

COFFEE HOLDING CO INC  
Form 10-K  
January 28, 2010

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UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

Form 10-K

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

For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2009

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: 001-32491

COFFEE HOLDING CO., INC.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Nevada  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

11-2238111  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

3475 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island,  
New York  
(Address of principal executive offices)

10314  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (718) 832-0800

Securities registered under Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class:	Name of each exchange on which registered:
Common Stock, Par Value \$0.001 Per Share	American Stock Exchange

Securities registered under Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act:

None

Indicate by check mark if registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the

Act. Yes  No

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 past 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  No

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

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained in, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of "accelerated filer and large accelerated filer" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer	<input type="radio"/>	Non-accelerated filer	<input type="radio"/>
Accelerated filer	<input type="radio"/>	Smaller Reporting Company	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

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

The aggregate market value of the common equity held by non-affiliates of the registrant, computed by reference to the closing price of the registrant's common stock on the American Stock Exchange on December 31, 2009, was \$10,224,102.

As of December 31, 2009, the registrant had 5,440,823 shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share, outstanding.

Documents incorporated by reference

Portions of the registrant's proxy statement for the 2010 annual meeting of stockholders to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A within 120 days after registrant's fiscal year ended October 31, 2009, are incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K.

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## PART I

### ITEM 1. BUSINESS

#### General Overview

**Products and Operations.** We are an integrated wholesale coffee roaster and dealer in the United States. Our core products can be divided into three categories:

**Wholesale Green Coffee:** unroasted raw beans imported from around the world and sold to large and small roasters and coffee shop operators;

**Private Label Coffee:** coffee roasted, blended, packaged and sold under the specifications and names of others, including supermarkets that want to have their own brand name on coffee to compete with national brands; and

**Branded Coffee:** coffee roasted and blended to our own specifications and packaged and sold under our seven proprietary and licensed brand names in different segments of the market.

Our private label and branded coffee products are sold throughout the United States and Canada to supermarkets, wholesalers, and individually owned and multi-unit retail customers. Our unprocessed green coffee, which includes over 90 specialty coffee offerings, is sold to specialty gourmet roasters.

We conduct our operations in accordance with strict freshness and quality standards. All of our private label and branded coffees are produced from high quality coffee beans that are deep roasted for full flavor using a slow roasting process that has been perfected utilizing our more than thirty years of experience in the coffee industry. In order to ensure freshness, our products are delivered to our customers within 72 hours of roasting. We believe that our long history has enabled us to develop a loyal customer base.

We were founded and incorporated in New York State in 1971 and have been a family operated business for almost 40 years. In 1998, we merged with Transpacific International Group Corp. and became a Nevada corporation. In May 2005, we concluded our initial public offering and our common stock began trading on the American Stock Exchange under the symbol "JVA." Our fiscal year ends on October 31.

Our corporate offices are located at 3475 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, New York 10314. Our telephone number is (718) 832-0800 and our website address is [www.coffeeholding.com](http://www.coffeeholding.com).

#### Our Competitive Strengths

To achieve our growth objectives described below, we intend to leverage the following competitive strengths:

**National Distribution with Capacity For Growth.** From 1991 to 2004, we expanded our distribution to a national platform while operating from only our Brooklyn, New York location by making capital investments to improve our roasting, packaging and fulfillment infrastructure to support the production and distribution of large quantities of fresh coffee products throughout the United States. In February 2004, we acquired certain assets of Premier Roasters, a roaster-dealer located in La Junta, Colorado, for \$825,000. The assets purchased by us include all of the operating equipment located at Premier Roasters's La Junta and Rocky Ford, Colorado locations, as well as all labels for all of Premier Roasters's coffee products. In connection with the acquisition of these assets, we reached an agreement with the City of La Junta, Colorado on a 20-year lease for a 50,000 square foot facility in La Junta. We are using the assets that we purchased to expand our integrated wholesale coffee roaster and dealer operations in the Western United States. Our Colorado location allows us to reduce our freight and shipping costs to the Western United States, thereby

enabling us to be more competitive in bidding for new business. In addition, our presence in Colorado has increased the number of customers we have because of our proximity to the West Coast.

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In April 2006, we entered into a joint venture with Caruso's Coffee, Inc. of Brecksville, Ohio and formed Generations Coffee Company, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("GCC"), which engages in the roasting, packaging and sale of private label specialty coffee products. We own a 60% equity interest in GCC and are the exclusive supplier of its coffee inventory. We believe that the joint venture with GCC allows us to bid on the private label gourmet whole bean business which we had not been equipped to pursue from an operational standpoint in the past. With this specialty roasting facility in place, in many cases right in the backyard of some of our current wholesale and retail customers, we believe we will be able to successfully combine our canned private label business with high-end private label specialty whole bean business. High-end specialty whole bean coffee sells for as much as three times more per pound than the canned coffees.

In October 2009, we sold our Brooklyn, New York location after ceasing our manufacturing operations there in May. The majority of our processing has been moved to our La Junta, Colorado facility with our Generations Coffee Company, LLC facility in Brecksville, Ohio becoming more involved with everyday coffee processing. We believe that the closing of our Brooklyn facility will reduce long-term operating expenses, increase efficiencies and ultimately increase the profitability of the Company. In addition, we believe that the savings and the proceeds generated from the sale will improve our cash flow and provide us with great flexibility as a company to promote our brands and explore and re-evaluate strategic opportunities to bolster our long-term growth.

