HomePlus
April 3, 2012

## Conn's, Inc. Reports Results for the Quarter Ended January 31, 2012

BEAUMONT, Texas--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Conn's, Inc. (NASDAQ: CONN), a specialty retailer of consumer electronics, home appliances, furniture, mattresses, computers and lawn and garden products today announced its operating and financial results for the quarter ended January 31, 2012.

Significant items for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2012 include:

- Adjusted diluted earnings per share of $\$ 0.34$, excluding store closing costs and long-lived asset impairment charges, compared to an adjusted diluted loss per share of $\$ 0.00$ for the same period in the prior fiscal year;
- Total revenues increased $3.7 \%$ to $\$ 226.7$ million, compared to the same period in the prior fiscal year;
- Same store sales increased 12.1\%;
- Adjusted retail gross margin increased 460 basis points to 29.7\%;
- Retail segment adjusted operating income, excluding store closing costs and long-lived asset impairment charges, increased to $\$ 9.3$ million, compared to $\$ 2.1$ million for the same quarter in the prior fiscal year;
- Credit segment operating income increased to $\$ 12.2$ million, compared to $\$ 6.7$ million for the same quarter in the prior fiscal year; and
- The Company increased earnings guidance for fiscal year 2013 to adjusted diluted earnings per share of $\$ 1.20$ to $\$ 1.30$.
"We are pleased to report improved profitability in both our credit and retail segments," stated Theodore M. Wright, the Company's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. "Sales and gross margins are increasing. Combined February and March same store sales grew 16.1\% and retail gross margin for the first quarter of fiscal 2013 to date is above fourth quarter of fiscal 2012 levels. We are on track with our store opening plans and are looking forward to returning to unit growth after a period of retrenchment."


## Retail Segment Results

The increase in net sales during the quarter was driven by higher average selling prices in all major categories and increased furniture and mattress unit sales. The retail segment's adjusted retail gross margin increased to $29.7 \%$ in the current-year quarter, from $25.1 \%$ in the same quarter of the prior year (the retail gross margins presented have been revised to reflect certain vendor rebates that were previously reported as a reduction of advertising expense in Selling, general and administrative expense, as a reduction of Cost of goods sold). The increase in the retail gross margin was driven by an increase in higher-margin furniture and mattress sales as a percent of total product sales, improved product gross margins and increased sales penetration of repair service agreements. During January 2012, the Company closed five underperforming locations, resulting in $\$ 5.1$ million of store closing costs and long-lived asset impairment charges.

## Credit Segment Results

The Company changed its presentation of net charge-offs and the provision for bad debts to be more consistent with finance industry practice. The impact of the change was to reflect the charges for repair service and credit insurance agreements related to credit account charge-offs in net charge-offs and the provision for bad debts. There was no effect on operating income or net income (loss) as a result of the presentation change.

The credit segment's results, compared to the same quarter in the prior year, were impacted by:

- Reduced portfolio balances since the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2011;
- Rising portfolio interest and fee yield to $18.8 \%$ from $18.2 \%$ in the prior year period;
- Reductions in servicing costs, as highly re-aged and highly delinquent accounts are being charged off more quickly as a result of the previous changes in charge-off and re-age policies;
- Lower provision for bad debts, as the credit quality of the receivables in the portfolio continues to improve; and
- Reduced borrowing cost, as the Company has a reduced balance of debt outstanding and a lower interest rate paid on outstanding debt.

Given the underwriting and collection practice changes made during the past year, and the change in retail sales trends, the Company expects to see:

- Year-over-year growth in the balance of the credit portfolio, beginning in the second half of fiscal year 2013;
- Interest and fee yield expansion during fiscal year 2013, compared to the prior fiscal year;
- Reduced servicing cost and provision for bad debts, as a result of the improving overall credit quality of the receivables in the portfolio; and
- Lower borrowing cost during the first half of fiscal year 2013, compared to the first half of the prior fiscal year, as the Company expects to have a reduced balance of debt outstanding and a lower interest rate on outstanding debt.

