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# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

# **FORM 10-Q**

**Quarterly report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934** 

For the quarterly period ended November 20, 2010, or

Transition report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

Commission file number 1-10714

# AUTOZONE, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Nevada

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

**62-1482048** (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

38103

(Zip Code)

123 South Front Street, Memphis, Tennessee

(Address of principal executive offices)

(901) 495-6500

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

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  $\square$  No o

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

Large accelerated filer  $\square$ 

Accelerated filer o

Non-accelerated filer o

Smaller reporting company o

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

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

Common Stock, \$.01 Par Value — 43,792,440 shares outstanding as of December 13, 2010.

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# PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Item 1. Financial Statements.

#### AUTOZONE, INC. CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (Unaudited)

(in thousands)	No	ovember 20, 2010	A	ugust 28, 2010
Assets				
Current assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	98,013	\$	98,280
Accounts receivable		116,645		125,802
Merchandise inventories		2,361,512		2,304,579
Other current assets		84,394		83,160
Total current assets		2,660,564		2,611,821
Property and equipment:				
Property and equipment		4,118,898		4,067,261
Less: Accumulated depreciation and amortization		(1,586,693)		(1,547,315)
		2,532,205	_	2,519,946
Goodwill		302,645		302,645
Deferred income taxes		50,040		46,223
Other long-term assets		95,035		90,959
		447,720		439,827
	\$	5,640,489	\$	5,571,594
Liabilities and Stockholders' Deficit				
Current liabilities:	<i>•</i>			
Accounts payable	\$	2,519,943	\$	2,433,050
Accrued expenses and other		429,027		432,368
Income taxes payable		105,544		25,385
Deferred income taxes		156,856		146,971
Short-term borrowings		33,517		26,186
Total current liabilities		3,244,887		3,063,960
Long-term debt		2,845,700		2,882,300
Other long-term liabilities		367,070		364,099
Commitments and contingencies		—		—
Stockholders' deficit:				
Preferred stock, authorized 1,000 shares; no shares issued				_
Common stock, par value \$.01 per share, authorized 200,000 shares; 50,277 shares issued				
and 44,027 shares outstanding as of November 20, 2010; 50,061 shares issued and 45,107				
shares outstanding as of August 28, 2010		503		501
Additional paid-in capital		593,970		557,955
Retained deficit		(73,269)		(245,344)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss		(93,309)		(106,468)
Treasury stock, at cost		(1,245,063)		(945,409)
Total stockholders' deficit		(817,168)		(738,765)
	¢	5,640,489	\$	5,571,594
	\$	3,040,409	Э	5,571,594

See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

### AUTOZONE, INC. CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (Unaudited)

		<b>Twelve Weeks Ended</b>					
in thousands, except per share data) <b>November 2</b> <b>2010</b>			No	vember 21, 2009			
Net sales	\$	1,791,662	\$	1,589,244			
Cost of sales, including warehouse and delivery expenses		883,914		789,320			
Gross profit		907,748		799,924			
Operating, selling, general and administrative expenses		601,627		539,496			
Operating profit		306,121		260,428			
Interest expense, net		37,253		36,340			
Income before income taxes		268,868		224,088			
Income tax expense		96,792		80,788			
Net income	\$	172,076	\$	143,300			
Weighted average shares for basic earnings per share		44,669		50,114			
Effect of dilutive stock equivalents		965		710			
Adjusted weighted average shares for diluted earnings per share		45,634		50,824			
Basic earnings per share	\$	3.85	\$	2.86			
Diluted earnings per share	\$	3.77	\$	2.82			

See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

### AUTOZONE, INC. CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (Unaudited)

	Twelve Weeks E			Ended	
(in thousands)	November 20, 2010		Nov	vember 21, 2009	
Cash flows from operating activities:	¢	172.070	¢	1 42 200	
Net income	\$	172,076	\$	143,300	
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		44.004		10 500	
Depreciation and amortization of property and equipment		44,291		42,566	
Amortization of debt origination fees		1,725		1,489	
Income tax benefit from exercise of stock options		(8,994)		(585)	
Deferred income taxes		5,454		4,699	
Share-based compensation expense		5,071		4,251	
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:					
Accounts receivable		9,622		(16,144)	
Merchandise inventories		(49,303)		(54,418)	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses		78,929		41,564	
Income taxes payable		88,961		52,048	
Other, net		9,521		12,111	
Net cash provided by operating activities		357,353		230,881	
Cash flows from investing activities:				(50,400)	
Capital expenditures		(45,811)		(53,439)	
Purchase of marketable securities		(9,923)		(2,203)	
Proceeds from sale of marketable securities		7,337		1,325	
Disposal of capital assets		526		1,619	
Net cash used in investing activities		(47,871)		(52,698)	
Cash flows from financing activities:					
Net (repayments of ) proceeds from commercial paper		(337,300)		12,600	
Net proceeds from short-term borrowings		5,738			
Proceeds from issuance of debt		500,000			
Repayment of debt		(199,300)			
Net proceeds from sale of common stock		21,952		3,821	
Purchase of treasury stock		(299,655)		(204,379)	
Income tax benefit from exercise of stock options		8,994		585	
Payments of capital lease obligations		(5,131)		(4,492)	
Other, net		(5,450)		( , .5=)	
Net cash used in financing activities		(310,152)	_	(191,865)	
-					
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash		403		579	
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(267)		(13,103)	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period		98,280		92,706	
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$	98,013	\$	79,603	
cash and cash equivalents at the or period	Ψ	50,015	Ψ	/ 3,003	

See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.



# AUTOZONE, INC. NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

#### Note A — General

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles for interim financial information and with instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X of the Securities and Exchange Commission's (the "SEC") rules and regulations. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by U.S. generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments, including normal recurring accruals, considered necessary for a fair presentation have been included. For further information, refer to the consolidated financial statements and related notes included in the AutoZone, Inc. ("AutoZone" or the "Company") Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 28, 2010.

Operating results for the twelve weeks ended November 20, 2010, are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the fiscal year ending August 27, 2011. Each of the first three quarters of AutoZone's fiscal year consists of 12 weeks, and the fourth quarter consists of 16 or 17 weeks. The fourth quarters for fiscal 2010 and fiscal 2011 each have 16 weeks. Additionally, the Company's business is somewhat seasonal in nature, with the highest sales generally occurring during the months of February through September and the lowest sales generally occurring in the months of December and January.

#### Note B — Share-Based Payments

AutoZone recognizes compensation expense for share-based payments based on the fair value of the awards at the grant date. Sharebased payments include stock option grants and the discount on shares sold to employees under share purchase plans. Additionally, directors may defer a portion of their fees in units with value equivalent to the value of shares of common stock as of the grant date.

Total share-based compensation expense (a component of operating, selling, general and administrative expenses) was \$5.1 million for the twelve week period ended November 20, 2010, and was \$4.3 million for the comparable prior year period.

During the twelve week period ended November 20, 2010, the Company made stock option grants of 423,520 shares. The Company granted options to purchase 474,087 shares during the comparable prior year period. The weighted average fair value of the stock option awards granted during the twelve week periods ended November 20, 2010 and November 21, 2009, using the Black-Scholes-Merton multiple-option pricing valuation model, was \$58.53 and \$40.08 per share, respectively, using the following weighted average key assumptions:

	Twelve Wee	eks Ended
	November 20, 2010	November 21, 2009
Expected price volatility	31%	31%
Risk-free interest rate	1.0%	1.7%
Weighted average expected lives in years	4.3	4.3
Forfeiture rate	10.0%	10.0%
Dividend yield	0.0%	0.0%

See AutoZone's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 28, 2010 for a discussion of the methodology used in developing AutoZone's assumptions to determine the fair value of the option awards.

For the twelve week period ended November 20, 2010, there were no stock options excluded from the diluted earnings per share computation because they would have been anti-dilutive. For the comparable prior year period, 2,400 anti-dilutive shares were excluded.

#### Note C — Fair Value Measurements

The Company defines fair value as the price received to transfer an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Company uses a hierarchy of valuation inputs to measure fair value.

The hierarchy prioritizes the inputs into three broad levels:

**Level 1 inputs**—unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Company has the ability to access. An active market for the asset or liability is one in which transactions for the asset or liability occur with sufficient frequency and volume to provide ongoing pricing information.

**Level 2 inputs**—inputs other than quoted market prices included in Level 1 that are observable, either directly or indirectly, for the asset or liability. Level 2 inputs include, but are not limited to, quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in an active market, quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active and inputs other than quoted market prices that are observable for the asset or liability, such as interest rate curves and yield curves observable at commonly quoted intervals, volatilities, credit risk and default rates.

Level 3 inputs—unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

The Company's assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis were as follows:

		November 20, 2010							
(in thousands)	<u>I</u>	Level 1 Level 2		Level 3			Fair Value		
Other current assets	\$	16,640	\$	3,941	\$		\$	20,581	
Other long-term assets		48,787		5,808				54,595	
	\$	65,427	\$	9,749	\$	_	\$	75,176	
				August 2	28, 2010				
(in thousands)	<u>I</u>	Level 1	L	evel 2	Le	vel 3		Fair Value	
Other current assets	\$	11,307	\$	4,996	\$	_	\$	16,303	
Other long-term assets		47,725		8,673		—		56,398	
Accrued expenses and other				(9,979)				(9,979)	
	\$	59,032	\$	3,690	\$	_	\$	62,722	

At November 20, 2010, the fair value measurement amounts for assets and liabilities recorded in the accompanying Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet consisted of short-term marketable securities of \$20.6 million, which are included within other current assets and long-term marketable securities of \$54.6 million, which are included in other long-term assets. The Company's marketable securities are typically valued at the closing price in the principal active market as of the last business day of the quarter or through the use of other market inputs relating to the securities, including benchmark yields and reported trades. The fair values of the marketable securities, by asset class, are described in "Note D — Marketable Securities".

The carrying value of certain of the Company's financial instruments, including cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, prepaid assets and accounts payable, approximate fair value because of their short maturities. A discussion of the carrying values and fair values of the Company's debt is included in "Note H — Financing".

#### Note D — Marketable Securities

The Company's basis for determining the cost of a security sold is the "Specific Identification Model". Unrealized gains (losses) on marketable securities are recorded in accumulated other comprehensive loss. The Company's available-for-sale marketable securities consisted of the following:

	November 20, 2010						
(in thousands)	nortized Cost Basis	Unr	ross ealized ains	Unre	ross ealized osses	Fa	ir Value
Corporate securities	\$ 25,042	\$	402	\$	(4)	\$	25,440
Government bonds	31,127		322		(9)		31,440
Mortgage-backed securities	7,076		132		_		7,208
Asset-backed securities and other	11,057		32		(1)		11,088
	\$ 74,302	\$	888	\$	(14)	\$	75,176

	August 28, 2010						
(in thousands)	 nortized Cost Basis	Unr	ealized ains	Unre	ross ealized osses	Fa	ir Value
Corporate securities	\$ 28,707	\$	490	\$	(1)	\$	29,196
Government bonds	24,560		283				24,843
Mortgage-backed securities	8,603		192				8,795
Asset-backed securities and other	9,831		47		(11)		9,867
	\$ 71,701	\$	1,012	\$	(12)	\$	72,701

The debt securities held at November 20, 2010, had effective maturities ranging from less than one year to approximately 3 years. The Company did not realize any material gains or losses on its marketable securities during the first quarter of fiscal 2011.

The Company holds ten securities that are in an unrealized loss position of approximately \$14 thousand at November 20, 2010. The Company has the intent and ability to hold these investments until recovery of fair value or maturity, and does not deem the investments to be impaired on an other than temporary basis. In evaluating whether the securities are deemed to be impaired on an other than temporary basis, the Company considers factors such as the duration and severity of the loss position, the credit worthiness of the investee, the term to maturity and our intent and ability to hold the investments until maturity or until recovery of fair value.

# Note E — Derivative Financial Instruments

#### Cash Flow Hedges

During the first quarter of fiscal 2011, the Company was party to three forward starting swaps. These agreements were designated as cash flow hedges and were used to hedge the exposure to variability in future cash flows resulting from changes in variable interest rates related to the \$500 million Senior Note debt issuance during the first quarter of fiscal 2011. The swaps had notional amounts of \$150 million, \$150 million and \$100 million with associated fixed rates of 3.15%, 3.13%, and 2.57%, respectively. The swaps were benchmarked based on the 3-month London InterBank Offered Rate. These swaps expired in November 2010 and resulted in a loss of \$7.4 million, net of tax, that will be deferred in accumulated other comprehensive loss and reclassified to interest expense over the life of the underlying debt. The hedges remained highly effective until they expired; therefore, no ineffectiveness was recognized in earnings.

At November 20, 2010, the Company had \$4.1 million recorded in accumulated other comprehensive loss related to net realized losses associated with terminated interest derivatives which were designated as hedges. Net losses are amortized into interest over the remaining life of the associated debt. During the twelve week period ended November 20, 2010, the Company reclassified \$43 thousand of net losses from accumulated other comprehensive loss to interest expense. In the comparable prior year period, the Company reclassified \$141 thousand of net gains from accumulated other comprehensive loss to interest expense.

#### Note F — Merchandise Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market using the last-in, first-out ("LIFO") method for domestic inventories and the firstin, first-out ("FIFO") method for Mexico inventories. Included in inventories are related purchasing, storage and handling costs. Due to price deflation on the Company's merchandise purchases, the Company's domestic inventory balances are effectively maintained under the FIFO method. The Company's policy is not to write up inventory in excess of replacement cost. The cumulative balance of this unrecorded adjustment, which will be reduced upon experiencing price inflation on the Company's merchandise purchases, was \$250.9 million at November 20, 2010, and \$247.3 million at August 28, 2010.

#### Note G — Pension and Savings Plans

The components of net periodic pension expense related to the Company's pension plans are as follows:

		Twelve Weeks Ended						
(in thousands)		November 20, 2010		,		ember 21, 2009		
Interest cost	\$	2,678	\$	2,611				
Expected return on plan assets		(2,181)		(2,087)				
Amortization of net loss		2,653		1,877				
Net periodic pension expense	\$	3,150	\$	2,401				

The Company makes contributions in amounts at least equal to the minimum funding requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended by the Pension Protection Act of 2006. During the twelve week period ended November 20, 2010, the Company made contributions to its funded plan in the amount of \$2.2 million. The Company expects to contribute approximately \$4.6 million to the plan during the remainder of fiscal 2011; however, a change to the expected cash funding may be impacted by a change in interest rates or a change in the actual or expected return on plan assets.