Positioned to Profitably Grow Through Varying Cycles of the Coffee Market. We believe that we are one of the few coffee companies to offer a broad array of branded and private label roasted ground coffees and wholesale green coffee across the spectrum of consumer tastes, preferences and price points. While many of our competitors engage in distinct segments of the coffee business, we sell products in each of the following areas:

- Retail branded coffee;
- Mainstream retail private label coffee;
- Specialty retail coffees both private label and branded;
- Wholesale specialty green and gourmet whole bean coffees;
- Food service;
- Instant coffees; and
- Niche products.

Our branded and private label roasted ground coffees are sold at competitive and value price levels while some of our other branded and specialty coffees are sold predominantly at premium price levels. Premium price level coffee is high-quality gourmet coffee, such as AA Arabica coffee, which sell at a substantial premium over traditional retail canned coffee, while competitive and value price level coffee is mainstream or traditional canned coffee. Because of this diversification, we believe that our profitability is not dependent on any one area of the coffee industry and, therefore, is less sensitive than our competition to potential coffee commodity price and overall economic volatility.

**Wholesale Green Coffee Market Presence.** As a large roaster-dealer of green coffee, we believe that we are favorably positioned to increase our specialty coffee sales. Since 1998, we have increased the number of our wholesale green coffee customers, including coffee houses, single store operators, mall coffee stores and mail order sellers, by 88% from 150 to 282. We are a charter member of the Specialty Coffee Association of America and one of the largest distributors of Swiss Water Processed Decaffeinated Coffees along the East Coast. In addition, although we do not have any formalized, material agreements or long-term contracts with Green Mountain Coffee Roasters (“GMCR”), we have a 17-year relationship with GMCR, our largest wholesale green coffee customer. Our almost 40 years of experience as a roaster and a dealer of green coffee allows us to provide our roasting experience as a value added service to our gourmet roaster customers. The assistance we provide to our customers includes training, coffee blending and market identification. We believe that our relationships with wholesale green coffee customers and our focus on selling green coffee as a wholesaler has enabled us to participate in the growth of the specialty coffee market while mitigating the risks associated with the competitive retail specialty coffee environment.

**Diverse Portfolio of Differentiated Branded Coffees.** We have amassed a portfolio of five proprietary name brands sold to supermarkets, wholesalers and individually owned stores in the United States, including brands for specialty espresso, Latin espresso, Italian espresso, 100% Colombian coffee and blended coffee. In addition, we have entered into a licensing agreement with Del Monte Corporation for the exclusive right to use the S&W and IL CLASSICO trademarks in the United States and other countries approved by Del Monte Corporation in connection with the production, manufacture and sale of roasted whole bean and ground coffee for distribution to retail customers. We plan to broaden our customer base and increase penetration with existing customers by expanding the S&W label from a well-known brand on the West Coast to a well-known brand throughout the United States. In July 2007, we entered into a three-year licensing agreement with Entenmann’s Products, Inc., a subsidiary of Entenmann’s, Inc., which is one of the nation’s oldest baking companies. The agreement gives us the exclusive rights to manufacture, market and distribute a full line of Entenmann’s brand coffee products throughout the United States. We have developed not only mainstream Entenmann’s coffee items, but upscale flavored Entenmann’s products in twelve-ounce valve bags as well. These products will give the line a visible upscale image to our retailers and their customers, which we believe will be integral to the long-term success of this arrangement. Our first production run was in February 2008 and our Entenmann’s coffee products began appearing in supermarkets in the Northeast during mid-March 2008. Our existing portfolio of differentiated brands combined with our management expertise serve as a platform to add additional name brands through acquisition or licensing agreements which target product niches and segments that do not compete with our existing brands.

**Management Has Extensive Experience in the Coffee Industry.** We have been a family-operated business for three generations. Throughout this time, we have remained profitable through varying cycles in the coffee industry and the economy. Andrew Gordon, our President, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, and David Gordon, our Executive Vice President – Operations, have worked with Coffee Holding for 27 and 29 years, respectively. David Gordon is an original member of the Specialty Coffee Association of America. We believe that our employees and management are dedicated to our vision and mission, which is to produce high quality products, as well as to provide quality and responsive service to our customers.



## Our Growth Strategy

We believe that significant growth opportunities exist by selectively pursuing strategic acquisitions and alliances, targeting the rapidly growing Hispanic market in the United States, increasing penetration with existing customers by adding new products, and developing our food service business. By capitalizing on this strategy, we hope to continue to grow our business with our commitment to quality and personalized service to our customers. We do not intend to compete on price alone nor do we intend to expand sales at the expense of profitability.

**Selectively Pursue Strategic Acquisitions and Alliances.** We intend to expand our operations by acquiring coffee companies, seeking strategic alliances and acquiring or licensing brands, which complement our business objectives. Consistent with this strategy, in February 2004, we acquired certain assets of Premier Roasters and entered into a licensing agreement with Del Monte Corporation for the exclusive right to use the S&W and IL CLASSICO trademarks, including Premium, Premium Decaf, French Roast, Colombian, Colombian Decaf, Swiss Water Decaf, Kona, and Mellow'd Roast lines, in the United States and other countries approved by Del Monte Corporation in connection with the production, manufacture and sale of roasted whole bean and ground coffee for distribution at the retail level.

In April 2006, we entered into a joint venture with Caruso's Coffee, Inc. of Brecksville, Ohio and formed Generations Coffee Company, LLC, which engages in the roasting, packaging and sale of private label specialty coffee products. We believe this joint venture allows us to successfully bid on and compete for specialty private label coffee opportunities which we were not operationally set up to compete for in the past.

In July 2007, we entered into a licensing agreement with Entenmann's Products, Inc., which gives us the exclusive rights to manufacture, market and distribute a full line of Entenmann's brand coffee products throughout the United States. We have developed not only mainstream Entenmann's coffee items, but upscale flavored Entenmann's products in twelve-ounce valve bags as well. We believe these products give the line a visible upscale image to our retailers and their customers, which we believe is integral to the long-term success of this arrangement.