More information on the credit portfolio and its performance may be found in the table included within this press release and in the Company's Form 10-K to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Company reported net income of $\$ 7.7$ million, or diluted earnings per share of $\$ 0.24$ for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2012, compared to a net loss of $\$ 3.6$ million, or a diluted loss per share of $\$ 0.12$, for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2011. Adjusted net income, considering the impact of the store closing costs and long-lived asset impairment charges, was $\$ 11.0$ million, or adjusted diluted earnings per share of $\$ 0.34$, for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2012.

## Capital and Liquidity

As of January 31, 2012, there was $\$ 313.3$ million, excluding $\$ 1.3$ million of letters of credit, outstanding under the asset-based loan facility. Additionally, as of January 31, 2012, the Company had $\$ 79.1$ million of immediately available borrowing capacity, and an additional $\$ 56.3$ million that could become available upon increases in eligible inventory and customer receivable balances under the borrowing base. As of March 31, 2012, the Company had paid down the balance outstanding under its asset-based loan facility by $\$ 43.8$ million, leaving $\$ 269.5$ million outstanding, and increasing immediately available borrowing capacity to approximately $\$ 120$ million.

## Outlook and Guidance

The Company updated earnings guidance for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2013, to diluted earnings per share of $\$ 1.20$ to $\$ 1.30$. The following factors were considered in developing the guidance:

- Same stores sales are expected to be up mid- to high-single digits;
- New store openings expected to be between five and seven new locations in new markets;
- Retail gross margin is expected to be between $30.0 \%$ and $32.0 \%$;
- The credit portfolio balance is expected to increase;
- The provision for bad debts is expected to be between $5.0 \%$ and $6.0 \%$ of the average portfolio balance outstanding; and
- Selling, general and administrative expense, as a percent of revenues, is expected to be between $28.5 \%$ and $29.5 \%$ of total revenues.


## Conference Call Information

Conn's, Inc. will host a conference call and audio webcast today, April 3, 2012, at 10:00 AM, CDT, to discuss its financial results for the quarter ended January 31, 2012. A link to the live webcast, which will be archived for one year, and slides to be referred to during the call will be available at IR.Conns.com. Participants can join the call by dialing 877-754-5302 or 678-894-3020.
Additionally, the Company has posted an updated investor presentation to its investor relations web page.

## About Conn's, Inc.

The Company is a specialty retailer currently operating 65 retail locations in Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma: with 22 stores in the Houston area, 15 in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, seven in San Antonio, three in Austin, five in Southeast Texas, one in Corpus Christi, four in South Texas, six in Louisiana and two in Oklahoma. The Company's primary product categories include:

- Home appliances, including refrigerators, freezers, washers, dryers, dishwashers and ranges;
- Consumer electronics, including LCD, LED, 3-D, plasma and DLP televisions, camcorders, digital cameras, Blu-ray and DVD players, video game equipment, portable audio, MP3 players and home theater products;
- Furniture and mattresses, including furniture for the living room, dining room, bedroom and related accessories and mattresses; and
- Home office, including desktop, notebook, netbook and tablet computers, printers and computer accessories.

Additionally, the Company offers a variety of products on a seasonal basis, including lawn and garden equipment, and continues to introduce additional product categories for the home to help respond to its customers' product needs and to increase same store sales. Unlike many of its competitors, the Company provides flexible in-house credit options for its customers, in addition to third-party financing programs and third-party rent-to-own payment plans. In the last three years, the Company financed, on average, approximately $61 \%$, including down payments, of its retail sales under its in-house financing plan.