#### Note H — Financing

The Company's long-term debt consisted of the following:

(in thousands)	November 20, 2010		A	ugust 28, 2010
4.75% Senior Notes due November 2010, effective interest rate of 4.17%	\$		\$	199,300
5.875% Senior Notes due October 2012, effective interest rate of 6.33%		300,000		300,000
4.375% Senior Notes due June 2013, effective interest rate of 5.65%		200,000		200,000
6.5% Senior Notes due January 2014, effective interest rate of 6.63%		500,000		500,000
5.75% Senior Notes due January 2015, effective interest rate of 5.89%		500,000		500,000
5.5% Senior Notes due November 2015, effective interest rate of 4.86%		300,000		300,000
6.95% Senior Notes due June 2016, effective interest rate of 7.09%		200,000		200,000
7.125% Senior Notes due August 2018, effective interest rate of 7.28%		250,000		250,000
4.000% Senior Notes due November 2020, effective interest rate of 4.43%		500,000		
Commercial paper, weighted average interest rate of 0.4% and 0.4% at November 20, 2010 and				
August 28, 2010, respectively		95,700		433,000
	\$	2,845,700	\$	2,882,300

As of November 20, 2010, the commercial paper borrowings mature in the next twelve months, but are classified as long-term in the accompanying Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets, as the Company has the ability and intent to refinance them on a long-term basis. Before considering the effect of commercial paper borrowings, the Company had \$793.6 million of availability under its \$800 million revolving credit facility, expiring in July 2012, which would allow it to replace these short-term obligations with long-term financing.

In addition to the long-term debt discussed above, as of November 20, 2010, the Company has \$33.5 million of short-term borrowings that are scheduled to mature in the next 12 months. The short-term borrowings are unsecured, peso denominated borrowings and accrue interest at 5.2% as of November 20, 2010.

On November 15, 2010, the Company issued \$500 million in 4.000% Senior Notes due 2020 under the Company's shelf registration statement filed with the SEC on July 29, 2008 (the "Shelf Registration"). The Shelf Registration allows the Company to sell an indeterminate amount in debt securities to fund general corporate purposes, including repaying, redeeming or repurchasing outstanding debt and for working capital, capital expenditures, new store openings, stock repurchases and acquisitions. During the quarter, the Company used the proceeds from the issuance of debt to repay the principal due relating to the 4.75% Senior Notes that matured on November 15, 2010, to repay a portion of the commercial paper borrowings and for general corporate purposes.

The fair value of the Company's debt was estimated at \$3.136 billion as of November 20, 2010, and \$3.182 billion as of August 28, 2010, based on the quoted market prices for the same or similar issues or on the current rates available to the Company for debt of the same terms. Such fair value is greater than the carrying value of debt by \$257.1 million at November 20, 2010, and \$273.5 million at August 28, 2010.

#### Note I — Stock Repurchase Program

From January 1, 1998 to November 20, 2010, the Company has repurchased a total of 123.0 million shares at an aggregate cost of \$9.0 billion, including 1,295,300 shares of its common stock at an aggregate cost of \$299.7 million during the twelve week period ended November 20, 2010. On September 28, 2010, the Board of Directors (the "Board") voted to increase the authorization by \$500 million to raise the cumulative share repurchase authorization from \$8.9 billion to \$9.4 billion. Considering cumulative repurchases as of November 20, 2010, the Company had \$385.8 million remaining under the Board's authorization to repurchase its common stock. On December 15, 2010, the Board voted to increase the authorization by \$500 million to raise the cumulative share repurchase authorization from \$9.4 billion to \$9.9 billion. Subsequent to November 20, 2010, the Company has repurchased 327,900 shares of its common stock at an aggregate cost of \$84.8 million.

#### Note J — Comprehensive Income

Comprehensive income includes foreign currency translation adjustments; the impact from certain derivative financial instruments designated and effective as cash flow hedges, including changes in fair value, as applicable; the reclassification of gains and/or losses from accumulated other comprehensive loss to net income to offset the earnings impact of the underlying items being hedged; pension liability adjustments and changes in the fair value of certain investments classified as available-for-sale.

Comprehensive income for all periods presented is as follows:

	Twelve Weeks E					
(in thousands)	November 20, 2010				Nov	ember 21, 2009
Net income	\$	172,076	\$	143,300		
Foreign currency translation adjustments		12,668		1,488		
Net impact from derivative instruments		(1,059)		(141)		
Unrealized (losses) gains from marketable securities		(73)		183		
Pension liability adjustments		1,623				
Comprehensive income	\$	185,235	\$	144,830		

#### Note K — Litigation

AutoZone, Inc. is a defendant in a lawsuit entitled "Coalition for a Level Playing Field, L.L.C., et al., v. AutoZone, Inc. et al.," filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York in October 2004. The case was filed by more than 200 plaintiffs, which are principally automotive aftermarket warehouse distributors and jobbers, against a number of defendants, including automotive aftermarket retailers and aftermarket automotive parts manufacturers. In the amended complaint, the plaintiffs allege, inter alia, that some or all of the automotive aftermarket retailer defendants have knowingly received, in violation of the Robinson-Patman Act (the "Act"), from various of the manufacturer defendants benefits such as volume discounts, rebates, early buy allowances and other allowances, fees, inventory without payment, sham advertising and promotional payments, a share in the manufacturers' profits, benefits of pay on scan purchases, implementation of radio frequency identification technology, and excessive payments for services purportedly performed for the manufacturers. Additionally, a subset of plaintiffs alleges a claim of fraud against the automotive aftermarket retailer defendants based on discovery issues in a prior litigation involving similar claims under the Act. In the prior litigation, the discovery dispute, as well as the underlying claims, was decided in favor of AutoZone and the other automotive aftermarket retailer defendants who proceeded to trial, pursuant to a unanimous jury verdict which was affirmed by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. In the current litigation, plaintiffs seek an unspecified amount of damages (including statutory trebling), attorneys' fees, and a permanent injunction prohibiting the aftermarket retailer defendants from inducing and/or knowingly receiving discriminatory prices from any of the aftermarket manufacturer defendants and from opening up any further stores to compete with plaintiffs as long as defendants allegedly continue to violate the Act.

In an order dated September 7, 2010 and issued on September 16, 2010, the court granted motions to dismiss all claims against AutoZone and its co-defendant competitors and suppliers. Based on the record in the prior litigation, the court dismissed with prejudice all overlapping claims — that is, those covering the same time periods covered by the prior litigation and brought by the judgment plaintiffs in the prior litigation. The court also dismissed with prejudice the plaintiffs' attempt to revisit discovery disputes from the prior litigation. Further, with respect to the other claims under the Act, the Court found that the factual statements contained in the complaint fall short of what would be necessary to support a plausible inference of unlawful price discrimination. Finally, the court held that the AutoZone pay-on-scan program is a difference in non-price terms that are not governed by the Act. The court ordered the case closed, but also stated that "in an abundance of caution the Court [was] defer[ring] decision on whether to grant leave to amend to allow plaintiff an opportunity to propose curative amendments." The plaintiffs filed a motion for leave to amend their complaint and attached a proposed Third Amended and Supplemental Complaint (the "Third Amended Complaint") on behalf of four plaintiffs. The Third Amended Complaint repeats and expands certain allegations from previous complaints, asserting two claims under the Act, but states that all other plaintiffs have withdrawn their claims, and that, *inter alia*, Chief Auto Parts, Inc. has been dismissed as a defendant. The court set a briefing schedule pursuant to which AutoZone and the co-defendants will oppose the motion seeking leave to amend.

The Company believes this suit to be without merit and is vigorously defending against it. The Company is unable to estimate a loss or possible range of loss.

The Company is involved in various other legal proceedings incidental to the conduct of its business, including several lawsuits containing class-action allegations in which the plaintiffs are current and former hourly and salaried employees who allege various wage and hour violations and unlawful termination practices. The Company does not currently believe that, in the aggregate, these matters will result in liabilities material to the Company's financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows.

#### Note L — Segment Reporting

The Company's two operating segments (Domestic Auto Parts and Mexico) are aggregated as one reportable segment: Auto Parts Stores. The criteria the Company used to identify the reportable segment are primarily the nature of the products the Company sells and the operating results that are regularly reviewed by the Company's chief operating decision maker to make decisions about the resources to be allocated to the business units and to assess performance. The accounting policies of the Company's reportable segment are the same as those described in Note A in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 28, 2010.

The Auto Parts Stores segment is a retailer and distributor of automotive parts and accessories through the Company's 4,645 stores in the United States, including Puerto Rico, and Mexico. Each store carries an extensive product line for cars, sport utility vehicles, vans and light trucks, including new and remanufactured automotive hard parts, maintenance items, accessories and non-automotive products.

The Other category reflects business activities that are not separately reportable, including ALLDATA, which produces, sells and maintains diagnostic and repair information software used in the automotive repair industry, and E-commerce, which includes direct sales to customers through <u>www.autozone.com</u>.

The Company evaluates its reportable segment primarily on the basis of net sales and segment profit, which is defined as gross profit. Segment results for the periods presented are as follows:

		<b>Twelve Weeks Ended</b>					
(in thousands)		ovember 20, 2010	November 21 2009				
Net Sales		2010					
Auto Parts Stores	\$	1,754,987	\$	1,556,261			
Other		36,675		32,983			
Total	\$	1,791,662	\$	1,589,244			
Segment Profit							
Auto Parts Stores	\$	878,865	\$	772,998			
Other		28,883		26,926			
Gross profit		907,748		799,924			
Operating, selling, general and administrative expenses		(601,627)		(539,496)			
Interest expense, net		(37,253)		(36,340)			
Income before income taxes	\$	268,868	\$	224,088			

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Stockholders AutoZone, Inc.

We have reviewed the condensed consolidated balance sheet of AutoZone, Inc. as of November 20, 2010, the related condensed consolidated statements of income for the twelve week periods ended November 20, 2010 and November 21, 2009, and the condensed consolidated statements of cash flows for the twelve week periods ended November 20, 2010 and November 21, 2009. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management.

We conducted our review in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). A review of interim financial information consists principally of applying analytical procedures and making inquiries of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters. It is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the condensed consolidated financial statements referred to above for them to be in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

We have previously audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheet of AutoZone, Inc. as of August 28, 2010, and the related consolidated statements of income, changes in stockholders' (deficit) equity, and cash flows for the year then ended, not presented herein, and, in our report dated October 25, 2010, we expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements. In our opinion, the information set forth in the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheet as of August 28, 2010 is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the consolidated balance sheet from which it has been derived.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Memphis, Tennessee December 16, 2010

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

#### Overview

We are the nation's leading retailer and a leading distributor of automotive replacement parts and accessories. We began operations in 1979 and at November 20, 2010, operated 4,404 stores in the United States, including Puerto Rico, and 241 in Mexico. Each of our stores carries an extensive product line for cars, sport utility vehicles, vans and light trucks, including new and remanufactured automotive hard parts, maintenance items, accessories and non-automotive products. At November 20, 2010, in 2,478 of our domestic stores, we also have a commercial sales program that provides prompt delivery of parts and other products to local, regional and national repair garages, dealers, service stations and public sector accounts. We also sell the ALLDATA brand automotive diagnostic and repair software through <u>www.alldata.com</u>. Additionally, we sell automotive hard parts, maintenance items, accessories and non-automotive hard parts, maintenance items, accessories and non-automotive hard parts, maintenance items, accessories. We do not derive revenue from automotive repair or installation services.

Operating results for the twelve weeks ended November 20, 2010, are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the fiscal year ending August 27, 2011. Each of the first three quarters of our fiscal year consists of 12 weeks, and the fourth quarter consists of 16 or 17 weeks. The fourth quarters for fiscal 2010 and fiscal 2011 each have 16 weeks. Our business is somewhat seasonal in nature, with the highest sales generally occurring during the months of February through September and the lowest sales generally occurring in the months of December and January.

#### **Executive Summary**

Net sales were up 12.7%, driven by domestic same store sales growth of 9.5%. We experienced sales growth from both our retail and commercial customers. Earnings per share increased 33.7% for the quarter.

There are various factors occurring within the current economy that affect both our consumer and our industry, including the impact of the recent recession, higher unemployment and other challenging economic conditions, which we believe have aided our sales growth during the quarter. Given the nature of these macroeconomic factors, we cannot predict whether or for how long these trends will continue, nor can we predict to what degree these trends will impact us in the future. Our primary response to fluctuations in the demand for the products we sell are to adjust our product assortment, store staffing, and advertising message. We continue to believe we are well positioned to help our customers save money and meet their needs in a challenging macro environment.

The two statistics that we believe have the closest correlation to our market growth over the long-term are miles driven and the number of seven year old or older vehicles on the road. Prior to the recession, we had seen a close correlation between our net sales and the number of miles driven; however, recently we have seen minimal correlation in sales performance with miles driven. Sales have grown at an increased rate, while miles driven has either decreased or grown at a slower rate than what we have historically experienced. During this period of minimal correlation between net sales and miles driven, we believe net sales have been positively impacted by other factors, including the number of seven year old or older vehicles on the road. Since the beginning of fiscal year 2010 and through September 2010 (latest publicly available information), miles driven remained relatively flat as compared to the corresponding prior year period, and the average age of the U.S. light vehicle fleet continues to trend in our industry's favor. As the economy continues to recover, we believe that annual miles driven will return to pre-recession low single digit growth rates and that the number of seven year old or older vehicles will continue to increase; however, we are unable to predict the impact, if any, these indicators will have on future results.

In the current environment, we have experienced growth in each of our maintenance, failure and discretionary sales categories as compared to previous quarters. Failure related categories were our best performing categories during the quarter. We remain focused on refining and expanding our product assortment to ensure we have the best merchandise at the right price in each of our categories.

#### Twelve Weeks Ended November 20, 2010, Compared with Twelve Weeks Ended November 21, 2009

Net sales for the twelve weeks ended November 20, 2010, increased \$202.4 million to \$1.792 billion, or 12.7%, over net sales of \$1.589 billion for the comparable prior year period. Total auto parts sales increased by 12.8%, primarily driven by a domestic same store sales (sales for stores open at least one year) increase of 9.5% and net sales of \$39.7 million from new stores. The domestic same store sales increase was driven by higher transaction value, as well as higher transaction count.

Gross profit for the twelve weeks ended November 20, 2010, was \$907.7 million, or 50.7% of net sales, compared with \$799.9 million, or 50.3% of net sales, during the comparable prior year period. The improvement in gross margin was primarily attributable to increased penetration of Duralast product offerings and lower product acquisition costs.

Operating, selling, general and administrative expenses for the twelve weeks ended November 20, 2010, were \$601.6 million, or 33.6% of net sales, compared with \$539.5 million, or 33.9% of net sales, during the comparable prior year period. The reduction in operating expenses, as a percentage of sales, reflected leverage of store operating expenses due to higher sales, partially offset by increased incentive compensation costs (35 basis points), higher legal expenses (27 bps), and continued investments in our hub store initiative (18 basis points).

Net interest expense for the twelve weeks ended November 20, 2010, was \$37.3 million compared with \$36.3 million during the comparable prior year period. This increase was primarily due to the increase in debt over the comparable prior year period, offset by a slight decrease in borrowing rates. Average borrowings for the twelve weeks ended November 20, 2010, were \$2.861 billion, compared with \$2.735 billion for the comparable prior year period. Weighted average borrowing rates were 5.3% for the twelve weeks ended November 20, 2010, and 5.4% for the twelve weeks ended November 21, 2009.

