# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

#### FORM 8-K CURRENT REPORT

# Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): April 30, 2018

#### J & J SNACK FOODS CORP.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

New Jersey (State or Other Jurisdiction of Organization) 0-14616 (Commission File Number) 22-1935537 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

<u>6000 Central Highway, Pennsauken, NJ 08109</u> (Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (856) 665-9533

<u>N/A</u> (Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

() Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

() Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

() Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2 (b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

() Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company  $\Box$ 

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

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# ITEM 2.02. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

On April 30, 2018, J & J Snack Foods Corp. issued a press release regarding its earnings for the second quarter of fiscal 2018.

# ITEM 9.01. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS.

(c) Exhibits

Exhibit Number Description of Document

99.1

Description of Document

Press Release dated April 30, 2018

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### 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 hereunto duly authorized.

# J & J SNACK FOODS CORP.

By: /s/ Gerald B. Shreiber

Gerald B. Shreiber President

/s/ Dennis G. Moore

Dennis G. Moore Chief Financial Officer

Date: April 30, 2018

# EXHIBIT INDEX

Description

99.1

Press Release dated April 30, 2018

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Dennis G. Moore Senior Vice President Chief Financial Officer (856) 532-6603



6000 Central Highway Pennsauken, NJ 08109

#### J & J SNACK FOODS REPORTS SECOND QUARTER SALES <u>AND EARNINGS</u>

Pennsauken, NJ, April 30, 2018 - J & J Snack Foods Corp. (NASDAQ-JJSF) today announced sales and earnings for the second quarter ended March 31, 2018.

Sales increased 8% to \$266.1 million from \$246.5 million in last year's second quarter. Net earnings increased 12% to \$17.8 million in the current quarter from \$16.0 million last year. Earnings per diluted share increased 12% to \$.95 for the second quarter from \$.85 last year. Operating income decreased 2% to \$23.5 million in the current quarter from \$24.1 million in the year ago quarter.

For the six months ended March 31, 2018, sales increased 13% to \$531.3 million from \$472.1 million in last year's first half. Net earnings increased 83% to \$54.1 million in the six months from \$29.5 million last year. Earnings per diluted share increased 83% to \$2.88 from \$1.57 last year. Operating income increased 3% to \$44.8 million this year from \$43.4 million last year.

Net earnings for the current year quarter benefited from a \$1.9 million, or \$0.10 per diluted share, reduction in income taxes related primarily to the lower corporate tax rate enacted under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in December 2017. Our effective tax rate in the quarter decreased to 28.7% from 35.4% last year.

Net earnings for the current year six months benefited from a \$20.9 million, or \$1.11 per diluted share, gain on the re-measurement of deferred tax liabilities and a \$3.9 million, or \$0.21 per diluted share, reduction in income taxes related primarily to the lower corporate tax rate enacted under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in December 2017. Net earnings were impacted by a \$1.2 million, or \$.06 per diluted share, provision for the one-time repatriation tax required under the new tax law. Excluding the deferred tax gain and the one-time repatriation tax, our effective tax rate decreased to 28.6% from 34.8% in the prior year six months reflecting the reduction in the federal statutory rate to 21% from 35% for the last three quarters of fiscal 2018. The gain on the re-measurement of deferred tax liabilities and the one-time repatriation tax are preliminary estimates.

Gerald B. Shreiber, J & J's President and Chief Executive Officer, commented, "While we are pleased with our overall sales increase, we remain focused on improving our margins, particularly in our food service business."

J&J Snack Foods Corp. is a leader and innovator in the snack food industry, providing nutritional and affordable branded niche snack foods and beverages to foodservice and retail supermarket outlets. Manufactured and distributed nationwide, our principal products include SUPERPRETZEL, BAVARIAN BAKERY and other soft pretzels, ICEE and SLUSH PUPPIE frozen beverages, LUIGI'S, MINUTE MAID\* frozen juice bars and ices, WHOLE FRUIT sorbet and frozen fruit bars, MARY B'S biscuits and dumplings, DADDY RAY'S fig and fruit bars, TIO PEPE'S and CALIFORNIA CHURROS, PATIO Burritos and other handheld sandwiches, THE FUNNEL CAKE FACTORY funnel cakes, and several bakery brands within COUNTRY HOME BAKERS and HILL & VALLEY. For more information, please visit <a href="http://www.jjsnack.com">http://www.jjsnack.com</a>.