**Grow Our Café Caribe and Café Supremo Products.** The Hispanic population in the United States is growing at nine times the average rate and now represents the largest minority demographic in the United States. We believe there is significant opportunity for our Café Caribe and Café Supremo brands to gain market share among Hispanic consumers in the United States. Café Caribe, which has historically been our leading brand by revenue, is a specialty espresso coffee that targets espresso coffee drinkers and, in particular, Hispanic consumers. Café Supremo is a specialty espresso coffee which is priced for the more price sensitive Hispanic espresso coffee drinker.

**Further Market Penetration of Our Niche Products.** We intend to capture additional market share through our existing distribution channels by selectively adding or introducing new brand names and products across multiple price points, including:

- Specialty blends;
- Private label "value" blends and trial-sized mini-brick packages;
- Specialty instant coffees;
- Instant cappuccinos and hot chocolates; and
- Tea line products.

**Develop Our Food Service Business.** We plan to expand further into the food service business by developing new distribution channels for our products. Currently, we have a limited presence in the food service market. In 2003, we began marketing our upscale restaurant and Colombian coffee brands to hotels, restaurants, office coffee services companies and other food service retailers. In addition, we have expanded our food service offerings to include instant cappuccinos, tea products and an equipment program for our customers. We attend at least four annual trade shows held by various buying groups, which provide us a national audience to market our food service products.

#### Our Core Products

Our core products can be divided into three categories:

**Wholesale Green Coffee:** unroasted raw beans imported from around the world and sold to large and small roasters and coffee shop operators;

**Private Label Coffee:** coffee roasted, blended, packaged and sold under the specifications and names of others, including supermarkets that want to have their own brand name on coffee to compete with national brands; and

**Branded Coffee:** coffee roasted and blended to our own specifications and packaged and sold under our seven proprietary and licensed brand names in different segments of the market.

**Wholesale Green Coffee.** The specialty green coffee market represents the fastest growing area of our industry. The number of gourmet coffee houses have been increasing in all areas of the United States. The growth in specialty coffee sales has created a marketplace for higher quality and differentiated products, which can be priced at a premium in the marketplace. As a large roaster-dealer of green coffee, we are favorably positioned to increase our specialty coffee sales. We sell green coffee beans to small roasters and coffee shop operators located throughout the United States and carry over 90 different varieties. Specialty green coffee beans are sold unroasted, direct from warehouses to small roasters and gourmet coffee shop operators, which then roast the beans themselves. We sell from as little as one bag (132 pounds) to a full truckload (44,000 pounds) of specialty green coffee beans, depending on the size and need of the customer. We believe that we can increase sales of wholesale green coffee without venturing into the highly competitive retail specialty coffee environment and that we can be as profitable or more profitable than our competitors in this segment by selling “one bag at a time” rather than “one cup at a time.”

**Private Label Coffee.** We roast, blend, package and sell coffee under private labels for companies throughout the United States and Canada. Our private label coffee is sold in cans, brick packages and instants in a variety of sizes. As of October 31, 2009, we supplied coffee under approximately 50 different labels to wholesalers and retailers. We produce private label coffee for customers who desire to sell coffee under their own name but do not want to engage in the manufacturing process. Our private label customers seek a quality similar to the national brands at a lower cost, which represents a better value for the consumer.

**Branded Coffee.** We roast and blend our branded coffee according to our own recipes and package the coffee at our facilities in La Junta, Colorado and Brecksville, Ohio. We then sell the packaged coffee under our brand labels to supermarkets, wholesalers and individually-owned stores throughout the United States.

We hold trademarks for each of our proprietary name brands and have the exclusive right to use the S&W, IL CLASSICO, and Entenmann’s trademarks in the United States in connection with the production, manufacture and sale of roasted whole bean and ground coffee for distribution at the retail level. For further information regarding our trademark rights, see “Business—Trademarks.”

Each of our name brands is directed at a particular segment of the coffee market. Our branded coffees are:

Café Caribe is a specialty espresso coffee that targets espresso coffee drinkers and, in particular, the Hispanic consumer market;

S&W is an upscale canned coffee established in 1921 and includes Premium, Premium Decaf, French Roast, Colombian, Colombian Decaf, Swiss Water Decaf, Kona, Mellow'd Roast and IL CLASSICO lines;

Café Supremo is a specialty espresso that targets espresso drinkers of all backgrounds and tastes. It is designed to introduce coffee drinkers to the tastes of dark roasted coffee;

Don Manuel is produced from the finest 100% Colombian coffee beans. Don Manuel is an upscale quality product which commands a substantial premium compared to the more traditional brown coffee blends. We also use this known trademark in our food service business because of the high brand quality;

Fifth Avenue is a blended coffee that has become popular as an alternative for consumers who purchase private label or national branded coffee. We also market this brand to wholesalers who do not wish to undertake the expense of developing a private label coffee program under their own name;

Via Roma is an Italian espresso targeted at the more traditional espresso drinker;

IL CLASSICO is an S&W brand espresso product; and

Our Entenmann's line of coffee products consists of three canned coffees and six different bagged coffees, each of which is made from superior quality 100% Arabica specialty coffee beans that represent less than 10% of all coffee beans grown in the world.

#### Other Products

We also offer several niche products, including:

- trial-sized mini-brick coffee packages;
- specialty instant coffees;
- instant cappuccinos and hot chocolates; and
- tea line products.