Our effective income tax rate was 36.0% of pretax income for the twelve weeks ended November 20, 2010, and 36.1% for the comparable prior year period.

Net income for the twelve week period ended November 20, 2010, increased by \$28.8 million to \$172.1 million, and diluted earnings per share increased by 33.7% to \$3.77 from \$2.82 in the comparable prior year period. The impact on current quarter diluted earnings per share from stock repurchases since the end of the comparable prior year period was an increase of \$0.39.

#### Liquidity and Capital Resources

The primary source of our liquidity is our cash flows realized through the sale of automotive parts, products and accessories. For the twelve weeks ended November 20, 2010, our net cash flows from operating activities provided \$357.4 million as compared with \$230.9 million provided during the comparable prior year period. The increase is primarily due to higher net income of \$28.8 million, improvements in accounts payable as our cash flows from operating activities continue to benefit from our inventory purchases being financed by our vendors and timing of income tax payments. Our accounts payable to inventory ratio was approximately 107% at November 20, 2010, and approximately 97% at November 21, 2009.

Our net cash flows from investing activities for the twelve weeks ended November 20, 2010, used \$47.9 million as compared with \$52.7 million used in the comparable prior year period. Capital expenditures for the twelve weeks ended November 20, 2010, were \$45.8 million compared to \$53.4 million for the comparable prior year period. During this twelve week period, we opened 18 net new stores. In the comparable prior year period, we opened 41 net new stores. The decrease in capital expenditures as compared to the prior year was driven by a decrease in the number of stores opened, offset by the number of new stores currently under construction. Investing cash flows were also impacted by our wholly owned insurance captive, which purchased \$9.9 million and sold \$7.3 million in marketable securities during the twelve weeks ended November 20, 2010. During the comparable prior year period, the captive purchased \$2.2 million in marketable securities and sold \$1.3 million in marketable securities. Capital asset disposals provided \$0.5 million during the twelve week period ended November 20, 2010, and \$1.6 million in the comparable prior year period.

Our net cash flows from financing activities for the twelve weeks ended November 20, 2010, used \$310.2 million compared to \$191.9 million used in the comparable prior year period. Proceeds from the issuance of debt were \$500.0 million for the current twelve week period ended November 20, 2010. Those proceeds were used for the repayment of debt of \$199.3 million, a portion of our commercial paper borrowings, and general corporate purposes. For the twelve weeks ended November 20, 2010, net repayments of commercial paper and short-term borrowings were \$331.6 million versus net proceeds from commercial paper borrowings of \$12.6 million in the comparable prior year period. Stock repurchases were \$299.7 million in the current twelve week period as compared with \$204.4 million in the comparable prior year period. For the twelve weeks ended November 20, 2010, proceeds from the sale of common stock and exercises of stock options provided \$30.9 million, including \$9.0 million in related tax benefits. In the comparable prior year period, proceeds from the sale of common stock and exercises of stock options provided \$4.4 million, including \$0.6 million in related tax benefits.

We expect to invest in our business at increased rates during fiscal 2011, with our investments being directed primarily to our newstore development program, our hub store initiative, and enhancements to existing stores and infrastructure. The amount of our investments in our new-store program are impacted by different factors, including such factors as whether the building and land are purchased (requiring higher investment) or leased (generally lower investment), located in the United States or Mexico, or located in urban or rural areas. During fiscal 2010 and fiscal 2009, our capital expenditures increased by approximately 16% and 12%, respectively, as compared to the prior year, and we expect our capital expenditures for fiscal 2011 to increase by 15% to 20% as compared to fiscal 2010. Our mix of store openings has moved away from build-to-suit leases (lower initial capital investment) to ground leases and land purchases (higher initial capital investment), resulting in increased capital expenditures during recent years, and we expect this trend to continue during the fiscal year ending August 27, 2011.

In addition to the building and land costs, our new-store development program requires working capital, predominantly for inventories. Historically, we have negotiated extended payment terms from suppliers, reducing the working capital required and resulting in a high accounts payable to inventory ratio. We plan to continue leveraging our inventory purchases; however, our ability to do so may be limited by our vendors' capacity to factor their receivables from us. Certain vendors participate in financing arrangements with financial institutions whereby they factor their receivables from us, allowing them to receive payment on our invoices at a discounted rate.

Depending on the timing and magnitude of our future investments (either in the form of leased or purchased properties or acquisitions), we anticipate that we will rely primarily on internally generated funds and available borrowing capacity to support a majority of our capital expenditures, working capital requirements and stock repurchases. The balance may be funded through new borrowings. We anticipate that we will be able to obtain such financing in view of our current credit ratings and favorable experiences in the debt markets in the past.

For the trailing four quarters ended November 20, 2010, our after-tax return on invested capital ("ROIC") was 28.6% as compared to 25.0% for the comparable prior year period. ROIC is calculated as after-tax operating profit (excluding rent charges) divided by average invested capital (which includes a factor to capitalize operating leases). ROIC increased primarily due to increased after-tax operating profit. We use ROIC to evaluate whether we are effectively using our capital resources and believe it is an important indicator of our overall operating performance.

#### Debt Facilities

We maintain an \$800 million revolving credit facility with a group of banks to primarily support commercial paper borrowings, letters of credit and other short-term unsecured bank loans. The credit facility may be increased to \$1.0 billion at our election and subject to bank credit capacity and approval, may include up to \$200 million in letters of credit, and may include up to \$100 million in capital leases each fiscal year. As the available balance is reduced by commercial paper borrowings and certain outstanding letters of credit, we had \$669.6 million in available capacity under this facility at November 20, 2010. Under the revolving credit facility, we may borrow funds consisting of Eurodollar loans or base rate loans. Interest accrues on Eurodollar loans at a defined Eurodollar rate, defined as the London InterBank Offered Rate ("LIBOR") plus the applicable percentage, which could range from 150 basis points to 450 basis points, depending upon our senior unsecured (non-credit enhanced) long-term debt rating. Interest accrues on base rate loans at the prime rate. We also have the option to borrow funds under the terms of a swingline loan subfacility. The revolving credit facility expires in July 2012.

We also maintain a letter of credit facility that allows us to request the participating bank to issue letters of credit on our behalf up to an aggregate amount of \$100 million. The letter of credit facility is in addition to the letters of credit that may be issued under the revolving credit facility. As of November 20, 2010, we have \$91.5 million in letters of credit outstanding under the letter of credit facility, which expires in June 2013.

On November 15, 2010, we issued \$500 million in 4.000% Senior Notes due 2020 under our shelf registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 29, 2008 (the "Shelf Registration"). The Shelf Registration allows us to sell an indeterminate amount in debt securities to fund general corporate purposes, including repaying, redeeming or repurchasing outstanding debt and for working capital, capital expenditures, new store openings, stock repurchases and acquisitions. During the quarter, we used the proceeds from the issuance of debt to repay the principal due relating to the 4.75% Senior Notes that matured on November 15, 2010, to repay a portion of the commercial paper borrowings and for general corporate purposes.

The 6.50% and 7.125% Senior Notes issued during August 2008, and the 5.75% Senior Notes issued in July 2009, are subject to an interest rate adjustment if the debt ratings assigned to the notes are downgraded. These notes, along with the 4.000% Senior Notes issued in November 2010, also contain a provision that repayment of the notes may be accelerated if AutoZone experiences a change in control (as defined in the agreements). Our borrowings under our other senior notes contain minimal covenants, primarily restrictions on liens. Under our other borrowing arrangements, covenants include limitations on total indebtedness, restrictions on liens, a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio and a change of control provision that may require acceleration of the repayment obligations under our borrowing arrangements may be accelerated and come due prior to the scheduled payment date if covenants are breached or an event of default occurs. As of November 20, 2010, we were in compliance with all covenants and expect to remain in compliance with all covenants.

Our adjusted debt to earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortization, rent and share-based expense ("EBITDAR") ratio was 2.3:1 as of November 20, 2010, and was 2.5:1 as of November 21, 2009. We calculate adjusted debt as the sum of total debt, capital lease obligations and rent times six; and we calculate EBITDAR by adding interest, taxes, depreciation, amortization, rent and share-based expenses to net income. Adjusted debt to EBITDAR is calculated on a trailing four quarter basis. We target our debt levels to a ratio of adjusted debt to EBITDAR in order to maintain our investment grade credit ratings. We believe this is important information for the management of our debt levels.

#### Stock Repurchases

From January 1, 1998 to November 20, 2010, we have repurchased a total of 123.0 million shares at an aggregate cost of \$9.0 billion, including 1,295,300 shares of our common stock at an aggregate cost of \$299.7 million during the twelve week period ended November 20, 2010. On September 28, 2010, the Board of Directors (the "Board") voted to increase the authorization by \$500 million to raise the cumulative share repurchase authorization from \$8.9 billion to \$9.4 billion. Considering cumulative repurchases as of November 20, 2010, we have \$385.8 million remaining under the Board's authorization to repurchase our common stock. On December 15, 2010, the Board voted to increase the authorization by \$500 million to raise the cumulative share repurchase authorization by \$500 million to raise the cumulative share repurchase authorization by \$500 million to raise the cumulative share repurchase authorization by \$500 million to raise the cumulative share repurchase authorization by \$500 million to raise the cumulative share repurchase authorization by \$500 million to raise the cumulative share repurchase authorization by \$500 million to raise the cumulative share repurchase authorization from \$9.4 billion to \$9.9 billion. Subsequent to November 20, 2010, we have repurchased 327,900 shares of our common stock at an aggregate cost of \$84.8 million.

#### **Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

Since our fiscal year end, we have cancelled, issued and modified stand-by letters of credit that are primarily renewed on an annual basis to cover deductible payments to our casualty insurance carriers. Our total stand-by letters of credit commitment at November 20, 2010, was \$97.9 million compared with \$107.6 million at August 28, 2010, and our total surety bonds commitment at November 20, 2010, was \$25.0 million compared with \$23.7 million at August 28, 2010.

#### **Financial Commitments**

As of November 20, 2010, there were no significant changes to our contractual obligations as described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 28, 2010.

#### **Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Financial Measures**

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations include certain financial measures not derived in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"). These non-GAAP financial measures provide additional information for determining our optimum capital structure and are used to assist management in evaluating performance and in making appropriate business decisions to maximize stockholders' value.

Non-GAAP financial measures should not be used as a substitute for GAAP financial measures, or considered in isolation, for the purpose of analyzing our operating performance, financial position or cash flows. However, we have presented the non-GAAP financial measures, as we believe they provide additional information that is useful to investors. Furthermore, our management and the Compensation Committee of the Board use the abovementioned non-GAAP financial measures to analyze and compare our underlying operating results and to determine payments of performance-based compensation. We have included a reconciliation of this information to the most comparable GAAP measures in the following reconciliation tables.



#### **Table of Contents**

Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Financial Measure: After-Tax Return on Invested Capital "ROIC"

The following tables reconcile the percentages of ROIC for the trailing four quarters ended November 20, 2010 and November 21, 2009.

	Α	В	A-B=C	D	C+D
(in thousands, except percentage)	Fiscal Year Ended August 28, 2010	Twelve Weeks Ended November 21, 2009	Forty Weeks Ended August 28, 2010	Twelve Weeks Ended November 20, 2010	Trailing Four Quarters Ended November 20, 2010
Net income	\$ 738,311	\$ 143,300	\$ 595,011	\$ 172,076	\$ 767,087
Adjustments:					
Interest expense	158,909	36,340	122,569	37,253	159,822
Rent expense	195,632	44,397	151,235	47,546	198,781
Tax effect(1)	(128,983)	(28,953)	(100,030)	(30,345)	(130,375)
After-tax return	\$ 963,869	\$ 195,084	\$ 768,785	\$ 226,530	\$ 995,315
Average debt(2)					\$ 2,800,081
Average deficit <sup>(3)</sup>					(584,704)
Rent x 6(4)					1,192,686
Average capital lease obligations(5)					68,271
Pre-tax invested capital					\$ 3,476,334
	А	В	A-B=C	D	<u>28.6</u> % C+D
	·				
	Fiscal Year Ended August 29,	Twelve Weeks Ended November 22,	Forty Weeks Ended August 29,	Twelve Weeks Ended November 21,	Trailing Four Quarters Ended November 21,
(in thousands, except percentage)	Ended August 29, 2009	Weeks Ended November 22, 2008	Weeks Ended August 29, 2009	Twelve Weeks Ended November 21, 2009	Trailing Four Quarters Ended November 21, 2009
Net income	Ended August 29,	Weeks Ended November 22,	Weeks Ended August 29,	Twelve Weeks Ended November 21,	Trailing Four Quarters Ended November 21,
Net income Adjustments:	Ended August 29, 2009 \$ 657,049	Weeks Ended       November 22,       2008       \$ 131,371	Weeks Ended       August 29,       2009       \$ 525,678	Twelve Weeks       Ended       November 21,       2009       \$ 143,300	Trailing Four QuartersEndedNovember 21, 2009\$668,978
Net income Adjustments: Interest expense	Ended August 29, 2009 \$ 657,049	Weeks Ended       November 22,       2008       \$ 131,371       31,166	Weeks Ended       August 29,       2009       \$ 525,678       111,150	Twelve Weeks Ended       November 21, 2009       \$ 143,300       36,340	Trailing Four Quarters EndedNovember 21, 2009\$668,978147,490
Net income Adjustments: Interest expense Rent expense	Ended August 29, 2009 \$ 657,049 142,316 181,308	Weeks Ended       November 22,       2008       \$ 131,371       31,166       40,185	Weeks Ended       August 29,       2009       \$ 525,678       111,150       141,123	Twelve Weeks Ended       November 21, 2009       \$ 143,300       36,340       44,397	Trailing Four Quarters       Ended       November 21, 2009       \$     668,978       147,490       185,520
Net income Adjustments: Interest expense Rent expense Tax effect(1)	Ended August 29, 2009 \$ 657,049 142,316 181,308 (117,929)	Weeks Ended       November 22, 2008       \$ 131,371       31,166       40,185       (26,000)	Weeks Ended August 29, 2009       \$ 525,678	Twelve Weeks Ended       November 21, 2009       \$ 143,300       \$ 36,340       44,397       (28,953)	Trailing Four     Quarters     Ended     November 21,     2009     \$   668,978     147,490     185,520   (120,882)
Net income Adjustments: Interest expense Rent expense	Ended August 29, 2009 \$ 657,049 142,316 181,308	Weeks Ended       November 22,       2008       \$ 131,371       31,166       40,185	Weeks Ended       August 29,       2009       \$ 525,678       111,150       141,123	Twelve Weeks Ended       November 21, 2009       \$ 143,300       36,340       44,397	Trailing Four Quarters       Ended       November 21, 2009       \$     668,978       147,490       185,520
Net income   Adjustments:   Interest expense   Rent expense   Tax effect(1)   After-tax return   Average debt(2)	Ended August 29, 2009 \$ 657,049 142,316 181,308 (117,929)	Weeks Ended       November 22, 2008       \$ 131,371       31,166       40,185       (26,000)	Weeks Ended August 29, 2009       \$ 525,678	Twelve Weeks Ended       November 21, 2009       \$ 143,300       \$ 36,340       44,397       (28,953)	Trailing Four Quarters Ended     November 21, 2009     \$   668,978     \$   668,978     \$   147,490     185,520   (120,882)     \$   881,106     \$   2,566,251
Net income     Adjustments:     Interest expense     Rent expense     Tax effect(1)     After-tax return     Average debt(2)     Average deficit(3)	Ended August 29, 2009 \$ 657,049 142,316 181,308 (117,929)	Weeks Ended       November 22, 2008       \$ 131,371       31,166       40,185       (26,000)	Weeks Ended August 29, 2009       \$ 525,678	Twelve Weeks Ended       November 21, 2009       \$ 143,300       \$ 36,340       44,397       (28,953)	Trailing Four Quarters Ended     November 21, 2009     \$   668,978     \$   668,978     \$   668,978     \$   868,978     \$   881,106     \$   2,566,251     \$   2,566,251     \$   2,566,251     \$   2,7,893
Net income     Adjustments:     Interest expense     Rent expense     Tax effect(1)     After-tax return     Average debt(2)     Average deficit(3)     Rent x 6(4)	Ended August 29, 2009 \$ 657,049 142,316 181,308 (117,929)	Weeks Ended       November 22, 2008       \$ 131,371       31,166       40,185       (26,000)	Weeks Ended August 29, 2009       \$ 525,678	Twelve Weeks Ended       November 21, 2009       \$ 143,300       \$ 36,340       44,397       (28,953)	Trailing Four Quarters     Pour Ended     November 21, 2009     \$   668,978     \$   668,978     \$   668,978     \$   868,978     \$   881,106     \$   2,566,251     \$   2,566,251     \$   1,113,120
Net income     Adjustments:     Interest expense     Rent expense     Tax effect(1)     After-tax return     Average debt(2)     Average deficit(3)	Ended August 29, 2009 \$ 657,049 142,316 181,308 (117,929)	Weeks Ended       November 22, 2008       \$ 131,371       31,166       40,185       (26,000)	Weeks Ended August 29, 2009       \$ 525,678	Twelve Weeks Ended       November 21, 2009       \$ 143,300       \$ 36,340       44,397       (28,953)	Trailing Four Quarters     Poly     Ended     November 21, 2009     \$   668,978     \$   668,978     \$   668,978     \$   668,978     \$   668,978     \$   868,978     \$   881,106     \$   2,566,251     \$   2,566,251     \$   2,566,90
Net income     Adjustments:     Interest expense     Rent expense     Tax effect(1)     After-tax return     Average debt(2)     Average deficit(3)     Rent x 6(4)	Ended August 29, 2009 \$ 657,049 142,316 181,308 (117,929)	Weeks Ended       November 22, 2008       \$ 131,371       31,166       40,185       (26,000)	Weeks Ended August 29, 2009       \$ 525,678	Twelve Weeks Ended       November 21, 2009       \$ 143,300       \$ 36,340       44,397       (28,953)	Trailing Four Quarters     Pour Ended     November 21, 2009     \$   668,978     \$   668,978     \$   668,978     \$   868,978     \$   881,106     \$   2,566,251     \$   2,566,251     \$   1,113,120