\*MINUTE MAID is a registered trademark of The Coca-Cola Company.

# J & J SNACK FOODS CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EARNINGS (Unaudited) (in thousands, except per share amounts)

Three months ended				Six months ended				
March 31, 2018		March 25, 2017		March 31, 2018		March 25, 2017		
\$	266,101	\$	246,513	\$	531,311	\$	472,083	
	188,823		173,696		380,754		333,371	
	77,278		72,817		150,557		138,712	
	22,507		21,529		44,083		41,864	
	22,417		18,508		43,576		36,672	
							16,816	
							(78)	
	53,737		48,706		105,788		95,274	
	23,541		24,111		44,769		43,438	
	1,493		1,175		2,982		2,402	
	(33)		(545)		476		(571)	
	25,001		24,741		48,227		45,269	
	7,168		8,754		(5,855)		15,742	
\$	17,833	\$	15,987	\$	54,082	\$	29,527	
\$	0.95	\$	0.85	\$	2.88	\$	1.57	
	18,803		18,821		18,790		18,804	
\$	0.95	\$	0.85	\$	2.90	\$	1.58	
	18,685		18,711		18,675		18,698	
	\$       	March 31, 2018         \$       266,101         \$       266,101         188,823       77,278         77,278       22,507         22,417       9,004         (191)       53,737         23,541       1,493         1,493       (33)         25,001       7,168         \$       17,833         \$       0.95         18,803       \$         \$       0.95	$\begin{tabular}{ c c c c c c } \hline March 31, & Sample 188,823 & T7,7278 & T7,278 $	March 31, 2018March 25, 2017 $\$$ 266,101\$246,513 $\$$ 188,823173,69677,27872,81777,27872,81722,50721,52922,41718,5089,0048,718(191)(49)53,73748,70623,54124,1111,4931,175(33)(545)25,00124,7417,1688,754\$17,833\$15,987\$0.95\$0.8518,80318,821\$0.95\$0.85	March 31, 2018       March 25, 2017       N $\$$ 266,101 $\$$ 246,513 $\$$ $$$ 266,101 $\$$ 246,513 $\$$ $$$ 188,823       173,696 $\neg$ $$$ 77,278       72,817 $\neg$ $$$ 22,507       21,529 $22,417$ 18,508 $9,004$ 8,718 $(191)$ $(49)$ $\rightarrow$ $22,507$ 23,541       24,111 $\rightarrow$ $\rightarrow$ $23,541$ 24,111 $\rightarrow$ $\rightarrow$ $\rightarrow$ $1,493$ 1,175 $(33)$ $(545)$ $\rightarrow$ $25,001$ 24,741 $\rightarrow$ $\rightarrow$ $\rightarrow$ $7,168$ 8,754 $\ast$ $\rightarrow$ $\rightarrow$ $$$ 17,833 $$$ 15,987 $\$$ $$$ 0.95 $$$ 0.85 $\$$ $\frac{18,803}$ 18,821 $\rightarrow$ $\bullet$	March 31, 2018         March 25, 2017         March 31, 2018           \$ 266,101         \$ 246,513         \$ 531,311           188,823         173,696         380,754           77,278         72,817         150,557           22,507         21,529         44,083           22,417         18,508         43,576           9,004         8,718         18,360           (191)         (49)         (231)           53,737         48,706         105,788           23,541         24,111         44,769           23,541         24,111         44,769           1,493         1,175         2,982           (33)         (545)         476           25,001         24,741         48,227           5,001         24,741         48,227           5         17,833         \$ 15,987         \$ 54,082           \$ 0.95         0.85         2.88         2.88           18,803         18,821         18,790           \$ 0.95         0.85         2.90	March 31, 2018         March 25, 2017         March 31, 2018         N           \$ 266,101         \$ 246,513         \$ 531,311         \$           188,823         173,696         380,754         -           77,278         72,817         150,557         -           22,507         21,529         44,083         -           22,417         18,508         43,576         -           9,004         8,718         18,360         -           (191)         (49)         (231)         -           23,541         24,111         44,769         -           1,493         1,175         2,982         -           25,001         24,741         48,227         -           1,493         1,175         2,982         -           25,001         24,741         48,227         -           7,168         8,754         (5,855)         -           \$ 17,833         \$ 15,987         \$ 54,082         \$           \$ 0.95         0.85         2.888         \$           18,803         18,821         18,790         -           \$ 0.95         0.85         \$ 2.90         \$	