This press release contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Such forward-looking statements generally can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "may," "will," "expect," "intend," "could," "estimate," "should," "anticipate," or "believe," or the negative thereof or variations thereon or similar terminology. Although the Company believes that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements will prove to be correct, the Company can give no assurance that such expectations will prove to be correct. The actual future performance of the Company could differ materially from such statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to:

- the Company's growth strategy and plans regarding opening new stores and entering new markets;
- the Company's intention to update, relocate or expand existing stores;
- the effect of closing or reducing the hours of operation of existing stores;
- the Company's estimated capital expenditures and costs related to the opening of new stores or the update, relocation or expansion of existing stores;
- the Company's ability to introduce additional product categories;
- sales trends in the home appliances, consumer electronics and furniture and mattress industries and the Company's ability to respond to those trends;
- changes in product sales or gross margin trends;
- the pricing actions and promotional activities of competitors;
- relationships with the Company's key suppliers;
- changes in outstanding balance, delinquency and loss trends in the receivables portfolio;
- the Company's ability to offer flexible financing programs;
- changes in the interest and fee yield earned on the receivables portfolio;
- changes in the Company's underwriting and collection practices and policies;
- changes in the costs to collect the receivables portfolio;
- the Company's ability to amend, renew or replace its existing credit facilities before the maturity dates of the facilities;
- the Company's ability to fund operations, debt repayment and expansion from cash flow from operations, borrowings on its revolving lines of credit and proceeds from securitizations and from accessing debt or equity markets;
- the ability of the Company to obtain additional funding for the purpose of funding the receivables generated by the Company;
- the ability of the Company to maintain compliance with the covenants in its financing facilities or obtain amendments or waivers of the covenants to avoid violations or potential violations of the covenants;
- reduced availability under the Company's credit facilities as a result of borrowing base requirements and the impact on the borrowing base calculation of changes in the performance or eligibility of the customer receivables financed by that facility;
- the ability of the financial institutions providing lending facilities to the Company to fund their commitments;
- the effect on borrowing costs of downgrades by rating agencies or changes in laws or regulations on the Company's financing providers;
- the cost of any amended, renewed or replacement credit facilities;
- interest rates;
- general economic and financial market conditions;
- weather conditions in the Company's markets;
- the outcome of litigation or government investigations;
- changes in the Company's stock price; and
- the actual number of shares of common stock outstanding.

Further information on these risk factors is included in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Company's annual report on Form 10-K. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this press release. Except as required by law, the Company is not obligated to publicly release any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect the events or circumstances after the date of this press release or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

Conn's, Inc.
CONDENSED, CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(unaudited)
(in thousands, except earnings per share)

## Revenues

Total net sales
Finance charges and other
Total revenues

| Three Months Ended January 31, |  | Year Ended January 31, |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| \$189,671 | \$181,908 | \$653,684 | \$662,725 |
| 37,000 | 36,748 | 138,618 | 146,050 |
| 226,671 | 218,656 | 792,302 | 808,775 |

## Cost and expenses

Cost of goods and parts sold, including warehousing and occupancy costs
Selling, general and administrative expense
Costs and impairment charges related to store closings
Provision for bad debts
Total cost and expenses
Operating income
Interest expense, net
Costs related to financing facilities
terminated and transactions not completed
Loss from early extinguishment of debt
Other (income) expense, net
Income (loss) before income taxes
Provision (benefit) for income taxes Net income (loss)

Earnings (loss) per share
Basic
Diluted
Average common shares outstanding
Basic
31,997 29,491 31,860
26,091
Diluted

| 32,572 | 29,491 | 31,860 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | 26,091

Notes:

- Vendor rebates previously reported as a reduction of advertising expense, in Selling, general and administrative expense, have been reclassified and are now reflected as a reduction of Cost of goods sold.
- Previously reported Total net sales, Finance charges and other and Provision for bad debts have been revised to present charges for repair service and credit insurance agreements related to credit account charge-offs in Provision for bad debts.
- Previously reported Earnings per share and Average common shares outstanding amounts have been corrected to retroactively adjust for the impact of the Company's November 2010 common stock rights offering.
- Previously reported Finance charges and other amounts have been revised to correct the Company's prior estimates related to its change from recording interest income based on the Rule of 78 's to the interest method.