(1) The effective tax rate over the trailing four quarters ended November 20, 2010 and November 21, 2009 is 36.4%, respectively.

(2) Average debt is equal to the average of our debt measured as of the previous five quarters.

(3) Average equity is equal to the average of our stockholders' (deficit) equity measured as of the previous five quarters.

(4) Rent is multiplied by a factor of six to capitalize operating leases in the determination of pre-tax invested capital.

(5) Average capital lease obligations are equal to the average of our capital lease obligations measured as of the previous five quarters.

Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Financial Measure: Adjusted Debt to Earnings before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, Rent and Share-Based Expense "EBITDAR"

The following tables reconcile the ratio of adjusted debt to EBITDAR for the trailing four quarters ended November 20, 2010 and November 21, 2009.

		A		В		A-B=C		D	Tra	C+D ailing Four
	Er	l Year ded 1st 28,	Wee	Fwelve eks Ended ember 21,		Forty eks Ended ugust 28,	1	lve Weeks Ended ember 20.		Quarters Ended vember 20.
(in thousands, except ratio)	0	13t 20, )10	INUV	2009	Л	2010	INUV	2010 2010	140	2010 20,
Net income	\$ 7	738,311	\$	143,300	\$	595,011	\$	172,076	\$	767,087
Add: Interest expense	1	58,909		36,340		122,569		37,253		159,822
Income tax expense	2	22,194		80,788		341,406		96,792		438,198
EBIT	1,3	319,414		260,428		1,058,986		306,121		1,365,107
Add: Depreciation expense	1	92,084		42,566		149,518		44,291		193,809
Rent expense	1	95,632		44,397		151,235		47,546		198,781
Share-based expense		19,120		4,251		14,869		5,071		19,940
EBITDAR	\$ 1,7	26,250	\$	351,642	\$	1,374,608	\$	403,029	\$	1,777,637

Debt	2,879,217
Capital lease obligations	85,019
Add: Rent x 6 <sup>(1)</sup>	1,192,686
Adjusted debt	4,156,922

2.3

#### Adjusted debt / EDITDAR

(in thousands, except ratio)	A Fiscal Year Ended August 29, 2009	B Twelve Weeks Ended November 22, 2008	A-B=C Forty Weeks Ended August 29, 2009	D Twelve Weeks Ended November 21, 2009	C+D Trailing Four Quarters Ended November 21, 2009
Net income	\$ 657,049	\$ 131,371	\$ 525,678	\$ 143,300	\$ 668,978
Add: Interest expense	142,316	31,166	111,150	36,340	147,490
Income tax expense	376,697	76,002	300,695	80,788	381,483
EBIT	1,176,062	238,539	937,523	260,428	1,197,951
Add: Depreciation expense	180,433	40,153	140,280	42,566	182,846
Rent expense	181,308	40,185	141,123	44,397	185,520
Share-based expense	19,135	4,456	14,679	4,251	18,930
EBITDAR	\$ 1,556,938	\$ 323,333	\$ 1,233,605	\$ 351,642	\$ 1,585,247
Debt					\$ 2,739,500
Capital lease obligations					53,004
Add: Rent x 6 <sup>(1)</sup>					1,113,120
Adjusted debt					\$ 3,905,624
Adjusted debt / EDITDAR					2.5

(1) Rent is multiplied by a factor of six to capitalize operating leases in the determination of adjusted debt.

#### **Critical Accounting Policies**

Preparation of our consolidated financial statements requires us to make estimates and assumptions affecting the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period and related disclosures of contingent liabilities. Our policies are evaluated on an ongoing basis, and our significant judgments and estimates are drawn from historical experience and other assumptions that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results could differ under different assumptions or conditions.

Our critical accounting policies are described in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 28, 2010. Our critical accounting policies have not changed since the filing of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 28, 2010.

#### **Forward-Looking Statements**

Certain statements contained in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements typically use words such as "believe," "anticipate," "should," "intend," "plan," "will," "expect," "estimate," "project," "positioned," "strategy" and similar expressions. These are based on assumptions and assessments made by our management in light of experience and perception of historical trends, current conditions, expected future developments and other factors that we believe to be appropriate. These forward-looking statements are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties, including without limitation: credit market conditions; the impact of recessionary conditions; competition; product demand; the ability to hire and retain qualified employees; consumer debt levels; inflation; weather; raw material costs of our suppliers; energy prices; war and the prospect of war, including terrorist activity; construction delays; access to available and feasible financing; and changes in laws or regulations. Certain of these risks are discussed in more detail in the Risk Factors section contained in Item 1A under Part 1 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 28, 2010, and these Risk Factors should be read carefully. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and actual results; developments and business decisions may differ from those contemplated by such forward-looking statements, and events described above and in the "Risk Factors" could materially and adversely affect our business. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date made. Except as required by applicable law, we undertake no obligation to update publicly any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Actual results may materially differ from anticipated results.

#### Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

At November 20, 2010, there have been no material changes to our instruments and positions that are sensitive to market risk since the disclosures in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 28, 2010, except as described below.

The fair value of our debt was estimated at \$3.136 billion as of November 20, 2010, and \$3.182 billion as of August 28, 2010, based on the quoted market prices for the same or similar debt issues or on the current rates available to AutoZone for debt of the same terms. Such fair value is greater than the carrying value of debt by \$257.1 million at November 20, 2010 and \$273.5 million at August 28, 2010. We had \$129.2 million of variable rate debt outstanding at November 20, 2010, and \$459.2 million of variable rate debt outstanding at August 28, 2010. At these borrowing levels for variable rate debt, a one percentage point increase in interest rates would have had an unfavorable annual impact on our pre-tax earnings and cash flows of \$1.3 million in fiscal 2011. The primary interest rate exposure on variable rate debt is based on LIBOR. We had outstanding fixed rate debt of \$2.750 billion at November 20, 2010, and \$2.449 billion at August 28, 2010. A one percentage point increase in interest rates would reduce the fair value of our fixed rate debt by \$126.9 million at November 20, 2010.

#### Item 4. Controls and Procedures.

As of November 20, 2010, an evaluation was performed under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act, as amended. Based on that evaluation, our management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of November 20, 2010. During or subsequent to the quarter ended November 20, 2010, there were no changes in our internal controls that have materially affected or are reasonably likely to materially affect, internal controls over financial reporting.

#### Item 4T. Controls and Procedures.

Not applicable.



#### PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

#### Item 1. Legal Proceedings.

We are a defendant in a lawsuit entitled "Coalition for a Level Playing Field, L.L.C., et al., v. AutoZone, Inc. et al.," filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York in October 2004. The case was filed by more than 200 plaintiffs, which are principally automotive aftermarket warehouse distributors and jobbers, against a number of defendants, including automotive aftermarket retailers and aftermarket automotive parts manufacturers. In the amended complaint, the plaintiffs allege, inter alia, that some or all of the automotive aftermarket retailer defendants have knowingly received, in violation of the Robinson-Patman Act (the "Act"), from various of the manufacturer defendants benefits such as volume discounts, rebates, early buy allowances and other allowances, fees, inventory without payment, sham advertising and promotional payments, a share in the manufacturers' profits, benefits of pay-on-scan purchases, implementation of radio frequency identification technology, and excessive payments for services purportedly performed for the manufacturers. Additionally, a subset of plaintiffs alleges a claim of fraud against the automotive aftermarket retailer defendants based on discovery issues in a prior litigation involving similar claims under the Act. In the prior litigation, the discovery dispute, as well as the underlying claims, was decided in favor of AutoZone and the other automotive aftermarket retailer defendants who proceeded to trial, pursuant to a unanimous jury verdict which was affirmed by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. In the current litigation, the plaintiffs seek an unspecified amount of damages (including statutory trebling), attorneys' fees, and a permanent injunction prohibiting the aftermarket retailer defendants from inducing and/or knowingly receiving discriminatory prices from any of the aftermarket manufacturer defendants and from opening up any further stores to compete with the plaintiffs as long as the defendants allegedly continue to violate the Act.

In an order dated September 7, 2010 and issued on September 16, 2010, the court granted motions to dismiss all claims against AutoZone and its co-defendant competitors and suppliers. Based on the record in the prior litigation, the court dismissed with prejudice all overlapping claims — that is, those covering the same time periods covered by the prior litigation and brought by the judgment plaintiffs in the prior litigation. The court also dismissed with prejudice the plaintiffs' attempt to revisit discovery disputes from the prior litigation. Further, with respect to the other claims under the Act, the court found that the factual statements contained in the complaint fall short of what would be necessary to support a plausible inference of unlawful price discrimination. Finally, the court held that the AutoZone pay-on-scan program is a difference in non-price terms that are not governed by the Act. The court ordered the case closed, but also stated that "in an abundance of caution the Court [was] defer[ring] decision on whether to grant leave to amend to allow plaintiff an opportunity to propose curative amendments." The Plaintiffs filed a motion for leave to amend their complaint and attached a proposed Third Amended and Supplemental Complaint (the "Third Amended Complaint") on behalf of four plaintiffs. The Third Amended Complaint repeats and expands certain allegations from previous complaints, asserting two claims under the Act, but states that all other plaintiffs have withdrawn their claims, and that, *inter alia*, Chief Auto Parts, Inc. has been dismissed as a defendant. The court set a briefing schedule pursuant to which AutoZone and the co-defendants will oppose the motion seeking leave to amend.

We believe this suit to be without merit and are vigorously defending against it. We are unable to estimate a loss or possible range of loss.

We are involved in various other legal proceedings incidental to the conduct of our business, including several lawsuits containing class-action allegations in which the plaintiffs are current and former hourly and salaried employees who allege various wage and hour violations and unlawful termination practices. We do not currently believe that, in the aggregate, these matters will result in liabilities material to our financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows.

#### Item 1A. Risk Factors.

As of the date of this filing, there have been no material changes in our risk factors from those disclosed in Part I, Item 1A, of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended August 28, 2010.



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

Shares of common stock repurchased by the Company during the quarter ended November 20, 2010, were as follows:

#### **Issuer Repurchases of Equity Securities**

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	I	Average Price Paid per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Val Be P	aximum Dollar ue that May Yet Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
August 29, 2010 to September 25, 2010	209,000	\$	212.46	209,000	\$	641,025,280
September 26, 2010 to October 23, 2010	587,400		230.66	587,400		505,537,192
October 24, 2010 to November 20, 2010	498,900		240.06	498,900		385,773,677
Total	1,295,300	\$	231.34	1,295,300	\$	385,773,677

All of the above repurchases were part of publicly announced plans that were authorized by the Company's Board of Directors for the purchase of a maximum of \$9.4 billion in common shares as of November 20, 2010. The program was initially announced in January 1998, and was most recently amended on December 15, 2010, to increase the repurchase authorization to \$9.9 billion from \$9.4 billion. The program does not have an expiration date. Subsequent to November 20, 2010, we have repurchased 327,900 shares of our common stock at an aggregate cost of \$84.8 million.

#### Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities.

Not applicable.

#### Item 4. Removed and Reserved.

Not applicable.

#### Item 5. Other Information.

Not applicable.