## Raw Materials

Coffee is a commodity traded on the Commodities and Futures Exchange subject to price fluctuations. Over the past five years, the average price per pound of coffee beans ranged from approximately \$0.85 to \$1.73. The price for coffee beans on the commodities market as of October 31, 2009 was \$1.36 per pound. Specialty green coffee, unlike most coffee, is not tied directly to the commodities cash markets. Instead, it tends to trade on a negotiated basis at a substantial premium over commodity coffee pricing, depending on the origin, supply and demand at the time of purchase. We are a licensed Fair Trade dealer for Fair Trade certified coffee. Fair Trade certified coffee helps small coffee farmers to increase their incomes and improve the prospects of their communities and families by guaranteeing farmers a minimum price of five cents above the current market price. Although we may purchase Fair Trade certified coffee from time to time, we are not obligated to do so and we do not have any commitments to purchase Fair Trade certified coffee. Our Ohio Facility operated by GCC is certified organic by the Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA). All of our specialty green coffees, as well as all of the other coffees we import for roasting, are subject to multiple levels of quality control.

We purchase our green coffee from dealers located primarily within the United States. The dealers supply us with coffee beans from many countries, including Colombia, Mexico, Kenya, Indonesia, Brazil and Uganda. In fiscal year 2009, approximately 83% of all of our green coffee purchases were from ten suppliers. One of these suppliers, Rothfos Corporation, accounted for approximately \$16.7 million, or 27% of our total product purchases. An employee of Rothfos Corporation is one of our directors. Another of these suppliers, Daarnhouwer & Co., B.V., accounted for approximately \$7.6 million, or 12% of our total product purchases. We do not have any formalized, material agreements or long-term contracts with any of these suppliers. Rather, our purchases are typically made pursuant to individual purchase orders. We do not believe that the loss of any one supplier, including Rothfos, would have a material adverse effect on our operations due to the availability of alternate suppliers.

The supply and price of coffee beans are subject to volatility and are influenced by numerous factors which are beyond our control. Supply and price can be affected by factors such as weather, politics and economics in the coffee exporting countries. Increases in the cost of coffee beans can, to a certain extent, be passed on to our customers in the form of higher prices for coffee beans and processed coffee. Drastic or prolonged increases in coffee prices could also adversely impact our business as it could lead to a decline in overall consumption of coffee. Similarly, rapid decreases in the cost of coffee beans could force us to lower our sale prices before realizing cost reductions in our purchases.

We subject all of our private unroasted green coffee to both a pre-shipment sample approval and an additional sample approval upon arrival into the United States. Once the arrival sample is approved, we then bring the coffee to one of our facilities to roast and blend according to our own strict specifications. During the roasting and blending process, samples are pulled off the production line and tested on an hourly basis to ensure that each batch roasted is consistent with the others and meets the strict quality standards demanded by our customers and us.

## Our Use of Derivatives

Historically, we have used short-term coffee futures and options contracts primarily for the purpose of partially hedging and minimizing the effects of changing green coffee prices and to reduce our cost of sales. In addition, we acquire futures contracts with longer terms, generally three to four months, primarily for the purpose of guaranteeing an adequate supply of green coffee at favorable prices. Although the use of these derivative financial instruments has enabled us to mitigate the effect of changing prices, no strategy can entirely eliminate pricing risks and we generally remain exposed to loss when prices decline or increase significantly in a very short period of time. In addition, we would generally remain exposed to supply risk in the event of non-performance by the counter-parties to any futures contract. If the hedges that we enter do not adequately offset the risks of coffee bean price volatility or our hedges result in losses, our cost of sales may increase, resulting in a decrease in profitability. See Quantitative and

Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk—Commodity Price Risks.

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## Trademarks

We hold trademarks, registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, for all seven of our proprietary coffee brands and an exclusive license for S&W, IL CLASSICO, and Entenmann's brands for sale in the United States. Trademark registrations are subject to periodic renewal and we anticipate maintaining our registrations. We believe that our brands are recognizable in the marketplace and that brand recognition is important to the success of our branded coffee business.

## Customers

We sell our private label and our branded coffee to some of the largest retail and wholesale customers in the United States (according to Supermarket News). We sell wholesale green coffee to GMCR. Sales to GMCR accounted for approximately \$26.4 million, or 35% of our net sales for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2009 and \$23.6 million, or 32%, for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2008.

Although our agreements with wholesale customers generally contain only pricing terms, our contracts with certain customers also contain minimum and maximum purchase obligations at fixed prices. Because our profits on a fixed-price contract could decline if coffee prices increased, we acquire futures contracts with longer terms (generally three to four months) primarily for the purpose of guaranteeing an adequate supply of green coffee at favorable prices. Although the use of these derivative financial instruments has enabled us to mitigate the effect of changing prices, no strategy is effective to eliminate the pricing risks and we would remain exposed to loss when prices change significantly in a short period of time, and we would remain exposed to supply risk in the event of non-performance by the counterparties to any futures contracts.

## Marketing

We market our private label and wholesale coffee through trade shows, industry publications, face-to-face contact and through the use of our internal sales force and non-exclusive independent food and beverage sales brokers. We also use our web site ([www.coffeeholding.com](http://www.coffeeholding.com)) as a method of marketing our coffee products and ourselves.

For our private label and branded coffees, we will, from time to time in conjunction with retailers and with wholesalers, conduct in-store promotions, such as product demonstrations, coupons, price reductions, two-for-one sales and new product launches to capture changing consumer taste preference for upscale canned coffees.

We evaluate opportunities for growth consistent with our business objectives. We have established relationships with independent sales brokers to market our products in the Western United States, an area of the country where we have not had a high penetration of sales. In addition, we employ a West Coast Brand Manager who markets our S&W and IL CLASSICO brands, as well as our other branded and private label coffee products. We intend to capture additional market share in our existing distribution channels by selectively adding or introducing new brand names and products across multiple price points, including niche specialty blends, private label "value" blends and mini-brick, filter packages, instant cappuccinos and tea line products. We also intend to add specialty instant coffees to our extensive line of instant coffee products.

