental costs for the Company's franchise operations. Also, the Company reclassified certain restaurant operational costs from "General and administrative" to "Cost of sales." The Company believes this new presentation will aid users in understanding its results of operations. The prior period reflects the reclassifications of these expenses to conform to the current year presentation. There was no impact to operating profit, income before income taxes or net income as a result of these reclassifications.

The following table illustrates the expense reclassifications made to the condensed consolidated statement of operations for the three months ended April 2, 2017:

	As Previously Reported	Reclassifications		As Currently Reported
		Franchise support and other costs	Restaurant operational costs	
Cost of sales	\$ 123,407	\$ —	\$ 1,136	\$ 124,543
Franchise support and other costs	—	3,643	—	3,643
General and administrative	52,450	—	(1,136)	51,314
Other operating expense (income), net	1,925	(3,643)	—	(1,718)
	<u>\$ 177,782</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 177,782</u>



**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**(In Thousands Except Per Share Amounts)**

**(2) New Accounting Standards**

***New Accounting Standards***

In February 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued new guidance on leases, which outlines principles for the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of leases applicable to both lessors and lessees. The new guidance, which is effective beginning with our 2019 fiscal year, requires lessees to recognize on the balance sheet the assets and liabilities for the rights and obligations created by finance and operating leases with lease terms of more than 12 months. We are currently implementing a new lease management system to facilitate the adoption of this guidance. As shown in Note 13, there are \$1,565,423 in future minimum rental payments for operating leases that are not currently on our balance sheet; therefore, we expect this will have a material impact on our consolidated balance sheets and related disclosures. We do not expect the adoption of this guidance to have a material impact on our consolidated statements of operations and statements of cash flows.

***New Accounting Standards Adopted***

In May 2017, the FASB issued new guidance on the scope of modification accounting for share-based payment arrangements. The new guidance provides relief to entities that make non-substantive changes to their share-based payment arrangements. The Company adopted this amendment, prospectively, during the first quarter of 2018. The adoption of this guidance did not impact our condensed consolidated financial statements.

In January 2017, the FASB issued an amendment that clarifies the definition of a business in determining whether to account for a transaction as an asset acquisition or a business combination. The Company adopted this amendment, prospectively, during the first quarter of 2018. The adoption of this guidance did not impact our condensed consolidated financial statements.

In November 2016, the FASB issued an amendment that clarifies guidance for proper classification and presentation of restricted cash in the statement of cash flows. Accordingly, changes in restricted cash that have historically been included within operating, investing and financing activities have been eliminated, and restricted cash, including the restricted cash of the national advertising funds, is combined with cash and cash equivalents when reconciling the beginning and end of period balances for all periods presented. The Company adopted this amendment during the first quarter of 2018. The adoption of the amendment resulted in an increase in net cash used in investing activities of \$8,545 during the first quarter of 2017. In addition, net cash provided by operating activities during the first quarter of 2017 increased \$3,468, primarily due to changes in restricted cash of the national advertising funds. Because of the inclusion of restricted cash in the beginning and end of period balances, cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash as presented in the statement of cash flows increased \$72,670 and \$77,709 as of April 2, 2017 and January 1, 2017, respectively. This amendment did not impact the Company's condensed consolidated statements of operations and condensed consolidated balance sheets.

In August 2016, the FASB issued an amendment that provides guidance for proper classification of certain cash receipts and payments in the statement of cash flows. Upon adoption in the first quarter of 2018, the Company elected to use the nature of distribution approach for all distributions it receives from its equity method investees. The adoption of this guidance did not impact our condensed consolidated financial statements.

In March 2016, the FASB issued an amendment that provides guidance on extinguishing financial liabilities for certain prepaid stored-value products. The Company adopted this amendment during the first quarter of 2018. The adoption of this guidance did not impact our condensed consolidated financial statements.

In January 2016, the FASB issued an amendment that revises the accounting related to the classification and measurement of investments in equity securities and the presentation of certain fair value changes for financial liabilities measured at fair value. The Company adopted this amendment during the first quarter of 2018. The adoption of this guidance did not impact our condensed consolidated financial statements.

**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**(In Thousands Except Per Share Amounts)**

*Revenue Recognition*

In May 2014, the FASB issued amended guidance for revenue recognition. The new guidance outlines a single comprehensive model for entities to use in accounting for revenue arising from contracts with customers. The core principle of the guidance is that an entity should recognize revenue for the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods and services. Additionally, the guidance requires improved disclosure to help users of financial statements better understand the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue that is recognized. The Company adopted the new guidance on January 1, 2018. As a result, the Company has changed its accounting policy for revenue recognition as detailed below.

The Company applied the new guidance using the modified retrospective method, whereby the cumulative effect of initially adopting the guidance was recognized as an adjustment to the opening balance of equity at January 1, 2018. Therefore, the comparative period has not been adjusted and continues to be reported under the previous revenue recognition guidance. The details of the significant changes and quantitative impact of the changes are discussed below. See Note 3 for further information regarding our revenue policies and disaggregation of our sources of revenue.

Franchise Fees

Under previous revenue recognition guidance, new build technical assistance fees and development fees were recognized as revenue when a franchised restaurant opened, as all material services and conditions related to the franchise fee had been substantially performed upon the restaurant opening. In addition, under previous guidance, technical assistance fees received in connection with sales of Company-operated restaurants to franchisees and facilitating franchisee-to-franchisee restaurant transfers ("Franchise Flips"), as well as renewal fees, were recognized as revenue when the license agreements were signed and the restaurant opened. Under the new guidance, these franchise fees are considered highly dependent upon and interrelated with the franchise right granted in the franchise agreement. As such, these franchise fees are recognized over the contractual term of the franchise agreement.

National Advertising Funds

The Company maintains two national advertising funds (the "Advertising Funds") established to collect and administer funds contributed for use in advertising and promotional programs for Company-operated and franchised restaurants in the U.S. and Canada. Previously, the revenue, expenses and cash flows of such Advertising Funds were not included in the Company's condensed consolidated statements of operations and statements of cash flows because the contributions to these Advertising Funds were designated for specific purposes and the Company acted as an agent, in substance, with regard to these contributions as a result of industry-specific guidance. Under the new guidance, which superseded the previous industry-specific guidance, the revenue, expenses and cash flows of the Advertising Funds are fully consolidated into the Company's condensed consolidated statements of operations and statements of cash flows. In addition, the Company reclassified the total stockholders' equity of the Advertising Funds from "Advertising funds restricted liabilities" to "Accumulated deficit" upon adoption of the guidance. Upon the full consolidation of the Advertising Funds, the Company also eliminated certain amounts due to and from affiliates from "Advertising funds restricted assets" and "Advertising funds restricted liabilities." The Company allocates a portion of its advertising funds expense to "Cost of sales" based on a percentage of sales of Company-operated restaurants. Our significant interim accounting policies include the recognition of advertising funds expense in proportion to advertising funds revenue.

**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
(In Thousands Except Per Share Amounts)

*Impacts on Financial Statements*

The following table summarizes the impacts of adopting the revenue recognition standard on the Company's condensed consolidated financial statements as of and for the three months ended April 1, 2018:

		Adjustments		
	As Reported	Franchise Fees	Advertising Funds	Balances Without Adoption
Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet				
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	\$ 99,307	\$ (3,076)	\$ —	\$ 96,231
Advertising funds restricted liabilities	100,646	—	(6,645)	94,001
Total current liabilities	250,106	(3,076)	(6,645)	240,385
Deferred income taxes	267,156	21,774	—	288,930
Deferred franchise fees	92,727	(81,482)	—	11,245
Total liabilities	3,646,841	(62,784)	(6,645)	3,577,412
Accumulated deficit	(233,700)	62,921	6,645	(164,134)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(52,125)	(137)	—	(52,262)
Total stockholders' equity	462,997	62,784	6,645	532,426
Condensed Consolidated Statement of Operations				
Franchise royalty revenue and fees (a)	\$ 97,908	\$ (866)	\$ —	\$ 97,042
Advertising funds revenue	78,900	—	(78,900)	—
Total revenues	380,564	(866)	(78,900)	300,798
Advertising funds expense	78,900	—	(78,900)	—
Total costs and expenses	325,302	—	(78,900)	246,402
Operating profit	55,262	(866)	—	54,396
Income before income taxes	14,353	(866)	—	13,487
Benefit from income taxes	5,806	222	—	6,028
Net income	20,159	(644)	—	19,515
Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows				
Cash flows from operating activities:				
Net income	\$ 20,159	\$ (644)	\$ —	\$ 19,515
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:				
Deferred income tax	(9,799)	(222)	—	(10,021)
Other, net	2,729	(337)	—	2,392
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:				
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	(20,443)	1,203	—	(19,240)

- (a) Adjustment includes the reversal of franchise fees recognized over time under the new revenue recognition guidance of \$2,688, as well as franchisee fees of \$1,822 that would have been recognized under the previous revenue recognition guidance when the license agreements were signed and the restaurant opened. See Note 3 for further information.

**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**(In Thousands Except Per Share Amounts)**

**(3) Revenue**

***Nature of Goods and Services***

Wendy's franchises and operates Wendy's® quick-service restaurants specializing in hamburger sandwiches throughout North America. Wendy's also has franchised restaurants in 29 foreign countries and U.S. territories other than North America. At April 1, 2018, Wendy's operated and franchised 337 and 6,296 restaurants, respectively. The following is a description of the principal activities from which revenue is generated.

***Company-Operated***

Each Wendy's restaurant offers an extensive menu specializing in hamburger sandwiches and featuring filet of chicken breast sandwiches, which are prepared to order with the customer's choice of condiments. Wendy's menu also includes chicken nuggets, chili, french fries, baked potatoes, freshly prepared salads, soft drinks, Frosty® desserts and kids' meals. In addition, the restaurants sell a variety of promotional products on a limited time basis and some restaurants in the U.S. also offer breakfast.

***Franchised***

The rights and obligations governing franchised restaurants are set forth in the franchise agreement. The franchise agreement provides the franchisee the right to construct, own and operate a Wendy's restaurant upon a site accepted by Wendy's and to use the Wendy's system in connection with the operation of the restaurant at that site. The franchise agreement generally provides for a 20-year term and a 10-year renewal subject to certain conditions. The initial term may be extended up to 25 years and the renewal extended up to 20 years for qualifying restaurants under certain new restaurant development and remodel incentive programs.

The franchise agreement requires that the franchisee pay a royalty based on a percentage of sales of the franchised restaurant, as well as make contributions to the Advertising Funds based on a percentage of sales. The agreement also typically requires that the franchisee pay Wendy's a technical assistance fee. The technical assistance fee is used to defray some of the costs to Wendy's for training, start-up and transitional services related to new and existing franchisees acquiring restaurants and in the development and opening of new restaurants.