#### Item 6. Exhibits.

The following exhibits are filed as part of this report:

3.1 Restated Articles of Incorporation of AutoZone, Inc. incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Form 10-Q for the quarter ended February 13, 1999. 3.2 Fourth Amended and Restated By-laws of AutoZone, Inc. incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to the Form 8-K dated September 28, 2007. 4.1 Officers' Certificate dated November 15, 2010, pursuant to Section 3.2 of the Indenture, dated as of August 8, 2003, setting forth the terms of the 4.000% Notes due 2020. Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Form 8-K dated November 15, 2010. 4.2 Form of 4.000% Note due 2020. Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Form 8-K dated November 15, 2010. \*10.1 AutoZone, Inc. 2011 Equity Incentive Award Plan, incorporated by reference to Exhibit A to the definitive proxy statement dated October 25, 2010 for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders held December 15, 2010. \*10.2 Form of Stock Option Agreement under the 2006 Stock Option Plan, effective September 2010. \*10.3 Form of Stock Option Agreement under the 2006 Stock Option Plan for certain executive officers, effective September 2010. \*10.4 Form of Letter Agreement dated as of December 14, 2010, amending certain Stock Option Agreements of executive officers. \*10.5 AutoZone, Inc. 2011 Director Compensation Program. \*10.6 Performance-Based Restricted Stock Units Award Agreement dated December 15, 2010, between AutoZone, Inc. and William C. Rhodes, III, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Form 8-K dated December 15, 2010. 12.1 Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges. 15.1 Letter Regarding Unaudited Interim Financial Statements. Certification of Principal Executive Officer Pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) under the 31.1 Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. 31.2 Certification of Principal Financial Officer Pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. Certification of Principal Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350 as adopted pursuant to 32.1 Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. 32.2 Certification of Principal Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350 as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. \*\*101.INS XBRL Instance Document \*\*101.SCH XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document \*\*101.CAL XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Document \*\*101.LAB XBRL Taxonomy Extension Labels Document \*\*101.PRE XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Document \*\*101.DEF XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Document

\* Management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

\*\* In accordance with Regulation S-T, the Interactive Data Files in Exhibit 101 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q shall be deemed "furnished" and not "filed."

#### SIGNATURES

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

AUTOZONE, INC.

By: /s/ WILLIAM T. GILES

William T. Giles Chief Financial Officer, Executive Vice President, Finance, Information Technology and Store Development (Principal Financial Officer)

By: <u>/s/ CHARLIE PLEAS, III</u> Charlie Pleas, III Senior Vice President, Controller (Principal Accounting Officer)

Dated: December 16, 2010

#### EXHIBIT INDEX

The following exhibits are filed as part of this report:

- 3.1 Restated Articles of Incorporation of AutoZone, Inc. incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Form 10-Q for the quarter ended February 13, 1999.
- 3.2 Fourth Amended and Restated By-laws of AutoZone, Inc. incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.2 to the Form 8-K dated September 28, 2007.
- 4.1 Officers' Certificate for the Notes, pursuant to Section 3.2 of the Indenture, dated November 15, 2010, setting forth the terms of the Notes. Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Form 8-K dated November 15, 2010.
- 4.2 Form of 4.0% Note due 2020. Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Form 8-K dated November 15, 2010.
- \*10.1 AutoZone, Inc. 2011 Equity Incentive Award Plan, incorporated by reference to Exhibit A to the definitive proxy statement dated October 25, 2010 for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders held December 15, 2010.
- \*10.2 Form of Stock Option Agreement under the 2006 Stock Option Plan, effective September 2010.
- \*10.3 Form of Stock Option Agreement under the 2006 Stock Option Plan for certain executive officers, effective September 2010.
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- \*10.5 AutoZone, Inc. 2011 Director Compensation Program.
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- 12.1 Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges.
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Management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

\*\* In accordance with Regulation S-T, the Interactive Data Files in Exhibit 101 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q shall be deemed "furnished" and not "filed."

#### AutoZone, Inc. 2006 Stock Option Plan

#### STOCK OPTION GRANT NOTICE AND STOCK OPTION AGREEMENT

AutoZone, Inc., a Nevada corporation (the "<u>Company</u>"), pursuant to its 2006 Stock Option Plan (the "<u>Plan</u>"), hereby grants to the holder listed below ("<u>Participant</u>") an option (the "<u>Option</u>") to purchase that number of shares of the Company's common stock, par value \$.01 ("<u>Stock</u>") set forth below. This Option is subject to all of the terms and conditions set forth herein, in the Stock Option Agreement attached hereto as <u>Exhibit A</u> (the "<u>Stock Option Agreement</u>") and the Plan, which are incorporated herein by reference. All capitalized terms used in this Grant Agreement, but not defined, shall have the meanings provided in the Plan.

Participant:	[]
Grant Date:	[]
Exercise Price per Shar	e: \$[]
Total Number of Shares Subject to the Option:	
Expiration Date:	[]
Type of Option:	o Incentive Stock Option o Non-Qualified Stock Option
Vesting Schedule:	The Option granted under this Agreement shall vest and become exercisable in four (4) cumulative installments as follows:
	[(i) The first installment shall consist of one-fourth of the shares covered by the Option and shall become exercisable on the first anniversary of the Grant Date.
	(ii) The second installment shall consist of one-fourth of the shares covered by the Option and shall become exercisable on the second anniversary of the Grant Date.
	(iii) The third installment shall consist of one-fourth of the shares covered by the Option and shall become exercisable on the third anniversary of the Grant Date.

(iv) The fourth installment shall consist of one-fourth of the shares covered by the Option and shall become exercisable on the fourth anniversary of the Grant Date.]

By his or her signature, Participant agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions of the Plan, the Stock Option Agreement and this Grant Notice. Participant has reviewed the Stock Option Agreement, the Plan and this Grant Notice in their entirety, has had an opportunity to obtain the advice of counsel prior to executing this Grant Notice and fully understands all provisions of this Grant Notice, the Stock Option Agreement and the Plan. Participant hereby agrees to accept as binding, conclusive and final all discussions or interpretations of the Committee upon any questions arising under the Plan or relating to the Option.

September 2010

# AUTOZONE, INC.

By:		
	Print Name:	
	Title:	

# PARTICIPANT

By:	
Print Name:	
Title:	

#### STOCK OPTION AGREEMENT

Pursuant to the Stock Option Grant Notice (the "<u>Grant Notice</u>") to which this Stock Option Agreement (this "<u>Agreement</u>") is attached, AutoZone, Inc., a Nevada corporation (the "<u>Company</u>"), has granted to Participant an option under the Company's 2006 Stock Option Plan (the "<u>Plan</u>") to purchase the number of shares of Stock indicated in the Grant Notice.

#### ARTICLE I.

#### GENERAL

1.1 <u>Defined Terms</u>. Wherever the following terms are used in this Agreement they shall have the meanings specified below, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Capitalized terms not specifically defined herein shall have the meanings specified in the Plan and the Grant Notice.

(a) "<u>Administrator</u>" shall mean the Board or the Committee responsible for conducting the general administration of the Plan in accordance with Article 8 of the Plan.

(b) "<u>Cause</u>" shall mean the willful engagement by Participant in conduct which is demonstrably or materially injurious to the Company, monetarily or otherwise. For this purpose, no act or failure to act by the Participant shall be considered "willful" unless done, or omitted to be done, by the Participant not in good faith and without reasonable belief that his action or omission was in the best interest of the Company.

(c) "<u>Disability</u>" shall mean a determination by the Company that Participant is "totally disabled," within its meaning in the Company's long term disability plan as in effect from time to time.

(d) "<u>Retirement</u>" shall mean Participant's retirement at normal retirement age, as determined under the AutoZone, Inc. Associate's Pension Plan, as it may be amended from time to time (or, if such plan ceases to exist or be applicable, as determined in the sole discretion of the Administrator).

(e) "Termination of Employment" shall mean the time when the employee-employer relationship between Participant and the Company or any Subsidiary is terminated for any reason, with or without cause, including, but not by way of limitation, a termination by resignation, discharge, death, disability or retirement; but excluding terminations where there is a simultaneous reemployment or continuing employment of Participant by the Company or any Subsidiary. The Administrator, in its absolute discretion, shall determine the effect of all matters and questions relating to Termination of Employment, including, but not by way of limitation, the question of whether a particular leave of absence constitutes a Termination of Employment; *provided, however*, that, if this Option is an Incentive Stock Option, unless otherwise determined by the Administrator in its sole discretion, a leave of absence, change in status from an employee to an independent contractor or other change in the employee-employer relationship shall constitute a Termination of Employment if, and to the extent that, such leave of absence, change in status or other change interrupts employment for purposes of Section 422(a)(2) of the Code and the then applicable regulations and revenue rulings under said Section.

1.2 <u>Incorporation of Terms of Plan</u>. The Option is subject to the terms and conditions of the Plan which are incorporated herein by reference. In the event of any inconsistency between the Plan and this Agreement, the terms of the Plan shall control.

September 2010

#### ARTICLE II.

#### **GRANT OF OPTION**

2.1 <u>Grant of Option</u>. In consideration of Participant's past and/or continued employment with the Company or a Subsidiary and for other good and valuable consideration, effective as of the Grant Date set forth in the Grant Notice (the "<u>Grant Date</u>"), the Company irrevocably grants to Participant the Option to purchase any part or all of an aggregate of the number of shares of Stock set forth in the Grant Notice, upon the terms and conditions set forth in the Plan, the Grant Notice and this Agreement. The Option shall be a Non-Qualified Stock Option or an Incentive Stock Option, as designated in the Grant Notice and, in the case of an Incentive Stock Option, as permitted by law.

2.2 <u>Exercise Price</u>. The exercise price of the shares of Stock subject to the Option shall be as set forth in the Grant Notice, *provided*, *however*, that the price per share of the shares of Stock subject to the Option shall not be less than 100% of the Fair Market Value of a share of Stock on the Grant Date. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if this Option is designated as an Incentive Stock Option and Participant owns (within the meaning of Section 424(d) of the Code) more than 10% of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company or any "subsidiary corporation" of the Company or any "parent corporation" of the Company (each within the meaning of Section 424 of the Code), the price per share of the shares of Stock subject to the Option shall not be less than 110% of the Fair Market Value of a share of Stock on the Grant Date.

2.3 <u>Consideration to the Company</u>. In consideration of the grant of the Option by the Company, Participant agrees to render faithful and efficient services to the Company and its Subsidiaries, as applicable. Nothing in the Plan, the Grant Notice or this Agreement shall confer upon Participant any right to continue in the employ or service of the Company or any Subsidiary or shall interfere with or restrict in any way the rights of the Company and its Subsidiaries, which rights are hereby expressly reserved, to discharge or terminate the services of Participant at any time for any reason whatsoever, with or without Cause, except to the extent expressly provided otherwise in a written agreement between the Company or a Subsidiary and Participant.

#### ARTICLE III.

#### PERIOD OF EXERCISABILITY

#### 3.1 Commencement of Exercisability.

(a) Subject to any limitations contained in this Stock Option Agreement, the Option shall become vested and be exercisable in such amounts and at such times as are set forth in the Grant Notice. Notwithstanding the exercise dates set forth in the Grant Notice, the Option shall become immediately exercisable on the date of Participant's death.

(b) No portion of the Option which has not become vested and exercisable as of Participant's Termination of Employment shall thereafter become vested and exercisable.

3.2 <u>Duration of Exercisability</u>. The installments provided for in the vesting schedule set forth in the Grant Notice are cumulative. Each such installment which becomes vested and exercisable pursuant to the vesting schedule set forth in the Grant Notice shall remain vested and exercisable until it becomes unexercisable pursuant to Section 3.3 below; provided, however, that no Option which has not vested and become exercisable as of the date of a Participant's Termination of Employment shall thereafter vest and become exercisable.

3.3 <u>Expiration of Option</u>. The Option shall be forfeited and cancelled and may not be exercised to any extent by anyone after the first to occur of the following events:

(a) If this Option is designated as a Non-Qualified Stock Option, the expiration of ten (10) years and one (1) day from the Grant Date;

(b) If this Option is designated as an Incentive Stock Option, the tenth anniversary of the Grant Date;

(c) If this Option is designated as an Incentive Stock Option and, at the time the Option was granted, Participant owned (within the meaning of Section 424(d) of the Code) more than 10% of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company or any "subsidiary corporation" of the Company or any "parent corporation" of the Company (each within the meaning of Section 424 of the Code), the fifth anniversary of the Grant Date;

(d) [Except to the extent that an employment agreement provides otherwise,] The expiration of ninety days from the date of Participant's Termination of Employment unless such Termination of Employment occurs by reason of (i) Participant's death, (ii) Participant's Retirement, (iii) Participant's Disability, or (iv) termination by the Company for Cause;

(e) The expiration of one year from the date of Participant's Termination of Employment by reason of Participant's death or Disability;

(f) The commencement of business on the date of Participant's Termination of Employment by the Company for Cause; and

(g) The expiration of the term stated in the Grant Notice following Participant's Termination of Employment due to Retirement.

3.4 <u>Special Tax Consequences</u>. Participant acknowledges that, to the extent that the aggregate Fair Market Value (determined as of the time the Option is granted) of all shares of Stock with respect to which Incentive Stock Options, including the Option, are exercisable for the first time by Participant in any calendar year exceeds \$100,000, the Option and such other options shall instead constitute Non-Qualified Stock Options to the extent necessary to comply with the limitations imposed by Section 422(d) of the Code. Participant further acknowledges that the rule set forth in the preceding sentence shall be applied by taking the Option and other Incentive Stock Options into account in the order in which they were granted, as determined under Section 422(d) of the Code and the Treasury Regulations thereunder.

#### ARTICLE IV.

#### EXERCISE OF OPTION

4.1 <u>Person Eligible to Exercise</u>. Except as provided in Section 5.2(b) below, during the lifetime of Participant, only Participant may exercise the Option or any portion thereof. After the death of Participant, any exercisable portion of the Option may, prior to the time when the Option becomes unexercisable under Section 3.3 above, be exercised by Participant's personal representative or by any person empowered to do so under the deceased Participant's will or under then-applicable laws of descent and distribution.

4.2 <u>Partial Exercise</u>. Any exercisable portion of the Option or the entire Option, if then wholly exercisable, may be exercised in whole or in part at any time prior to the time when the Option or portion thereof becomes unexercisable under Section 3.3 above.

4.3 <u>Manner of Exercise</u>. The Option, or any exercisable portion thereof, may be exercised solely by delivery to the Secretary of the Company (or any third party administrator or other person or entity designated by the Administrator) of each of the following prior to the time when the Option or such portion thereof becomes unexercisable under Section 3.3 above:

(a) An exercise notice in a form specified by the Administrator, stating that the Option or portion thereof is thereby exercised, such notice complying with all applicable rules established by the Administrator;

(b) The receipt by the Company of full payment for the shares of Stock with respect to which the Option or portion thereof is exercised, including payment of any applicable withholding taxes, which may be in one or more of the forms of consideration permitted under Section 4.4 below;

(c) Any other written representations as may be required in the Administrator's sole discretion to evidence compliance with any applicable law, rule or regulation; and

(d) If the Option or portion thereof is exercised pursuant to Section 4.1 above by any person or persons other than Participant, appropriate proof of the right of such person or persons to exercise the Option, as determined in the sole discretion of the Administrator.

Notwithstanding any of the foregoing, the Company shall have the right to specify all conditions of the manner of exercise, which conditions may vary and which may be subject to change from time to time in the sole discretion of the Administrator.