Conn's, Inc. - Retail Segment<br>CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION<br>(unaudited)<br>(dollars in thousands)

|  | Three Months Ended January 31, |  | Year Ended January 31, |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| Revenues |  |  |  |  |
| Product sales | \$173,446 | \$168,951 | \$596,360 | \$608,443 |
| Repair service agreement commissions | 12,629 | 9,179 | 42,078 | 37,795 |
| Service revenues | 3,596 | 3,778 | 15,246 | 16,487 |
| Total net sales | 189,671 | 181,908 | 653,684 | 662,725 |
| Finance charges and other | 657 | 176 | 1,335 | 858 |
| Total revenues | 190,328 | 182,084 | 655,019 | 663,583 |
| Cost and expenses |  |  |  |  |
| Cost of goods sold, including warehousing and occupancy costs | 130,719 | 135,032 | 455,493 | 474,696 |
| Cost of parts sold, including warehousing and occupancy costs | 1,554 | 1,645 | 6,527 | 7,779 |
| Selling, general and administrative expense | 48,631 | 44,765 | 180,641 | 175,777 |
| Costs and impairment charges related to store closings | 5,082 | 2,321 | 9,115 | 2,321 |
| Provision for bad debts | 121 | 149 | 590 | 817 |
| Total cost and expenses | 186,107 | 183,912 | 652,366 | 661,390 |
| Operating income (loss) | 4,221 | $(1,828)$ | 2,653 | 2,193 |
| Other (income) expense, net | (11) | 173 | 70 | 340 |
| Segment income (loss) before income taxes | \$ 4,232 | \$ $(2,001)$ | \$ 2,583 | \$ 1,853 |
| Retail gross margin | 29.7\% | 24.2\% | 28.7\% | 26.5\% |
| Selling, general and administrative expense as percent of revenues | 25.6\% | 24.6\% | 27.6\% | 26.5\% |
| Operating margin | 2.2\% | (1.0\%) | 0.4\% | 0.3\% |
| Number of stores, end of period | 65 | 76 | 65 | 76 |

Conn's, Inc. - Credit Segment
CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION
(unaudited)
(in thousands)

|  | Three Months Ended <br> January 31, |  | Year Ended <br> January 31, |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | 2012 | 2011 |  | 2012 |


| Total revenues | 36,343 | 36,572 | 137,283 | 145,192 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cost and expenses |  |  |  |  |
| Selling, general and administrative expense | 13,860 | 16,137 | 57,270 | 64,029 |
| Provision for bad debts | 10,319 | 13,763 | 52,965 | 50,587 |
| Total cost and expenses | 24,179 | 29,900 | 110,235 | 114,616 |
| Operating income | 12,164 | 6,672 | 27,048 | 30,576 |
| Interest expense, net | 3,978 | 7,846 | 22,457 | 28,080 |
| Costs related to financing facilities terminated and transactions not completed |  | 1,387 |  | 4,283 |
| Loss from early extinguishment of debt |  |  | 11,056 |  |
| Segment income (loss) before income taxes | \$8,186 | \$(2,561) | \$ (6,465) | \$ (1,787) |
| Selling, general and administrative expense |  |  |  |  |
| Operating margin | 33.5\% | 18.2\% | 19.7\% | 21.1\% |