Wendy's also enters into development agreements with certain franchisees. The development agreement provides the franchisee with the right to develop a specified number of new Wendy's restaurants using the Image Activation design within a stated, non-exclusive territory for a specified period, subject to the franchisee meeting interim new restaurant development requirements.

Wendy's owns and leases sites from third parties, which it leases and/or subleases to franchisees. Noncancelable lease terms are generally initially between 15 and 20 years and, in most cases, provide for rent escalations and renewal options. The lease term for properties leased or subleased to franchisees is determined based upon the economic detriment to the franchisee and includes consideration of the length of the franchise agreement, historical performance of the restaurant and the existence of bargain renewal options.

Royalties and contributions to the Advertising Funds are generally due within the month subsequent to which the revenue was generated through sales of the franchised restaurant. Technical assistance fees, renewal fees and development fees are generally due upon execution of the related franchise agreement. Rental income is due in accordance with the terms of each lease, which is generally at the beginning of each month.

***Significant Accounting Policy***

"Sales" includes revenues recognized upon delivery of food to the customer at Company-operated restaurants. "Sales" excludes taxes collected from the Company's customers. Revenue is recognized when the performance obligation is satisfied, which occurs upon delivery of food to the customer. "Sales" also includes income for gift cards. Gift card payments are recorded as deferred income when received and are recognized as revenue in proportion to actual gift card redemptions.

**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
(In Thousands Except Per Share Amounts)

“Franchise royalty revenue and fees” includes royalties, new build technical assistance fees, renewal fees, Franchise Flip technical assistance fees, Franchise Flip advisory fees and development fees. Royalties from franchised restaurants are based on a percentage of sales of the franchised restaurant and are recognized as earned. New build technical assistance fees, renewal fees and Franchise Flip technical assistance fees are recorded as deferred revenue when received and recognized as revenue over the contractual term of the franchise agreements, once the restaurant has opened. Development fees are deferred when received, allocated to each agreed upon restaurant, and recognized as revenue over the contractual term of each respective franchise agreement, once the restaurant has opened. These franchise fees are considered highly dependent upon and interrelated with the franchise right granted in the franchise agreement. Franchise Flip advisory fees include valuation services and fees for selecting pre-approved buyers for Franchise Flips. Franchise Flip advisory fees are paid by the seller and are recognized as revenue at closing of the Franchise Flip transaction.

“Advertising funds revenue” includes contributions to the Advertising Funds by franchisees. Revenue related to these contributions is based on a percentage of sales of the franchised restaurants and is recognized as earned.

“Franchise rental income” includes rental income from properties owned and leased by the Company and leased or subleased to franchisees. Rental income is recognized on a straight-line basis over the respective operating lease terms. Favorable and unfavorable lease amounts related to the leased and/or subleased properties are amortized to rental income on a straight-line basis over the remaining term of the leases.

***Disaggregation of Revenue***

The following table disaggregates revenue by primary geographical market and source:

	<b>Three Months Ended April 1, 2018</b>
<b>Primary geographical markets</b>	
United States	\$ 359,635
Canada	16,337
International	4,592
Total revenue	<u>\$ 380,564</u>
<b>Sources of revenue</b>	
Sales at Company-operated restaurants	\$ 153,649
Franchise royalty revenue	89,943
Franchise fees	7,965
Franchise rental income	50,107
Advertising funds revenue	78,900
Total revenue	<u>\$ 380,564</u>

***Contract Balances***

The following table provides information about receivables and contract liabilities (deferred franchise fees) from contracts with customers:

	<b>April 1, 2018</b>
Receivables, which are included in “Accounts and notes receivable, net” (a)	\$ 47,762
Receivables, which are included in “Advertising funds restricted assets”	42,947
Deferred franchise fees (b)	102,761

(a) Includes receivables related to “Sales” and “Franchise royalty revenue and fees.”

**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
(In Thousands Except Per Share Amounts)

- (b) Deferred franchise fees of \$10,034 and \$92,727 are included in “Accrued expenses and other current liabilities” and “Deferred franchise fees,” respectively.

Significant changes in deferred franchise fees are as follows:

	<b>Three Months Ended April 1, 2018</b>
Deferred franchise fees at beginning of period	\$ 102,492
Revenue recognized during the period	(2,688)
New deferrals due to cash received and other	2,957
Deferred franchise fees at end of period	<u>\$ 102,761</u>

***Anticipated Future Recognition of Deferred Franchise Fees***

The following table reflects the estimated franchise fees to be recognized in the future related to performance obligations that are unsatisfied at the end of the period:

**Estimate for fiscal year:**

2018 (a)	\$ 6,281
2019	6,629
2020	5,955
2021	5,590
2022	5,388
Thereafter	72,918
	<u>\$ 102,761</u>

- (a) Represents franchise fees expected to be recognized for the remainder of the 2018 fiscal year, which includes development-related franchise fees expected to be recognized over a duration of one year or less.

**(4) System Optimization Losses (Gains), Net**

The Company's system optimization initiative includes a shift from Company-operated restaurants to franchised restaurants over time, through acquisitions and dispositions, as well as facilitating Franchise Flips. The Company completed its plan to reduce its ongoing Company-operated restaurant ownership to approximately 5% of the total system as of January 1, 2017. While the Company has no plans to reduce its ownership below the 5% level, Wendy's will continue to optimize its system through Franchise Flips, as well as evaluating strategic acquisitions of franchised restaurants and strategic dispositions of Company-operated restaurants to existing and new franchisees, to further strengthen the franchisee base and drive new restaurant development and accelerate reimages in the Image Activation format. During the three months ended April 2, 2017, the Company facilitated 116 Franchise Flips. No Franchise Flips occurred during the three months ended April 1, 2018.

As part of our system optimization initiative, the Company acquired 140 Wendy's restaurants on May 31, 2017 from DavCo Restaurants, LLC (“DavCo”), which were immediately sold to NPC International, Inc. (“NPC”), an existing franchisee of the Company. As part of the DavCo acquisition, the Company recognized a supplemental purchase price liability of \$6,269, of which \$6,100 was settled during the three months ended April 1, 2018.

Gains and losses recognized on dispositions are recorded to “System optimization losses (gains), net” in our condensed consolidated statements of operations. Costs related to dispositions under our system optimization initiative were recorded to “Reorganization and realignment costs,” which are further described in Note 5. All other costs incurred related to facilitating Franchise Flips are recorded to “Franchise support and other costs.”

**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
(In Thousands Except Per Share Amounts)

The following is a summary of the disposition activity recorded as a result of our system optimization initiative:

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>	
	<b>April 1, 2018</b>	<b>April 2, 2017</b>
Post-closing adjustments on sales of restaurants (a)	\$ (212)	\$ 900
(Loss) gain on sales of other assets, net (b)	(358)	507
System optimization (losses) gains, net	<u>\$ (570)</u>	<u>\$ 1,407</u>

- (a) The three months ended April 1, 2018 includes cash proceeds, net of payments of \$6. The three months ended April 2, 2017 includes the recognition of a deferred gain of \$312 as a result of the resolution of certain contingencies related to the extension of lease terms for a Canadian restaurant.
- (b) During the three months ended April 1, 2018 and April 2, 2017, the Company received cash proceeds of \$345 and \$1,650, respectively, primarily from the sale of surplus properties. The three months ended April 2, 2017 also includes the recognition of a deferred gain of \$375 related to the sale of a share in an aircraft.

As of April 1, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the Company had assets held for sale of \$2,437 and \$2,235, respectively, primarily consisting of surplus properties. Assets held for sale are included in "Prepaid expenses and other current assets."

**(5) Reorganization and Realignment Costs**

The following is a summary of the initiatives included in "Reorganization and realignment costs:"

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>	
	<b>April 1, 2018</b>	<b>April 2, 2017</b>
G&A realignment	\$ 2,626	\$ —
System optimization initiative	—	181
Reorganization and realignment costs	<u>\$ 2,626</u>	<u>\$ 181</u>

***General and Administrative ("G&A") Realignment***

In May 2017, the Company initiated a plan to further reduce its G&A expenses. The Company expects to incur total costs aggregating approximately \$28,000 to \$33,000 related to the plan. The Company recognized costs totaling \$2,626 during the three months ended April 1, 2018, which primarily included severance and related employee costs. The Company expects to incur additional costs aggregating approximately \$3,000 to \$8,000, comprised of (1) severance and related employee costs of approximately \$1,000, (2) recruitment and relocation costs of approximately \$3,000, (3) third-party and other costs of approximately \$1,000 and (4) share-based compensation of approximately \$2,000. The Company expects to continue to recognize costs associated with the plan into 2019.

**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
(In Thousands Except Per Share Amounts)

The following is a summary of the activity recorded as a result of the G&A realignment plan:

	<b>Three Months Ended April 1, 2018</b>	<b>Total Incurred Since Inception</b>
Severance and related employee costs	\$ 2,059	\$ 17,015
Recruitment and relocation costs	148	637
Third-party and other costs	328	1,419
	2,535	19,071
Share-based compensation (a)	91	5,218
Total G&A realignment	<u>\$ 2,626</u>	<u>\$ 24,289</u>

(a) Primarily represents incremental share-based compensation resulting from the modification of stock options in connection with the termination of employees under our G&A realignment plan.

As of April 1, 2018, the accruals for our G&A realignment plan are included in "Accrued expenses and other current liabilities" and "Other liabilities" and totaled \$8,781 and \$2,731, respectively. The table below presents a rollforward of our accruals for the plan.

	<b>Balance December 31, 2017</b>	<b>Charges</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Balance April 1, 2018</b>
Severance and related employee costs	\$ 12,093	\$ 2,059	\$ (2,844)	\$ 11,308
Recruitment and relocation costs	177	148	(121)	204
Third-party and other costs	—	328	(328)	—
	<u>\$ 12,270</u>	<u>\$ 2,535</u>	<u>\$ (3,293)</u>	<u>\$ 11,512</u>

***System Optimization Initiative***

The Company recognized costs related to its system optimization initiative, which included a shift from Company-operated restaurants to franchised restaurants over time, through acquisitions and dispositions, as well as facilitating Franchise Flips.

The following is a summary of the costs recorded as a result of our system optimization initiative:

	<b>Three Months Ended April 2, 2017</b>	<b>Total Incurred Since Inception</b>
Severance and related employee costs	\$ 3	\$ 18,237
Professional fees	130	17,448
Other	48	5,813
	181	41,498
Accelerated depreciation and amortization (a)	—	25,398
Share-based compensation (b)	—	5,013
Total system optimization initiative	<u>\$ 181</u>	<u>\$ 71,909</u>

(a) Primarily includes accelerated amortization of previously acquired franchise rights related to Company-operated restaurants in territories that have been sold in connection with our system optimization initiative.



**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
(In Thousands Except Per Share Amounts)

- (b) Represents incremental share-based compensation resulting from the modification of stock options and performance-based awards in connection with the termination of employees under our system optimization initiative.

The table below presents a rollforward of our accrual for our system optimization initiative, which is included in "Accrued expenses and other current liabilities." As of April 1, 2018, no accrual remained.