# J & J SNACK FOODS CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (in thousands, except share amounts)

		farch 31, 2018 naudited)	September 30, 2017		
Assets					
Current assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	75,205	\$	90,962	
Marketable securities held to maturity		50,571		59,113	
Accounts receivable, net		126,245		124,553	
Inventories		116,086		103,268	
Prepaid expenses and other		6,493		3,936	
Total current assets		374,600		381,832	
Property, plant and equipment, at cost					
Land		2,494		2,482	
Buildings		26,582		26,741	
Plant machinery and equipment		268,304		257,172	
Marketing equipment		281,799		278,860	
Transportation equipment		8,729		8,449	
Office equipment		26,009		25,302	
Improvements		38,236		38,003	
Construction in progress		17,445		16,880	
Total Property, plant and equipment, at cost		669,598		653,889	
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization		438,037		426,308	
Property, plant and equipment, net		231,561		227,581	
Other assets					
Goodwill		102,511		102,511	
Other intangible assets, net		59,522		61,272	
Marketable securities held to maturity		86,668		60,908	
Marketable securities available for sale		29,915		30,260	
Other		2,772		2,864	
		281,388		257,815	
Total other assets Total Assets	\$	887,549	\$	867,228	
Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity Current Liabilities					
Current obligations under capital leases	\$	347	\$	340	
	Ъ	72,653	Э	72,729	
Accounts payable Accrued insurance liability		12,590		10,558	
Accrued liabilities		6,263		7,753	
Accrued compensation expense		14,767		19,826	
Dividends payable		8,413	_	7,838	
Total current liabilities		115,033		119,044	
Long-term obligations under capital leases		911		904	
Deferred income taxes		47,347		62,705	
Other long-term liabilities		2,076		2,253	
Stockholders' Equity					
Preferred stock, \$1 par value; authorized 10,000,000 shares; none issued		-		-	
Common stock, no par value; authorized, 50,000,000 shares; issued and outstanding 18,697,000 and 18,663,000 respectively		22,256		17,382	
Accumulated other comprehensive loss		(11,158)		(8,875	
Retained Earnings		711,084		673,815	
Total stockholders' equity	<u>ф</u>	722,182	¢	682,322	
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	\$	887,549	\$	867,228	

# J & J SNACK FOODS CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (Unaudited) (in thousands)

	Six Months Ended						
	March 31, 2018	March 25, 2017					
Operating activities:							
Net earnings	\$ 54,082	\$ 29,527					
Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash provided by operating activities:							
Depreciation of fixed assets	21,360	18,431					
Amortization of intangibles and deferred costs	1,779	2,279					
Share-based compensation	1,914	1,429					
Deferred income taxes	(15,360)	(323)					
Gain on redemption and sales of marketable securities	(3)	-					
Other	(150)	498					
Changes in assets and liabilities net of effects from purchase of companies							
Increase in accounts receivable	(1,821)	(7,940)					
Increase in inventories	(12,789)	(10,866)					
(Increase) decrease in prepaid expenses	(2,560)	9,464					
Decrease in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(4,555)	(1,737)					
Net cash provided by operating activities	41,897	40,762					
Investing activities:							
Purchases of companies, net of cash acquired and debt assumed	-	(31,111)					
Purchases of property, plant and equipment	(26,281)	(32,983)					
Purchases of marketable securities	(47,172)	(23,726)					
Proceeds from redemption and sales of marketable securities	29,453	5,104					
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment	1,492	964					
Other	86	(163)					
Net cash used in investing activities	(42,422)	(81,915)					
Financing activities:							
Payments to repurchase common stock	-	(1,682)					
Proceeds from issuance of stock	2,960	3,218					
Payments on capitalized lease obligations	(188)	(182)					
Payment of cash dividend	(16,239)	(15,133)					
Net cash used in financing activities	(13,467)	(13,779)					
Effect of exchange rate on cash and cash equivalents	(1,765)	555					
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(15,757)	(54,377)					
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	90,962	140,652					
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 75,205	\$ 86,275					

