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# Abercrombie & Fitch

NEW YORK

**INVESTOR PRESENTATION** 

**2015 THIRD QUARTER** 

## SAFE HARBOR STATEMENT UNDER THE PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995

A&F cautions that any forward-looking statements (as such term is defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995) contained in this presentation or made by management or spokespeople of A&F involve risks and uncertainties and are subject to change based on various important factors, many of which may be beyond the company's control. Words such as "estimate," "project," "plan," "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "intend," and similar expressions may identify forward-looking statements. Except as may be required by applicable law, we assume no obligation to publicly update or revise our forward-looking statements. The factors included in the disclosure under the heading "FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS AND RISK FACTORS" in "ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS" of A&F's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2015 in some cases have affected, and in the future could affect, the company's financial performance and could cause actual results for the 2015 Fiscal year and beyond to differ materially from those expressed or implied in any of the forward-looking statements included in this presentation or otherwise made by management.

#### OTHER INFORMATION

A reconciliation of GAAP financial measures to non-GAAP financial measures is included in a schedule accompanying the consolidated financial statements in this presentation. As used in the presentation, "GAAP" refers to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

All dollar and share amounts are in 000's unless otherwise stated. Sub-totals and totals may not foot due to rounding.

Net Income and Net Income per share financial measures included herein are attributable to the shareholders of Abercrombie & Fitch Co., excluding net income attributable to noncontrolling interests.

## Q3 ADJUSTED P&L SUMMARY\*

	2015	% OF NET SALES	2014	% OF NET SALES
NET SALES	\$878,572	100.0%	\$911,453	100.0%
GROSS PROFIT	557,214	63.4%	567,070	62.2%
OPERATING EXPENSE	510,057	58.1%	514,970	56.5%
OTHER OPERATING INCOME, NET	(3,919)	-0.4%	(1,534)	-0.2%
OPERATING INCOME	51,076	5.8%	53,634	5.9%
INTEREST EXPENSE, NET	4,586	0.5%	5,572	0.6%
INCOME BEFORE TAXES	46,490	5.3%	48,062	5.4%
TAX EXPENSE	13,179	1.5%	17,656	1.9%
NET INCOME	32,917	3.7%	30,406	3.3%
NET INCOME PER SHARE				
BASIC	\$0.48		\$0.43	
DILUTED	\$0.48		\$0.42	
WEIGHTED-AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING				
BASIC	68,866		70,814	
DILUTED	69,265		72,128	

<sup>\*</sup> The Q3 Adjusted P&L Summary for the current and prior periods is presented on a non-GAAP basis and excludes the items set out on page 4. Non-GAAP financial measures should not be used as alternatives to the most directly comparable GAAP financial measures and are also not intended to supersede or replace the company's GAAP financial measures. The company believes it is useful to investors to provide the non-GAAP financial measures to assess the company's operating performance. A reconciliation between GAAP and non-GAAP results is included as an appendix to the presentation.

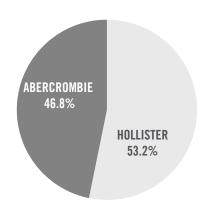
## **EXCLUDED ITEMS (PRE-TAX)**

2015	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YEAR TO DATE
INVENTORY WRITE-DOWN (RECOVERY)	\$26,861	\$(2,621)	\$(2,573)		\$21,667
LEGAL SETTLEMENT CHARGES	_	15,753	_		15,753
ASSET IMPAIRMENT, STORE FIXTURES, LEASE TERMINATION AND STORE CLOSURE COSTS	10,112	1,394	12,659		24,165
PROFIT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE	2,479	_	_		2,479
GILLY HICKS RESTRUCTURING CHARGES	(1,598)	_	_		(1,598)
TOTAL	\$37,854	\$14,526	\$10,086		\$62,466
	•	•	•	•	•
2014	<b>Q</b> 1	Q2	Q3	Q4	FULL YEAR
ASSET IMPAIRMENT, LEASE TERMINATION AND STORE CLOSURE CHARGES			\$18,958	\$31,641	\$50,599
PROFIT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE AND CORPORATE GOVERANCE	9,964	1,964	1,310	718	13,956
GILLY HICKS RESTRUCTURING CHARGES	5,633	419		2,378	8,431
CEO TRANSITION COSTS				5,188	5,188
TOTAL	\$15,597	\$2,383	\$20,268	\$39,925	\$78,174