	Balance January 1, 2017	Charges	Payments	Balance April 2, 2017
Severance and related employee costs	\$ —	\$ 3	\$ (3)	\$ —
Professional fees	101	130	(143)	88
Other	—	48	(48)	—
	<u>\$ 101</u>	<u>\$ 181</u>	<u>\$ (194)</u>	<u>\$ 88</u>

**(6) Investments**

*Equity Investments*

Wendy's has a 50% share in a partnership in a Canadian restaurant real estate joint venture ("TimWen") with a subsidiary of Restaurant Brands International Inc., a quick-service restaurant company that owns the Tim Hortons® brand. (Tim Hortons™ is a registered trademark of Tim Hortons USA Inc.) In addition, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Wendy's has a 20% share in a joint venture for the operation of Wendy's restaurants in Brazil (the "Brazil JV"). The Company has significant influence over these investees. Such investments are accounted for using the equity method of accounting, under which our results of operations include our share of the income (loss) of the investees in "Other operating income, net."

Presented below is activity related to our investment in TimWen and the Brazil JV included in our condensed consolidated financial statements:

	Three Months Ended	
	April 1, 2018	April 2, 2017
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 55,363	\$ 54,545
Investment	12	58
Equity in earnings for the period	2,420	2,415
Amortization of purchase price adjustments (a)	(596)	(569)
	1,824	1,846
Distributions received	(2,907)	(2,439)
Foreign currency translation adjustment included in "Other comprehensive (loss) income, net" and other	(1,262)	508
Balance at end of period	<u>\$ 53,030</u>	<u>\$ 54,518</u>

- (a) Purchase price adjustments that impacted the carrying value of the Company's investment in TimWen are being amortized over the average original aggregate life of 21 years.

**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
(In Thousands Except Per Share Amounts)

**(7) Long-Term Debt**

Long-term debt consisted of the following:

	<b>April 1, 2018</b>	<b>December 31, 2017</b>
Series 2018-1 Class A-2 Notes:		
3.573% Series 2018-1 Class A-2-I Notes, anticipated repayment date 2025	\$ 448,875	\$ —
3.884% Series 2018-1 Class A-2-II Notes, anticipated repayment date 2028	473,813	—
Series 2015-1 Class A-2 Notes:		
3.371% Series 2015-1 Class A-2-I Notes, repaid with 2018 refinancing	—	855,313
4.080% Series 2015-1 Class A-2-II Notes, anticipated repayment date 2022	877,500	879,750
4.497% Series 2015-1 Class A-2-III Notes, anticipated repayment date 2025	487,500	488,750
7% debentures, due in 2025	89,827	89,514
Capital lease obligations, due through 2045	467,331	467,964
Unamortized debt issuance costs	(36,825)	(26,889)
	<u>2,808,021</u>	<u>2,754,402</u>
Less amounts payable within one year	(30,838)	(30,172)
Total long-term debt	<u>\$ 2,777,183</u>	<u>\$ 2,724,230</u>

On January 17, 2018, Wendy's Funding, LLC (the "Master Issuer"), a limited-purpose, bankruptcy-remote, wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of the Company, completed a refinancing transaction under which the Master Issuer issued fixed rate senior secured notes in the following 2018-1 series: Class A-2-I with an initial principal amount of \$450,000 and Class A-2-II with an initial principal amount of \$475,000 (collectively, the "Series 2018-1 Class A-2 Notes"). Interest payments on the Series 2018-1 Class A-2 Notes are payable on a quarterly basis. The legal final maturity date of the Series 2018-1 Class A-2 Notes is in March 2048. If the Master Issuer has not repaid or redeemed the Series 2018-1 Class A-2 Notes prior to the respective anticipated repayment date, additional interest will accrue on these notes equal to the greater of (1) 5.00% per annum and (2) a per annum interest rate equal to the excess, if any, by which the sum of (a) the yield to maturity (adjusted to a quarterly bond-equivalent basis) on such anticipated repayment date of the United States Treasury Security having a term closest to 10 years, plus (b) 5.00%, plus (c) (i) with respect to the Series 2018-1 Class A-2-I Notes, 1.35%, and (ii) with respect to the Series 2018-1 Class A-2-II Notes, 1.58%, exceeds the original interest rate with respect to such tranche. The net proceeds from the sale of the Series 2018-1 Class A-2 Notes were used to redeem the Master Issuer's outstanding Series 2015-1 Class A-2-I Notes, to pay prepayment and transaction costs, and for general corporate purposes. As a result, the Company recorded a loss on early extinguishment of debt of \$11,475 during the three months ended April 1, 2018, which was comprised of the write-off of certain deferred financing costs and a specified make-whole payment. The Series 2018-1 Class A-2 Notes have scheduled principal payments of \$9,250 annually from 2018 through 2024, \$423,250 in 2025, \$4,750 in each 2026 through 2027 and \$427,500 in 2028.

Concurrently, the Master Issuer entered into a revolving financing facility of Series 2018-1 Variable Funding Senior Secured Notes, Class A-1 (the "Series 2018-1 Class A-1 Notes" and, together with the Series 2018-1 Class A-2 Notes, the "Series 2018-1 Senior Notes"), which allows for the drawing of up to \$150,000 using various credit instruments, including a letter of credit facility. No amounts were borrowed under the Series 2018-1 Class A-1 Notes during the three months ended April 1, 2018. The Series 2015-1 Class A-1 Notes were canceled on the closing date and the letters of credit outstanding against the Series 2015-1 Class A-1 Notes were transferred to the Series 2018-1 Class A-1 Notes.

The Series 2018-1 Senior Notes are secured by substantially all of the assets of the Master Issuer and certain other limited-purpose, bankruptcy-remote, wholly-owned indirect subsidiaries of the Company that act as guarantors (the "Guarantors"), excluding certain real estate assets and subject to certain limitations. The Series 2018-1 Senior Notes are subject to the same series of covenants and restrictions as the Series 2015-1 Senior Notes.

During the three months ended April 1, 2018, the Company incurred debt issuance costs of \$17,672 in connection with the issuance of the Series 2018-1 Senior Notes. The debt issuance costs will be amortized to "Interest expense, net" through the anticipated repayment dates of the Series 2018-1 Senior Notes utilizing the effective interest rate method.

**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
(In Thousands Except Per Share Amounts)

Wendy's U.S. advertising fund has a revolving line of credit of \$25,000. Neither the Company, nor Wendy's, is the guarantor of the debt. The advertising fund facility was established to fund the advertising fund operations. During the three months ended April 1, 2018, the Company borrowed and repaid \$3,167 and \$4,454 under the line of credit, respectively. During the three months ended April 2, 2017, the Company borrowed and repaid \$4,511 under the line of credit.

**(8) Fair Value Measurements**

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Valuation techniques under the accounting guidance related to fair value measurements are based on observable and unobservable inputs. Observable inputs reflect readily obtainable data from independent sources, while unobservable inputs reflect our market assumptions. These inputs are classified into the following hierarchy:

- Level 1 Inputs - Quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets.
- Level 2 Inputs - Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active; and model-derived valuations whose inputs are observable or whose significant value drivers are observable.
- Level 3 Inputs - Pricing inputs are unobservable for the assets or liabilities and include situations where there is little, if any, market activity for the assets or liabilities. The inputs into the determination of fair value require significant management judgment or estimation.

**Financial Instruments**

The following table presents the carrying amounts and estimated fair values of the Company's financial instruments:

	April 1, 2018		December 31, 2017		Fair Value Measurements
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash equivalents	\$ 19,495	\$ 19,495	\$ 338	\$ 338	Level 1
Non-current cost method investments (a)	639	327,479	639	327,710	Level 3
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Series 2018-1 Class A-2-I Notes (b)	448,875	440,167	—	—	Level 2
Series 2018-1 Class A-2-II Notes (b)	473,813	464,432	—	—	Level 2
Series 2015-1 Class A-2-I Notes (b)	—	—	855,313	856,510	Level 2
Series 2015-1 Class A-2-II Notes (b)	877,500	880,133	879,750	897,961	Level 2
Series 2015-1 Class A-2-III Notes (b)	487,500	497,494	488,750	513,188	Level 2
7% debentures, due in 2025 (b)	89,827	105,750	89,514	107,000	Level 2
Guarantees of franchisee loan obligations (c)	32	32	37	37	Level 3

- (a) On February 5, 2018, a subsidiary of ARG Holding Corporation ("ARG Parent") acquired Buffalo Wild Wings, Inc. As a result, our ownership interest was diluted to 12.3% and now includes both the Arby's and Buffalo Wild Wings brands under the newly formed combined company, Inspire Brands. The fair value of our indirect investment in Inspire Brands is based on a price per share that was determined at the time that ARG Parent financed the acquisition of Buffalo Wild Wings. In the future, the fair value is expected to be calculated by applying a multiple to Inspire Brand's adjusted earnings before income taxes, depreciation and amortization. The carrying value of our indirect investment was reduced to zero during 2013 in connection with the receipt of a dividend. The fair values of our remaining investments are not significant and are based on our review of information provided by the investment managers or investees which was based on (1) valuations performed by the investment managers or investees, (2) quoted market or broker/dealer prices for similar

**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
(In Thousands Except Per Share Amounts)

investments and (3) quoted market or broker/dealer prices adjusted by the investment managers for legal or contractual restrictions, risk of nonperformance or lack of marketability, depending upon the underlying investments.

- (b) The fair values were based on quoted market prices in markets that are not considered active markets.
- (c) Wendy's has provided loan guarantees to various lenders on behalf of franchisees entering into debt arrangements for equipment financing. We have accrued a liability for the fair value of these guarantees, the calculation of which was based upon a weighted average risk percentage established at inception and adjusted for a history of defaults.

The carrying amounts of cash, accounts payable and accrued expenses approximated fair value due to the short-term nature of those items. The carrying amounts of accounts and notes receivable, net (both current and non-current) approximated fair value due to the effect of the related allowance for doubtful accounts. Our cash and cash equivalents and guarantees are the only financial assets and liabilities measured and recorded at fair value on a recurring basis.

***Non-Recurring Fair Value Measurements***

Assets and liabilities remeasured to fair value on a non-recurring basis resulted in impairment that we have recorded to "Impairment of long-lived assets" in our condensed consolidated statements of operations.

Total impairment losses may reflect the impact of remeasuring long-lived assets held and used (including land, buildings, leasehold improvements and favorable lease assets) to fair value as a result of (1) the Company's decision to lease and/or sublease the land and/or buildings to franchisees in connection with the sale or anticipated sale of restaurants and (2) declines in operating performance at Company-operated restaurants. The fair value of long-lived assets held and used presented in the tables below represents the remaining carrying value and was estimated based on either discounted cash flows of future anticipated lease and sublease income or discounted cash flows of future Company-operated restaurant performance.