## Charitable Activities

We are also a supporter of several coffee-oriented charitable organizations.

For over 15 years, we have been members of Coffee Kids, an international non-profit organization that helps to improve the quality of life of children and their families in coffee-growing communities in Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

We are members of Grounds for Health, an organization that educates, screens, and arranges treatment for women who have cancer and live in the rural coffee growing communities of Mexico.

We are a licensed Fair Trade dealer of Fair Trade certified coffee. Fair Trade helps small coffee farmers to increase their incomes and improve the prospects of their communities and families. It guarantees farmers a minimum price of \$1.25 per pound or twelve cents above the current market price.

Most recently, we are the administrative benefactors to a new non-profit organization called Cup for Education. After discovering the lack of schools, teachers, and basic fundamental learning supplies in the poor coffee growing communities of Central and Latin America, "Cup" was established by our employee, Karen Gordon, to help build schools, sponsor teachers, and purchase basic supplies such as books, chalk and other necessities for a proper education.

## Competition

The coffee market is highly competitive. We compete in the following areas:

**Wholesale Green Coffee.** There are many green coffee dealers throughout the United States. Many of these dealers have greater financial resources than we do. However, we believe that we have both the knowledge and the capability to assist small specialty gourmet coffee roasters with developing and growing their business. Our almost 40 years of experience as a roaster and a dealer of green coffee allows us to provide our roasting experience as a value added service to our gourmet roaster customers. While other coffee merchants may be able to offer lower prices for coffee beans, we market ourselves as a value-added supplier to small roasters, with the ability to help them market their specialty coffee products and develop a customer base. The assistance we provide our customers includes training, coffee blending and market identification. Because specialty green coffee beans are sold unroasted to small coffee shops and roasters that market their products to local gourmet customers, we do not believe that our specialty green coffee customers compete with our private label or branded coffee lines of business. We believe that the addition of our two green coffee salespersons in Florida and Oregon allows us to compete more effectively throughout the country.

**Private Label Competition.** There are several major producers of coffee for private label sale in the United States. Many other companies produce coffee for sale on a regional basis. Our main competitor is the former retail coffee division of Sara Lee Corporation, which was purchased by Segafredo Zanetti Group in 2006, now known as Massimo Zanetti Beverage. Massimo Zanetti Beverage is larger and has more financial and other resources than we do and, therefore, is able to devote more resources to product development and marketing. We believe that we remain competitive by providing a high level of quality and customer service. This service includes ensuring that the coffee produced for each label maintains a consistent taste and is delivered on time and in the proper quantities. In addition, we provide our private label customers with information on the coffee market on a regular basis.

**Branded Competition.** Our proprietary brand coffees compete with many other brands that are sold in supermarkets and specialty stores, primarily in the Northeastern United States. The branded coffee market in both the Northeast and elsewhere is dominated by three large companies: Kraft General Foods, Inc. (owner of the Maxwell House brand),

Smuckers (owner of the Folgers brand) and Massimo Zanetti Beverage which also markets specialty coffee in addition to non-specialty coffee. Our large competitors have greater access to capital and a greater ability to conduct marketing and promotions. We believe that, while our competitors' brands may be more nationally recognizable, our Café Caribe brand is competitive in the fast growing Hispanic demographic and our S&W brand has been a popular and recognizable brand on the West Coast for over 80 years. In addition, our relationship with Entenmann's resulted in Entenmann's entry into the coffee business being voted as the second best brand extension of 2007 by Brandweek.com.



## Government Regulation

Our coffee roasting operations are subject to various governmental laws and regulations, which require us to obtain licenses relating to customs, health and safety, building and land use and environmental protection. Our roasting facility is subject to state and local air-quality and emissions regulation. If we encounter difficulties in obtaining any necessary licenses or if we have difficulty complying with these laws and regulations, then we could be subject to fines and penalties, which could have a material adverse effect on our profitability. In addition, our product offerings could be limited, thereby reducing our revenues.

We believe that we are in compliance in all material respects with all such laws and regulations and that we have obtained all material licenses and permits that are required for the operation of our business. We are not aware of any environmental regulations that have or that we believe will have a material adverse effect on our operations.

## Employees

We have 56 full-time employees. None of our employees are represented by unions or collective bargaining agreements. Our management believes that we maintain good working relationships with our employees. To supplement our internal sales staff, we sometimes engage independent national and regional sales brokers as independent contractors who work on a commission basis.

## ITEM RISK FACTORS

### 1A.

An investment in our common stock is subject to risks inherent in our business. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described below together with all of the other information included in this report. In addition to the risks and uncertainties described below, other risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial also may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. The value or market price of our common stock could decline due to any of these identified or other risks, and you could lose all of your investment.

#### Risk Factors Affecting Our Company

Because our business is highly dependent upon a single commodity, coffee, any decrease in demand for coffee could materially adversely affect our revenues and profitability. Our business is centered on essentially one commodity: coffee. Our operations have primarily focused on the following areas of the coffee industry:

- the roasting, blending, packaging and distribution of private label coffee;
- the roasting, blending, packaging and distribution of proprietary branded coffee; and
- the sale of wholesale specialty green coffee.

Demand for our products is affected by:

- consumer tastes and preferences;
- global economic conditions;
- demographic trends; and
- the type, number and location of competing products.

Because we rely on a single commodity, any decrease in demand for coffee would harm our business more than if we had more diversified product offerings and could materially adversely affect our revenues and operating results.