	Three months ended				Six months ended			
	M	March 31, March 25, 2018 2017		March 31, 2018 pusands)		March 25, 2017		
Sales to External Customers:				(III III)	isanus	<i>)</i>		
Food Service								
Soft pretzels	\$	48,748	\$	42,993	\$	97,769	\$	84,487
Frozen juices and ices	Ŷ	9,439	Ψ	9,693	Ψ	16,623	Ψ	17,172
Churros		15,272		14,719		29,864		29,157
Handhelds		9,331		8,102		20,693		15,581
Bakery		90,813		83,804		185,746		159,083
Other		5,862		4,767		11,034		8,895
Total Food Service	\$	179,465	\$	164,078	\$	361,729	\$	314,375
Retail Supermarket								
Soft pretzels	\$	10,081	\$	9,186	\$	20,593	\$	18,130
Frozen juices and ices	Ŷ	15,438	Ψ	13,191	Ψ	25,165	Ψ	23,042
Handhelds		2,763		3,376		5,789		6,826
Coupon redemption		(618)		(895)		(1,369)		(2,154)
Other		420		754		982		1,387
Total Retail Supermarket	\$	28,084	\$	25,612	\$	51,160	\$	47,231
Frozen Beverages								
Beverages	\$	34,286	\$	31,822	\$	68,589	\$	60,098
Repair and maintenance service	Ψ	19,308	Ψ	17,687	Ψ	38,312	Ψ	35,778
Machines sales		4,695		7,012		11,008		14,051
Other		263		302		513		550
Total Frozen Beverages	\$	58,552	\$	56,823	\$	118,422	\$	110,477
Consolidated Sales	\$	266,101	\$	246,513	\$	531,311	\$	472,083
Depreciation and Amortization:	¢	C 0.41	¢	C 205	¢	10 100	¢	10 107
Food Service	\$	6,041 358	\$	6,395 360	\$	13,139 648	\$	12,127
Retail Supermarket		4,754		4,044		9,352		638 7,945
Frozen Beverages Total Depreciation and Amortization	\$	4,754	\$	10,799	\$	23,139	\$	20,710
•			<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
Operating Income :	_							
Food Service	\$	18,535	\$	19,636	\$	34,435	\$	36,690
Retail Supermarket		2,534		2,454		5,092		3,500
Frozen Beverages	<u> </u>	2,472	-	2,021	-	5,242	+	3,248
Total Operating Income	\$	23,541	\$	24,111	\$	44,769	\$	43,438
Capital Expenditures:								
Food Service	\$	6,259	\$	12,026	\$	15,700	\$	18,613
Retail Supermarket		103		131		103		213
Frozen Beverages		5,296		9,427		10,478		14,157
Total Capital Expenditures	\$	11,658	\$	21,584	\$	26,281	\$	32,983
Assets:								
Food Service	\$	652,850	\$	616,971	\$	652,850	\$	616,971
Retail Supermarket		23,783		23,502		23,783		23,502
Frozen Beverages		210,916		184,564		210,916		184,564
Total Assets	\$	887,549	\$	825,037	\$	887,549	\$	825,037

#### **Results of Operations**

Net sales increased \$19,588,000 or 8% to \$266,101,000 for the three months and \$59,228,000 or 13% to \$531,111,000 for the six months ended March 31, 2018 compared to the three and six months ended March 25, 2017. Excluding first twelve months' sales from Hill & Valley, Inc., acquired in January 2017, an ICEE distributor located in the Southeast acquired in June 2017 and Labriola Bakery which was acquired in August 2017, sales for the three months increased \$15,492,000, or 6% from last year and sales for the six months increased \$32,036,000, or 7% from last year.

#### FOOD SERVICE

Sales to food service customers increased \$15,387,000 or 9% in the second quarter to \$179,465,000 and increased \$47,354,000 or 15% for the six months. Excluding sales of Hill & Valley and Labriola, sales increased \$11,996,000 or 7% for the second quarter and \$21,565,000 or 7% for the six months. Soft pretzel sales to the food service market increased 13% to \$48,748,000 in the three months and 16% to \$97,769,000 in the six months and about 8% and 9% in the three and six months without Labriola sales. In addition to Labriola sales, soft pretzel sales increased significantly due to increased distribution to restaurant chains and movie theatres and we had strong sales of our recently introduced BRAUHAUS pretzels.

Frozen juices and ices sales decreased 3% to \$9,439,000 in the three months and decreased 3% to \$16,623,000 in the six months, with sales increases and decreases across our customer base.

Churro sales to food service customers were up 4% in the second quarter to \$15,272,000 and up 2% to \$29,864,000 in the six months, with sales increases and decreases across our customer base. Sales of a limited time only churro sold for distribution into independent fast food restaurant chains were down approximately \$800,000 in both periods compared to a year ago.