Total impairment losses may also include the impact of remeasuring long-lived assets held for sale, which primarily include surplus properties. The fair values of long-lived assets held for sale presented in the tables below represents the remaining carrying value and were estimated based on current market values. See Note 9 for further information on impairment of our long-lived assets.

	April 1, 2018	Fair Value Measurements		
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Held and used	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Held for sale	427	—	—	427
Total	<u>\$ 427</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 427</u>

	December 31, 2017	Fair Value Measurements		
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Held and used	\$ 757	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 757
Held for sale	1,560	—	—	1,560
Total	<u>\$ 2,317</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 2,317</u>

Total impairment losses for the three months ended April 1, 2018 and April 2, 2017, included remeasuring long-lived assets held and used of \$165 and \$17, respectively, and remeasuring long-lived assets held for sale of \$41 and \$493, respectively.

**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
(In Thousands Except Per Share Amounts)

**(9) Impairment of Long-Lived Assets**

During the three months ended April 1, 2018 and April 2, 2017, the Company recorded impairment charges on long-lived assets as a result of closing Company-operated restaurants and classifying such surplus properties as held for sale.

During the three months ended April 1, 2018, the Company recorded impairment charges on long-lived assets as a result of the Company's decision to lease and/or sublease properties to franchisees in connection with the sale or anticipated sale of Company-operated restaurants. Additionally, during the three months ended April 2, 2017, the Company recorded impairment charges as a result of the deterioration in operating performance of certain Company-operated restaurants and charges for capital improvements in previously impaired restaurants that did not subsequently recover.

The following is a summary of impairment losses recorded, which represent the excess of the carrying amount over the fair value of the affected assets and are included in "Impairment of long-lived assets."

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>	
	<b>April 1, 2018</b>	<b>April 2, 2017</b>
Restaurants leased or subleased to franchisees	\$ 165	\$ —
Surplus properties	41	493
Company-operated restaurants	—	17
	<u>\$ 206</u>	<u>\$ 510</u>

**(10) Income Taxes**

The Company's effective tax rate for the three months ended April 1, 2018 and April 2, 2017 was (40.5)% and 30.5%, respectively. The Company's effective tax rate varies from the U.S. federal statutory rate of 21% and 35% in the first quarter of 2018 and 2017, respectively, primarily due to (1) net excess tax benefits related to share-based payments, which resulted in a benefit of \$6,093 in the first quarter of 2018, (2) the impact of the comprehensive tax legislation commonly referred to as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the "Tax Act") and (3) state income taxes.

On December 22, 2017, the U.S. government enacted the Tax Act. In our continued analysis of the impact of the Tax Act in the first quarter of 2018 under Staff Accounting Bulletin 118, we have adjusted our provisional amounts for a discrete net tax benefit of \$3,623. This net benefit includes \$5,578 for the tax benefit of foreign tax credits, partially offset by a net expense of \$1,955 related to the impact of the corporate rate reduction on our net deferred tax liabilities. The ultimate impact of the Tax Act may differ from these provisional amounts, possibly materially, due to, among other things, additional analysis, changes in interpretations and assumptions the Company has made and additional regulatory guidance that may be issued.

There were no significant changes to unrecognized tax benefits or related interest and penalties for the Company for the three months ended April 1, 2018.

The current portion of refundable income taxes was \$24,697 and \$26,262 as of April 1, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively, and is included in "Accounts and notes receivable, net" in the condensed consolidated balance sheets.

**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
(In Thousands Except Per Share Amounts)

**(11) Net Income Per Share**

Basic net income per share was computed by dividing net income amounts by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding.

The weighted average number of shares used to calculate basic and diluted net income per share were as follows:

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>	
	<b>April 1, 2018</b>	<b>April 2, 2017</b>
Common stock:		
Weighted average basic shares outstanding	239,928	246,606
Dilutive effect of stock options and restricted shares	8,491	7,633
Weighted average diluted shares outstanding	<u>248,419</u>	<u>254,239</u>

Diluted net income per share for the three months ended April 1, 2018 and April 2, 2017 was computed by dividing net income by the weighted average number of basic shares outstanding plus the potential common share effect of dilutive stock options and restricted shares. We excluded potential common shares of 2,711 and 132 for the three months ended April 1, 2018 and April 2, 2017, respectively, from our diluted net income per share calculation as they would have had anti-dilutive effects.

**(12) Stockholders' Equity**

***Stockholders' Equity***

The following is a summary of the changes in stockholders' equity:

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>	
	<b>April 1, 2018</b>	<b>April 2, 2017</b>
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 573,203	\$ 527,736
Comprehensive income	14,232	24,827
Cash dividends	(20,355)	(17,273)
Repurchases of common stock	(39,407)	(17,823)
Share-based compensation	4,458	3,559
Exercises of stock options	3,578	4,418
Vesting of restricted shares	(2,550)	(2,518)
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle (a)	(70,210)	1,880
Other	48	43
Balance at end of period	<u>\$ 462,997</u>	<u>\$ 524,849</u>

- (a) During the three months ended April 1, 2018, the Company recognized a net increase to "Accumulated deficit" of \$70,210 as a result of adoption of amended guidance for revenue recognition. The net increase resulted from an increase to deferred franchise fees of \$85,561 and a decrease to "Deferred income taxes" of \$21,996 as a result of now deferring franchise fees over the contractual term of the franchise agreements. Additionally, a decrease to "Advertising funds restricted liabilities" of \$6,645 was recognized as a result of a reclassification of the total stockholders' equity of the Advertising Funds as of December 31, 2017. See Note 2 for further information.

During the three months ended April 2, 2017, the Company recognized a tax benefit as a reduction to the Company's deferred tax liability with an equal offsetting increase to "Accumulated deficit." The adjustment was recognized as a result of adoption of an amendment to the accounting for employee share-based payment transactions.

**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
(In Thousands Except Per Share Amounts)

***Repurchases of Common Stock***

In February 2018, our Board of Directors authorized a repurchase program for up to \$175,000 of our common stock through March 3, 2019, when and if market conditions warrant and to the extent legally permissible. During the three months ended April 1, 2018, the Company repurchased 989 shares with an aggregate purchase price of \$16,741, of which \$1,294 was accrued at April 1, 2018, and excluding commissions of \$14. Subsequent to April 1, 2018 through May 2, 2018, the Company repurchased 1,102 shares with an aggregate purchase price of \$18,899, excluding commissions of \$15.

In February 2017, our Board of Directors authorized a repurchase program for up to \$150,000 of our common stock through March 4, 2018, when and if market conditions warranted and to the extent legally permissible. During the three months ended April 1, 2018, the Company completed the \$150,000 program with the repurchase of 1,385 shares with an aggregate purchase price of \$22,633, excluding commissions of \$19. During the three months ended April 2, 2017, the Company repurchased 1,319 shares with an aggregate purchase price of \$17,803, of which \$1,797 was accrued at April 2, 2017, and excluding commissions of \$20.

***Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss***

The following table provides a rollforward of the components of accumulated other comprehensive loss, net of tax as applicable:

	<b>Foreign Currency Translation</b>	<b>Cash Flow Hedges (a)</b>	<b>Pension</b>	<b>Total</b>
Balance at December 31, 2017	\$ (45,149)	\$ —	\$ (1,049)	\$ (46,198)
Current-period other comprehensive (loss) income	(6,044)	—	117	(5,927)
Balance at April 1, 2018	<u>\$ (51,193)</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ (932)</u>	<u>\$ (52,125)</u>
Balance at January 1, 2017	\$ (60,299)	\$ (1,797)	\$ (1,145)	\$ (63,241)
Current-period other comprehensive income	1,945	445	96	2,486
Balance at April 2, 2017	<u>\$ (58,354)</u>	<u>\$ (1,352)</u>	<u>\$ (1,049)</u>	<u>\$ (60,755)</u>

- (a) Current-period other comprehensive income includes the reclassification of unrealized losses on cash flow hedges from "Accumulated other comprehensive loss" to our condensed consolidated statements of operations of \$445 for the three months ended April 2, 2017. The reclassification of unrealized losses on cash flow hedges consists of \$723 recorded to "Interest expense," net of the related income tax benefit of \$278 recorded to "Provision for income taxes" for the three months ended April 2, 2017.

**(13) Leases**

At April 1, 2018, Wendy's and its franchisees operated 6,633 Wendy's restaurants. Of the 337 Company-operated Wendy's restaurants, Wendy's owned the land and building for 147 restaurants, owned the building and held long-term land leases for 141 restaurants and held leases covering land and building for 49 restaurants. Wendy's also owned 519 and leased 1,294 properties that were either leased or subleased principally to franchisees.



**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
(In Thousands Except Per Share Amounts)

Rental expense for operating leases consists of the following components:

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>	
	<b>April 1, 2018</b>	<b>April 2, 2017</b>
Rental expense:		
Minimum rentals	\$ 24,854	\$ 19,918
Contingent rentals	4,071	4,288
Total rental expense (a) (b)	<u>\$ 28,925</u>	<u>\$ 24,206</u>

(a) Amounts include rental expense related to (1) leases for Company-operated restaurants recorded to "Cost of sales," (2) leased properties that are subsequently leased to franchisees recorded to "Franchise rental expense" and (3) leases for corporate offices and equipment recorded to "General and administrative."

(b) Amounts exclude sublease income of \$34,306 and \$26,563 recognized during the three months ended April 1, 2018 and April 2, 2017, respectively.

Rental income for operating leases and subleases consists of the following components:

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>	
	<b>April 1, 2018</b>	<b>April 2, 2017</b>
Rental income:		
Minimum rentals	\$ 46,327	\$ 38,605
Contingent rentals	3,780	4,312
Total rental income	<u>\$ 50,107</u>	<u>\$ 42,917</u>

The following table illustrates the Company's future minimum rental payments and rental receipts for non-cancelable leases and subleases, including rental receipts for direct financing leases as of April 1, 2018. Rental receipts below are presented separately for owned properties and for leased properties based on the classification of the underlying lease.

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Rental Payments</b>		<b>Rental Receipts</b>		
	<b>Capital Leases</b>	<b>Operating Leases</b>	<b>Capital Leases</b>	<b>Operating Leases</b>	<b>Owned Properties</b>
2018 (a)	\$ 35,711	\$ 72,222	\$ 48,894	\$ 56,676	\$ 40,282
2019	45,624	94,457	65,684	75,847	54,651
2020	46,552	93,419	66,780	75,515	55,260
2021	48,164	92,888	68,595	75,357	56,860
2022	49,272	92,576	69,793	75,721	58,433
Thereafter	760,722	1,119,861	1,057,539	916,592	946,056
Total minimum payments	<u>\$ 986,045</u>	<u>\$ 1,565,423</u>	<u>\$ 1,377,285</u>	<u>\$ 1,275,708</u>	<u>\$ 1,211,542</u>
Less interest	(518,714)				
Present value of minimum capital lease payments (b)	<u>\$ 467,331</u>				

(a) Represents future minimum rental payments and rental receipts for non-cancelable leases and subleases for the remainder of the 2018 fiscal year.