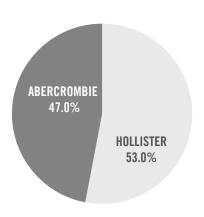
## FISCAL 2015 COMPARABLE SALES BY BRAND\*

	<b>Q</b> 1	Q2	Q3	YTD
ABERCROMBIE (1)	-9%	-7%	-5%	-7%
HOLLISTER	-6%	-1%	3%	-2%
TOTAL COMPANY	-8%	-4%	-1%	-4%





#### YTD SALES MIX

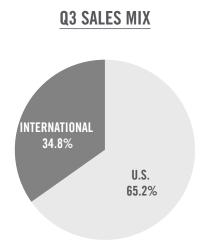


 $<sup>^{\</sup>ast}$  Comparable sales are calculated on a constant currency basis. Sales include store and DTC sales.

<sup>(1)</sup> Abercrombie includes the company's Abercrombie & Fitch and abercrombie kids brands.

## FISCAL 2015 COMPARABLE SALES BY GEOGRAPHY\*

	Q1	Q2	Q3	YTD
U.S.	-7%	-4%	-3%	-5%
INTERNATIONAL	-9%	-4%	1%	-4%
TOTAL COMPANY	-8%	-4%	-1%	-4%





<sup>\*</sup> Comparable sales are calculated on a constant currency basis. Sales include store and DTC sales.

## Q3 ADJUSTED OPERATING EXPENSE\*

THIRD QUARTER	2015	% OF NET SALES	2014	% OF NET SALES	Δ bps (3)
STORE OCCUPANCY (1)	\$180,804	20.6%	\$187,459	20.6%	_
ALL OTHER (2)	211,555	24.1%	223,735	24.5%	(40)
STORES AND DISTRIBUTION	392,359	44.7%	411,194	45.1%	(40)
MARKETING, GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE	117,698	13.4%	103,776	11.4%	200
TOTAL	\$510,057	58.1%	\$514,970	56.5%	160

<sup>\*</sup> Q3 Adjusted Operating Expense excludes the items set out on page 4. Non-GAAP financial measures should not be used as alternatives to the most directly comparable GAAP financial measures and are also not intended to supersede or replace the company's GAAP financial measures. The company believes it is useful to investors to provide the non-GAAP financial measures to assess the company's operating performance. A reconciliation between GAAP and non-GAAP results is included as an appendix to the presentation.

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes rent, other landlord charges, utilities, depreciation and other occupancy expense.

<sup>(2)</sup> Includes selling payroll, store management and support, other store expense, direct-to-consumer expense, and distribution center costs.

<sup>(3)</sup> Rounded based on reported percentages.

## **SHARE REPURCHASES**

	FY 2015			FY 2014		
	SHARES REPURCHASED	COST	AVERAGE COST	SHARES REPURCHASED	COST	AVERAGE COST
FIRST QUARTER	_	_	_	3,825.7	\$150,000	\$39.21
SECOND QUARTER	_	_	_	1,459.4	\$60,000	\$41.11
THIRD QUARTER	2,460.5	\$50,029	\$20.33	2,039.0	\$75,038	\$36.80
FOURTH QUARTER				_		_
TOTAL	2,460.5	\$50,029	\$20.33	7,324.1	\$285,038	\$38.92