## MANAGED PORTFOLIO STATISTICS

(dollars in thousands, except average outstanding balance per account)

|  | Year ended January 31, |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 |
| Total accounts | 484,169 | 525,950 | 551,312 | 537,957 |
| Total outstanding balance | \$643,301 | \$675,766 | \$736,041 | \$753,513 |
| Average outstanding balance per account | \$ 1,329 | \$ 1,285 | \$ 1,335 | \$ 1,401 |
| Weighted average origination credit score of sales financed | 621 | 624 | 620 | 612 |
| Weighted average credit score of outstanding balances | 602 | 591 | 586 | 585 |
| Balance 60+ days delinquent | \$ 55,190 | \$ 58,042 | \$ 73,391 | \$ 55,141 |
| Percent 60+ days delinquent | 8.6\% | 8.6\% | 10.0\% | 7.3\% |
| Percent 60-209 days delinquent | 8.6\% | 7.0\% | 8.3\% | 6.0\% |
| Percent of portfolio re-aged | 13.8\% | 19.8\% | 20.2\% | 18.8\% |
| Weighted average monthly payment rate (YTD) | 5.60\% | 5.37\% | 5.23\% | 5.48\% |
| Net charge-off ratio (YTD annualized) | 7.5\% | 7.3\% | 5.0\% | 4.4\% |

Note: The net charge-off ratio for the year ended January 31, 2012, is impacted by the additional $\$ 5.9$ million charged-off as a result of the charge-off policy change earlier in the fiscal year, which impacted the net charge-off ratio by approximately 90 basis points.

# Conn's, Inc. <br> CONDENSED, CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS 

(unaudited)
(in thousands)

| January 31, <br> 2012 | January 31, <br> 2011 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |

## Current assets

Cash and cash equivalents
Other accounts receivable, net
Customer accounts receivable, net

$$
\begin{array}{rrrr}
\text { \$ } & 6,265 & \text { \$ } & 10,977 \\
38,715 & & 30,476 \\
& 316,385 & & 337,673
\end{array}
$$

| Inventories | 62,540 |  | 82,354 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Deferred income taxes | 17,111 |  | 19,478 |  |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets | 11,994 |  | 10,418 |  |
| Total current assets | 453,010 |  | 491,376 |  |
| Non-current deferred income tax asset | 9,754 |  | 8,009 |  |
| Long-term customer accounts receivable, net | 272,938 |  | 285,667 |  |
| Total property and equipment, net | 38,484 |  | 46,890 |  |
| Other assets, net | 9,564 |  | 10,118 |  |
| Total assets | \$ | 783,750 | \$ | \$ 842,060 |
| Current Liabilities |  |  |  |  |
| Current portion of long-term debt | \$ | 726 | \$ | 167 |
| Accounts payable |  | 44,711 |  | 57,740 |
| Accrued compensation and related expenses | 7,213 |  | 5,477 |  |
| Accrued expenses | 24,482 |  | 16,045 |  |
| Other current liabilities | 17,994 |  | 22,925 |  |
| Total current liabilities | 95,126 |  | 102,354 |  |
| Long-term debt | 320,978 |  | 373,569 |  |
| Other long-term liabilities | 14,275 |  | 13,240 |  |
| Total stockholders' equity | 353,371 |  | 352,897 |  |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$ | 783,750 | \$ | 842,060 |

## NON-GAAP RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME (LOSS), AS ADJUSTED AND DILUTED EARNINGS (LOSS) PER SHARE, AS ADJUSTED <br> (unaudited) <br> (in thousands, except earnings per share)

Net income (loss), as reported
Adjustments:
Costs and impairment charges related to store closings
Costs related to financing facilities terminated and transactions not completed
Loss from early extinguishment of debt
Severance costs
Inventory reserve adjustments
Charge to record reserves required by the adoption of troubled debt restructuring accounting guidance
Reserves previously provided related to accounts considered restructured under the troubled debt restructuring accounting guidance
Tax impact of adjustments
Net income (loss), as adjusted
Average common shares outstanding - Diluted