(b) The present value of minimum capital lease payments of \$7,588 and \$459,743 are included in "Current portion of long-term debt" and "Long-term debt," respectively.



**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
(In Thousands Except Per Share Amounts)

Properties owned by the Company and leased to franchisees and other third parties under operating leases include:

	April 1, 2018	December 31, 2017
Land	\$ 271,384	\$ 272,411
Buildings and improvements	312,296	313,108
Restaurant equipment	2,443	2,444
	586,123	587,963
Accumulated depreciation and amortization	(131,690)	(128,003)
	<u>\$ 454,433</u>	<u>\$ 459,960</u>

Our net investment in direct financing leases is as follows:

	April 1, 2018	December 31, 2017
Future minimum rental receipts	\$ 658,218	\$ 662,889
Unearned interest income	(427,984)	(433,175)
Net investment in direct financing leases	230,234	229,714
Net current investment in direct financing leases (a)	(634)	(625)
Net non-current investment in direct financing leases	<u>\$ 229,600</u>	<u>\$ 229,089</u>

(a) Included in "Accounts and notes receivable, net."

During the three months ended April 1, 2018 and April 2, 2017, the Company recognized \$7,041 and \$4,456 in interest income related to our direct financing leases, respectively, which is included in "Interest expense, net."

#### **(14) Transactions with Related Parties**

Except as described below, the Company did not have any significant changes in or transactions with its related parties during the current fiscal period since those reported in the Form 10-K.

##### ***TimWen Lease and Management Fee Payments***

A wholly-owned subsidiary of Wendy's leases restaurant facilities from TimWen for the operation of Wendy's/Tim Hortons combo units in Canada. During the three months ended April 1, 2018 and April 2, 2017, Wendy's paid TimWen \$2,872 and \$2,819, respectively, under these lease agreements. In addition, TimWen paid Wendy's a management fee under the TimWen joint venture agreement of \$54 and \$52 during the three months ended April 1, 2018 and April 2, 2017, respectively, which has been included as a reduction to "General and administrative."

#### **(15) Guarantees and Other Commitments and Contingencies**

The Company did not have any significant changes in guarantees and other commitments and contingencies during the current fiscal period since those reported in the Form 10-K. Refer to the Form 10-K for further information regarding the Company's additional commitments and obligations.

##### ***Franchisee Image Activation Incentive Programs***

In order to promote Image Activation new restaurant development, Wendy's has an incentive program for franchisees that provides for reductions in royalty and national advertising payments for up to the first two years of operation for qualifying new restaurants opened by December 31, 2020, with the value of the incentives declining in the later years of the program. Wendy's also had incentive programs for 2017 available to franchisees that commenced Image Activation restaurant remodels by December 15, 2017. The remodel incentive programs provide for reductions in royalty payments for one year after the completion of construction.

**THE WENDY'S COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**(In Thousands Except Per Share Amounts)**

***Lease Guarantees***

Wendy's has guaranteed the performance of certain leases and other obligations, primarily from former Company-operated restaurant locations now operated by franchisees, amounting to \$56,677 as of April 1, 2018. These leases extend through 2056. We have not received any notice of default related to these leases as of April 1, 2018. In the event of default by a franchise owner, Wendy's generally retains the right to acquire possession of the related restaurant locations.

Wendy's is contingently liable for certain other leases which have been assigned to unrelated third parties who have indemnified Wendy's against future liabilities amounting to \$452 as of April 1, 2018. These leases expire on various dates through 2021.

***Letters of Credit***

As of April 1, 2018, the Company had outstanding letters of credit with various parties totaling \$31,601. The outstanding letters of credit include amounts outstanding against the Series 2018-1 Class A-1 Notes. We do not expect any material loss to result from these letters of credit.

**(16) Legal and Environmental Matters**

We are involved in litigation and claims incidental to our current and prior businesses. We provide accruals for such litigation and claims when payment is probable and reasonably estimable. We cannot estimate the aggregate possible range of loss due to most proceedings being in preliminary stages, with various motions either yet to be submitted or pending, discovery yet to occur and significant factual matters unresolved. In addition, most cases seek an indeterminate amount of damages and many involve multiple parties. Predicting the outcomes of settlement discussions or judicial or arbitral decisions is thus inherently difficult. Based on currently available information, including legal defenses available to us, and given the aforementioned accruals and our insurance coverage, we do not believe that the outcome of these legal and environmental matters will have a material effect on our consolidated financial position or results of operations.

We previously described certain legal proceedings in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on February 28, 2018. There were no material developments in those legal proceedings during the first quarter of 2018.

## **Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.**

### **Introduction**

This "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" of The Wendy's Company ("The Wendy's Company" and, together with its subsidiaries, the "Company," "we," "us," or "our") should be read in conjunction with the accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and the related notes included elsewhere within this report and "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 (the "Form 10-K"). There have been no material changes as of April 1, 2018 to the application of our critical accounting policies as described in Item 7 of the Form 10-K. Certain statements we make under this Item 2 constitute "forward-looking statements" under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. See "Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements and Projections" in "Part II - Other Information" preceding Item 1 of Part II of this report. You should consider our forward-looking statements in light of our unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements, related notes and other financial information appearing elsewhere in this report, the Form 10-K and our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC").

The Wendy's Company is the parent company of its 100% owned subsidiary holding company, Wendy's Restaurants, LLC ("Wendy's Restaurants"). The principal 100% owned subsidiary of Wendy's Restaurants is Wendy's International, LLC and its subsidiaries ("Wendy's"). Wendy's franchises and operates Wendy's<sup>®</sup> quick-service restaurants throughout North America (defined as the United States of America ("U.S.") and Canada). Wendy's also has franchised restaurants in 29 foreign countries and U.S. territories.

Wendy's restaurants offer an extensive menu specializing in hamburger sandwiches and featuring filet of chicken breast sandwiches, chicken nuggets, chicken tenders, chili, french fries, baked potatoes, freshly prepared salads, soft drinks, Frosty<sup>®</sup> desserts and kids' meals. In addition, the restaurants sell a variety of promotional products on a limited basis.

The Company manages and internally reports its business geographically. The operation and franchising of Wendy's restaurants in North America comprises virtually all of our current operations and represents a single reportable segment. The revenues and operating results of Wendy's restaurants outside of North America are not material. The results of operations discussed below may not necessarily be indicative of future results.

The Company reports on a fiscal year consisting of 52 or 53 weeks ending on the Sunday closest to or on December 31. All three-month periods presented herein contain 13 weeks. All references to years and quarters relate to fiscal periods rather than calendar periods.

We adopted the new accounting guidance for revenue recognition effective January 1, 2018, which had a material impact on our condensed consolidated financial statements. Beginning with the first quarter of 2018, our financial results reflect adoption of the guidance; however, prior period results were not restated. See Note 2 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements contained in Item 1 herein for further information.

### **Executive Overview**

#### ***Our Business***

As of April 1, 2018, the Wendy's restaurant system was comprised of 6,633 restaurants, of which 337 were owned and operated by the Company. All of our Company-operated restaurants are located in the U.S.

Wendy's operating results are impacted by a number of external factors, including commodity costs, labor costs, intense price competition, unemployment, general economic trends and weather.

Wendy's long-term growth opportunities include (1) systemwide same-restaurant sales growth through continuing core menu improvement, product innovation, customer count growth and strategic price increases on our menu items, (2) system investment in our Image Activation program, which includes innovative exterior and interior restaurant designs for our new and reimaged restaurants and focused execution of operational excellence, (3) growth in new restaurants, including global growth, (4) increased restaurant utilization in various dayparts and brand access utilizing mobile technology, (5) building shareholder value through financial management strategies and (6) our system optimization initiative.

## ***Key Business Measures***

We track our results of operations and manage our business using the following key business measures:

- **Same-Restaurant Sales** - We report same-restaurant sales commencing after new restaurants have been open for 15 continuous months and as soon as reimaged restaurants reopen. This methodology is consistent with the metric used by our management for internal reporting and analysis. The table summarizing same-restaurant sales below in “Results of Operations” provides the same-restaurant sales percent changes. Same-restaurant sales exclude the impact of currency translation.
- **Restaurant Margin** - We define restaurant margin as sales from Company-operated restaurants less cost of sales divided by sales from Company-operated restaurants. Cost of sales includes food and paper, restaurant labor and occupancy, advertising and other operating costs. Restaurant margin is influenced by factors such as price increases, the effectiveness of our advertising and marketing initiatives, featured products, product mix, fluctuations in food and labor costs, restaurant openings, remodels and closures and the level of our fixed and semi-variable costs.
- **Systemwide Sales** - Systemwide sales is a non-GAAP financial measure, which includes sales by both Company-operated restaurants and franchised restaurants. Franchised restaurants’ sales are reported by our franchisees and represent their revenues from sales at franchised Wendy’s restaurants. The Company’s consolidated financial statements do not include sales by franchised restaurants to their customers. The Company believes systemwide sales data is useful in assessing consumer demand for the Company’s products, the overall success of the Wendy’s brand and, ultimately, the performance of the Company. The Company’s royalty revenues are computed as percentages of sales made by Wendy’s franchisees. As a result, sales by Wendy’s franchisees have a direct effect on the Company’s royalty revenues and therefore on the Company’s profitability.

The Company calculates same-restaurant sales and systemwide sales growth on a constant currency basis. Constant currency results exclude the impact of foreign currency translation and are derived by translating current year results at prior year average exchange rates. The Company believes excluding the impact of foreign currency translation provides better year over year comparability.

The non-GAAP financial measure discussed above does not replace the presentation of the Company’s financial results in accordance with GAAP. Because all companies do not calculate non-GAAP financial measures in the same way, this measure as used by other companies may not be consistent with the way the Company calculates such measure.

## ***General and Administrative (“G&A”) Realignment***

In May 2017, the Company initiated a plan to further reduce its G&A expenses. The Company expects that approximately three-quarters of the total G&A expense reduction of approximately \$35.0 million will be realized by the end of 2018, with the remainder of the savings being realized in 2019. The Company expects to incur total costs aggregating approximately \$28.0 million to \$33.0 million, of which \$23.0 million to \$27.0 million will be cash expenditures, related to such savings. The cash expenditures are expected to continue into 2019, with approximately half of the total cash expenditures occurring in 2018. Costs related to the plan are recorded to “Reorganization and realignment costs.” The Company recognized costs totaling \$2.6 million during the first quarter of 2018, which primarily included severance and related employee costs. The Company expects to incur additional costs aggregating approximately \$3.0 million to \$8.0 million, comprised of (1) severance and related employee costs of approximately \$1.0 million, (2) recruitment and relocation costs of approximately \$3.0 million, (3) third-party and other costs of approximately \$1.0 million and (4) share-based compensation of approximately \$2.0 million. The Company expects to continue to recognize costs associated with the plan into 2019.