4.4 <u>Method of Payment</u>. The Administrator shall determine the method(s) by which the exercise price of the Option may be paid including, without limitation: (a) cash, (b) shares of Stock having a Fair Market Value on the date of delivery equal to the aggregate exercise price of the Option or exercised portion thereof, including shares of Stock that would otherwise be issuable or transferable upon exercise of the Option, and/or (c) other property acceptable to the Administrator (including through the delivery of a notice that the Participant has placed a market sell order with a broker with respect to shares of Stock then issuable upon exercise of the Option, and that the broker has been directed to pay a sufficient portion of the net proceeds of the sale to the Company in satisfaction of the Option exercise price; *provided* that payment of such proceeds is then made to the Company, at such time as may be required by the Company, but not later than the settlement of such sale), and the methods by which shares of Stock shall be delivered or deemed to be delivered to Participants.

4.5 <u>Conditions to Issuance of Shares of Stock</u>. The shares of Stock deliverable upon the exercise of the Option, or any portion thereof, may be either previously authorized but unissued shares of Stock or issued shares of Stock which have then been reacquired by the Company. The Company shall not be required to issue or deliver any shares of Stock purchased upon the exercise of the Option or portion thereof prior to fulfillment of all of the following conditions:

(a) The admission of such shares of Stock to listing on all stock exchanges on which such Stock is then listed;

(b) The completion of any registration or other qualification of such shares of Stock under any state or federal law or under rulings or regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission or of any other governmental regulatory body, which the Administrator shall, in its sole discretion, deem necessary or advisable;

(c) The obtaining of any approval or other clearance from any state or federal governmental agency which the Administrator shall, in its sole discretion, determine to be necessary or advisable;

(d) The receipt by the Company of full payment for such shares of Stock, including payment of any applicable withholding tax, which may be in one or more of the forms of consideration permitted under Section 4.4 above; and

(e) The lapse of such reasonable period of time following the exercise of the Option as the Administrator may from time to time establish for reasons of administrative convenience.

4.6 <u>Rights as Stockholder</u>. The holder of the Option shall not be, nor have any of the rights or privileges of, a stockholder of the Company in respect of any shares of Stock purchasable upon the exercise of any part of the Option unless and until such shares of Stock shall have been issued by the Company to such holder (as evidenced by the appropriate entry on the books of the Company or of a duly authorized transfer agent of the Company). No adjustment will be made for a dividend or other right for which the record date is prior to the date the shares of Stock are issued, except as provided in Section 7.1 of the Plan.

#### ARTICLE V.

#### **OTHER PROVISIONS**

5.1 <u>Administration</u>. The Administrator shall have the power to interpret the Plan, the Grant Notice and this Option Agreement and to adopt such rules for the administration, interpretation and application of the Plan, the Grant Notice and this Option Agreement as are consistent therewith and to interpret, amend or revoke any such rules. All actions taken and all interpretations and determinations made by the Administrator in good faith shall be final and binding upon Participant, the Company and all other interested persons. No member of the Committee or the Board or any delegate thereof shall be personally liable for any action, determination or interpretation made in good faith with respect to the Plan, the Grant Notice or this Option Agreement.

#### 5.2 Option Not Transferable.

(a) Subject to Section 5.2(b), no right or interest of Participant in the Option may be pledged, encumbered, or hypothecated to or in favor of any party other than the Company or a Subsidiary, or shall be subject to any lien, obligation, or liability of Participant to any other party other than the Company or a Subsidiary. Except as otherwise provided by the Administrator, the Option shall not be assigned, transferred, or otherwise disposed of by Participant other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution.

(b) After the death of Participant, any exercisable portion of the Option may, prior to the time when the Option becomes unexercisable under Section 3.3 above, be exercised by Participant's personal representative or by any person empowered to do so under the deceased Participant's will or under then-applicable laws of descent and distribution.

5.3 <u>Adjustments</u>. Participant acknowledges that the Option is subject to modification and termination upon the occurrence of certain events as provided in this Agreement and in Article 7 of the Plan.

5.4 <u>Notices</u>. Any notice to be given in connection with the this Agreement to the Company shall be addressed to the Company in care of the Secretary of the Company at the address given beneath the signature of the Company's authorized officer on the Grant Notice, and any notice to be given to Participant shall be addressed to Participant at the most current address on file with the Company's Human Resources department. By a notice given pursuant to this Section 5.4, either party may hereafter designate a different address for notices to be given to that party. Any notice which is required to be given to Participant shall, if Participant is then deceased, be given to the person entitled to exercise his or her Option pursuant to Section 4.1 above. Any notice shall be deemed duly given on the date hand-delivered, on the day following deposit with a reputable overnight carrier, or two days after such notice is sent by certified mail (return receipt requested), in any case, to the addresses specified herein.

5.5 <u>Captions</u>. Captions are provided herein for convenience only and are not to serve as a basis for interpretation or construction of this Agreement.

5.6 <u>Governing Law; Severability</u>. The laws of the State of Nevada shall govern the interpretation, validity, administration, enforcement and performance of the terms of this Agreement without reference to the conflicts of laws principles thereof.

5.7 <u>Conformity to Securities Laws</u>. Participant acknowledges that the Plan and the Option are intended to conform to the extent necessary with all applicable federal, state, local and foreign securities laws and any and all official interpretations, regulations and rules promulgated thereunder. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Plan shall be administered, and the Option is granted and may be exercised, only in such a manner as conforms to such laws, rules and regulations. To the extent permitted by applicable law, the Plan and the Option shall be deemed amended to the extent necessary to conform to such laws, rules and regulations.

5.8 <u>Amendments, Suspension and Termination</u>. Participant acknowledges that the Plan and the Option are subject to amendment, suspension and/or termination as provided in Article 10 of the Plan.

5.9 <u>Successors and Assigns</u>. The Company may assign any of its rights under this Agreement to single or multiple assignees, and this Agreement shall inure to the benefit of the successors and assigns of the Company. Subject to the restrictions on transfer herein set forth in Section 5.2 above, this Agreement shall be binding upon Participant and his or her heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns.

5.10 <u>Notification of Disposition</u>. If this Option is designated as an Incentive Stock Option, Participant shall give prompt notice to the Company of any disposition or other transfer of any shares of Stock acquired under this Agreement if such disposition or transfer is made (a) within two years after the applicable Grant Date, or (b) within one year after Participant exercises the Option. Such notice shall specify the date of such disposition or other transfer and the amount realized, in cash, other property, assumption of indebtedness or other consideration, by Participant in such disposition or other transfer.

5.11 <u>Limitations Applicable to Section 16 Persons</u>. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan, the Grant Notice or this Agreement, if Participant is subject to Section 16 of the Exchange Act, then the Plan, the Grant notice and this Agreement shall be subject to any additional limitations set forth in any applicable exemptive rule under Section 16 of the Exchange Act (including any amendment to Rule 16b-3 of the Exchange Act) that are requirements for the application of such exemptive rule. To the extent permitted by applicable law, this Agreement shall be deemed amended to the extent necessary to conform to such applicable exemptive rule.

5.12 <u>Not a Contract of Employment</u>. Nothing in this Agreement or in the Plan shall confer upon Participant any right to continue to serve as an employee or other service provider of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries.

5.13 <u>Entire Agreement</u>. The Plan, the Grant Notice and this Agreement (including all Exhibits thereto) constitute the entire agreement of the parties and supersede in their entirety all prior undertakings and agreements of the Company and Participant with respect to the subject matter hereof.

5.14 <u>Section 409A</u>. Without limiting the generality of Section 1.2 above, Section 11.14 of the Plan regarding Code Section 409A is hereby expressly incorporated by reference into this Agreement.

#### AUTOZONE, INC. 2006 Stock Option Plan

#### STOCK OPTION GRANT NOTICE AND STOCK OPTION AGREEMENT

AutoZone, Inc., a Nevada corporation (the "<u>Company</u>"), pursuant to its 2006 Stock Option Plan (the "<u>Plan</u>"), hereby grants to the holder listed below ("<u>Participant</u>") an option (the "<u>Option</u>") to purchase that number of shares of the Company's common stock, par value \$.01 ("<u>Stock</u>") set forth below. This Option is subject to all of the terms and conditions set forth herein, in the Stock Option Agreement attached hereto as <u>Exhibit A</u> (the "<u>Stock Option Agreement</u>") and the Plan, which are incorporated herein by reference. All capitalized terms used in this Grant Agreement, but not defined, shall have the meanings provided in the Plan.

Participant:	
Grant Date:	[]
Exercise Price per Share	: \$[]
Total Number of Shares Subject to the Option:	[]
Expiration Date:	[]
Type of Option:	o Incentive Stock Option o Non-Qualified Stock Option
Vesting Schedule:	The Option granted under this Agreement shall vest and become exercisable in four (4) cumulative installments as follows:
	[(i) The first installment shall consist of one-fourth of the shares covered by the Option and shall become exercisable on the first anniversary of the Grant Date.
	(ii) The second installment shall consist of one-fourth of the shares covered by the Option and shall become exercisable on the second anniversary of the Grant Date.

(iii) The third installment shall consist of one-fourth of the shares covered by the Option and shall become exercisable on the third anniversary of the Grant Date.

(iv) The fourth installment shall consist of one-fourth of the shares covered by the Option and shall become exercisable on the fourth anniversary of the Grant Date.]

By his or her signature, Participant agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions of the Plan, the Stock Option Agreement and this Grant Notice. Participant has reviewed the Stock Option Agreement, the Plan and this Grant Notice in their entirety, has had an opportunity to obtain the advice of counsel prior to executing this Grant Notice and fully understands all provisions of this Grant Notice, the Stock Option Agreement and the Plan. Participant hereby agrees to accept as binding, conclusive and final all discussions or interpretations of the Committee upon any questions arising under the Plan or relating to the Option.

September 2010

# AUTOZONE, INC.

By:		
	Print Name:	
	Title:	

# PARTICIPANT

By:	
Print Name:	
Title:	

### STOCK OPTION AGREEMENT

Pursuant to the Stock Option Grant Notice (the "<u>Grant Notice</u>") to which this Stock Option Agreement (this "<u>Agreement</u>") is attached, AutoZone, Inc., a Nevada corporation (the "<u>Company</u>"), has granted to Participant an option under the Company's 2006 Stock Option Plan (the "<u>Plan</u>") to purchase the number of shares of Stock indicated in the Grant Notice.

### ARTICLE I.

### GENERAL

1.1 <u>Defined Terms</u>. Wherever the following terms are used in this Agreement they shall have the meanings specified below, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Capitalized terms not specifically defined herein shall have the meanings specified in the Plan and the Grant Notice.

(a) "<u>Administrator</u>" shall mean the Board or the Committee responsible for conducting the general administration of the Plan in accordance with Article 8 of the Plan.

(b) "<u>Cause</u>" shall mean the willful engagement by Participant in conduct which is demonstrably or materially injurious to the Company, monetarily or otherwise. For this purpose, no act or failure to act by the Participant shall be considered "willful" unless done, or omitted to be done, by the Participant not in good faith and without reasonable belief that his action or omission was in the best interest of the Company.

(c) "<u>Disability</u>" shall mean a determination by the Company that Participant is "totally disabled," within its meaning in the Company's long term disability plan as in effect from time to time.

(d) "<u>Retirement</u>" shall mean Participant's retirement at normal retirement age, as determined under the AutoZone, Inc. Associate's Pension Plan, as it may be amended from time to time (or, if such plan ceases to exist or be applicable, as determined in the sole discretion of the Administrator).

(e) "Termination of Employment" shall mean the time when the employee-employer relationship between Participant and the Company or any Subsidiary is terminated for any reason, with or without cause, including, but not by way of limitation, a termination by resignation, discharge, death, disability or retirement; but excluding terminations where there is a simultaneous reemployment or continuing employment of Participant by the Company or any Subsidiary. The Administrator, in its absolute discretion, shall determine the effect of all matters and questions relating to Termination of Employment, including, but not by way of limitation, the question of whether a particular leave of absence constitutes a Termination of Employment; *provided, however*, that, if this Option is an Incentive Stock Option, unless otherwise determined by the Administrator in its sole discretion, a leave of absence, change in status from an employee to an independent contractor or other change in the employee-employer relationship shall constitute a Termination of Employment if, and to the extent that, such leave of absence, change in status or other change interrupts employment for purposes of Section 422(a)(2) of the Code and the then applicable regulations and revenue rulings under said Section.

September 2010

1.2 <u>Incorporation of Terms of Plan</u>. The Option is subject to the terms and conditions of the Plan which are incorporated herein by reference. In the event of any inconsistency between the Plan and this Agreement, the terms of the Plan shall control.

## ARTICLE II.

## **GRANT OF OPTION**

2.1 <u>Grant of Option</u>. In consideration of Participant's past and/or continued employment with the Company or a Subsidiary and for other good and valuable consideration, effective as of the Grant Date set forth in the Grant Notice (the "<u>Grant Date</u>"), the Company irrevocably grants to Participant the Option to purchase any part or all of an aggregate of the number of shares of Stock set forth in the Grant Notice, upon the terms and conditions set forth in the Plan, the Grant Notice and this Agreement. The Option shall be a Non-Qualified Stock Option or an Incentive Stock Option, as designated in the Grant Notice and, in the case of an Incentive Stock Option, as permitted by law.

2.2 <u>Exercise Price</u>. The exercise price of the shares of Stock subject to the Option shall be as set forth in the Grant Notice, *provided, however*, that the price per share of the shares of Stock subject to the Option shall not be less than 100% of the Fair Market Value of a share of Stock on the Grant Date. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if this Option is designated as an Incentive Stock Option and Participant owns (within the meaning of Section 424(d) of the Code) more than 10% of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company or any "subsidiary corporation" of the Company or any "parent corporation" of the Company (each within the meaning of Section 424 of the Code), the price per share of the shares of Stock subject to the Option shall not be less than 110% of the Fair Market Value of a share of Stock on the Grant Date.

2.3 <u>Consideration to the Company</u>. In consideration of the grant of the Option by the Company, Participant agrees to render faithful and efficient services to the Company and its Subsidiaries, as applicable. Nothing in the Plan, the Grant Notice or this Agreement shall confer upon Participant any right to continue in the employ or service of the Company or any Subsidiary or shall interfere with or restrict in any way the rights of the Company and its Subsidiaries, which rights are hereby expressly reserved, to discharge or terminate the services of Participant at any time for any reason whatsoever, with or without Cause, except to the extent expressly provided otherwise in a written agreement between the Company or a Subsidiary and Participant.

## ARTICLE III.

### PERIOD OF EXERCISABILITY

### 3.1 Commencement of Exercisability.

(a) Subject to any limitations contained in this Stock Option Agreement, the Option shall become vested and be exercisable in such amounts and at such times as are set forth in the Grant Notice. Notwithstanding the exercise dates set forth in the Grant Notice, the Option shall become immediately exercisable on the date of Participant's death.

(b) No portion of the Option which has not become vested and exercisable as of Participant's Termination of Employment shall thereafter become vested and exercisable.