If we are unable to geographically expand our branded and private label products, our growth will be impeded which could result in reduced sales and profitability. Our business strategy emphasizes, among other things, geographic expansion of our branded and private label products as opportunities arise. We may not be able to implement successfully this portion of our business strategy. Our ability to implement this portion of our business strategy is dependent on our ability to:

- market our products on a national scale;
- increase our brand recognition on a national scale;
- enter into distribution and other strategic arrangements with third party retailers; and
- manage growth in administrative overhead and distribution costs likely to result from the planned expansion of our distribution channels.

Our sales and profitability may be adversely affected if we fail to successfully expand the geographic distribution of our branded and private label products. In addition, our expenses could increase and our profits could decrease as we implement our growth strategy.

If our hedging policy is not effective, we may not be able to control our coffee costs, we may be forced to pay greater than market value for green coffee and our profitability may be reduced. The supply and price of coffee beans are subject to volatility and are influenced by numerous factors which are beyond our control. Historically, we have used short-term coffee futures and options contracts for the purpose of hedging the effects of changing green coffee prices. In addition, during the latter half of fiscal year 2000, we began to acquire futures contracts with longer terms, generally three to four months, for the purpose of guaranteeing an adequate supply of green coffee. Realized and unrealized gains or losses on futures contracts are reflected in cost of sales. Gains on futures contracts reduce cost of sales and losses on futures contracts increase cost of sales. Although we had net gains on futures contracts for the year ended October 31, 2009, we have incurred losses on futures contracts during some past reporting periods. Such losses could materially increase our cost of sales and materially decrease our profitability and adversely affect our stock price.

Although the use of these derivative financial instruments has generally enabled us to mitigate the effect of changing prices, no strategy is effective in eliminating pricing risks and we generally remain exposed to loss on futures contracts when prices decline significantly in a short period of time, and we generally remain exposed to supply risk in the event of non-performance by the counterparties to any futures contracts. Although, historically, we generally have been able to pass green coffee price increases through to customers, thereby maintaining our gross profits, we may not be able to pass price increases through to our customers in the future. Our hedging strategy and the hedges that we enter into may not adequately offset the risks of coffee bean price volatility and our hedges may result in losses. Failure to properly design and implement an effective hedging strategy may materially adversely affect our business and operating results. In this case, our costs of sales may increase, resulting in a decrease in profitability.

Our revenues and profitability could be adversely affected if our joint venture is not successful. In April 2006, we entered into a joint venture with Caruso's Coffee, Inc. of Brecksville, Ohio and formed Generations Coffee Company, LLC ("GCC"), which engages in the roasting, packaging and sale of private label specialty coffee products. While we believe that the GCC joint venture will be successful, losses in this joint venture would hurt our profitability.

In addition, we generally will not be in a position to exercise sole decision-making authority regarding our joint ventures. Investments in joint ventures may under certain circumstances, involve risks not present when a third party is not involved, including the possibility that joint venture partners might become bankrupt or fail to fund their share of the required capital contributions. Joint venture partners may have business interests, strategies or goals that are inconsistent with our business interests, strategies or goals and may be, in cases where we have a minority interest, in a position to take actions contrary to our policies, strategies or objectives. Joint venture investments also entail a risk of impasse on decisions, because neither we nor our joint venture partner would have full control over the joint venture. Any disputes that may arise between us and our joint venture partners may result in litigation or arbitration that could increase our expenses and could prevent our officers and/or directors from focusing their time and effort exclusively on our business strategies. In addition, we may in certain circumstances be liable for the actions of our third-party joint venture partners.

Any inability to successfully implement our strategy of growth through selective acquisitions, licensing arrangements and other strategic alliances could materially affect our revenues and profitability. Our strategy of growth through the selective acquisition of coffee companies, the selective acquisition or licensing of additional coffee brands and other strategic alliances presents risks that could result in increased expenditures and could materially adversely affect our revenues and profitability, including:

- such acquisitions, licensing arrangements or other strategic alliances may divert our management's attention from our existing operations;
- we may not be able to successfully integrate any acquired coffee companies or new coffee brands into our existing business;
- we may not be able to manage the contingent risks associated with the past operations of, and other unanticipated problems arising in, any acquired coffee company; and
- we may not be able to control unanticipated costs associated with such acquisitions, licensing arrangements or strategic alliances.

In addition, any such acquisitions, licensing arrangements or strategic alliances may result in:

- potentially dilutive issuances of our equity securities; and
- the incurrence of additional debt.

As has been our practice in the past, we will continuously evaluate any such acquisitions, licensing opportunities or strategic alliances as they arise. However, we have not reached any agreement or arrangement with respect to any such acquisition, licensing opportunity or strategic alliance at this time and we may not be able to consummate any acquisitions, licensing arrangements or strategic alliances on terms favorable to us or at all. The failure to consummate any such acquisitions, licensing arrangements or strategic alliances may reduce our growth and expansion.

The loss of any of our key customers could negatively affect our revenues and decrease our earnings. We are dependant upon sales of our private label and branded coffee to two retailers and upon sales of wholesale green coffee to one customer, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters ("GMCR"). Sales to GMCR accounted for approximately 35% of our net sales for the year ended October 31, 2009.

Although no other customer accounted for greater than 10% of our net sales during this period, other customers may account for more than 10% of our net sales in future periods. We do not have long-term contracts with these or any of our customers. Accordingly, our customers can stop purchasing our products at any time without penalty and are free to purchase products from our competitors. The loss of, or reduction in sales to, customers such as GMCR or any of our other customers to which we sell a significant amount of our products or any material adverse change in the financial condition of such customers would negatively affect our revenues and decrease our earnings.