## ***Cybersecurity Incident***

The Company first reported unusual payment card activity affecting some franchise-owned restaurants in February 2016 and that malware had been discovered on certain systems. Subsequently, on June 9, 2016, the Company reported that an additional malware variant had been identified and disabled. On July 7, 2016, the Company, on behalf of affected franchise locations, provided information about specific restaurant locations that may have been impacted by these attacks, all of which are located in the United States, along with support for customers who may have been affected by the malware variants. See the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for further information.

## Results of Operations

The tables included throughout Results of Operations set forth in millions the Company's condensed consolidated results of operations for the first quarter of 2018 and 2017.

	First Quarter		
	2018	2017	Change
Revenues:			
Sales	\$ 153.7	\$ 148.2	\$ 5.5
Franchise royalty revenue and fees	97.9	94.7	3.2
Franchise rental income	50.1	42.9	7.2
Advertising funds revenue	78.9	—	78.9
	<u>380.6</u>	<u>285.8</u>	<u>94.8</u>
Costs and expenses:			
Cost of sales	132.2	124.5	7.7
Franchise support and other costs	6.2	3.6	2.6
Franchise rental expense	23.3	18.9	4.4
Advertising funds expense	78.9	—	78.9
General and administrative	50.4	51.3	(0.9)
Depreciation and amortization	32.1	29.2	2.9
System optimization losses (gains), net	0.6	(1.4)	2.0
Reorganization and realignment costs	2.6	0.2	2.4
Impairment of long-lived assets	0.2	0.5	(0.3)
Other operating income, net	(1.2)	(1.7)	0.5
	<u>325.3</u>	<u>225.1</u>	<u>100.2</u>
Operating profit	55.3	60.7	(5.4)
Interest expense	(30.2)	(29.0)	(1.2)
Loss on early extinguishment of debt	(11.5)	—	(11.5)
Other income, net	0.8	0.4	0.4
Income before income taxes	14.4	32.1	(17.7)
Benefit from (provision for) income taxes	5.8	(9.8)	15.6
Net income	<u>\$ 20.2</u>	<u>\$ 22.3</u>	<u>\$ (2.1)</u>

	First Quarter			
	2018	% of Total Revenues	2017	% of Total Revenues
<i>Revenues:</i>				
Sales	\$ 153.7	40.4%	\$ 148.2	51.9%
Franchise royalty revenue and fees:				
Royalty revenue	89.9	23.6%	87.1	30.5%
Franchise fees	8.0	2.1%	7.6	2.6%
Total franchise royalty revenue and fees	97.9	25.7%	94.7	33.1%
Franchise rental income	50.1	13.2%	42.9	15.0%
Advertising funds revenue	78.9	20.7%	—	—%
Total revenues	\$ 380.6	100.0%	\$ 285.8	100.0%

	First Quarter			
	2018	% of Sales	2017	% of Sales
<i>Cost of sales:</i>				
Food and paper	\$ 48.9	31.8%	\$ 45.0	30.4%
Restaurant labor	46.8	30.5%	44.9	30.3%
Occupancy, advertising and other operating costs	36.5	23.8%	34.6	23.3%
Total cost of sales	\$ 132.2	86.1%	\$ 124.5	84.0%

	First Quarter			
	2018	% of Sales	2017	% of Sales
Restaurant margin	\$ 21.5	13.9%	\$ 23.7	16.0%

	First Quarter	
	2018	2017
<i>Key business measures:</i>		
North America same-restaurant sales:		
Company-operated	0.8%	0.8%
Franchised	1.7%	1.7%
Systemwide	1.6%	1.6%
Total same-restaurant sales:		
Company-operated	0.8%	0.8%
Franchised (a)	1.8%	1.8%
Systemwide (a)	1.8%	1.8%

(a) Includes international franchised same-restaurant sales (excluding Venezuela due to the impact of Venezuela's highly inflationary economy).

	First Quarter	
	2018	2017
<i>Key business measures (continued):</i>		
Systemwide sales: (a)		
Company-operated	\$ 153.7	\$ 148.2
North America franchised	2,250.7	2,189.2
International franchised (b)	127.2	112.5
Global systemwide sales	<u>\$ 2,531.6</u>	<u>\$ 2,449.9</u>

(a) During the first quarter of 2018 and 2017, North America systemwide sales increased 2.8% and 2.5%, respectively, international franchised sales increased 13.7% and 14.1%, respectively, and global systemwide sales increased 3.3% and 3.0%, respectively, on a constant currency basis.

(b) Excludes Venezuela due to the impact of Venezuela's highly inflationary economy.

	First Quarter			
	Company-operated	North America Franchised	International Franchised	Systemwide
<i>Restaurant count:</i>				
Restaurant count at December 31, 2017	337	5,793	504	6,634
Opened	—	16	17	33
Closed	(1)	(24)	(9)	(34)
Net purchased from (sold by) franchisees	1	(1)	—	—
Restaurant count at April 1, 2018	<u>337</u>	<u>5,784</u>	<u>512</u>	<u>6,633</u>

<i>Sales</i>	Change First Quarter
Sales	\$ 5.5

The increase in sales for the first quarter of 2018 was primarily due to a 0.8% increase in same-restaurant sales. Company-operated same-restaurant sales improved due to an increase in our average per customer check amount, reflecting benefits from strategic price increases on our menu items. Sales also benefited from higher sales growth at our new and remodeled Image Activation restaurants. These increases in same-restaurant sales were partially offset by the adverse impact of inclement weather in the northeastern U.S.

<i>Franchise Royalty Revenue and Fees</i>	Change First Quarter
Royalty revenue	\$ 2.8
Franchise fees	0.4
	<u>\$ 3.2</u>

The increase in franchise royalty revenue during the first quarter of 2018 was primarily due to a 1.8% increase in franchise same-restaurant sales.

The increase in franchise fees during the first quarter of 2018 was primarily due to fees for providing information technology services to franchisees and other miscellaneous franchise fees, as well as the impact of the new accounting guidance for revenue recognition effective January 1, 2018. These increases were largely offset by technical assistance fees from facilitating franchisee-to-franchisee restaurant transfers ("Franchise Flips") recognized in the first quarter of 2017. Had the new accounting guidance for revenue recognition been applied on a consistent basis during both the first quarter of 2018 and 2017, franchise fees would have increased \$3.4 million in the first quarter of 2018 compared with the first quarter of 2017, primarily due to fees for providing

information technology services to franchisees and other miscellaneous franchise fees. See Note 2 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements contained in Item 1 herein for further information regarding the new accounting guidance for revenue recognition.

***Franchise Rental Income***

	<b>Change First Quarter</b>
Franchise rental income	\$ 7.2

The increase in franchise rental income during the first quarter of 2018 was primarily due to subleasing properties to franchisees in connection with facilitating Franchise Flips during 2017.

***Advertising Funds Revenue***

	<b>Change First Quarter</b>
Advertising funds revenue	\$ 78.9

The Company maintains two national advertising funds established to collect and administer funds contributed for use in advertising and promotional programs for Company-operated and franchised restaurants in the U.S. and Canada. Franchisees make contributions to the national advertising funds based on a percentage of sales of the franchised restaurants. Under the new accounting guidance for revenue recognition effective January 1, 2018, the revenue of the national advertising funds is fully consolidated into the Company's condensed consolidated statements of operations.

***Cost of Sales, as a Percent of Sales***

	<b>Change First Quarter</b>
Food and paper	1.4%
Restaurant labor	0.2%
Occupancy, advertising and other operating costs	0.5%
	2.1%

The increase in cost of sales, as a percent of sales, during the first quarter of 2018 was primarily due to (1) an increase in commodity costs, (2) the adverse impact of inclement weather in the northeastern U.S. and (3) an increase in restaurant labor rates. These increases in cost of sales, as a percent of sales, were partially offset by benefits from strategic price increases on our menu items.

***Franchise Support and Other Costs***

	<b>Change First Quarter</b>
Franchise support and other costs	\$ 2.6

The increase in franchise support and other costs during the first quarter of 2018 was primarily due to information technology investments for franchised restaurants.

***Franchise Rental Expense***

	<b>Change First Quarter</b>
Franchise rental expense	\$ 4.4

The increase in franchise rental expense during the first quarter of 2018 was primarily a result of leases entered into in connection with facilitating Franchise Flips during 2017.



**Advertising Funds Expense**

	<b>Change First Quarter</b>
Advertising funds expense	\$ 78.9

The expenses of the national advertising funds are now fully consolidated into the Company's condensed consolidated statements of operations under the new accounting guidance for revenue recognition effective January 1, 2018. On an interim basis, advertising funds expense is recognized in proportion to advertising funds revenue.

**General and Administrative**

	<b>Change First Quarter</b>
Professional services	\$ (1.1)
Other, net	0.2
	<u>\$ (0.9)</u>

The decrease in general and administrative expenses during the first quarter of 2018 was primarily due to a decrease in professional services, reflecting lower legal fees.

**Depreciation and Amortization**

	<b>Change First Quarter</b>
Restaurants	\$ 0.9
Corporate and other	2.0
	<u>\$ 2.9</u>

The increase in restaurant depreciation and amortization during the first quarter of 2018 was primarily due to the impact of capital leases resulting from facilitating Franchise Flips during 2017. Corporate and other expense increased due to depreciation and amortization for technology investments.

**System Optimization Losses (Gains), Net**

	<b>First Quarter</b>	
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
System optimization losses (gains), net	\$ 0.6	\$ (1.4)

System optimization losses (gains), net for both the first quarter of 2018 and 2017 include post-closing adjustments on sales of restaurants and the sale of other assets, primarily surplus properties.

**Reorganization and Realignment Costs**

	<b>First Quarter</b>	
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
G&A realignment	\$ 2.6	\$ —
System optimization initiative	—	0.2
	<u>\$ 2.6</u>	<u>\$ 0.2</u>

In May 2017, the Company initiated a plan to further reduce its G&A expenses. During the first quarter of 2018, the Company recognized costs associated with the plan totaling \$2.6 million, which primarily included (1) severance and related employee costs of \$2.1 million and (2) third-party and other costs of \$0.3 million.

During the first quarter of 2017, the Company recognized costs associated with its system optimization initiative totaling \$0.2 million, which primarily included professional fees.

***Impairment of Long-Lived Assets***

	<b>Change First Quarter</b>
Impairment of long-lived assets	\$ (0.3)

Impairment of long-lived assets decreased during the first quarter of 2018 primarily due to lower impairment charges resulting from closing Company-operated restaurants and classifying such surplus properties as held for sale.

***Other Operating Income, Net***

	<b>First Quarter</b>	
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Lease buyout	\$ 0.6	\$ —
Equity in earnings in joint ventures, net	(1.8)	(1.8)
Other, net	—	0.1
	<u>\$ (1.2)</u>	<u>\$ (1.7)</u>

The change in other operating income, net was primarily due to a loss recognized on a lease buyout during the first quarter of 2018.