## **Q3 STORE OPENINGS**\*

	BRAND	CENTER	CITY	DATE
U.S.	Hollister A&F Hollister	Mall of San Juan Coolsprings Galleria Liberty Center	San Juan, PR Franklin, TN Liberty Center, OH	8/8/2015 9/2/2015 10/22/2015
INTERNATIONAL	Hollister Hollister A&F A&F	Joy City Chaoyang YOHO Mall Riverside 66 Pacific Centre	Beijing, China Hong Kong Tianjin, China Vancouver, CA	8/15/2015 9/1/2015 9/19/2015 10/24/2015
OUTLET	A&F A&F A&F A&F	The Crossings Premium Outlet  Vacaville Premium Outlets  Chicago Premium Outlets  Outlet Shoppes of the Bluegrass	Tannersville, PA  Vacaville, CA  Aurora, IL  Louisville, KY	8/8/2015 8/8/2015 8/27/2015 10/24/2015

<sup>\*</sup> Excludes two relocated A&F stores which are included in store openings in the store count activity table on page 11.

### OUTLOOK\*

#### FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF FISCAL 2015, THE COMPANY EXPECTS:

- COMPARABLE SALES TO BE APPROXIMATELY FLAT
- CONTINUED ADVERSE EFFECTS FROM FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES
- GROSS MARGIN RATE TO BE APPROXIMATELY FLAT TO LAST YEAR ON A CONSTANT CURRENCY BASIS
- OPERATING EXPENSE TO BE APPROXIMATELY FLAT TO LAST YEAR AFTER ABSORBING A PROVISION FOR THE RESTORATION OF INCENTIVE COMPENSATION
- WEIGHTED AVERAGE DILUTED SHARE COUNT OF APPROXIMATELY 68 MILLION SHARES, EXCLUDING EFFECTS OF POTENTIAL SHARE REPURCHASES

FULL-YEAR ADJUSTED EFFECTIVE TAX RATE TO BE IN THE MID-TO-UPPER 30s, INCLUDING DISCRETE BENEFITS RELATING TO THE RELEASE OF A VALUATION ALLOWANCE AND OTHER DISCRETE TAX ITEMS

FULL-YEAR CAPITAL EXPENDITURES OF APPROXIMATELY \$150 MILLION

<sup>\*</sup> Excluded from the company's Outlook for the remainder of fiscal year 2015 are potential charges related to impairments and store closings and other potential charges related to its restructuring efforts and related tax effects.

## **Q3 STORE COUNT ACTIVITY**

ALL BRANDS	TOTAL	U.S.	CANADA	EUROPE	REST OF WORLD*	
START OF Q3 2015	954	783	18	118	35	
OPENINGS	13	9	1	_	3	
CLOSINGS	(2)	(2)	_	_	_	
END OF Q3 2015	965	790	19	118	38	
ABERCROMBIE (1)						
START OF Q3 2015	388	354	6	17	11	
OPENINGS	9	7	1	_	1	
CLOSINGS	(2)	(2)	_	_	_	
END OF Q3 2015	395	359	7	17	12	
HOLLISTER CO.						
START OF Q3 2015	566	429	12	101	24	
OPENINGS	4	2	_	_	2	
CLOSINGS	_	_	_	_	_	
END OF Q3 2015	570	431	12	101	26	

<sup>\*</sup> Includes Asia and the Middle East.

<sup>(1)</sup> Abercrombie includes the company's Abercrombie & Fitch and abercrombie kids brands. Locations with abercrombie kids carveouts within Abercrombie & Fitch stores are represented as a single store count.

### STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

#### ONGOING EFFORTS TO TURN AROUND THE BUSINESS ARE FOCUSED ON:

- PUTTING THE CUSTOMER AT THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING WE DO
- DELIVERING A COMPELLING AND DIFFERENTIATED ASSORTMENT
- OPTIMIZING OUR BRAND REACH DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY AND OPTIMIZING OUR PERFORMANCE IN EACH CHANNEL
- DEFINING A CLEAR POSITION FOR OUR BRANDS
- CONTINUING TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY AND REDUCE EXPENSE
- ENSURING WE ARE ORGANIZED TO SUCCEED

## APPENDIX: RECONCILIATION OF Q3 2015 NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES

### THIRTEEN WEEKS ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2015 (IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE DATA) (UNAUDITED)

	GAAP (1)	EXCLUDED ITEMS	ADJUSTED Non-gaap (6)
GROSS PROFIT (2)	\$559,787	\$(2,573)	\$557,214
STORES AND DISTRIBUTION EXPENSE (3)	392,942	583	392,359
ASSET IMPAIRMENT (4)	12,076	12,076	_
OPERATING INCOME	40,990	10,086	51,076
INCOME BEFORE TAXES	36,404	10,086	46,490
TAX (BENEFIT) EXPENSE (5)	(5,881)	19,060	13,179
NET INCOME	\$41,891	\$(8,974)	\$32,917
NET INCOME PER DILUTED SHARE	\$0.60	\$(0.12)	\$0.48

<sup>(1) &</sup>quot;GAAP" refers to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>(2)</sup> Excluded Items consist of benefits of \$2.6 million related to higher than expected recovery on inventory previously written-down.

<sup>(3)</sup> Excluded Items consist of charges of \$0.6 million related to accelerated depreciation and disposal costs associated with a decision to discontinue the use of certain store fixtures.

<sup>(4)</sup> Excluded Items consist of charges of \$12.1 million related to stores whose asset carrying value exceeded fair value.

<sup>(5)</sup> Both GAAP and Adjusted Non-GAAP reflect benefits related to a change in the estimated annual effective tax rate. In addition, GAAP and Adjusted Non-GAAP include discrete benefits of \$9.7 million and \$7.7 million, respectively, related to a release of a valuation allowance and other discrete tax items.

<sup>(6)</sup> Non-GAAP financial measures should not be used as alternatives to the most directly comparable GAAP financial measures and are also not intended to supersede or replace the company's GAAP financial measures. The company believes it is useful to investors to provide the non-GAAP financial measures to assess the company's operating performance.

## APPENDIX: RECONCILIATION OF YTD 2015 NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES

THIRTY-NINE WEEKS ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2015
(IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE DATA) (UNAUDITED)

	GAAP (1)	EXCLUDED ITEMS	ADJUSTED NON-GAAP (7)
GROSS PROFIT (2)	\$1,481,198	\$21,667	\$1,502,865
STORES AND DISTRIBUTION EXPENSE (3)	1,173,773	6,665	1,167,108
MARKETING, GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE (4)	345,077	17,523	327,554
RESTRUCTURING BENEFIT (5)	(1,598)	(1,598)	_
ASSET IMPAIRMENT (6)	18,209	18,209	_
OPERATING (LOSS) INCOME	(47,245)	62,466	15,221
(LOSS) INCOME BEFORE TAXES	(61,037)	62,466	1,429
TAX BENEFIT	(40,688)	35,961	(4,727)
NET (LOSS) INCOME	\$(22,165)	\$26,505	\$4,340
NET (LOSS) INCOME PER DILUTED SHARE	\$(0.32)	\$0.38	\$0.06

<sup>(1) &</sup>quot;GAAP" refers to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

<sup>(2)</sup> Excluded Items consist of charges of \$21.7 million related to an inventory write-down, net of recoveries.

<sup>(3)</sup> Excluded Items consist of charges of \$4.2 million related to accelerated depreciation and disposal costs associated with a decision to discontinue the use of certain store fixtures, \$1.8 million related to lease termination and store closure costs, and \$0.7 million related to the company's continuous profit improvement program.

<sup>(4)</sup> Excluded Items consist of charges of \$15.8 million related to legal settlement charges and \$1.8 million related to the company's continuous profit improvement program.

<sup>(5)</sup> Excluded Items consist of benefits of \$1.6 million related to the Gilly Hicks brand.