Sales of bakery products increased \$7,009,000 or 8% in the second quarter to \$90,813,000 and increased \$26,663,000 or 17% for the six months. Excluding sales of Hill & Valley, bakery sales were up 7% for the quarter and 4% for the year primarily due to increased sales to three customers.

Sales of handhelds increased \$1,229,000 or 15% in the second quarter and \$5,112,000 or 33% for the six months with the increase in both periods coming primarily from sales to four customers. Sales of funnel cake increased \$1,136,000 or 26% in the quarter to \$5,547,000 and \$2,047,000 or 25% for the six months to \$10,341,000 as we continue to increase sales to school food service.

Sales of new products in the first twelve months since their introduction were approximately \$5 million in this quarter and \$13 million in the six months. Price increases accounted for approximately \$1.7 million of sales in the quarter and \$2.8 million of sales in the six months and net volume increases, including new product sales as defined above and Hill & Valley and Labriola sales, accounted for approximately \$14 million of sales in the quarter and \$45 million of sales in the six months.

Operating income in our Food Service segment decreased from \$19,636,000 to \$18,535,000 in the second quarter and decreased from \$36,690,000 to \$34,435,000 in the six months. Our second quarter was impacted by approximately \$2 million of higher distribution expenses primarily due to higher fuel costs and the recent implementation of the electronic logging device mandate. Additionally, lower sales of our MARY B's biscuits and related costs due to our recall in early January impacted our operating income by approximately \$500,000 in the second quarter. Hill & Valley contributed improved operating income of \$338,000 in the second quarter and \$1,722,000 in the six months. For the second quarter and six months, operating income in the balance of our food service business was impacted by generally higher costs for payroll and insurance, added personnel in the selling function, product mix changes and significantly lower volume concentrated in specific facilities and higher ingredients costs. Operating income in the first quarter was impacted by inefficiencies at our recently acquired Labriola production facility (compounded by the integration of products previously manufactured at other facilities) and shutdown costs of our Chambersburg facility; both of which are behind us and had little impact in the second quarter.

#### RETAIL SUPERMARKETS

Sales of products to retail supermarkets increased \$2,472,000 or 10% to \$28,084,000 in the second quarter and increased \$3,929,000 or 8% in the six months. Soft pretzel sales for the second quarter were up 10% to \$10,081,000 and up 14% to \$20,593,000 for the six months primarily due to sales of AUNTIE ANNE'S soft pretzels under a license agreement entered into in 2017. Sales of frozen juices and ices increased \$2,247,000 or 17% to \$15,438,000 in the second quarter and were up \$2,123,000 or 9% to \$25,165,000 for the six months primarily due to sales of SOUR PATCH frozen novelties under a new license agreement. Handheld sales to retail supermarket customers decreased 18% to \$2,763,000 in the second quarter and decreased 15% to \$5,789,000 for the six months as the sales of this product line in retail supermarkets continues their long term decline.

Sales of new products in the second quarter were approximately \$2 million and were \$3 million for the six months. Price increases had no impact on sales in the quarter and six months and net volume increases, including new product sales as defined above accounted for \$2.5 million of sales in the quarter and \$3.9 million of sales in the six months.

Operating income in our Retail Supermarkets segment was \$2,534,000 in this year's second quarter compared to \$2,454,000 in last year's quarter and increased to \$5,092,000 in this year's six months compared to \$3,500,000 in last year's six months. Lower coupon expense of \$785,000 and lower media spending of \$728,000 along with the increase in soft pretzel sales and the increase in frozen juices and ices sales were the major reasons for the increase in operating income in the six months.

#### FROZEN BEVERAGES

Frozen beverage and related product sales increased 3% to \$58,552,000 in the second quarter and increased 7% to \$118,422,000 in the six month period. Excluding sales of the acquired ICEE distributor, frozen beverages and related product sales were up about 2% for the second quarter and 6% for the six month period. Beverage sales alone were up 8% to \$34,286,000 in the second quarter and up 14% to \$68,589,000 for the six months. Without the acquired ICEE distributor, beverage sales alone were up about 6% for the quarter and 12% for the six months. Gallon sales were up 2% for the second quarter and 8% for the six months with higher sales to movie theatres and across our customer base. Service revenue increased 9% to \$19,308,000 in the second quarter and 7% to \$38,312,000 for the six months with sales increases concentrated to several customers.