***Interest Expense***

	<b>Change First Quarter</b>
Interest expense	\$ 1.2

Interest expense increased during the first quarter of 2018 primarily due to an increase in capital lease obligations resulting from facilitating Franchise Flips for purposes of subleasing such properties to the franchisee during 2017.

***Loss on Early Extinguishment of Debt***

	<b>Change First Quarter</b>
Loss on early extinguishment of debt	\$ (11.5)

During the first quarter of 2018, the Company incurred a loss on the early extinguishment of debt as a result of redeeming the outstanding Series 2015-1 Class A-2-I Notes with the proceeds from the sale of the Series 2018-1 Class A-2 Notes. The loss on the early extinguishment of debt of \$11.5 million was comprised of the write-off of certain deferred financing costs and a specified make-whole payment.

***Benefit from (Provision for) Income Taxes***

	<b>First Quarter</b>	
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Income before income taxes	\$ 14.4	\$ 32.1
Benefit from (provision for) income taxes	5.8	(9.8)
Effective tax rate on income	(40.5)%	30.5%

Our effective tax rates in the first quarter of 2018 and 2017 were impacted by variations in income before income taxes, adjusted for recurring items such as non-deductible expenses and state income taxes, as well as non-recurring discrete items. Discrete items, which may occur in any given year but are not consistent from year to year include the following: (1) net excess tax benefits related to share-based payments, which resulted in a benefit of \$6.1 million in the first quarter of 2018, (2) a change to our provisional amount, recorded in the fourth quarter of 2017, for the impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act on our net deferred tax liability, which resulted in a benefit of \$3.6 million, and (3) state income taxes.

## Liquidity and Capital Resources

### Cash Flows

Our primary sources of liquidity and capital resources are cash flows from operations and borrowings under our securitized financing facility. Principal uses of cash are operating expenses, capital expenditures, repurchases of common stock and dividends to shareholders.

Our anticipated consolidated sources of cash and cash requirements for the remainder of 2018, exclusive of operating cash flow requirements, consist principally of:

- capital expenditures of approximately \$65.0 million to \$70.0 million, resulting in total anticipated cash capital expenditures for the year of approximately \$75.0 million to \$80.0 million.
- cash dividends aggregating up to approximately \$61.0 million as discussed below in “Dividends;” and
- potential stock repurchases of up to \$158.3 million, of which \$18.9 million was repurchased subsequent to April 1, 2018 through May 2, 2018 as discussed below in “Stock Repurchases.”

Based on current levels of operations, the Company expects that available cash and cash flows from operations will provide sufficient liquidity to meet operating cash requirements for the next 12 months.

The table below summarizes our cash flows from operating, investing and financing activities for the first quarter of 2018 and 2017:

	First Quarter		
	2018	2017	Change
Net cash provided by (used in):			
Operating activities	\$ 68.7	\$ 42.1	\$ 26.6
Investing activities	(11.1)	(15.0)	3.9
Financing activities	(25.7)	(37.9)	12.2
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash	(2.5)	0.8	(3.3)
Net increase (decrease) in cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash	<u>\$ 29.4</u>	<u>\$ (10.0)</u>	<u>\$ 39.4</u>

#### Operating Activities

Cash provided by operating activities was \$68.7 and \$42.1 in the first quarter of 2018 and 2017, respectively. Cash provided by operating activities consists primarily of net income, adjusted for non-cash expenses such as depreciation and amortization, deferred income tax and share-based compensation, and the net change in operating assets and liabilities.

Cash provided by operating activities increased \$26.6 million during the first quarter of 2018 as compared to the first quarter of 2017, due to (1) an increase of \$3.7 million in net income adjusted for non-cash expenses and (2) a favorable change in operating assets and liabilities of \$22.9 million. The favorable change in operating assets and liabilities resulted primarily from (1) the timing of payments for marketing expenses of the national advertising funds, (2) the timing of collections of royalty receivables and (3) a decrease in payments for incentive compensation for the 2017 fiscal year.

#### Investing Activities

Cash used in investing activities decreased \$3.9 million during the first quarter of 2018 as compared to the first quarter of 2017, primarily due to a decrease in capital expenditures of \$4.2 million.

#### Financing Activities

Cash used in financing activities decreased \$12.2 million during the first quarter of 2018 as compared to the first quarter of 2017, due to a net increase in cash provided by long-term debt activities of \$45.7 million reflecting the completion of a refinancing transaction during the first quarter of 2018. This favorable change was partially offset by (1) an increase in repurchases of common stock of \$23.3 million, (2) the settlement of a supplemental purchase price liability associated with the acquisition of DavCo Restaurants, LLC of \$6.1 million and (3) an increase in dividends of \$3.1 million.

### ***Long-Term Debt, Including Current Portion***

Except as described below, there were no material changes to the terms of any debt obligations since December 31, 2017. The Company was in compliance with its debt covenants as of April 1, 2018. See Note 7 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements contained in Item 1 herein for further information related to our long-term debt obligations.

On January 17, 2018, Wendy's Funding, LLC (the "Master Issuer"), a limited-purpose, bankruptcy-remote, wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of the Company, completed a refinancing transaction under which the Master Issuer issued fixed rate senior secured notes in the following 2018-1 series: Class A-2-I with an interest rate of 3.573% and initial principal amount of \$450.0 million and Class A-2-II with an interest rate of 3.884% and initial principal amount of \$475.0 million (collectively, the "Series 2018-1 Class A-2 Notes"). The net proceeds from the sale of the Series 2018-1 Class A-2 Notes were used to redeem the Master Issuer's outstanding Series 2015-1 Class A-2-I Notes, to pay prepayment and transaction costs, and for general corporate purposes.

Concurrently, the Master Issuer entered into a revolving financing facility of Series 2018-1 Variable Funding Senior Secured Notes, Class A-1 (the "Series 2018-1 Class A-1 Notes"), which allows for the drawing of up to \$150.0 million using various credit instruments, including a letter of credit facility. No amounts were borrowed under the Series 2018-1 Class A-1 Notes during the three months ended April 1, 2018. The Series 2015-1 Class A-1 Notes were canceled on the closing date and the letters of credit outstanding against the Series 2015-1 Class A-1 Notes were transferred to the Series 2018-1 Class A-1 Notes.

### ***Dividends***

On March 15, 2018, the Company paid quarterly cash dividends of \$0.085 per share on its common stock, aggregating \$20.4 million. On May 8th, 2018, the Company declared a dividend of \$0.085 per share to be paid on June 15, 2018 to shareholders of record as of June 1, 2018. If the Company pays regular quarterly dividends for the remainder of 2018 at the same rate as declared in the second quarter of 2018, the total cash requirement for dividends will be approximately \$61.0 million based on the estimated number of shares of common stock outstanding at May 2, 2018. The Company currently intends to continue to declare and pay quarterly cash dividends; however, there can be no assurance that any quarterly dividends will be declared or paid in the future or of the amount or timing of such dividends, if any.

### ***Stock Repurchases***

In February 2018, our Board of Directors authorized a repurchase program for up to \$175.0 million of our common stock through March 3, 2019, when and if market conditions warrant and to the extent legally permissible. During the three months ended April 1, 2018, the Company repurchased 1.0 million shares with an aggregate purchase price of \$16.7 million, of which \$1.3 million was accrued at April 1, 2018, and excluding commissions. Subsequent to April 1, 2018 through May 2, 2018, the Company repurchased 1.1 million shares with an aggregate purchase price of \$18.9 million, excluding commissions.

In February 2017, our Board of Directors authorized a repurchase program for up to \$150.0 million of our common stock through March 4, 2018, when and if market conditions warranted and to the extent legally permissible. During the three months ended April 1, 2018, the Company completed the \$150.0 million program with the repurchase of 1.4 million shares with an aggregate purchase price of \$22.6 million, excluding commissions. During the three months ended April 2, 2017, the Company repurchased 1.3 million shares with an aggregate purchase price of \$17.8 million, excluding commissions.

### ***General Inflation, Commodities and Changing Prices***

We believe that general inflation did not have a significant effect on our consolidated results of operations, except as mentioned below for certain commodities, during the reporting periods. We manage any inflationary costs and commodity price increases through product mix and selective menu price increases. Delays in implementing such menu price increases and competitive pressures may limit our ability to recover such cost increases in the future. Inherent volatility experienced in certain commodity markets, such as those for beef, chicken, pork, cheese and grains, could have a significant effect on our results of operations and may have an adverse effect on us in the future. The extent of any impact will depend on our ability to increase food prices.

### ***Seasonality***

Wendy's restaurant operations are moderately seasonal. Wendy's average restaurant sales are normally higher during the summer months than during the winter months. Because the business is moderately seasonal, results for any quarter are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be achieved for any other quarter or for the full fiscal year.

### **Item 3. *Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk.***

This “Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk” should be read in conjunction with “Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk” in our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 (the “Form 10-K”).

As of April 1, 2018, there were no material changes from the information contained in the Form 10-K, except as described below.

#### *Interest Rate Risk*

As discussed in “Item 2. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operation” under “Liquidity and Capital Resources,” the Company completed a \$925.0 million refinancing transaction on January 17, 2018. The proceeds were used to repay all amounts outstanding on the Series 2015-1 Class A-2-I Notes, to pay prepayment and transaction costs, and for general corporate purposes. The new notes bear fixed-rate interest at rates slightly higher than our historical effective rates on the Series 2015-1 Class A-2-I Notes. In addition, the principal amounts outstanding on the Series 2018-1 Class A-2 Notes exceed the amounts that were outstanding on the Series 2015-1 Class A-2-I Notes. The final legal maturity date of the Series 2018-1 Class A-2 Notes is in 2048; however, the anticipated repayment dates of the Series 2018-1 Class A-2 Notes range from 2025 through 2028, which is up to six years longer than the prior Series 2015-1 Class A-2-I Notes. Concurrently, the Company entered into a revolving financing facility, the Series 2018-1 Class A-1 Notes, which allows for the drawing of up to \$150.0 million using various credit instruments, including a letter of credit facility. The Series 2015-1 Class A-1 Notes were canceled on the closing date.

Consequently, our long-term debt, including current portion, aggregated \$2,855.0 million and consisted of \$2,387.7 million of fixed-rate debt and \$467.3 million of capital lease obligations as of April 1, 2018 (excluding unamortized debt issuance costs and the effect of purchase accounting adjustments). The Company’s predominantly fixed-rate debt structure has reduced its exposure to interest rate increases that could adversely affect its earnings and cash flows. The Company is exposed to interest rate increases under the Series 2018-1 Class A-1 Notes; however, the Company had no outstanding borrowings under its Series 2018-1 Class A-1 Notes as of April 1, 2018.