3.2 <u>Duration of Exercisability</u>. The installments provided for in the vesting schedule set forth in the Grant Notice are cumulative. Each such installment which becomes vested and exercisable pursuant to the vesting schedule set forth in the Grant Notice shall remain vested and exercisable until it becomes unexercisable pursuant to Section 3.3 below; provided, however, that no Option which has not vested and become exercisable as of the date of a Participant's Termination of Employment shall thereafter vest and become exercisable.

3.3 <u>Expiration of Option</u>. The Option shall be forfeited and cancelled and may not be exercised to any extent by anyone after the first to occur of the following events:

(a) If this Option is designated as a Non-Qualified Stock Option, the expiration of ten (10) years and one (1) day from the Grant Date;

(b) If this Option is designated as an Incentive Stock Option, the tenth anniversary of the Grant Date;

(c) If this Option is designated as an Incentive Stock Option and, at the time the Option was granted, Participant owned (within the meaning of Section 424(d) of the Code) more than 10% of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company or any "subsidiary corporation" of the Company or any "parent corporation" of the Company (each within the meaning of Section 424 of the Code), the fifth anniversary of the Grant Date;

(d) The expiration of ninety days from the date of Participant's Termination of Employment by Participant for any reason other than (i) death or Disability or (ii) Retirement;

(e) The expiration of one year from the date of Participant's Termination of Employment by reason of Participant's death or Disability;

(f) The expiration of the term stated in the Grant Notice following Participant's Termination of Employment due to Retirement;

(g) The commencement of business on the date of Participant's Termination of Employment by the Company for Cause;

and

(h) In the event of Participant's Termination of Employment by the Company other than for Cause; [except to the extent an employment agreement provides otherwise,] the expiration of the Severance Period as defined in the Non-Compete and Severance Agreement between the Participant and the Company (provided, however, that no Option which has not vested and become exercisable as of the date of a Participant's Termination of Employment shall thereafter vest and become exercisable).

3.4 <u>Special Tax Consequences</u>. Participant acknowledges that, to the extent that the aggregate Fair Market Value (determined as of the time the Option is granted) of all shares of Stock with respect to which Incentive Stock Options, including the Option, are exercisable for the first time by Participant in any calendar year exceeds \$100,000, the Option and such other options shall instead constitute Non-Qualified Stock Options to the extent necessary to comply with the limitations imposed by Section 422(d) of the Code. Participant further acknowledges that the rule set forth in the preceding sentence shall be applied by taking the Option and other Incentive Stock Options into account in the order in which they were granted, as determined under Section 422(d) of the Code and the Treasury Regulations thereunder.

### ARTICLE IV.

### **EXERCISE OF OPTION**

4.1 <u>Person Eligible to Exercise</u>. Except as provided in Section 5.2(b) below, during the lifetime of Participant, only Participant may exercise the Option or any portion thereof. After the death of Participant, any exercisable portion of the Option may, prior to the time when the Option becomes unexercisable under Section 3.3 above, be exercised by Participant's personal representative or by any person empowered to do so under the deceased Participant's will or under then-applicable laws of descent and distribution.

4.2 <u>Partial Exercise</u>. Any exercisable portion of the Option or the entire Option, if then wholly exercisable, may be exercised in whole or in part at any time prior to the time when the Option or portion thereof becomes unexercisable under Section 3.3 above.

4.3 <u>Manner of Exercise</u>. The Option, or any exercisable portion thereof, may be exercised solely by delivery to the Secretary of the Company (or any third party administrator or other person or entity designated by the Administrator) of each of the following prior to the time when the Option or such portion thereof becomes unexercisable under Section 3.3 above:

(a) An exercise notice in a form specified by the Administrator, stating that the Option or portion thereof is thereby exercised, such notice complying with all applicable rules established by the Administrator;

(b) The receipt by the Company of full payment for the shares of Stock with respect to which the Option or portion thereof is exercised, including payment of any applicable withholding taxes, which may be in one or more of the forms of consideration permitted under Section 4.4 below;

(c) Any other written representations as may be required in the Administrator's sole discretion to evidence compliance with any applicable law, rule or regulation; and

(d) If the Option or portion thereof is exercised pursuant to Section 4.1 above by any person or persons other than Participant, appropriate proof of the right of such person or persons to exercise the Option, as determined in the sole discretion of the Administrator.

Notwithstanding any of the foregoing, the Company shall have the right to specify all conditions of the manner of exercise, which conditions may vary and which may be subject to change from time to time in the sole discretion of the Administrator.

4.4 <u>Method of Payment</u>. The Administrator shall determine the method(s) by which the exercise price of the Option may be paid including, without limitation: (a) cash, (b) shares of Stock having a Fair Market Value on the date of delivery equal to the aggregate exercise price of the Option or exercised portion thereof, including shares of Stock that would otherwise be issuable or transferable upon exercise of the Option, and/or (c) other property acceptable to the Administrator (including through the delivery of a notice that the Participant has placed a market sell order with a broker with respect to shares of Stock then issuable upon exercise of the Option, and that the broker has been directed to pay a sufficient portion of the net proceeds of the sale to the Company in satisfaction of the Option exercise price; *provided* that payment of such proceeds is then made to the Company, at such time as may be required by the Company, but not later than the settlement of such sale), and the methods by which shares of Stock shall be delivered or deemed to be delivered to Participants.

4.5 <u>Conditions to Issuance of Shares of Stock</u>. The shares of Stock deliverable upon the exercise of the Option, or any portion thereof, may be either previously authorized but unissued shares of Stock or issued shares of Stock which have then been reacquired by the Company. The Company shall not be required to issue or deliver any shares of Stock purchased upon the exercise of the Option or portion thereof prior to fulfillment of all of the following conditions:

(a) The admission of such shares of Stock to listing on all stock exchanges on which such Stock is then listed;

(b) The completion of any registration or other qualification of such shares of Stock under any state or federal law or under rulings or regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission or of any other governmental regulatory body, which the Administrator shall, in its sole discretion, deem necessary or advisable;

(c) The obtaining of any approval or other clearance from any state or federal governmental agency which the Administrator shall, in its sole discretion, determine to be necessary or advisable;

(d) The receipt by the Company of full payment for such shares of Stock, including payment of any applicable withholding tax, which may be in one or more of the forms of consideration permitted under Section 4.4 above; and

(e) The lapse of such reasonable period of time following the exercise of the Option as the Administrator may from time to time establish for reasons of administrative convenience.

4.6 <u>Rights as Stockholder</u>. The holder of the Option shall not be, nor have any of the rights or privileges of, a stockholder of the Company in respect of any shares of Stock purchasable upon the exercise of any part of the Option unless and until such shares of Stock shall have been issued by the Company to such holder (as evidenced by the appropriate entry on the books of the Company or of a duly authorized transfer agent of the Company). No adjustment will be made for a dividend or other right for which the record date is prior to the date the shares of Stock are issued, except as provided in Section 7.1 of the Plan.

### ARTICLE V.

## **OTHER PROVISIONS**

5.1 <u>Administration</u>. The Administrator shall have the power to interpret the Plan, the Grant Notice and this Option Agreement and to adopt such rules for the administration, interpretation and application of the Plan, the Grant Notice and this Option Agreement as are consistent therewith and to interpret, amend or revoke any such rules. All actions taken and all interpretations and determinations made by the Administrator in good faith shall be final and binding upon Participant, the Company and all other interested persons. No member of the Committee or the Board or any delegate thereof shall be personally liable for any action, determination or interpretation made in good faith with respect to the Plan, the Grant Notice or this Option Agreement.

### 5.2 Option Not Transferable.

(a) Subject to Section 5.2(b), no right or interest of Participant in the Option may be pledged, encumbered, or hypothecated to or in favor of any party other than the Company or a Subsidiary, or shall be subject to any lien, obligation, or liability of Participant to any other party other than the Company or a Subsidiary. Except as otherwise provided by the Administrator, the Option shall not be assigned, transferred, or otherwise disposed of by Participant other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution.

(b) After the death of Participant, any exercisable portion of the Option may, prior to the time when the Option becomes unexercisable under Section 3.3 above, be exercised by Participant's personal representative or by any person empowered to do so under the deceased Participant's will or under then-applicable laws of descent and distribution.

5.3 <u>Adjustments</u>. Participant acknowledges that the Option is subject to modification and termination upon the occurrence of certain events as provided in this Agreement and in Article 7 of the Plan.

5.4 <u>Notices</u>. Any notice to be given in connection with the this Agreement to the Company shall be addressed to the Company in care of the Secretary of the Company at the address given beneath the signature of the Company's authorized officer on the Grant Notice, and any notice to be given to Participant shall be addressed to Participant at the most current address on file with the Company's Human Resources department. By a notice given pursuant to this Section 5.4, either party may hereafter designate a different address for notices to be given to that party. Any notice which is required to be given to Participant shall, if Participant is then deceased, be given to the person entitled to exercise his or her Option pursuant to Section 4.1 above. Any notice shall be deemed duly given on the date hand-delivered, on the day following deposit with a reputable overnight carrier, or two days after such notice is sent by certified mail (return receipt requested), in any case, to the addresses specified herein.

5.5 <u>Captions</u>. Captions are provided herein for convenience only and are not to serve as a basis for interpretation or construction of this Agreement.

5.6 <u>Governing Law; Severability</u>. The laws of the State of Nevada shall govern the interpretation, validity, administration, enforcement and performance of the terms of this Agreement without reference to the conflicts of laws principles thereof.

5.7 <u>Conformity to Securities Laws</u>. Participant acknowledges that the Plan and the Option are intended to conform to the extent necessary with all applicable federal, state, local and foreign securities laws and any and all official interpretations, regulations and rules promulgated thereunder. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Plan shall be administered, and the Option is granted and may be exercised, only in such a manner as conforms to such laws, rules and regulations. To the extent permitted by applicable law, the Plan and the Option shall be deemed amended to the extent necessary to conform to such laws, rules and regulations.

5.8 <u>Amendments</u>, <u>Suspension and Termination</u>. Participant acknowledges that the Plan and the Option are subject to amendment, suspension and/or termination as provided in Article 10 of the Plan.

5.9 <u>Successors and Assigns</u>. The Company may assign any of its rights under this Agreement to single or multiple assignees, and this Agreement shall inure to the benefit of the successors and assigns of the Company. Subject to the restrictions on transfer herein set forth in Section 5.2 above, this Agreement shall be binding upon Participant and his or her heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns.

5.10 <u>Notification of Disposition</u>. If this Option is designated as an Incentive Stock Option, Participant shall give prompt notice to the Company of any disposition or other transfer of any shares of Stock acquired under this Agreement if such disposition or transfer is made (a) within two years after the applicable Grant Date, or (b) within one year after Participant exercises the Option. Such notice shall specify the date of such disposition or other transfer and the amount realized, in cash, other property, assumption of indebtedness or other consideration, by Participant in such disposition or other transfer.

5.11 <u>Limitations Applicable to Section 16 Persons</u>. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan, the Grant Notice or this Agreement, if Participant is subject to Section 16 of the Exchange Act, then the Plan, the Grant notice and this Agreement shall be subject to any additional limitations set forth in any applicable exemptive rule under Section 16 of the Exchange Act (including any amendment to Rule 16b-3 of the Exchange Act) that are requirements for the application of such exemptive rule. To the extent permitted by applicable law, this Agreement shall be deemed amended to the extent necessary to conform to such applicable exemptive rule.

5.12 <u>Not a Contract of Employment</u>. Nothing in this Agreement or in the Plan shall confer upon Participant any right to continue to serve as an employee or other service provider of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries.

5.13 <u>Entire Agreement</u>. The Plan, the Grant Notice and this Agreement (including all Exhibits thereto) constitute the entire agreement of the parties and supersede in their entirety all prior undertakings and agreements of the Company and Participant with respect to the subject matter hereof.

5.14 <u>Section 409A</u>. Without limiting the generality of Section 1.2 above, Section 11.14 of the Plan regarding Code Section 409A is hereby expressly incorporated by reference into this Agreement.

## [AZO LETTERHEAD]

[Date]

[Name] [Address]

## Dear [Name]:

You have been granted one or more non-qualified stock option(s) (the "Options") with respect to common stock of AutoZone, Inc. (the "Corporation") pursuant to one or more Stock Option Grant Notice and Stock Option Agreement(s) and/or Non-Qualified Stock Option Agreement(s) (collectively, the "Agreements") and the Corporation's 2006 Stock Option Plan and/or the Corporation's Third Amended and Restated 1996 Stock Option Plan (collectively, the "Plans"). This letter is to advise you that the Compensation Committee has amended certain terms and provisions in the Agreements, effective as of December 14, 2010 (the "Effective Date"). The Options, and corresponding Agreements and Plans, to which this letter applies are listed on Exhibit A, attached hereto.

As of the Effective Date, your Agreements are amended to provide that the Options may be exercise in the event of a Termination of Employment by the Corporation other than for Cause (as defined in the applicable Agreement), the expiration of the Severance Period (as defined in the Non-Compete and Severance Agreement between you and the Corporation), except to the extent otherwise provided by an applicable employment agreement.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in no event may the Option be exercised after the expiration of its term, which is ten (10) years and one (1) day from the date of grant of the Option.

Your consent is not required for this amendment to your Agreement(s) to become effective. If you should have any questions please contact [\_\_\_\_].

Sincerely,

[Name] AutoZone, Inc. EXHIBIT A [to be provided]

### AUTOZONE, INC. 2011 DIRECTOR COMPENSATION PROGRAM (Effective January 1, 2011)

## ARTICLE 1.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to set forth the general terms and conditions applicable to the AutoZone, Inc. 2011 Director Compensation Program (the "<u>Program</u>") established by the Board of Directors of AutoZone Inc. (the "<u>Company</u>") pursuant to the Company's 2011 Equity Incentive Award Plan (the "<u>Plan</u>"). The Program is intended to carry out the purposes of the Plan and provide a means to reinforce objectives for sustained long-term performance and value creation by awarding each Non-Employee Director of the Company with stock awards, subject to the restrictions and other provisions of the Program and the Plan. The Program shall be effective as of January 1, 2011 (the "<u>Effective Date</u>").

### **ARTICLE 2.**

### DEFINITIONS

2.1 Unless otherwise defined herein, capitalized terms used herein shall have the meanings assigned to such terms in the Plan.

2.3 "Award" shall mean a Restricted Stock Unit granted to a Non-Employee Director pursuant to the Program.

2.4 "<u>Restricted Stock Units</u>" shall mean Restricted Stock Units granted under Section 9.4 of the Plan, and as defined under Section 2.44 of the Plan.