If we lose our key personnel, including Andrew Gordon and David Gordon, our revenues and profitability could suffer. Our success depends to a large degree upon the services of Andrew Gordon, our President, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, and David Gordon, our Executive Vice President – Operations and Secretary. We also depend to a large degree on the expertise of our coffee roasters. We do not have employment contracts with our coffee roasters. Our ability to source and purchase a sufficient supply of high quality coffee beans and to roast coffee beans consistent with our quality standards could suffer if we lose the services of any of these individuals. As a result, our business and operating results would be adversely affected. We may not be successful in obtaining and retaining a replacement for either Andrew Gordon or David Gordon if they elect to stop working for us. In addition, we do not have key-person insurance on the lives of Andrew Gordon or David Gordon.



If our planned increase in marketing expenditures fails to promote and enhance our brands, the value of our brands could decrease and our revenues and profitability could be adversely affected. We believe that promoting and enhancing our brands is critical to our success. We intend to increase our marketing expenditures to increase awareness of our brands, which we expect will create and maintain brand loyalty. If our brand-building strategy is unsuccessful, these expenses may never be recovered, and we may be unable to increase awareness of our brands or protect the value of our brands. If we are unable to achieve these goals, our revenues and ability to implement our business strategy could be adversely affected.

Our success in promoting and enhancing our brands will also depend on our ability to provide customers with high quality products and service. Although we take measures to ensure that we sell only fresh roasted coffee, we have no control over our roasted coffee products once they are purchased by our customers. Accordingly, wholesale customers may store our coffee for longer periods of time or resell our coffee without our consent, in each case, potentially affecting the quality of the coffee prepared from our products. Although we believe we are less susceptible to quality control problems than many of our competitors because a majority of our products are sold in cans or brick packs unlike whole bean coffees, if consumers do not perceive our products and service to be of high quality, then the value of our brands may be diminished and, consequently, our operating results and ability to implement our business strategy may be adversely affected.

Our roasting methods are not proprietary, so competitors may be able to duplicate them, which could harm our competitive position. If our competitive position is weakened, our revenues and profitability could be materially adversely affected. We consider our roasting methods essential to the flavor and richness of our roasted coffee and, therefore, essential to our brands of coffee. Because we do not hold any patents for our roasting methods, it may be difficult for us to prevent competitors from copying our roasting methods if such methods become known. If our competitors copy our roasting methods, the value of our coffee brands may be diminished, and we may lose customers to our competitors. In addition, competitors may be able to develop roasting methods that are more advanced than our roasting methods, which may also harm our competitive position.

Our operating results may fluctuate significantly, which makes our results of operations difficult to predict and could cause our results of operations to fall short of expectations. Our operating results may fluctuate from quarter to quarter and year to year as a result of a number of factors, many of which are outside of our control. These fluctuations could be caused by a number of factors including:

- fluctuations in purchase prices and supply of green coffee;
- fluctuations in the selling prices of our products;
- the level of marketing and pricing competition from existing or new competitors in the coffee industry;
- the success of our hedging strategy;
- our ability to retain existing customers and attract new customers; and
- our ability to manage inventory and fulfillment operations and maintain gross margins.

As a result of the foregoing, period-to-period comparisons of our operating results may not necessarily be meaningful and those comparisons should not be relied upon as indicators of future performance. Accordingly, our operating results in future quarters may be below market expectations. In this event, the price of our common stock may decline.

Since we rely heavily on common carriers to ship our coffee on a daily basis, any disruption in their services or increase in shipping costs could adversely affect our relationship with our customers, which could result in reduced revenues, increased operating expenses, a loss of customers or reduced profitability. We rely on a number of common carriers to deliver coffee to our customers and to deliver coffee beans to us. We have no control over these common carriers and the services provided by them may be interrupted as a result of labor shortages, contract disputes and other factors. If we experience an interruption in these services, we may be unable to ship our coffee in a timely manner, which could reduce our revenues and adversely affect our relationship with our customers. In addition, a delay in shipping could require us to contract with alternative, and possibly more expensive, common carriers and could cause orders to be cancelled or receipt of goods to be refused. Any significant increase in shipping costs could lower our profit margins or force us to raise prices, which could cause our revenue and profits to suffer.

If there was a significant interruption in the operation of our Colorado facility, we may not have the capacity to service all of our customers and we may not be able to service our customers in a timely manner, thereby reducing our revenues and earnings. A significant interruption in the operation of our Colorado coffee roasting and distribution facility, whether as a result of a natural disaster or other causes, could significantly impair our ability to operate our business. As a result, our revenues and earnings would be materially adversely affected.

A worsening of the United States economy could materially adversely affect our business. Our revenues and performance depend significantly on consumer confidence and spending, which have recently deteriorated due to current worldwide economic downturn. This economic downturn and decrease in consumer spending may adversely impact our revenues, ability to market our products or otherwise implement our business strategy. For example, we are highly dependent on consumer demand for specialty coffee and a shift in consumer demand away from specialty coffee due to economic or other consumer preferences would harm our business. If the current economic situation deteriorates significantly, our business could be negatively impacted.

#### Risk Factors Related to the Coffee Industry

Increases in the cost of high quality Arabica or Robusta coffee beans could reduce our gross margin and profit. Green coffee is our largest single cost of sales. Coffee is a traded commodity and, in general, its price can fluctuate depending on:

- weather patterns in coffee-producing countries;
- economic and political conditions affecting coffee-producing countries, including acts of terrorism in such countries;
- foreign currency fluctuations; and
- trade regulations and restrictions between coffee-producing countries and the United States.