#### **Item 4. *Controls and Procedures.***

##### **Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

The management of the Company, under the supervision and with the participation of its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of its disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) or 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”)), as of April 1, 2018. Based on such evaluations, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that, as of April 1, 2018, the disclosure controls and procedures of the Company were effective at a reasonable assurance level in (1) recording, processing, summarizing and reporting, on a timely basis, information required to be disclosed by the Company in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act and (2) ensuring that information required to be disclosed by the Company in such reports is accumulated and communicated to management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

##### **Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

There were no changes in the internal control over financial reporting of the Company during the first quarter of 2018 that materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, its internal control over financial reporting.

##### **Inherent Limitations on Effectiveness of Controls**

There are inherent limitations in the effectiveness of any control system, including the potential for human error and the possible circumvention or overriding of controls and procedures. Additionally, judgments in decision-making can be faulty and breakdowns can occur because of a simple error or mistake. An effective control system can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the control objectives of the system are adequately met. Accordingly, the management of the Company, including its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, does not expect that the control system can prevent or detect all errors or fraud. Finally, projections of any evaluation or assessment of effectiveness of a control system to future periods are subject to the risks that, over time, controls may become inadequate because of changes in an entity’s operating environment or deterioration in the degree of compliance with policies or procedures.

## PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

### Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements and Projections

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and oral statements made from time to time by representatives of the Company may contain or incorporate by reference certain statements that are not historical facts, including, most importantly, information concerning possible or assumed future results of operations of the Company. Those statements, as well as statements preceded by, followed by, or that include the words “may,” “believes,” “plans,” “expects,” “anticipates,” or the negation thereof, or similar expressions, constitute “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (the “Reform Act”). All statements that address future operating, financial or business performance; strategies, initiatives or expectations; future synergies, efficiencies or overhead savings; anticipated costs or charges; future capitalization; and anticipated financial impacts of recent or pending transactions are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Reform Act. The forward-looking statements are based on our expectations at the time such statements are made, speak only as of the dates they are made and are susceptible to a number of risks, uncertainties and other factors. Our actual results, performance and achievements may differ materially from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by our forward-looking statements. For all of our forward-looking statements, we claim the protection of the safe harbor for forward-looking statements contained in the Reform Act. Many important factors could affect our future results and could cause those results to differ materially from those expressed in or implied by the forward-looking statements contained herein. Such factors, all of which are difficult or impossible to predict accurately, and many of which are beyond our control, include, but are not limited to, the following:

- competition, including pricing pressures, couponing, aggressive marketing and the potential impact of competitors’ new unit openings on sales of Wendy’s restaurants;
- consumers’ perceptions of the relative quality, variety, affordability and value of the food products we offer;
- food safety events, including instances of food-borne illness (such as salmonella or E. coli) involving Wendy’s or its supply chain;
- consumer concerns over nutritional aspects of beef, poultry, french fries or other products we sell, concerns regarding the ingredients in our products and/or cooking processes used in our restaurants, or concerns regarding the effects of disease outbreaks, epidemics or pandemics impacting the Company’s customers or food supplies;
- the effects of negative publicity that can occur from increased use of social media;
- success of operating and marketing initiatives, including advertising and promotional efforts and new product and concept development by us and our competitors;
- the impact of general economic conditions and increases in unemployment rates on consumer spending, particularly in geographic regions that contain a high concentration of Wendy’s restaurants;
- changes in consumer tastes and preferences, and in discretionary consumer spending;
- changes in spending patterns and demographic trends, such as the extent to which consumers eat meals away from home;
- certain factors affecting our franchisees, including the business and financial viability of franchisees, the timely payment of such franchisees’ obligations due to us or to national or local advertising organizations, and the ability of our franchisees to open new restaurants and remodel existing restaurants in accordance with their development and franchise commitments, including their ability to finance restaurant development and remodels;
- increased labor costs due to competition or increased minimum wage or employee benefit costs;
- changes in commodity costs (including beef, chicken, pork, cheese and grains), labor, supplies, fuel, utilities, distribution and other operating costs;
- availability, location and terms of sites for restaurant development by us and our franchisees;
- development costs, including real estate and construction costs;

- delays in opening new restaurants or completing reimages of existing restaurants, including risks associated with the Image Activation program;
- the timing and impact of acquisitions and dispositions of restaurants;
- anticipated or unanticipated restaurant closures by us and our franchisees;
- our ability to identify, attract and retain potential franchisees with sufficient experience and financial resources to develop and operate Wendy's restaurants successfully;
- availability of qualified restaurant personnel to us and to our franchisees, and the ability to retain such personnel;
- our ability, if necessary, to secure alternative distribution of supplies of food, equipment and other products to Wendy's restaurants at competitive rates and in adequate amounts, and the potential financial impact of any interruptions in such distribution;
- availability and cost of insurance;
- adverse weather conditions;
- availability, terms (including changes in interest rates) and deployment of capital;
- changes in, and our ability to comply with, legal, regulatory or similar requirements, including franchising laws, payment card industry rules, overtime rules, minimum wage rates, wage and hour laws, tax legislation, federal ethanol policy and accounting standards (including the new guidance on leases that will become effective for fiscal year 2019);
- the costs, uncertainties and other effects of legal, environmental and administrative proceedings;
- the effects of charges for impairment of goodwill or for the impairment of other long-lived assets;
- the effects of war or terrorist activities;
- risks associated with failures, interruptions or security breaches of the Company's computer systems or technology, or the occurrence of cyber incidents or a deficiency in cybersecurity that impacts the Company or its franchisees, including the cybersecurity incident described in Item 1 above;
- the difficulty in predicting the ultimate costs that will be incurred in connection with the Company's plan to reduce its general and administrative expense, and the future impact on the Company's earnings;
- risks associated with the Company's securitized financing facility, including the ability to generate sufficient cash flow to meet increased debt service obligations, compliance with operational and financial covenants, and restrictions on the Company's ability to raise additional capital;
- risks associated with the amount and timing of share repurchases under the \$175.0 million share repurchase program approved by the Board of Directors; and
- other risks and uncertainties affecting us and our subsidiaries referred to in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 (the "Form 10-K") (see especially "Item 1A. Risk Factors" and "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations") and in our other current and periodic filings with the SEC.

All future written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us or any person acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements contained or referred to in this section. New risks and uncertainties arise from time to time, and it is impossible for us to predict these events or how they may affect us. We assume no obligation to update any forward-looking statements after the date of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q as a result of new information, future events or developments, except as required by federal securities laws. In addition, it is our policy generally not to endorse any projections regarding future performance that may be made by third parties.



## Item 1. *Legal Proceedings.*

We are involved in litigation and claims incidental to our current and prior businesses, including the legal proceedings related to a cybersecurity incident referenced in Note 16 of the Financial Statements contained in Item 1 herein. We provide accruals for such litigation and claims when payment is probable and reasonably estimable. The Company believes it has adequate accruals for continuing operations for all of its legal and environmental matters. We cannot estimate the aggregate possible range of loss due to most proceedings, including those described below, being in preliminary stages, with various motions either yet to be submitted or pending, discovery yet to occur and significant factual matters unresolved. In addition, most cases seek an indeterminate amount of damages and many involve multiple parties. Predicting the outcomes of settlement discussions or judicial or arbitral decisions is thus inherently difficult. Based on our currently available information, including legal defenses available to us, and given the aforementioned accruals and our insurance coverage, we do not believe that the outcome of these legal and environmental matters will have a material effect on our consolidated financial position or results of operations.

## Item 1A. *Risk Factors.*

In addition to the information contained in this report, you should carefully consider the risk factors disclosed in our Form 10-K, which could materially affect our business, financial condition or future results. Except as described elsewhere in this report, there have been no material changes from the risk factors previously disclosed in our Form 10-K.

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

The following table provides information with respect to repurchases of shares of our common stock by us and our “affiliated purchasers” (as defined in Rule 10b-18(a)(3) under the Exchange Act) during the first quarter of 2018:

### Issuer Repurchases of Equity Securities

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased (1)	Average Price Paid per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans	Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans (2)
January 1, 2018 through February 4, 2018	905,781	\$16.64	899,300	\$7,684,271
February 5, 2018 through March 4, 2018	789,599	\$15.95	634,256	\$172,603,756
March 5, 2018 through April 1, 2018	1,548,902	\$17.20	840,814	\$158,259,509
Total	3,244,282	\$16.74	2,374,370	\$158,259,509

- (1) Includes 869,912 shares reacquired by the Company from holders of share-based awards to satisfy certain requirements associated with the vesting or exercise of the respective awards. The shares were valued at the average of the high and low trading prices of our common stock on the vesting or exercise date of such awards.
- (2) In February 2017, our Board of Directors authorized a repurchase program for up to \$150 million of our common stock through March 4, 2018, when and if market conditions warranted and to the extent legally permissible. The Company completed the \$150 million program prior to the expiration date of March 4, 2018. In February 2018, our Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$175 million of our common stock through March 3, 2019, when and if market conditions warrant and to the extent legally permissible.

Subsequent to April 1, 2018 through May 2, 2018, the Company repurchased 1.1 million shares with an aggregate purchase price of \$18.9 million, excluding commissions.

**Item 6. Exhibits.**

<b>EXHIBIT NO.</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
10.1	Form of Long-Term Performance Unit Award Agreement for 2018 under The Wendy's Company 2010 Omnibus Award Plan.* **
31.1	Certification of the Chief Executive Officer of The Wendy's Company, pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.*
31.2	Certification of the Chief Financial Officer of The Wendy's Company, pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.*
32.1	Certifications of the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.*
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document*
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document*
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document*
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document*
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document*
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document*

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\* Filed herewith.

\*\* Identifies a management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

## SIGNATURES

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

THE WENDY'S COMPANY  
(Registrant)

Date: May 8, 2018

By: /s/ Gunther Plosch  
Gunther Plosch  
Chief Financial Officer  
(On behalf of the Company)

Date: May 8, 2018

By: /s/ Leigh A. Burnside  
Leigh A. Burnside  
Chief Accounting Officer  
(Principal Accounting Officer)

**CERTIFICATION OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
OF THE WENDY'S COMPANY, PURSUANT TO SECTION 302  
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, Todd A. Penegor, certify that:

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

Date: May 8, 2018

/s/ Todd A. Penegor  
Todd A. Penegor  
President and Chief Executive Officer

**CERTIFICATION OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
OF THE WENDY'S COMPANY, PURSUANT TO SECTION 302  
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, Gunther Plosch, certify that:

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

Date: May 8, 2018

/s/ Gunther Plosch  
Gunther Plosch  
Chief Financial Officer

**CERTIFICATIONS OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350, AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO  
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

Pursuant to Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, each of the undersigned officers of The Wendy's Company, a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), does hereby certify, to the best of such officer's knowledge, that in connection with the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of the Company for the quarter ended April 1, 2018 (the "Form 10-Q"):

1. the Form 10-Q fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
2. the information contained in the Form 10-Q fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: May 8, 2018

/s/ Todd A. Penegor  
Todd A. Penegor  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: May 8, 2018

/s/ Gunther Plosch  
Gunther Plosch  
Chief Financial Officer