#### **ARTICLE 3.**

### **RESTRICTED STOCK UNITS**

3.1 <u>Quarterly Grants</u>. On each of January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 following the Effective Date (each, a "<u>Retainer Date</u>"), the following individuals shall be granted, without further action by the Company, the Board, or the Company's stockholders, Restricted Stock Units to acquire a number of shares of Common Stock (rounded down to the nearest tenth (1/10<sup>th</sup>) of a share) equal to the quotient obtained by dividing:

(a) with respect to each person who is a Non-Employee Director on a Retainer Date, (x) \$50,000, by (y) the closing market price of a share of Common Stock on the Retainer Date (rounded to two (2) decimal places) (the "<u>Quarterly Retainer</u>"); plus

(b) with respect to the Lead Director on a Retainer Date, (x) \$5,000, by (y) the closing market price of a share of Common Stock on the Retainer Date (rounded to two (2) decimal places); plus

(c) with respect to the Audit Committee Chairman on a Retainer Date, (x) \$5,000, by (y) the closing market price of a share of Common Stock on the Retainer Date (rounded to two (2) decimal places); plus

(d) with respect to the Compensation Committee Chairman on a Retainer Date, (x) \$1,250, by (y) the closing market price of a share of Common Stock on the Retainer Date (rounded to two (2) decimal places); plus

(e) with respect to the Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee Chairman on a Retainer Date, (x) \$1,250, by (y) the closing market price of a share of Common Stock on the Retainer Date (rounded to two (2) decimal places); plus

(f) with respect to each Audit Committee member on the Retainer Date who is not the Audit Committee Chairman, (x) 1,250, by (y) the closing market price of a share of Common Stock on the Retainer Date (rounded to two (2) decimal places) (each of (a) — (f), a "<u>Retainer</u>").

Notwithstanding the foregoing, each Non-Employee Director elected to the Board and/or assuming a position described in subsections (b) through (f) above after the Effective Date shall receive, on the date of election to the Board and pro rated based on the number of days remaining in the calendar quarter in which the date of Board election or assumption of position, as applicable, occurs: (i) the Quarterly Retainer and/or (ii) any Retainer described in subsections (b) through (f) above, as applicable. Should the Retainer Date set forth in this Section 3.1 be a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, such grant shall be made on the next business day.

### 3.2 Terms of Restricted Stock Units.

(a) Each Restricted Stock Unit granted pursuant to this Program shall be in such form and shall contain such terms and conditions as the Committee shall deem appropriate. The provisions of separate Restricted Stock Units need not be identical, but each Restricted Stock Unit shall include (through incorporation of provisions hereof by reference in the Restricted Stock Unit agreement or otherwise) the substance of each of the following provisions as set forth this Section 3.2 and Section 9.4 of the Plan.

(b) Each grant of Restricted Stock Units made to a Non-Employee Director shall be fully vested on the date of grant.

(c) A Non-Employee Director's Restricted Stock Units shall be paid by the Company in shares of Common Stock (on a one-to-one basis) on, or as soon as practicable after, the date on which such Non-Employee Director ceases to be a Director for any reason, provided such Non-Employee Director incurs a "separation from service" from the Company (within the meaning of Section 409A(a)(2)(A)(i) of the Code and Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-1(h)), (such date, the "<u>Payment Date</u>") but in any event by the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) month following the end of the tax year in which such date of termination occurs, unless the Non-Employee Director has irrevocably elected in writing by December 31 of the year preceding the grant of such Restricted Stock Units to defer the payment of such Restricted Stock Units, and any dividends paid thereon, to another date under one of the following options, which payment form or forms shall be specified at the time of the deferral election (the "<u>Deferred Payment Date</u>"):

(1) a single lump-sum payable upon the fifth (5th) anniversary of the Payment Date; or

(2) a single lump-sum payable upon the tenth (10th) anniversary of the Payment Date; or

(3) two (2) equal installments, one of which shall be payable upon the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) anniversary of the Payment Date and the other of which shall be payable upon after the tenth anniversary (10<sup>th</sup>) of the Payment Date.

Shares of Common Stock issued in respect of a Restricted Stock Unit shall be deemed to be issued in consideration for past services actually rendered to the Company or for its benefit, by the Non-Employee Director, which the Committee deems to have a value not less than the par value of a share of Common Stock.

3.3 <u>Dividend Equivalents</u>. If a Non-Employee Director has elected to defer payment of his or her vested Restricted Stock Units as provided in Section 3.2(c) above and the Company pays any dividends with respect to the Common Stock at any time during the period between the Payment Date and the Deferred Payment Date, the holder of such vested Restricted Stock Units shall be credited, as of the dividend payment date, with dividend equivalents equal to the amount of the dividends which would have been payable to such holder if the holder held a number of shares of Common Stock equal to the number of vested Restricted Stock Units so deferred. Such dividend equivalents shall be deemed reinvested in the Common Stock on the dividend payment date and shall be paid by the Company in shares of Common Stock on the Deferred Payment Date. Such dividend equivalents shall constitute Dividend Equivalents under Section 9.1 of the Plan.

## ARTICLE 4.

### MISCELLANEOUS

4.1 Administration of the Program. The Program shall be administered by the Committee.

4.2 <u>Application of Plan</u>. The Program is subject to all the provisions of the Plan, including Section 13.2 thereof (relating to adjustments upon changes in the Common Stock), and its provisions are hereby made a part of the Program, and is further subject to all interpretations, amendments, rules and regulations which may from time to time be promulgated and adopted pursuant to the Plan. In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this Program and those of the Plan, the provisions of the Plan shall control.

4.3 <u>Amendment and Termination</u>. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Committee may, at any time, terminate, modify or suspend the Program; *provided, however*, that, without the prior consent of the Non-Employee Directors affected, no such action may adversely affect any rights or obligations with respect to any Awards theretofore earned but unpaid, whether or not the amounts of such Awards have been computed and whether or not such Awards are then payable. Any amendment of this Program may, in the sole discretion of the Committee, be accomplished in a manner calculated to cause such amendment not to constitute an "extension," "renewal" or "modification" (each within the meaning of Code Section 409A) of any Restricted Stock Units that would cause such Restricted Stock Units to be considered "nonqualified deferred compensation" (within the meaning of Code Section 409A).

4.4 <u>No Contract for Service</u>. Nothing contained in the Program or in any document related to the Program or to any Award shall confer upon any Non-Employee Director any right to continue as a Director or in the service of the Company or an Affiliate or constitute any contract or agreement of service for a specific term or interfere in any way with the right of the Company or an Affiliate to reduce such person's compensation, to change the position held by such person or to terminate the service of such person, with or without Cause.

### 4.5 Nontransferability Retainer Date.

(a) No benefit payable under, or interest in, this Program shall be subject in any manner to anticipation, alienation, sale, transfer, assignment, pledge, encumbrance or charge and any such attempted action shall be void and no such benefit or interest shall be, in any manner, liable for, or subject to, debts, contracts, liabilities or torts of any Non-Employee Director or beneficiary; provided, however, that, nothing in this Section 4.5 shall prevent transfer (i) by will, (ii) by applicable laws of descent and distribution, (iii) pursuant to a DRO.

(b) The transfer to a Permitted Transferee of an Award pursuant to a DRO shall not be treated as having caused a new grant. If an Award is so transferred, the Permitted Transferee generally has the same rights as the Non-Employee Director under the terms of the Program; *provided however*, that (i) the Award shall be subject to the same terms and conditions, including the vesting terms, option termination provisions and exercise period, as if the Award were still held by the Non-Employee Director, and (ii) such Permitted Transferee may not transfer an Award. In the event of the Administrator's receipt of a DRO or other notice of adverse claim by a Permitted Transferee of a Non-Employee Director of an Award, transfer of the proceeds of the exercise of such Award, whether in the form of cash, stock or other property, may be suspended. Such proceeds shall thereafter be transferred pursuant to the terms of a DRO or other agreement between the Non-Employee Director and Permitted Transferee. A Non-Employee Director's ability to exercise an Award may be barred if the Administrator receives a court order directing the Administrator not to permit exercise.

4.6 <u>Nature of Program</u>. No Non-Employee Director, beneficiary or other person shall have any right, title or interest in any fund or in any specific asset of the Company or any Affiliate by reason of any award hereunder. There shall be no funding of any benefits which may become payable hereunder. Nothing contained in this Program (or in any document related thereto), nor the creation or adoption of this Program, nor any action taken pursuant to the provisions of this Program shall create, or be construed to create, a trust of any kind or a fiduciary relationship between the Company or an Affiliate and any Non-Employee Director, beneficiary or other person. To the extent that a Non-Employee Director, beneficiary or other person acquires a right to receive payment with respect to an award hereunder, such right shall be no greater than the right of any unsecured general creditor of the Company or employing entity, as applicable. All amounts payable under this Program shall be paid from the general assets of the Company or employing entity, as applicable, and no special or separate fund or deposit shall be established and no segregation of assets shall be made to assure payment of such amounts. Nothing in this Program shall be deemed to give any person any right to participate in this Program except in accordance herewith.

4.7 <u>Governing Law</u>. This Program shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Nevada, without giving effect to the principles of conflicts of law thereof.

4.8 <u>Code Section 409A</u>. To the extent that this Program constitutes a "non-qualified deferred compensation plan" within the meaning of with Code Section 409A and Department of Treasury regulations and other interpretive guidance issued thereunder, including without limitation any such regulations or other guidance that may be issued after the Effective Date, this Program shall be interpreted and operated in accordance with Code Section 409A. Notwithstanding any provision of this Program to the contrary, in the event that following the grant of any Restricted Stock Units, the Committee determines that any Award does or may violate any of the requirements of Code Section 409A, the Committee may adopt such amendments to the Program and any affected Award or adopt other policies and procedures (including amendments, policies and procedures with retroactive effect), or take any other actions, that the Committee determines are necessary or appropriate to (a) exempt the Program and any such Award from the application of Code Section 409A and/or preserve the intended tax treatment of the benefits provided with respect to the Award, or (b) comply with the requirements of Code Section 409A; provided, however, that this paragraph shall not create an obligation on the part of the Committee to adopt any such amendment, policy or procedure or take any such other action.

# **Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges** (Unaudited) (in thousands, except ratios)

		<b>Twelve Weeks Ended</b>			
	Nov	vember 20, 2010	Nov	/ember 21, 2009	
Earnings:					
Income before income taxes	\$	268,868	\$	224,088	
Fixed charges		52,637		51,128	
Less: Capitalized interest		(132)		(241)	
Adjusted earnings	\$	321,373	\$	274,975	
Fixed charges:					
Gross interest expense	\$	36,092	\$	35,800	
Amortization of debt expense		1,725		1,489	
Interest portion of rent expense		14,820		13,839	
Fixed charges	\$	52,637	\$	51,128	
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges		6.1		5.4	

	Fiscal Year Ended August					
	2010 (52 weeks)	2009 (52 weeks)	2008 (53 weeks)	2007 (52 weeks)	2006 (52 weeks)	
Earnings:						
Income before income taxes	\$ 1,160,505	5 \$ 1,033,746	\$ 1,007,389	\$ 936,150	\$ 902,036	
Fixed charges	223,608	3 204,017	173,311	170,852	156,976	
Less: Capitalized interest	(1,093	3) (1,301)	(1,313)	(1,376)	(1,985)	
Adjusted earnings	\$ 1,383,020	\$ 1,236,462	\$ 1,179,387	\$ 1,105,626	\$ 1,057,027	
Fixed charges:						
Gross interest expense	\$ 156,135	5 \$ 143,860	\$ 120,006	\$ 121,592	\$ 110,568	
Amortization of debt expense	6,495	3,644	1,837	1,719	1,559	
Interest portion of rent expense	60,978	56,513	51,468	47,541	44,849	
Fixed charges	\$ 223,608	\$ 204,017	\$ 173,311	\$ 170,852	\$ 156,976	
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	6.2	6.1	6.8	6.5	6.7	

The Board of Directors and Stockholders AutoZone, Inc.

We are aware of the incorporation by reference in the following Registration Statements of AutoZone, Inc. and in the related Prospectuses of our report dated December 16, 2010, related to the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements of AutoZone, Inc. that are included in its Form 10-Q for the quarter ended November 20, 2010:

Registration Statement (Form S-8 No. 333-19561) pertaining to the AutoZone, Inc. 1996 Stock Option Plan

Registration Statement (Form S-8 No. 333-42797) pertaining to the AutoZone, Inc. Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan

Registration Statement (Form S-8 No. 333-48981) pertaining to the AutoZone, Inc. 1998 Director Stock Option Plan

Registration Statement (Form S-8 No. 333-48979) pertaining to the AutoZone, Inc. 1998 Director Compensation Plan

Registration Statement (Form S-8 No. 333-88245) pertaining to the AutoZone, Inc. Second Amended and Restated 1996 Stock Option Plan

Registration Statement (Form S-8 No. 333-88243) pertaining to the AutoZone, Inc. Amended and Restated 1998 Director Stock Option Plan

Registration Statement (Form S-8 No. 333-88241) pertaining to the AutoZone, Inc. Amended and Restated Director Compensation Plan

Registration Statement (Form S-8 No. 333-75142) pertaining to the AutoZone, Inc. Third Amended and Restated 1998 Director Stock Option Plan

Registration Statement (Form S-8 No. 333-75140) pertaining to the AutoZone, Inc. Executive Stock Purchase Plan

Registration Statement (Form S-3 No. 333-83436) pertaining to a shelf registration to sell 15,000,000 shares of common stock owned by certain selling stockholders

Registration Statement (Form S-3 No. 333-100205) pertaining to a registration to sell \$500 million of debt securities

Registration Statement (Form S-8 No. 333-103665) pertaining to the AutoZone, Inc. 2003 Director Compensation Plan

Registration Statement (Form S-8 No. 333-103666) pertaining to the AutoZone, Inc. 2003 Director Stock Option Plan

Registration Statement (Form S-3 No. 333-107828) pertaining to a registration to sell \$500 million of debt securities

Registration Statement (Form S-8 No. 333-139559) pertaining to the AutoZone, Inc. 2006 Stock Option Plan

Registration Statement (Form S-3 No. 333-152592) pertaining to a shelf registration to sell debt securities

Registration Statement (Form S-3 No. 333-118308) pertaining to the registration to sell \$200 million of debt securities

Registration Statement (Form S-8 No. 333-171186) pertaining to the AutoZone, Inc. 2011 Equity Incentive Award Plan

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Memphis, Tennessee December 16, 2010

### CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO RULES 13a-14(a) AND 15d-14(a) UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934, AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

I, William C. Rhodes, III, certify that:

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

December 16, 2010

/s/ WILLIAM C. RHODES, III William C. Rhodes, III Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)

## CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO RULES 13a-14(a) AND 15d-14(a) UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934, AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

I, William T. Giles, certify that:

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

December 16, 2010

/s/ WILLIAM T. GILES

William T. Giles Chief Financial Officer, Executive Vice President, Finance, Information Technology and Store Development (Principal Financial Officer)

## CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350, AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

In connection with the Quarterly Report of AutoZone, Inc. (the "Company") on Form 10-Q for the period ended November 20, 2010, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, William C. Rhodes, III, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

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

December 16, 2010

/s/ WILLIAM C. RHODES, III William C. Rhodes, III Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)

## CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350, AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

In connection with the Quarterly Report of AutoZone, Inc. (the "Company") on Form 10-Q for the period ended November 20, 2010, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, William T. Giles, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

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

December 16, 2010

/s/ WILLIAM T. GILES William T. Giles Chief Financial Officer, Executive Vice President, Finance, Information Technology and Store Development (Principal Financial Officer)