Sales of beverage machines, which tend to fluctuate from year to year while following no specific trend, were \$4,695,00, a decrease of 33% for the quarter and \$11,008,000, a decrease of 22% for the six month period.

Operating income in our Frozen Beverage segment increased to \$2,472,000 in this quarter and to \$5,242,000 for the six months compared to \$2,021,000 and \$3,248,000 in last years' quarter and six months, respectively, as a result of higher beverage sales and service revenue.

#### CONSOLIDATED

Gross profit as a percentage of sales was 29.04% in the second quarter and 29.54% last year. Gross profit as a percentage of sales was 28.34% in the six month period this year and 29.38% last year. For the six months, the decrease was caused by higher costs for payroll and insurance, inefficiencies in our recently acquired Labriola production facility (compounded by the integration of products previously manufactured at other facilities), product mix changes, significantly lower volume concentrated in specific facilities, shutdown costs of our Chambersburg, PA production facility and higher ingredients costs. The inefficiencies at Labriola and shutdown costs of our Chambersburg facility are behind us and had little impact in our second quarter.

Total operating expenses increased \$5,031,000 in the second quarter and as a percentage of sales increased to 20.2% from 19.8% last year. For the first half, operating expenses increased \$10,514,000, and as a percentage of sales decreased from 20.2% to 19.9%. Marketing expenses decreased to 8.5% of sales in this year's quarter from 8.7% last year and were 8.3% in this year's six months compared to 8.9% of sales in last year's six months primarily because of lower media spending in our retail supermarket business and lower marketing expenses of the acquired Hill & Valley and Labriola businesses. Distribution expenses were 8.4% of sales in the second quarter and 7.5% of sales in last year's quarter and were 8.2% in this year's six months compared to 7.8% of sales in last year's six months. Distribution expenses have increased due to higher fuel costs and the recent implementation of the electronic logging device mandate. We expect distribution expenses to remain higher for at least the remainder of our 2018 fiscal year. Administrative expenses were 3.4% of sales in the second quarter and were 3.5% in this year's six months compared to 3.6% of sales in last year's six months.

Operating income decreased \$570,000 or 2% to \$23,541,000 in the second quarter and increased \$1,331,000 or 3% to \$44,769,000 in the first half as a result of the aforementioned items.

Investment income increased by \$318,000 and \$580,000 in the second quarter and six months, respectively, resulting from higher amounts invested and higher interest rates.

Other income for this year's six months includes a \$520,000 gain on a sale of property; other expense in last year's quarter and six months includes \$514,000 of acquisition costs for the Hill & Valley purchase.

Net earnings increased \$1,846,000, or 12%, in the current three month period to \$17,833,000 and were \$54,082,000 for the six month period this year compared to \$29,527,000 for the six month period last year.

Net earnings for the six months ended March 31, 2018 benefited from a \$20.9 million, or \$1.11 per diluted share, gain on the remeasurement of deferred tax liabilities and a \$3.9 million, or \$0.21 per diluted share, reduction in income taxes related primarily to the lower corporate tax rate enacted under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in December 2017. Net earnings for the six months were impacted by a \$1.2 million, or \$.06 per diluted share, provision for the one time repatriation tax required under the new tax law. For the three months ended March 31, 2018, net earnings benefited by a \$1.9 million, or \$.10 per diluted share, reduction in income taxes primarily related to the lower corporate tax rate. Excluding the deferred tax gain and the one-time repatriation tax, our effective tax rate decreased to 28.7% from 35.4% in the prior year quarter and to 28.6% from 34.8% in prior year six months reflecting the reduction in the federal statutory rate to 21% from 35% on January 1, 2018. Last year's six month's effective tax rate benefitted from an unusually high tax benefit on share based compensation of \$1,309,000 which compares to this year's six month's tax benefit of \$482,000. We are presently estimating an effective tax rate of 28-29% for the last two quarters of our fiscal year 2018 and 26-27% for our fiscal year 2019.

There are many factors which can impact our net earnings from year to year and in the long run, among which are the supply and cost of raw materials and labor, insurance costs, factors impacting sales as noted above, the continuing consolidation of our customers, our ability to manage our manufacturing, marketing and distribution activities, our ability to make and integrate acquisitions and changes in tax laws and interest rates.

The forward-looking statements contained herein are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which reflect management's analysis only as of the date hereof. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly revise or update these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances that arise after the date hereof.

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