<sup>(6)</sup> Excluded Items consist of charges of \$12.1 million related to stores whose asset carrying value exceeded fair value, \$4.5 million related to the discontinued use of certain store fixtures and \$1.6 million related to a company owned aircraft.

<sup>(7)</sup> Non-GAAP financial measures should not be used as alternatives to the most directly comparable GAAP financial measures and are also not intended to supersede or replace the company's GAAP financial measures. The company believes it is useful to investors to provide the non-GAAP financial measures to assess the company's operating performance.

## APPENDIX: RECONCILIATION OF Q3 2014 NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES

### THIRTEEN WEEKS ENDED NOVEMBER 1, 2014 (IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE DATA) (UNAUDITED)

	GAAP (1)	EXCLUDED ITEMS	ADJUSTED NON-GAAP <sup>(5)</sup>
STORES AND DISTRIBUTION EXPENSE (2)	\$413,551	\$2,357	\$411,194
MARKETING, GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE (3)	104,981	1,205	103,776
ASSET IMPAIRMENT (4)	16,706	16,706	_
OPERATING INCOME	33,366	20,268	53,634
INCOME BEFORE TAXES	27,794	20,268	48,062
TAX EXPENSE	9,567	8,089	17,656
NET INCOME	\$18,227	\$12,179	\$30,406
NET INCOME PER DILUTED SHARE	\$0.25		\$0.42

<sup>(1) &</sup>quot;GAAP" refers to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>(2)</sup> Excluded Items consist of charges of \$2.3 million related to lease termination and store closure costs.

<sup>(3)</sup> Excluded Items consist of charges of \$0.7 million related to the company's profit improvement initiative and \$0.6 million of legal, advisory and other costs related to certain corporate governance matters.

<sup>(4)</sup> Excluded Items consist of charges of \$16.7 million related to stores whose asset carrying value exceeded fair value.

<sup>(5)</sup> Non-GAAP financial measures should not be used as alternatives to the most directly comparable GAAP financial measures and are also not intended to supersede or replace the company's GAAP financial measures. The company believes it is useful to investors to provide the non-GAAP financial measures to assess the company's operating performance.

## APPENDIX: RECONCILIATION OF YTD 2014 NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES

### THIRTY-NINE WEEKS ENDED NOVEMBER 1, 2014 (IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE DATA) (UNAUDITED)

	GAAP (1)	EXCLUDED ITEMS	ADJUSTED Non-Gaap <sup>(6)</sup>
STORES AND DISTRIBUTION EXPENSE (2)	\$1,257,422	\$4,365	\$1,253,057
MARKETING, GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE (3)	339,595	11,125	328,470
RESTRUCTURING CHARGES (4)	6,053	6,053	_
ASSET IMPAIRMENT (5)	16,706	16,706	_
OPERATING INCOME	21,353	38,249	59,602
INCOME BEFORE TAXES	11,764	38,249	50,013
TAX EXPENSE	4,331	14,193	18,524
NET INCOME	\$7,433	\$24,056	\$31,489
NET INCOME PER DILUTED SHARE	\$0.10	\$0.33	\$0.43

 $<sup>^{(1)}</sup>$  "GAAP" refers to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>(2)</sup> Excluded Items consist of charges of \$2.3 million related to lease termination and store closure costs and \$2.1 million related to the company's profit improvement initiative.

<sup>(3)</sup> Excluded Items consist of charges of \$7.5 million of legal, advisory and other costs related to certain corporate governance matters and \$3.6 million related to the Company's profit improvement initiative.

 $<sup>^{(4)}</sup>$  Excluded Items consist of charges of \$6.1 million related to the Gilly Hicks brand.

<sup>(5)</sup> Excluded Items consist of charges of \$16.7 million related to stores whose asset carrying value exceeded fair value.

<sup>(6)</sup> Non-GAAP financial measures should not be used as alternatives to the most directly comparable GAAP financial measures and are also not intended to supersede or replace the company's GAAP financial measures. The company believes it is useful to investors to provide the non-GAAP financial measures to assess the company's operating performance.