If the cost of wholesale green coffee increases due to any of these factors, our margins could decrease and our profitability could suffer accordingly. It is expected that coffee prices will remain volatile in the coming years. Although we have historically attempted to raise the selling prices of our products in response to increases in the price of wholesale green coffee, when wholesale green coffee prices increase rapidly or to significantly higher than normal levels, we are not always able to pass the price increases through to our customers on a timely basis, if at all, which adversely affects our operating margins and cash flow. We may not be able to recover any future increases in the cost of wholesale green coffee. Even if we are able to recover future increases, our operating margins and results of operations may still be materially and adversely affected by time delays in the implementation of price increases.

Disruptions in the supply of green coffee could result in a deterioration of our relationship with our customers, decreased revenues or could impair our ability to grow our business. Green coffee is a commodity and its supply is subject to volatility beyond our control. Supply is affected by many factors in the coffee growing countries including weather, political and economic conditions, acts of terrorism, as well as efforts by coffee growers to expand or form cartels or associations. If we were unable to procure a sufficient supply of green coffee, our sales would suffer.

Some of the Arabica coffee beans of the quality we purchase do not trade directly on the commodity markets. Rather, we purchase the high-end Arabica coffee beans that we use on a negotiated basis. We depend on our relationships with coffee brokers, exporters and growers for the supply of our primary raw material, high quality Arabica coffee beans. If any of our relationships with coffee brokers, exporters or growers deteriorate, we may be unable to procure a sufficient quantity of high quality coffee beans at prices acceptable to us or at all. In such case, we may not be able to fulfill the demand of our existing customers, supply new retail stores or expand other channels of distribution. A raw material shortage could result in a deterioration of our relationship with our customers, decreased revenues or could impair our ability to expand our business.

The coffee industry is highly competitive and if we cannot compete successfully, we may lose our customers or experience reduced sales and profitability. The coffee markets in which we do business are highly competitive and competition in these markets is likely to become increasingly more intense due to the relatively low barriers of entry. The industry in which we compete is particularly sensitive to price pressure, as well as quality, reputation and viability for wholesale and brand loyalty for retail. To the extent that one or more of our competitors becomes more successful with respect to any key competitive factor, our ability to attract and retain customers could be materially adversely affected. Our private label and branded coffee products compete with other manufacturers of private label coffee and branded coffees. These competitors, such as Kraft General Foods, Inc. (owner of the Maxwell House brand), Massimo Zanetti Beverage, and Smuckers (owner of the Folgers brand), have much greater financial, marketing, distribution, management and other resources than we do for marketing, promotions and geographic and market expansion. In addition, there are a growing number of specialty coffee companies who provide specialty green coffee and roasted coffee for retail sale. If we are unable to compete successfully against existing and new competitors, we may lose our customers or experience reduced sales and profitability.

#### ITEM UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

1B.

Not applicable.

#### ITEM PROPERTIES

2.

We are headquartered at 3475 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, New York, where we lease office and warehouse space. We pay annual rent of \$114,000 under the terms of the lease, which expires on October 31, 2023.

We lease a 50,000 square foot facility located at 27700 Frontage Road in La Junta, Colorado from the City of La Junta. We pay annual rent of \$100,093 through January of 2024.

We also use a variety of independent, bonded commercial warehouses to store our green coffee beans. Our management believes that our facilities are adequate for our current operations and for our contemplated operations in the foreseeable future.

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ITEMLEGAL PROCEEDINGS

3.

We are not a party to, and none of our property is the subject of, any pending legal proceedings other than routine litigation that is incidental to our business. To our knowledge, no governmental authority is contemplating initiating any such proceedings.

ITEMSUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS

4.

None.

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## PART II

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

Our common stock trades on the American Stock Exchange under the symbol "JVA." On February 28, 2008, we paid a special dividend in the amount of \$0.28 per share. We have not declared or paid any other dividends on our common stock during the last three fiscal years. We do not intend to pay dividends for the foreseeable future. At December 31, 2009, there were 375 holders of record of an aggregate of 5,440,823 shares of our common stock issued and outstanding.

We did not repurchase any of our common stock during the quarter ended October 31, 2009.

The following table sets forth the high and low sales prices of our common stock for each quarter of the last two fiscal years.

	High	Low
	2008	
1st Quarter	\$ 5.25	\$ 3.83
2nd Quarter	\$ 4.60	\$ 2.36
3rd Quarter	\$ 2.58	\$ 1.98
4th Quarter	\$ 3.09	\$ 1.23
	2009	
1st Quarter	\$ 1.79	\$ 0.77
2nd Quarter	\$ 4.91	\$ 0.56
3rd Quarter	\$ 4.98	\$ 1.87
4th Quarter	\$ 5.21	\$ 3.55

## ITEMSELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

6.

The following table sets forth selected financial data for the last five years from the consolidated financial statements of Coffee Holding Co., Inc. The following information is only a summary, and you should read it in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and notes beginning on page F-1.

	For the Years Ended October 31,				
	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
	(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)				
Income Statement Data:					
Net sales	\$74,452	\$71,186	\$57,365	\$51,171	\$41,545
Cost of sales	64,440	68,762	49,071	43,576	33,876
Gross profit	10,012	2,424	8,294	7,595	7,669
Operating expenses	6,389	6,363	6,842	6,231	5,698
Income (loss) from operations	3,623	(3,939 )	1,452	1,364	1,971
Other income (expense)	1,869	(86 )	(90 )	(68 )	(60 )
Income (loss) before income taxes	5,492	(4,025 )	1,362	1,296	1,911
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	2,159	(1,430 )	418	602	726
Minority interest	(42 )	(2 )	(7 )	(6 )	—
Net income (loss)	\$3,291	\$			