Earnings (loss) per share - Diluted
As reported
As adjusted

| Three Months Ended January 31, |  | Year Ended January 31, |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| \$ 7,701 | \$ $(3,578)$ | \$ $(3,723)$ | \$(1,072) |
| 5,082 | 2,321 | 9,115 | 2,321 |
| - | 1,387 | - | 4,283 |
| - | - | 11,056 |  |
| - | - | 813 | - |
| - | 1,651 | 4,669 | 1,651 |
| - | - | 27,487 | - |


| $(1,789)$ | $(1,886)$ | $\begin{aligned} & (13,350) \\ & (14,006) \end{aligned}$ | $(2,906)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| \$ 10,994 | \$ (105) | \$ 22,061 | \$4,277 |
| 32,572 | 29,491 | 31,860 | 26,091 |


| $\$$ | 0.24 | $\$$ | $(0.12)$ | $\$$ | $(0.12)$ | $\$$ | $(0.04)$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\$$ | 0.34 | $\$$ | $(0.00)$ | $\$$ | 0.69 | $\$$ | 0.16 |

## NON-GAAP RECONCILIATION OF RETAIL SEGMENT

OPERATING INCOME (LOSS), AS ADJUSTED
(unaudited)
(in thousands)

|  | Three Months Ended January 31, |  |  |  | Year Ended January 31, |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2012 |  | 2011 |  | 2012 | 2011 |
| Operating income (loss), as reported | \$ | 4,221 | \$ | $(1,828)$ | \$ 2,653 | \$2,193 |
| Adjustments: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Inventory adjustments |  | - |  | 1,651 | 4,669 | 1,651 |
| Costs and impairment charges related to store closings |  | 5,082 |  | 2,321 | 9,115 | 2,321 |
| Operating income, as adjusted | \$ | 9,303 | \$ | 2,144 | \$16,437 | \$6,165 |

NON-GAAP RECONCILIATION OF RETAIL SEGMENT GROSS MARGIN, AS ADJUSTED
(unaudited)
(dollars in thousands)

Product sales, as reported

| Three Months Ended January 31, |  | Year Ended January 31, |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2012 | 2011 | 2012 | 2011 |
| \$173,446 | \$168,951 | \$596,360 | \$608,443 |
| 12,629 | 9,179 | 42,078 | 37,795 |
| 186,075 | 178,130 | 638,438 | 646,238 |
| 130,719 | 135,032 | 455,493 | 474,696 |
| \$ 55,356 | \$ 43,098 | \$182,945 | \$171,542 |
| 29.7\% | 24.2\% | 28.7\% | 26.5\% |
| - | 1,651 | 4,669 | 1,651 |
| \$ 55,356 | \$ 44,749 | \$187,614 | \$173,193 |
| 29.7\% | 25.1\% | 29.4\% | 26.8\% |

## NON-GAAP RECONCILIATION OF CREDIT SEGMENT OPERATING INCOME, AS ADJUSTED

(unaudited)
(in thousands)

Operating income, as reported

| Three Months Ended$\qquad$ January 31, |  | Year Ended January 31, |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 2012 | 2011 |
| \$ 12,164 | \$ 6,672 | \$ 27,048 | \$30,576 |

Adjustments:
Charge to record reserves required by the adoption of troubled debt restructuring accounting guidance

|  |  |  | $(13,350)$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 12,164 | 6,67 | \$ 41,18 | \$30,576 |

## Basis for presentation of non-GAAP disclosures:

To supplement the Company's consolidated financial statements, which are prepared and presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"), the Company also provides adjusted net income and adjusted earnings per diluted share information. These non-GAAP financial measures are not meant to be considered as a substitute for comparable GAAP measures but should be considered in addition to results presented in accordance with GAAP, and are intended to provide additional insight into the Company's operations and the factors and trends affecting the Company's business. The Company's management believes these non-GAAP financial measures are useful to financial statement readers because (1) they allow for greater transparency with respect to key metrics the Company uses in its financial and operational decision making and (2) they are used by some of its institutional investors and the analyst community to help them analyze the Company's operating results.

Conn-F

Conn's, Inc., Beaumont
Mike Poppe, (409) 832-1696 Ext. 3294
Chief Financial Officer
or
Investors:
S.M. Berger \& Company

Andrew Berger, (216) 464-6400
Source: Conn's, Inc.
News Provided by Acquire Media

